

1 Scott Edward Cole, Esq. (S.B. #160744)
Laura Van Note, Esq. (S.B. #310160)
2 Cody Alexander Bolce, Esq. (S.B. #322725)
COLE & VAN NOTE
3 555 12th Street, Suite 1725
Oakland, California 94607
4 Telephone: (510) 891-9800
Facsimile: (510) 891-7030
5 Email: sec@colevannote.com
Email: lvn@colevannote.com
6 Email: cab@colevannote.com
Web: www.colevannote.com

7 Attorneys for Representative Plaintiffs
8

9
10 **IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
11 **IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**

12 CHANDRA COX, JACE WHITE,
13 individually, and on behalf of all others
similarly situated,

14 Plaintiffs,

15 vs.

16 CBCB; RISHON, LLC; GARY HILLER,
17 and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive,

18 Defendants.
19
20

Case No. HG20062001

CLASS ACTION

**THIRD AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR
DAMAGES, INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND
RESTITUTION**

[JURY TRIAL DEMANDED]

21 Representative Plaintiffs allege as follows:
22

23 **INTRODUCTION**

24 1. This is a class action seeking unpaid compensation for wages, meal and/or rest
25 period violations, interest thereon, liquidated damages and other penalties, injunctive and other
26 equitable relief, and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs under, *inter alia*, California Labor Code
27 §§ 200-204, 210, 218, *et seq.*, 218.5, 218.6, 225.5, 226, *et seq.*, 226.7, 226.8, 510, 512, 558, 1174,
28

ELECTRONICALLY FILED
Superior Court of California
County of Alameda

12/03/2021

Chad Finke, Executive Officer / Clerk of the Court

By: Andrel Gospel Deputy

1 1174.5, 1182.12, 1194, *et seq.*, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1199, 2698, *et seq.*, 2800, 2802
2 California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* and California Code of Civil Procedure
3 § 1021.5, and §§ 11 and 12 of the relevant IWC Wage Order.

4 2. Plaintiffs Chandra Cox and Jace White (“Representative Plaintiffs” or “Plaintiffs”)
5 bring this action individually and on behalf of all hourly or nonexempt individuals employed by
6 Rishon, LLC or Cannabis Buyers Club of Berkeley in California from January 14, 2020 to present.

7 3. The class period begins on May 11, 2016 and extends through trial, based upon the
8 allegation that the violations of California’s wage and hour laws, as described more fully below,
9 have been and are ongoing throughout that time.

10 4. During the class period, Defendants have had a consistent policy of (1) unlawfully
11 denying Class Members statutorily-mandated meal and rest periods, (2) willfully failing to provide
12 Class Members with accurate semimonthly itemized wage statements reflecting the total number
13 of hours each worked, the applicable deductions, and the applicable hourly rates in effect during
14 the pay period, and (3) willfully failing to pay compensation in a prompt and timely manner to
15 those Class Members whose employment with Defendants has terminated.

16 5. Defendants operate a cannabis club within California for which Representative
17 Plaintiffs worked as a bookkeeper and inventory controller. The Representative Plaintiffs are
18 informed and believe and, on that basis, allege that, within the class period, Defendants employed
19 scores, if not hundreds, of individuals in California to perform these services, employment
20 positions which did not, and currently do not, meet any known test for exemption from the payment
21 of overtime wages and/or the entitlement to meal or rest periods.

22 6. Despite actual knowledge of these facts and legal mandates, Defendants have and
23 continue to enjoy an advantage over their competition and a resultant disadvantage to their workers
24 by electing not to pay all wages due (including missed meal and rest period compensation) and/or
25 all penalties due (including “waiting time” penalties) to Class Members.

26 7. Representative Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based thereon, allege that
27 Defendants’ officers knew of these facts and legal mandates yet, nonetheless, repeatedly
28 authorized and/or ratified the violation of the laws cited herein.

9. This Court has jurisdiction over the Class Members' claims for unpaid wages and/or penalties under, *inter alia*, the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order, Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations, Labor Code §§ 201-204, 226, 226.7, 512, 1174, and/or the California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5.

10. This Court also has jurisdiction over the claims herein for injunctive relief and restitution of ill-gotten benefits arising from Defendants' unfair and/or fraudulent business practices under California Business & Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.*

11. Venue as to Defendants is proper in this judicial district pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 395(a). Defendants provided the aforementioned services within this County where Plaintiffs and numerous Class Members worked, transacts business, has agents, and is otherwise within this Court's jurisdiction for purposes of service of process. The unlawful acts alleged herein have had a direct effect on Representative Plaintiffs and those similarly situated within the State of California and within this County.

12. Representative Plaintiffs Chandra Cox and Jace White are natural persons who were employed by Defendants as a bookkeeper and inventory controller during the class period.

13. In these capacities, Representative Plaintiffs are and were entitled to full, uninterrupted and statutorily-mandated meal and rest periods, as well as other benefits of employment as set forth herein.

DEFENDANTS

14. Representative Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based thereon, allege that, at all times herein relevant, Defendants (including the Doe defendants) did business within the State of California providing cannabis services.

15. Those defendants identified as Does 1 through 100, inclusive, are and were, at all relevant times herein-mentioned, officers, directors, partners, and/or managing agents of some or each of the remaining defendants. Representative Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, on that basis, allege that, at all relevant times herein mentioned, Defendants, and each of them, employed and/or exercised control over the wages, hours, and/or working conditions of the Representative Plaintiffs and Class Members within the State of California.

16. The Representative Plaintiffs are unaware of the true names and capacities of those defendants sued herein as Does 1 through 100, inclusive and, therefore, sues these defendants by such fictitious names. The Representative Plaintiffs will seek leave of court to amend this Complaint when such names are ascertained. The Representative Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, on that basis, allege that each of the fictitiously-named defendants were responsible in some manner for, gave consent to, ratified, and/or authorized the conduct herein alleged and that the damages, as herein alleged, were proximately caused thereby.

17. Representative Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, on that basis, allege that, at all relevant times herein mentioned, each of the defendants was the agent and/or employee of each of the remaining defendants and, in doing the acts herein alleged, was acting within the course and scope of such agency and/or employment.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

18. The Representative Plaintiffs bring this action individually and on behalf of all persons similarly situated and proximately damaged by Defendants' conduct including, but not necessarily limited to, the following Plaintiff Class:

"All hourly or nonexempt individuals employed by Rishon, LLC or Cannabis Buyers Club of Berkeley in California from January 14, 2020 to present."

19. Defendants' officers and directors are excluded from the Plaintiff Class.

20. This action has been brought and may properly be maintained as a class action under California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 because there is a well-defined community of interest in the litigation and the proposed class is easily ascertainable.

a. Numerosity: A class action is the only available method for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. Insofar as Representative Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and on that basis allege that there are sufficient Class Members to meet the numerosity requirement, the members of the Plaintiff Class are so numerous that joinder of all members is impractical, if not impossible. Membership in the Class will be determined upon analysis of employee and payroll, among other, records maintained by Defendants.

b. Commonality: The Representative Plaintiffs and the Class Members share a community of interests in that there are numerous common questions and issues of fact and law which predominate over any questions and issues solely affecting individual members, including, but not necessarily limited to:

- 1) Whether Defendants violated California Business and Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.* by failing to provide meal and/or rest breaks to Class Members working eligible shifts;
- 2) Whether Defendants violated California Labor Code § 1174 by failing to keep accurate records of employees' hours of work;
- 3) Whether Defendants violated California Labor Code §§ 201-204 by failing to pay wages due and owing at the time that certain Class Members' employment with Defendants terminated;
- 4) Whether Defendants violated California Labor Code § 226 by failing to provide semimonthly itemized statements to Class Members of total hours worked by each, all wages earned and all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period; and
- 5) Whether Class Members are entitled to "waiting time" penalties, pursuant to California Labor Code § 203.

c. Typicality: The Representative Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of Class Members. The Representative Plaintiffs and Class Members sustained damages arising out of and caused by Defendants' common course of conduct in violation of law, as alleged herein.

d. Adequacy of Representation: The Representative Plaintiffs in this class action are adequate representatives of the Plaintiff Class in that the Representative Plaintiffs' claims are typical of those of the Plaintiff Class and has the same interest in the litigation of this case as the Class Members. The Representative Plaintiffs are committed to vigorous prosecution of this case and retained competent counsel who are experienced in conducting

1 litigation of this nature. The Representative Plaintiffs are not subject to any
2 individual defenses unique from those conceivably applicable to Class
3 Members as a whole and anticipates no management difficulties in this
4 litigation.

- 5 e. Superiority of Class Action: Since the damages suffered by individual Class
6 Members, while not inconsequential, may be relatively small, the expense
7 and burden of individual litigation by each member makes or may make it
8 impractical for Class Members to seek redress individually for the wrongful
9 conduct alleged herein. Should separate actions be brought, or be required
10 to be brought, by each individual Class Member, the resulting multiplicity
11 of lawsuits would cause undue hardship and expense for the Court and the
12 litigants. The prosecution of separate actions would also create a risk of
13 inconsistent rulings which might be dispositive of the interests of other
14 Class Members who are not parties to the adjudications and/or may
15 substantially impede their ability to adequately protect their interests.

16 COMMON FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

17 21. As described herein, for years, Defendants have knowingly failed to adequately
18 compensate those employees within the class definition identified above for all wages earned
19 (including premium wages such as compensation for missed meal and/or rest periods) under the
20 California Labor Code and the applicable IWC Wage Order, thereby enjoying a significant
21 competitive edge over similar companies.

22 22. Defendants have declined to pay these wages, even upon a Class Member's
23 termination or resignation from employment, in blatant violation of California Labor Code § 201
24 and/or § 202.

25 23. California Labor Code §§ 201 and 202 require Defendants to pay severed
26 employees all wages due and owed to the employee immediately upon discharge or within 72
27 hours of resignation of their positions, in most circumstances. California Labor Code § 203
28 provides that an employer who willfully fails to timely pay such wages must, as a penalty, continue
to pay the subject employees' wages until the back wages are paid in full or an action is
commenced, and the payment of such penalty shall continue for a period of time up to 30 days.

24 24. Furthermore, despite knowledge of the Class Members' entitlement to
25 compensation for all hours worked, Defendants violated California Labor Code § 1174(d) by
26 failing to provide or require the use, maintenance, or submission of time records by members of

1 the Plaintiff Class. Defendants also failed to provide Class Members with accurate semimonthly
2 itemized statements of the total number of hours worked by each, and all applicable hourly rates
3 in effect, during the pay period, in violation of California Labor Code § 226. In failing to provide
4 the required documents, Defendants have not only failed to pay their workers the full amount of
5 compensation due, but have also, until now, effectively shielded themselves from employee
6 scrutiny by concealing the magnitude and financial impact of their wrongdoing that such
7 documents might otherwise have led workers to discover.

8 25. Representative Plaintiffs and all persons similarly situated are entitled to unpaid
9 compensation, yet, to date, have not received such compensation despite many of the same having
10 been terminated by and/or resigned from Defendants' employ. More than 30 days have passed
11 since certain Class Members have left Defendants' employ.

12 26. As a consequence of Defendants' willful conduct in not paying former employees'
13 compensation for all hours worked in a prompt and timely manner, certain Class Members are
14 entitled to up to 30 days wages as a penalty under California Labor Code § 203, together with
15 attorneys' fees and costs.

16 27. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, as set forth
17 herein, Class Members have sustained damages, as described above, including compensation for
18 loss of earnings for hours worked on behalf of Defendants, in an amount to be established at trial.
19 As a further direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, as set forth herein,
20 certain Class Members are entitled to recover "waiting time" penalties (pursuant to California
21 Labor Code § 203) and penalties for failure to provide semimonthly statements of hours worked
22 and all applicable hourly rates (pursuant to California Labor Code § 226) in an amount to be
23 established at trial. As a further direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, as
24 set forth herein, Class Members are also entitled to recover costs and attorneys' fees pursuant to
25 California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5, among other authorities.

26 28. Representative Plaintiffs seek injunctive relief prohibiting Defendants from
27 engaging in the complained-of illegal labor acts and practices in the future. Representative
28 Plaintiffs also seek restitution of costs incurred by Class Members under California's Unfair

1 Competition Law. Unless enjoined, Defendants' unlawful conduct will continue unchecked, while
2 Class Members bear the financial brunt of Defendants' unlawful conduct. As a further direct and
3 proximate result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, as set forth herein, Class Members are also
4 entitled to recover costs and attorneys' fees, pursuant to statute.

5 29. Representative Plaintiffs have complied with the procedures for bringing suit (as
6 specified in California Labor Code § 2699.3) necessary to maintain a civil action against
7 Defendants for violation of (and/or recovery under) California's Private Attorneys General Act.
8 On April 13, 2020, Representative Plaintiff Chandra Cox served and filed a notice upon the Labor
9 and Workforce Development Agency in compliance with Labor Code §§ 2699, *et seq.* On January
10 14, 2021, Representative Plaintiff Jace White served and filed a notice upon the Labor and
11 Workforce Development Agency in compliance with Labor Code §§ 2699, *et seq.* The claims,
12 allegations, and theories from these notice letters sent to the Labor and Workforce Development
13 Agency are incorporated herein.

14
15 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**
16 **UNLAWFUL FAILURE TO PAY WAGES**
(California Labor Code §§ 200-204, 510, 558, 1194, and 1198; IWC Wage Order)

17 30. Each and every allegation of the preceding paragraphs is incorporated in this cause
18 of action with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

19 31. During the limitations period, Class Members performed work for Defendants,
20 oftentimes in excess of eight hours in a workday and/or forty hours in a workweek. The number
21 of hours will be proven at trial.

22 32. During the limitations period, Defendants refused to compensate Class Members
23 for all of the wages they earned, in violation of the applicable IWC Wage Order and provisions of
24 the California Labor Code.

25 33. At all relevant times, Defendants were aware of, and were under a duty to comply
26 with, the overtime provisions of the California Labor Code including, but not limited to, California
27 Labor Code §§ 510, 1194, and 1198.

- 1 34. California Labor Code § 510(a) provides, in pertinent part:
2 Any work in excess of eight hours in one workday and any work in excess
3 of 40 hours in any one workweek and the first eight hours worked on the
4 seventh day of work in any one workweek shall be compensated at the rate
5 of no less than one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for an
6 employee.
7
8 35. California Labor Code § 1194(a) provides, in pertinent part:
9 Notwithstanding any agreement to work for a lesser wage, any employee
10 receiving less than the legal minimum wage or the legal overtime
11 compensation applicable to the employee is entitled to recover in a civil
12 action the unpaid balance of the full amount of this minimum wage or
13 overtime compensation, including interest thereon, reasonable attorneys'
14 fees, and costs of suit.
15
16 36. California Labor Code § 1198 provides, in pertinent part:
17 Notwithstanding any agreement to work for a lesser wage, any employee
18 receiving less than the legal minimum wage or the legal overtime
19 compensation applicable to the employee is entitled to recover in a civil
20 action the unpaid balance of the full amount of this minimum wage or
21 overtime compensation, including interest thereon, reasonable attorneys'
22 fees, and costs of suit.
23
24 37. By refusing to compensate Class Members for minimum wages and/or overtime
25 wages earned, Defendants violated those California Labor Code provisions cited herein as well as
26 the applicable IWC Wage Order.
27
28 38. Defendants' conduct, as heretofore detailed, represents underpayment of wages
pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 218, *et seq.*, 558, 1194, *et seq.*, and 1197, *et seq.*, for which
damages and/or penalties are now sought in an amount according to proof.
39. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, as set forth
herein, Class Members have sustained damages, including loss of earnings for hours of overtime
worked on behalf of Defendants, in an amount to be established at trial. As a further direct and
proximate result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, as set forth herein, Class Members are entitled
to recover penalties in amounts to be established at trial, as well as attorneys' fees and costs, and
restitution, pursuant to statute.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION
FAILURE TO PROVIDE MEAL AND REST PERIODS
(California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512)

40. Each and every allegation of the preceding paragraphs is incorporated in this cause of action with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

41. At all relevant times, Defendants were aware of and were under a duty to comply with California Labor Code § 226.7 and § 512.

42. California Labor Code § 226.7 provides, in pertinent part:

(a) No employer shall require any employee to work during any meal or rest period mandated by an applicable order of the Industrial Welfare Commission.

(b) If an employer fails to provide an employee a meal period or rest period in accordance with an applicable order of the Industrial Welfare Commission, the employer shall pay the employee one additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each work day that the meal or rest period is not provided.

43. Moreover, California Labor Code § 512(a) provides, in pertinent part:

An employer may not employ an employee for a work period of more than five hours per day without providing the employee with a meal period of not less than 30 minutes, except that if the total work period per day of the employee is no more than six hours, the meal period may be waived by mutual consent of both the employer and employee. An employer may not employ an employee for a work period of more than 10 hours per day without providing the employee with a second meal period of not less than 30 minutes, except that if the total hours worked is no more than 12 hours, the second meal period may be waived by mutual consent of the employer and the employee only if the first meal period was not waived.

44. Sections 11 and 12, respectively, of the applicable IWC Wage Order mandate that employers provide all applicable meal and/or rest periods to non-exempt (including exempt-misclassified) employees.

45. Section 11 of the applicable IWC Wage Order provides:

(A) No employer shall employ any person for a work period of more than five (5) hours without a meal period of not less than 30 minutes...

(B) An employer may not employ an employee for a work period of more than ten (10) hours per day without providing the employee with a second meal period of not less than 30 minutes...

(C) If an employer fails to provide an employee a meal period in accordance with the applicable provisions of this order, the employer shall pay the

employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that the meal period is not provided.

46. Moreover, Section 12 of the applicable IWC Wage Order provides:

(A) Every employer shall authorize and permit all employees to take rest periods, which insofar as practicable shall be in the middle of each work period. The authorized rest period time shall be based on the total hours worked daily at the rate of ten (10) minutes net rest time per four (4) hours or major fraction thereof

(B) If an employer fails to provide an employee a rest period in accordance with the applicable provisions of this order, the employer shall pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that the rest period is not provided.

47. By failing to consistently provide uninterrupted thirty-minute meal periods within the first five hours of work each day, a second uninterrupted thirty-minute meal period within the first ten hours of work each day and/or uninterrupted net ten-minute rest periods to Class Members, Defendants violated the California Labor Code and applicable IWC Wage Order provisions.

48. Representative Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, on that basis, allege that Defendants have never paid the one hour of compensation to any Class Member due to their violations of the California Labor Code and applicable IWC Wage Order provisions.

49. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, as set forth herein, Class Members have sustained damages, including lost compensation resulting from missed meal and/or rest periods, in an amount to be established at trial.

50. As a further direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, as set forth herein, certain Class Members are entitled to recover "waiting time" penalties in amounts to be established at trial, as well as recovery of attorneys' fees and costs, pursuant to statute.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION
FAILURE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE ITEMIZED WAGE STATEMENTS
(California Labor Code §§ 226 and 1174)

51. Each and every allegation of the preceding paragraphs is incorporated in this cause of action with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

52. California Labor Code § 226(a) provides:

Each employer shall semimonthly, or at the time of each payment of wages, furnish each of his or her employees either as a detachable part of the check, draft or voucher paying the employee's wages, or separately when wages are paid by personal check or cash, an itemized wage statement in writing showing: (1) gross wages earned; (2) total number of hours worked by each employee whose compensation is based on an hourly wage; (3) all deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item; (4) net wages earned; (5) the inclusive date of the period for which the employee is paid; (6) the name of the employee and his or her social security number; and (7) the name and address of the legal entity which is the employer.

53. Moreover, California Labor Code § 226(e) provides:

An employee suffering injury as a result of a knowing and intentional failure by an employer to comply with subdivision (a) is entitled to recover the greater of all actual damages or fifty dollars (\$50) for the initial pay period in which a violation occurs and one hundred dollars (\$100) per employee for each violation in a subsequent pay period, not exceeding an aggregate penalty of four thousand dollars (\$4,000), and is entitled to an award of costs and reasonable attorney's fees.

54. Finally, California Labor Code § 1174(d) provides:

Every person employing labor in this state shall. . . [k]eep, at a central location in the state...payroll records showing the hours worked daily by and the wages paid to...employees.... These records shall be kept in accordance with rules established for this purpose by the commission, but in any case, shall be kept on file for not less than two years.

55. Defendants have failed to provide timely, accurate itemized wage statements to the Class Members in accordance with California Labor Code § 226. Representative Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, on that basis, allege that none of the statements provided by Defendants accurately reflected actual gross wages earned, net wages earned, or the appropriate deductions for Class Members.

56. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, as set forth herein, the Class Members are entitled to penalties in an amount to be established at trial and are entitled to recover attorneys' fees and costs of suit.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION
FAILURE TO PAY WAGES ON TERMINATION
(California Labor Code § 203)

1 57. Each and every allegation of the preceding paragraphs is incorporated in this cause
2 of action with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

3 58. California Labor Code § 203 provides that:

4 If an employer willfully fails to pay, without abatement or reduction, in
5 accordance with Sections 201, 201.5, 202, and 205.5, any wages of an
6 employee who is discharged or who quits, the wages of the employee shall
7 continue as a penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid
or until an action therefor is commenced; but the wages shall not continue
for more than 30 days.

8 59. Numerous Class Members were employed by Defendants during the class period
9 and were thereafter involuntarily terminated or resigned from their positions yet were not paid all
10 wages due upon said termination or within 72 hours of said resignation of employment therefrom.
11 This non-payment was the direct and proximate result of a willful refusal to do so by Defendants.

12 60. More than 30 days have elapsed since certain Class Members were involuntarily
13 terminated or voluntarily resigned from Defendants' employ.

14 61. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' willful conduct in failing to pay
15 said Class Members for all hours worked, affected Class Members are entitled to recover "waiting
16 time" penalties of up to thirty days' wages pursuant to California Labor Code § 203 in an amount
17 to be established at trial, and attorneys' fees and costs.

18
19 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
20 **UNFAIR BUSINESS PRACTICES UNDER THE UNFAIR COMPETITION ACT**
 (California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200-17208)

21 62. Each and every allegation of the preceding paragraphs is incorporated in this cause
22 of action with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

23 63. Representative Plaintiffs further bring this cause of action seeking equitable and
24 statutory relief to stop Defendants' misconduct, as complained of herein, and to seek restitution of
25 the amounts Defendants acquired through the unfair, unlawful, and fraudulent business practices
26 described herein.

64. Defendants' knowing conduct, as alleged herein, constitutes an unlawful and/or fraudulent business practice, as set forth in California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200-17208. Specifically, Defendants conducted business activities while failing to comply with the legal mandates cited herein.

65. Defendants have clearly established a policy of accepting a certain amount of collateral damage, as represented by the damages and penalties to Class Members herein alleged, as incidental to their business operations, rather than accept the alternative costs of full compliance with fair, lawful, and honest business practices, ordinarily borne by its responsible competitors and as set forth in legislation and the judicial record.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION
PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT CLAIM
(California Labor Code §§ 2699)

66. Each and every allegation of the preceding paragraphs is incorporated in this cause of action with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

67. California Labor Code § 2699(a) provides, in pertinent part:

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, any provision of this code that provides for a civil penalty to be assessed and collected by the Labor and Workforce Development Agency or any of its departments, divisions, commissions, boards, agencies, or employees, for a violation of this code, may, as an alternative, be recovered through a civil action brought by an aggrieved employee on behalf of himself or herself and other current or former employees. . .

68. Representative Plaintiffs and each and every other Class Member working for Defendants within one year of Representative Plaintiffs' exhaustion of its administrative prerequisites under the California Private Attorneys General Act are "aggrieved employees," as defined by California Labor Code § 2699(c), because they were employed by Defendants and were among the employees against whom violations of law were committed.

69. Representative Plaintiffs have met all of the requirements set forth in California Labor Code § 2699.3 necessary to maintain a civil action against Defendants for violations of (and/or recovery under) California's Private Attorneys General Act.

71. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, as set forth herein, Representative Plaintiffs and Aggrieved Employees are entitled to recover penalties as provided by California Labor Code § 2699, in an amount to be established at trial, as well as costs and attorneys' fees, pursuant to statute.

RELIEF SOUGHT

WHEREFORE, the Representative Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf of the proposed Plaintiff Class, pray for judgment and the following specific relief against Defendants, and each of them, jointly and separately, as follows:

1. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that this action is a proper class action and certify the proposed class and/or any other appropriate subclasses under California Code of Civil Procedure § 382;

2. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants willfully violated their legal duties to pay all wages due under the California Labor Code and the applicable California Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order;

3. That the Court make an award to Class Members of one hour of pay at each employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that a meal period was not provided;

4. That the Court make an award to Class Members of one hour of pay at each employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that a rest period was not provided;

5. That the Court order Defendants to pay restitution to Class Members due to Defendants' unlawful activities, pursuant to California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200-17208;

6. That the Court further enjoin Defendants, ordering them to cease and desist from unlawful activities in violation of California Business and Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.*;

7. For interest on the amount of any and all economic losses, at the prevailing legal rate;

8. That the Court make an award to Class Members of penalties, pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 203, 226, 558, 1174.5 and/or liquidated damages pursuant to § 1194.2, in an amount to be proven at trial;

9. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that this action is a proper representative action pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699;

10. That the Court make an award of civil penalties for violations of the California Labor Code, pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699;

11. For reasonable attorneys' fees, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5 and Labor Code § 218.5;

12. For costs of suit and any and all such other relief as the Court deems just and proper;

13. For all other Orders, findings and determinations identified and sought in this Complaint.

JURY DEMAND

Representative Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf of the Plaintiff Class and Aggrieved Employees, hereby demand a trial by Jury.

Dated: November 29, 2021

COLE & VAN NOTE

By:



Cody Bolce, Esq.
Attorneys for Representative Plaintiffs

COLE & VAN NOTE
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
555 12TH STREET, SUITE 1725
OAKLAND, CA 94607
TEL: (510) 891-9800

PROOF OF SERVICE

I am over 18 years of age, not a party to the above-captioned action, and am employed by the law firm of Cole & Van Note, 555 12th St., Suite 1725, Oakland, California 94607.

On this date, I served a copy of:

THIRD AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES, INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND RESTITUTION

	By depositing the document(s) with the U.S. Postal Service, with postage fully prepaid, addressed as indicated below, in the ordinary course of business.
	By facsimile transmission to the fax number(s) below, before 5:00 p.m. PST.
	By placing the document(s) in a sealed Federal Express envelope, affixing a pre-paid air bill and delivering it to a Federal Express agent.
	By personal delivery.
X	By e-mail transmission to the e-mail address(es) below.
	By electronic filing using the CM/ECF System which will send a Notice of Electronic Filing to the email address(es) listed in the Electronic Mail Notice List.
	By uploading the document(s) to the third-party document management/service company, court-approved for purposes of this litigation.
	By electronic submission to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

on the following person(s):

Philip Baldwin, Esq.
Helene Wasserman, Esq.
LITTLER MENDELSON P.C.
333 Bush Street, 34th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94104
Email: PBaldwin@littler.com
Email: HWasserman@littler.com

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States and the State of California the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Oakland, California on December 3, 2021.



Nicole Randle