

Assigned for all purposes to: Stanley Mosk Courthouse, Judicial Officer: Christopher Lui

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VILLAMEDIANA, individually and on  
behalf of all other aggrieved employees

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

JASON VILLAMEDIANA, individually and  
on behalf of all other aggrieved employees,

Plaintiff,

vs.

SBH RESTAURANT ASSOCIATES, LLC, a  
California limited liability company; and DOES  
1 through 50, inclusive,

Defendants.

CASE NO. **20STCV17937**

**COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATION OF  
THE CALIFORNIA LABOR CODE  
PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL  
ACT OF 2004**

[California Labor Code § 2698, et seq.]

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

1 Plaintiff JASON VILLAMEDIANA (“PLAINTIFF”), individually and on behalf of all  
2 other aggrieved employees, hereby alleges as follows:

### 3 **INTRODUCTION**

4 1. PLAINTIFF brings this action on behalf of himself and all other aggrieved  
5 employees of defendants SBH RESTAURANT ASSOCIATES, LLC (“SBH”), and DOES 1  
6 through 50, inclusive (collectively, “DEFENDANTS”), in the State of California during the  
7 relevant statutory period to recover penalties arising from DEFENDANTS’ failure to provide  
8 employees meal and rest periods, failure to provide minimum and overtime wages for all hours  
9 worked, failure to timely pay wages during employment, failure to pay wages due upon  
10 separation, failure to maintain required records, and failure to provide accurate itemized wage  
11 statements.

### 12 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

13 2. The Superior Court of the State of California has jurisdiction in this matter because  
14 PLAINTIFF is a resident of the State of California, and DEFENDANTS are qualified to do  
15 business in California and regularly conduct business in California. Further, no federal question is at  
16 issue because the claims are based solely on California law.

17 3. Venue is proper in this judicial district and the County of Los Angeles, California  
18 because DEFENDANTS maintain offices and facilities and transact business in the County of Los  
19 Angeles, and DEFENDANTS’ illegal policies and practices which are the subject of this action  
20 were applied, at least in part, to PLAINTIFF and other aggrieved employees in the County of Los  
21 Angeles.

### 22 **THE PARTIES**

23 4. PLAINTIFF is a citizen and resident of the State of California. During the  
24 relevant statutory period, PLAINTIFF was employed by DEFENDANTS in the State of California  
25 as a non-exempt employee.

26 5. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that SBH is, and at all  
27 times relevant hereto was, a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of  
28 the State of California. PLAINTIFF is further informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that

1 SBH is authorized to conduct business, and does conduct business, in the State of California.  
2 Specifically, SBH maintains offices and facilities, conducts business, and engages in illegal  
3 policies or practices in the County of Los Angeles.

4 6. The true names and capacities of DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are unknown to  
5 PLAINTIFF at this time, and PLAINTIFF therefore sues such DOE defendants under fictitious  
6 names. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that each defendant  
7 designated as a DOE is in some manner highly responsible for the occurrences alleged herein, and  
8 that PLAINTIFF's and other aggrieved employees' injuries, as alleged herein, were proximately  
9 caused by the conduct of such DOE defendants. PLAINTIFF will seek leave of court to amend  
10 this Complaint to allege the true names and capacities of such DOE defendants when ascertained.  
11 At all relevant times herein, DEFENDANTS were the joint employers of PLAINTIFF and other  
12 aggrieved employees. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that at all times  
13 material to this complaint DEFENDANTS were the alter egos, divisions, affiliates, integrated  
14 enterprises, joint employers, subsidiaries, parents, principals, related entities, co-conspirators,  
15 authorized agents, partners, joint venturers, and/or guarantors, actual or ostensible, of each other.  
16 Each defendant was completely dominated by his, her or its co-defendant, and each was the alter  
17 ego of the other.

18 7. At all relevant times, PLAINTIFF and other aggrieved employees were employed  
19 by DEFENDANTS under employment agreements that were partly written, partly oral, and partly  
20 implied. In perpetrating the acts and omissions alleged herein, DEFENDANTS, and each of  
21 them, acted pursuant to, and in furtherance of, their policies and practices of not paying  
22 PLAINTIFF and other aggrieved employees all wages earned and due, through methods and  
23 schemes which include, but are not limited to, failing to provide meal periods; failing to authorize  
24 and permit rest breaks; failing to pay minimum and overtime wages; failing to provide accurate  
25 itemized statements; failing to maintain required records; and failing to compensate PLAINTIFF  
26 and other aggrieved employees for necessary expenditures, in violation of the California Labor  
27 Code and the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") Wage Order.

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1           8.       PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that each and every one  
2 of the acts and omissions alleged herein were performed by, and/or attributable to, all  
3 DEFENDANTS, each acting as agents and/or employees, and/or under the direction and control  
4 of each of the other defendants, and that said acts and failures to act were within the course and  
5 scope of said agency, employment and/or direction and control.

6                           **PAGA REPRESENTATIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

7           9.       Pursuant to the California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004  
8 (“PAGA”), Labor Code §§ 2698-2699.5, PLAINTIFF brings this action on behalf of himself and  
9 all current and former non-exempt aggrieved employees of DEFENDANTS in the State of  
10 California at any time within the period beginning one (1) year and sixty-five (65) days prior to  
11 the filing of this action, and ending at the time this action settles or proceeds to final judgment  
12 (“PENALTY PERIOD”).

13          10.       Pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 2699.3, PLAINTIFF gave written notice on  
14 March 6, 2020 by online filing to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency  
15 (“LWDA”) and by certified mail to SBH of the specific provisions of the California Labor Code  
16 and IWC Wage Orders alleged to have been violated, including the facts and theories to support  
17 the alleged violations. More than sixty-five (65) days have passed and the LWDA has not  
18 provided notice to PLAINTIFF that it intends to investigate the alleged violations.

19          11.       Therefore, PLAINTIFF has complied with all of the requirements set forth in  
20 California Labor Code § 2699.3 to commence a representative action under PAGA.

21                           **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

22                           **Failure to Provide Meal Periods**

23                           **[Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512; IWC Wage Order No. 5-2001 § 11]**

24          12.       During the PENALTY PERIOD, DEFENDANTS had, and continue to have, a  
25 policy and practice of failing to provide PLAINTIFF and other aggrieved employees full and  
26 timely meal periods as required by California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512 and IWC Wage  
27 Order No. 5-2001 § 11.  
28

1           13. As a result of DEFENDANTS' policies and practices as alleged herein,  
2 PLAINTIFF and other aggrieved employees regularly were denied, and continue to be denied, the  
3 opportunity to take full, uninterrupted, and timely meal periods as required under California  
4 Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512 and IWC Wage Order No. 5-2001 § 11.

5           14. DEFENDANTS further violated, and continue to violate, California Labor Code §  
6 226.7 and IWC Wage Order No. 5-2001 § 11 by failing to compensate PLAINTIFF and other  
7 aggrieved employees who were not provided a meal period, in accordance with the applicable  
8 Wage Order, one (1) additional hour of compensation at each employee's regular rate of pay for  
9 each workday that a meal period was not provided.

10                           **Failure to Authorize and Permit Rest Periods**

11                           **[Labor Code § 226.7; IWC Wage Order No. 5-2001 § 12]**

12           15. During the PENALTY PERIOD, DEFENDANTS had, and continue to have, a  
13 policy and practice of failing to authorize and permit PLAINTIFF and other aggrieved employees  
14 to take rest breaks as required by California Labor Code § 226.7 and IWC Wage Order No. 5-  
15 2001 § 12. As a result of DEFENDANTS' policies and practices as alleged herein, PLAINTIFF  
16 and other aggrieved employees regularly were denied, and continue to be denied, the opportunity  
17 to take full, uninterrupted, and timely rest periods as required under California Labor Code §  
18 226.7 and IWC Wage Order No. 5-2001 § 12.

19           16. DEFENDANTS further violated, and continue to violate, California Labor Code §  
20 226.7 and IWC Wage Order No. 5-2001 § 12 by failing to pay PLAINTIFF and other aggrieved  
21 employees who were not provided a rest period, in accordance with the applicable Wage Order,  
22 one (1) additional hour of compensation at each employee's regular rate of pay for each workday  
23 that a rest period was not provided.

24                           **Failure to Pay Minimum Wages**

25                           **[Labor Code §§ 1194, 1197; IWC Wage Order No. 5-2001 § 4]**

26           17. Pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1197 and IWC Wage Order No. 5-  
27 2001 § 4, payment to an employee of less than the applicable minimum wage for all hours  
28 worked in a payroll period is unlawful.

1           18.     During the PENALTY PERIOD, DEFENDANTS failed to, and continue to fail to,  
2 pay PLAINTIFF and other aggrieved employees minimum wages for all hours worked by, among  
3 other things: requiring, suffering or permitting PLAINTIFF and other aggrieved employees to  
4 work off the clock; requiring, suffering or permitting PLAINTIFF and other aggrieved employees  
5 to work through meal breaks without compensation; illegally and inaccurately recording time  
6 worked by PLAINTIFF and other aggrieved employees; and other methods to be discovered.

7                               **Failure to Pay Overtime Wages**

8                               **[Labor Code §§ 510, 1194, 1198; IWC Wage Order No. 5-2001 § 3]**

9           19.     Pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 510 and 1194 and IWC Wage Order No. 5-  
10 2001 § 3, DEFENDANTS are required to compensate PLAINTIFF and other aggrieved  
11 employees for all overtime at a rate of one and one-half (1 ½) times the regular rate of pay for all  
12 hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours per day and/or forty (40) hours per week, and for the  
13 first eight (8) hours on the seventh consecutive workday and at a rate of twice the regular rate of  
14 pay for all hours worked in excess of twelve (12) hours in any workday and for all hours worked  
15 in excess of eight (8) hours on the seventh consecutive day of work in any workweek.

16           20.     PLAINTIFF and other aggrieved employees are current and former non-exempt  
17 employees entitled to the protections of California Labor Code §§ 510 and 1194 and IWC Wage  
18 Order No. 5-2001. During the PENALTY PERIOD, DEFENDANTS failed, and continue to fail,  
19 to compensate PLAINTIFF and other aggrieved employees for all overtime hours worked as  
20 required under the foregoing provisions of the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Order by,  
21 among other things: failing to pay overtime at one and one-half (1 ½) times or double the regular  
22 rate of pay as provided by California Labor Code §§ 510 and 1194 and IWC Wage Order No. 5-  
23 2001 § 3; requiring, suffering or permitting PLAINTIFF and other aggrieved employees to work  
24 off the clock; requiring, suffering or permitting PLAINTIFF and other aggrieved employees to  
25 work through meal breaks without compensation; illegally and inaccurately recording time in  
26 which PLAINTIFF and other aggrieved employees worked; and other methods to be discovered.

27     ///

28     ///

1 **Failure to Timely Pay Wages During Employment**

2 **[Labor Code § 204]**

3 21. Pursuant to California Labor Code § 204, for all labor performed between the 1st  
4 and 15th days of any calendar month, DEFENDANTS are required to pay their nonexempt  
5 employees between the 16th and 26th day of the month during which the labor was performed.  
6 California Labor Code § 204 also provides that for all labor performed between the 16th and 26th  
7 days of any calendar month, DEFENDANTS are required to pay their nonexempt employees  
8 between the 1st and 10th day of the following calendar month. In addition, California Labor  
9 Code § 204 provides that all wages earned for labor in excess of the normal work period shall be  
10 paid no later than the payday of the next regular payroll period.

11 22. During the PENALTY PERIOD, DEFENDANTS failed, and continue to fail, to  
12 timely pay PLAINTIFF and other aggrieved employees all the wages for labor performed by the  
13 next regular payroll period as required by California Labor Code § 204.

14 **Failure to Pay All Wages Due Upon Separation**

15 **[Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203]**

16 23. Pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 201, 202, and 203, DEFENDANTS are  
17 required to pay all earned and unpaid wages to an employee who is discharged.

18 24. California Labor Code § 201 mandates that if an employer discharges an  
19 employee, the employee's wages accrued and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable  
20 immediately.

21 25. Pursuant to California Labor Code § 202, DEFENDANTS are required to pay all  
22 accrued wages due to an employee no later than 72 hours after the employee quits his or her  
23 employment, unless the employee provided 72 hours previous notice of his or her intention to  
24 quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or wages at the time of quitting.

25 26. Labor Code § 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to pay, in accordance  
26 with Labor Code §§ 201 and 202, any wages of an employee who is discharged or who quits, the  
27 employer is liable for waiting time penalties in the form of continued compensation to the  
28 employee at the same rate for up to 30 workdays.

1           27.     During the PENALTY PERIOD, DEFENDANTS failed, and continue to fail, to  
2 pay accrued wages and other compensation to PLAINTIFF and other aggrieved employees in  
3 accordance with California Labor Code §§ 201 and 202.

4                           **Failure to Maintain Required Records**

5                           **[Labor Code §§ 226, 1174; IWC Wage Order No. 5-2001 § 7]**

6           28.     During the PENALTY PERIOD, as part of DEFENDANTS' illegal payroll  
7 policies and practices to deprive PLAINTIFF and other aggrieved employees of all wages earned  
8 and due, DEFENDANTS failed, and continue to fail, to maintain records as required under  
9 California Labor Code §§ 226 and 1174 and IWC Wage Order No. 5-2001 § 7, including but not  
10 limited to the following records: total daily hours worked by each employee; applicable rates of  
11 pay; all deductions; meal periods; time records showing when each employee begins and ends  
12 each work period; and accurate itemized statements.

13                           **Failure to Furnish Accurate Itemized Wage Statements**

14                           **[Labor Code § 226; IWC Wage Order No. 5-2001 § 7]**

15           29.     During the PENALTY PERIOD, DEFENDANTS failed to provide PLAINTIFF  
16 and other aggrieved employees with timely and accurate itemized wage statements in writing  
17 showing each employee's gross wages earned, total hours worked, all deductions made, net  
18 wages earned, the name and address of the legal entity or entities employing PLAINTIFF and  
19 other aggrieved employees, and all applicable hourly rates in effect during each pay period and  
20 the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate, in violation of California Labor  
21 Code § 226 and IWC Wage Order No. 5-2001 § 7.

22                           **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

23                           **VIOLATION OF THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT**

24                           **[Labor Code §§ 2698–2699.5]**

25                           **(Against all DEFENDANTS)**

26           30.     PLAINTIFF incorporates herein by specific reference, as though fully set forth, the  
27 allegations in paragraphs 1 through 29.

28           31.     PLAINTIFF is an “aggrieved employee” within the meaning of California Labor

1 Code § 2699(c), and a proper representative to bring a civil action on behalf of himself and other  
2 current and former non-exempt employees of DEFENDANTS pursuant to the procedures  
3 specified in California Labor Code § 2699.3, because PLAINTIFF was employed by  
4 DEFENDANTS and one or more of the alleged violations of the California Labor Code were  
5 committed against PLAINTIFF during the PENALTY PERIOD.

6 32. Pursuant to Labor Code §§ 2698–2699.5, PLAINTIFF seeks to recover civil  
7 penalties for the violations set forth herein, including but not limited to violations of California  
8 Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 204, 226, 221, 223, 226.7, 510, 512, 1174, 1194, 1197, and 1198.  
9 PLAINTIFF and other aggrieved employees are also entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys’  
10 fees and costs pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699(g)(1).

11 33. Pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(a), PLAINTIFF seeks civil penalties for  
12 DEFENDANTS’ violations of Labor Code provisions for which a civil penalty is specifically  
13 provided, including but not limited to the following:

14 a. Pursuant to Labor Code § 210, for violations of Labor Code § 204,  
15 DEFENDANTS are subject to a civil penalty in the amount of one hundred  
16 dollars (\$100) for the initial violation for each failure to pay each employee  
17 and two hundred dollars (\$200) per employee for violations in subsequent  
18 pay periods.

19 b. Pursuant to Labor Code § 226.3, for violations of Labor Code § 226(a),  
20 DEFENDANTS are subject to a civil penalty in the amount of two hundred  
21 and fifty dollars (\$250) per aggrieved employee for the initial pay period  
22 where a violation occurs and one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per aggrieved  
23 employee for violations in subsequent pay periods.

24 c. Pursuant to Labor Code § 558(a), “[a]ny employer or other person acting  
25 on behalf of an employer who violates, or causes to be violated, a section  
26 of this chapter or any provision regulating hours and days of work in any  
27 order of the Industrial Welfare Commission,” including Labor Code §§ 510  
28 and 512, shall be subject to a civil penalty, in addition to any other penalty

provided by law, of fifty dollars (\$50) for initial violations for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the employee was underpaid and one hundred dollars (\$100) for each subsequent violation for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the employee was underpaid.

d. Pursuant to Labor Code § 1174.5, for violations of Labor Code § 1174(d), DEFENDANTS are subject to a civil penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500).

e. Pursuant to Labor Code § 1197.1, an employer who pays or causes to be paid to any employee a wage less than the minimum fixed by an order of the commission, shall be subject to a civil penalty as follows: for any initial violation that is intentionally committed, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the employee is underpaid; and for each subsequent violation of the same offense, two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the employee is underpaid regardless of whether the initial violation was intentionally committed.

34. Labor Code § 2699(f) provides that for all Labor Code violations for which a civil penalty is not specifically provided, the following civil penalties are established: one 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. PLAINTIFF seeks such civil penalties under Labor Code § 2699(f) for DEFENDANTS' violations of Labor Code provisions for which a civil penalty is not specifically provided, including but not limited to Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 204, 226.7, 1194, 1197, 1198, and 2802.

35. PLAINTIFF also seeks reasonable attorney's fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1).

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1. For civil penalties according to proof, and all penalties authorized by the Labor Code §§ 210, 226.3, 558, 1174.5, 1197.1, and 2699(a) and (f);
2. For interest at the legal rate pursuant to California Civil Code §§ 3287 and 3288 and/or any other applicable provision providing for pre-judgment interest;
3. For reasonable attorney's fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g) and/or any other applicable provisions providing for attorney's fees and costs; and
4. For such further relief that the Court may deem just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

  
MATTHEW J. MATERN  
LAUNA ADOLPH  
ELLIE D. GORALNICK  
Attorneys for Plaintiff JASON VILLAMEDIANA,  
individually and on behalf of all other aggrieved  
employees

1 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

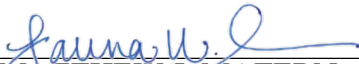
2 PLAINTIFF, individually and on behalf of all other aggrieved employees, hereby  
3 demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

4  
5 DATED: May 11, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

6 **MATERN LAW GROUP, PC**

7  
8 By:

  
9 MATTHEW J. MATERN  
LAUNA ADOLPH  
10 ELLIE D. GORALNICK  
Attorneys for Plaintiff JASON VILLAMEDIANA,  
11 individually and on behalf of all other aggrieved  
employees  
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