

OCT 20 2020

BY Gloria M. Portillo
GLORIA M. PORTILLO, DEPUTY

DOUGLAS HAN (SBN 232858)
SHUNT TATAVOS-GHARAJEH (SBN 272164)
PHILLIP SONG (SBN 326572)
JUSTICE LAW CORPORATION
751 N. Fair Oaks Ave., Suite 101
Pasadena, California 91103
Telephone: (818) 230-7502
Facsimile: (818) 230-7259

Attorneys for Plaintiff

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO**

GUADALUPE ROMULO, individually, and
on behalf of aggrieved employees pursuant to
the Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA");

Plaintiff,

v.

KIK POOL ADDITIVES INC., a California
corporation; KIK CUSTOM PRODUCTS, an
unknown entity; and DOES 1 through 10,
inclusive;

Defendants.

Case No.: CIVDS 2023661

**COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES
FOR VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE
§ 2698 et seq. (PRIVATE ATTORNEYS
GENERAL ACT OF 2004)**

BY FAX

1 Plaintiff GUADALUPE ROMULO ("Plaintiff") hereby submits her Complaint against
2 Defendants KIK POOL ADDITIVES INC.; KIK CUSTOM PRODUCTS; and DOES 1
3 through 10, inclusive; (collectively, "Defendants"), on behalf of herself and other current and
4 former aggrieved employees of Defendants for penalties as follows:

5 **INTRODUCTION**

6 1. This representative action brought pursuant to Labor Code § 2698 *et seq.*
7 (the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA")) for Defendants' violations of Labor
8 Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 218.5, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512(a), 558, 1174(d), 1194,
9 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800 and 2802.

10 2. This Complaint challenges Defendants' systemic illegal employment
11 practices resulting in violations of the stated provisions of the Labor Code against the
12 identified group of employees.

13 3. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges Defendants jointly
14 and severally acted intentionally and with deliberate indifference and conscious disregard to
15 the rights of all employees in (1) failing to pay all meal period wages and rest break wages, (2)
16 failing to properly calculate and pay all minimum and overtime wages, (3) failing to provide
17 accurate wage statements, (4) failing to pay all wages due and owing during employment and
18 upon termination of employment, and (5) failing to reimburse all necessary business expenses.

19 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

20 4. This action is brought pursuant to PAGA. The civil penalties sought by
21 Plaintiff exceed the minimal jurisdiction limits of the Superior Court and will be established
22 according to proof at trial.

23 5. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to California
24 Constitution, Article VI, Section 10, which grants the Superior Court original jurisdiction in all
25 causes except those given by statute to other courts. The statutes under which this action is
26 brought do not specify any other basis for jurisdiction.

27 ///

28 ///

1 6. This Court has jurisdiction over the violations of PAGA and Labor Code
2 §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 218.5, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512(a), 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197,
3 1197.1, 1198, 2800 and 2802.

4 7. This Court has jurisdiction over all Defendants because, upon
5 information and belief, each party has sufficient minimum contacts in California, or otherwise
6 intentionally avails itself of California law so as to render the exercise of jurisdiction over it by
7 the California courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

8 8. Venue is proper in this Court because, upon information and belief, the
9 named Defendants transact business and/or have offices in this county, and the acts and
10 omissions alleged herein took place in this county. Moreover, this action is brought on behalf
11 of the State of California as a private attorney general and has jurisdiction in this venue.

12 **PARTIES**

13 9. Plaintiff Guadalupe Romulo is an individual residing in the State of
14 California. Plaintiff was employed by Defendants within the statutory time period.

15 10. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants
16 are licensed to do business and are actually doing business in the State of California, and at all
17 times herein mentioned, controlled the wages, hours, and working conditions of the aggrieved
18 employees' employment and directly supervised their work.

19 11. Plaintiff does not know the true names or capacities, whether individual,
20 partner or corporate, of Defendants sued herein as DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, and for that
21 reason, said Defendants are sued under such fictitious names, and Plaintiff prays for leave to
22 amend this complaint when the true names and capacities are known. Plaintiff is informed and
23 believes and thereon alleges that each of Defendants designated as a DOE was responsible in
24 some way for the matters alleged herein and proximately caused Plaintiff and other current and
25 former aggrieved employees to be subject to the illegal employment practices, wrongs and
26 injuries complained of herein.

27 ///

28 ///

1 12. At all times herein mentioned, Defendants, and each of them, were
2 agents, partners, joint venturers, representatives, servants, employees, successors-in-interest,
3 co-conspirators and assigns, each of the other, and at all times relevant hereto were acting
4 within the course and scope of their authority as such agents, partners, joint venturers,
5 representatives, servants, employees, successors, co-conspirators and assigns, and that all acts
6 or omissions alleged herein were duly committed with ratification, knowledge, permission,
7 encouragement, authorization and consent of each Defendant designated herein.

8 13. As such, and based upon all the facts and circumstances incident to
9 Defendants' business in California, Defendants are subject to PAGA and Labor Code §§ 201,
10 202, 203, 204, 218.5, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512(a), 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1,
11 1198, 2800 and 2802.

12 **CAUSE OF ACTION**

13 **VIOLATION OF PAGA**

14 **(AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS BY PLAINTIFF)**

15 14. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through
16 13 as though fully set forth herein.

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

22 16. On August 12, 2020, Plaintiff provided written notice to the LWDA and
23 Defendants of the specific provisions of the Labor Code she contends were violated, and the
24 theories supporting her contentions. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** and incorporated by
25 reference is a copy of the written notice to the LWDA. Plaintiff believes that on or about
26 October 16, 2020, the sixty-five (65) day notice period expired as to all Defendants, and the
27 LWDA did not take any action to investigate or prosecute this matter. Therefore, Plaintiff
28 exhausted the statutory time period to bring this action.

1 17. Plaintiff and the other hourly-paid or non-exempt employees are
2 “aggrieved employees” as defined by California Labor Code § 2699(c) in that they are all
3 current or former employees (whether hired directly or through staffing agencies or labor
4 contractors) of Defendants who worked for Defendants at any time during the period from
5 August 12, 2019 to the present, and one or more of the alleged violations was committed
6 against them.

7 **Failure to Pay Minimum and Overtime Wages**

8 18. At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to compensate
9 their non-exempt employees minimum wages for all hours worked and overtime wages for all
10 hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a day or forty (40) hours in a workweek, pursuant
11 to the mandate of Labor Code §§ 510, 1194, 1197, and 1198.

12 19. As a policy and practice, Defendants failed to compensate Plaintiff and
13 the other aggrieved current and former employees for all hours worked, resulting in a failure to
14 pay all minimum wages and overtime wages, where applicable.

15 20. As a policy and practice, Defendants failed to compensate Plaintiff and
16 the other current and former aggrieved employees for off-the-clock work, including work
17 during pre-shift, post-shift, and meal breaks. Defendants also failed to compensate Plaintiff and
18 other current and former aggrieved employees for off-the-clock work while they waited in line
19 to record time and while they were donning and doffing uniforms.

20 21. As a policy and practice, Defendants maintained an illegal rounding
21 policy that negatively affected Plaintiff and the other current and former aggrieved employees’
22 time and pay.

23 22. As a policy and practice, Defendants failed to include non-discretionary
24 bonuses and incentives in aggrieved employees’ regular rate for purposes of overtime
25 compensation.

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

1 **Failure to Provide Meal Periods and Rest Breaks**

2 23. In accordance with the mandates of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512,
3 Defendants were required to authorize and permit their non-exempt employees to take a 10-
4 minute rest break for every four (4) hours worked or major fraction thereof, and were further
5 required to provide their non-exempt employees with a 30-minute meal period for every five
6 (5) hours worked.

7 24. As a policy and practice, Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff and the
8 other aggrieved current and former employees with legally-mandated meal periods and rest
9 breaks and failed to pay proper compensation for this failure.

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

11 25. At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to pay their
12 employees within a specified time period pursuant to the mandate of Labor Code § 204.

13 26. As a policy and practice, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and the other
14 aggrieved current and former employees all wages due and owing them, including for
15 uncompensated off-the-clock work, uncompensated overtime premiums from excluding non-
16 discretionary bonuses and incentives from the regular rate, and premium wages for failing to
17 provide meal and rest breaks, within the required time period.

18 **Failure to Timely Pay Wages Upon Termination**

19 27. At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to pay their
20 employees all wages owed in a timely fashion at the end of employment pursuant to California
21 Labor Code §§ 201 to 204.

22 28. As a result of Defendants' Labor Code violations alleged above,
23 Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and the other aggrieved former employees their final wages,
24 including for uncompensated off-the-clock work, uncompensated overtime premiums from
25 excluding non-discretionary bonuses and incentives from the regular rate, and premium wages
26 for failing to provide meal and rest breaks, pursuant to Labor Code §§ 201 to 204 and
27 accordingly owe waiting time penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 203.

28 ///

1 **Failure to Provide Complete and Accurate Wage Statements**

2 **29.** At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to keep *accurate*
3 records regarding their California employees pursuant to the mandate of Labor Code §§ 226
4 and 1174.

5 **30.** As a result of Defendants' various Labor Code violations, Defendants
6 failed to keep accurate records regarding Plaintiff and the other aggrieved current and former
7 employees. For example, Defendants failed in their affirmative obligation to keep accurate
8 records regarding Plaintiff and the other aggrieved current and former employees' gross wages
9 earned, total hours worked, all deductions, net wages earned, and all applicable hourly rates
10 and the number of hours worked at each hourly rate.

11 **Failure to Reimburse Business Expenses**

12 **31.** At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to reimburse its
13 employees for any and all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employees in direct
14 consequences of the discharge or his or her duties pursuant to the mandate of Labor Code §§
15 2800 and 2802.

16 **32.** As a policy and practice, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and the other
17 aggrieved current and former employees all business expenses incurred and owing them, such
18 as personal cell phone and vehicle use, within the required time period.

19 **Penalties**

20 **33.** Pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699, Plaintiff, individually, and on
21 behalf of other current and former aggrieved employees, requests and is entitled to recover
22 from Defendants, and each of them, civil penalties, interest, attorneys' fees and costs pursuant,
23 including but not limited to:

24 **34.** Penalties under California Labor Code § 2699 in the amount of a
25 hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial violation, and
26 two hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent
27 violation;

28 ///

1 **35.** Penalties under California Code of Regulations Title 8 § 11040 in the
2 amount of fifty dollars (\$50) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial
3 violation, and one hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each
4 subsequent violation;

5 **36.** Penalties under California Labor Code § 210 in addition to, and entirely
6 independent and apart from, any other penalty provided in the California Labor Code in the
7 amount of a hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial
8 violation, and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each
9 subsequent violation;

10 **37.** Penalties under Labor Code § 1197.1 in the amount of a hundred dollars
11 (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial violation, and two hundred
12 fifty dollars (\$250) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation;

13 **38.** Any and all additional penalties as provided by the Labor Code and/or
14 other statutes; and

15 **39.** Attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code §§ 210, 1194, and
16 2699, and any other applicable statute.

17 ///

18 ///

19 ///

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

1. Upon the Cause of Action, for civil penalties pursuant to statute as set forth in Labor Code § 2698 *et seq.*, for Defendants' violations of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 218.5, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512(a), 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800 and 2802.
2. Upon the Cause of Action, for costs and attorneys' fees pursuant to Labor Code §§ 210, 218.5, 1194, and 2699, and any other applicable statute; and
3. For such other and further relief the court may deem just and proper.

JUSTICE LAW CORPORATION

13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

EXHIBIT 1

August 12, 2020

BY U.S. EMAIL/ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

PAGAfilings@dir.ca.gov

State of California

Labor & Workforce Development Agency

800 Capitol Mall, MIC-55

Sacramento, California 95814

Re: KIK POOL ADDITIVES INC. AND KIK CUSTOM PRODUCTS

Dear Representative:

We have been retained to represent Guadalupe Romulo against KIK Pool Additives Inc., KIK Custom Products, (including any and all affiliates, managers, members, subsidiaries, and parents, and their shareholders, officers, directors, and employees), any individual, owner, officer and managing agent, DOES 1-10 as an "Employer" or person acting on behalf of an "Employer" pursuant to California Labor Code section 558.1, and DOES 11-20¹ for violations of California wage-and-hour laws (hereinafter collectively referred to as "KIK").

Ms. Romulo is pursuing her California Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.*, the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA") claim on a representative basis. Therefore, Ms. Romulo may seek penalties and wages for violations of the Labor Code on behalf of the State of California and aggrieved employees, which are recoverable under PAGA. This letter is sent in compliance with the reporting requirements of California Labor Code section 2699.3.

KIK Pool Additives Inc. is a California corporation located at 5160 E. Airport Dr., Ontario, California 91761. KIK Custom Products is an unknown business entity located at 5160 E. Airport Dr., Ontario, California 91761.

///

///

///

¹ Ms. Romulo does not know the true names or capacities, whether individual, partner or corporate, of DOES 1 through 20, inclusive, and for that reason, said DOES are designated under such fictitious names. Ms. Romulo will amend this notice when the true names and capacities are known. Ms. Romulo is informed and believes that each DOE was responsible in some way for the matters alleged herein and proximately caused Ms. Romulo and other current and former aggrieved employees to be subject to the illegal employment practices, wrongs and injuries complained of herein.

KIK employed Ms. Romulo as an hourly-paid non-exempt Machine Operator within one year of the date of this letter (until in or about August of 2019²) in the State of California. KIK employed Ms. Romulo through a staffing agency. However, KIK directly controlled the wages, hours and working conditions of Ms. Romulo's employment, including setting her schedule, daily supervision of her work, and the procedures for recording time and taking meal and rest breaks.

The "aggrieved employees" that Ms. Romulo may seek penalties on behalf of are all current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees (whether hired directly or through staffing agencies or labor contractors) of KIK within the State of California.

KIK failed to properly pay its hourly-paid or non-exempt employees for all hours worked, failed to properly provide or compensate minimum and overtime wages and for meal and rest breaks, failed to issue compliant wage statements and failed to reimburse for all necessary business-related costs and expenses, thus resulting in other Labor Code violations as stated below.

Pursuant to *Huff v. Securitas Security Services*, 23 Cal. App. 5th 745, 751 (2018), an employee who brings a representative action and was affected by at least one of the violations alleged in the complaint has standing to pursue penalties on behalf of the state not only for that violation, but for violations affecting other employees as well. Accordingly, Ms. Romulo has standing to pursue penalties on behalf of the state for violations affecting all the aggrieved employees at KIK, regardless of their classification, job title, locations, or whether they were hired directly or through a labor contractor or staffing agency.

KIK has violated and/or continues to violate, among other provisions of the California Labor Code and applicable wage law, California Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 218.5, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512(a), 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800 and 2802, and the IWC Wage Orders.

///

///

///

² Per Emergency Rule 9 (Tolling statute of limitations for civil causes of action) of the Judicial Council's Emergency Rules Related to COVID-19, all statute of limitations for civil causes of action that exceed 180 days are tolled from April 6, 2020 until October 1, 2020. Therefore, the one (1) year statute of limitations for Ms. Romulo's PAGA cause of action is tolled.

LWDA

August 12, 2020

Page 3 of 7

California Labor Code sections 510, 1194, and 1198 require employers to pay at least minimum wage for all hours worked, pay time-and-a-half, or double time overtime wages, and make it unlawful to work employees for hours longer than eight hours in one day and/or over forty hours in one week without paying the premium overtime rates. During the relevant time period, Ms. Romulo and other aggrieved employees routinely worked in excess of 8 hours in a day and 40 hours in a week. KIK failed to compensate Ms. Romulo and other aggrieved employees for all hours worked and performing off-the-clock work, including pre- and post-shift, waiting in line to record time, donning and doffing uniforms, and during meal breaks. Additionally, KIK maintained an illegal rounding policy that negatively affected Ms. Romulo and other aggrieved employees' time and pay. KIK also failed to include non-discretionary bonuses and incentives in aggrieved employees' regular rate of pay for purposes of overtime compensation. Therefore, Ms. Romulo and other aggrieved employees were entitled to receive certain wages for overtime compensation, but they were not paid for all overtime hours worked.

California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512 require employers to pay an employee one additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate for each workday that a meal or rest break is not provided. During the relevant time period, KIK routinely required Ms. Romulo and other aggrieved employees to work through, interrupt, cut short, and/or delay their meal and rest breaks to comply with KIK policies and expectations, and meet production goals. Additionally, KIK required Ms. Romulo and other aggrieved employees to remain on the jobsite during their meal and rest breaks ready to respond to calls from managers and supervisors. Moreover, KIK failed to authorize and permit Ms. Romulo and other aggrieved employees to take the requisite number of meal and rest breaks, including second meal breaks and third rest breaks, when working shifts exceeding 10 hours in length. Despite these facts, KIK failed to compensate Ms. Romulo and other aggrieved employees all the premium wages they were owed.

///

///

///

LWDA

August 12, 2020

Page 4 of 7

California Labor Code section 201 requires that if an employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately. California Labor Code section 202 requires that if an employee not having a written contract for a definite period quits his or her employment, his or her wages shall become due and payable not later than 72 hours thereafter, unless the employee has given 72 hours previous notice of his or her intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting. California Labor Code section 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to pay, without abatement or reduction, in accordance with Labor Code sections 201, 201.3, 201.5, 201.6, 201.8, 201.9, 202, and 205.5, any wages of an employee who is discharged or who quits, the wages of the employee shall 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. During the relevant time period, KIK failed to pay Ms. Romulo and other aggrieved employees all wages due to them within any time period specified by California Labor Code sections 201 and 203, including for all hours worked, uncompensated off-the-clock work, uncompensated overtime premiums arising from excluding non-discretionary bonuses and incentives from the regular rate and premium wages for failing to provide legally mandated meal and rest breaks, and therefore is liable under California Labor Code section 203.

California Labor Code section 204 requires that all wages earned by any person in any employment between the 1st and the 15th days, inclusive, of any calendar month, other than those wages due upon termination of an employee, are due and payable between the 16th and the 26th day of the month during which the labor was performed, and that all wages earned by any person in any employment between the 16th and the last day, inclusive, of any calendar month, other than those wages due upon termination of an employee, are due and payable between the 1st and the 10th day of the following month. California Labor Code section 204 also requires that all wages earned for labor in excess of the normal work period shall be paid no later than the payday for the next regular payroll period. During the relevant time period, KIK failed to pay Ms. Romulo and other aggrieved employees all wages due to them within any time period specified by California Labor Code section 204, including for all hours worked, uncompensated off-the-clock work, uncompensated overtime premiums arising from excluding non-discretionary bonuses and incentives from the regular rate, and premium wages for failing to provide legally mandated meal and rest breaks.

///

///

///

California Labor Code section 226 requires employers to make, keep and provide complete and accurate itemized wage statements to their employees. During the relevant time period, KIK did not provide Ms. Romulo and other aggrieved employees with complete and accurate itemized wage statements. The wage statements they received from KIK were in violation of California Labor Code section 226(a). The violations include, but are not limited to, the failure to include (1) gross wages earned by Ms. Romulo and other aggrieved employees, (2) total hours worked by Ms. Romulo and other aggrieved employees, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate by Ms. Romulo and other aggrieved employees (4) all deductions for Ms. Romulo and other aggrieved employees, (5) net wages earned by Ms. Romulo and other aggrieved employees, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which Ms. Romulo and other aggrieved employees are paid, (7) the name of the aggrieved employee and only the last four digits of his or her social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by Ms. Romulo and other aggrieved employees.

California Labor Code section 558 allows recovery of penalties. (a) Any employer or other person acting on behalf of an employer who violates, or causes to be violated, a section of this chapter or any provision regulating hours and days of work in any order of the Industrial Welfare Commission shall be subject to a civil penalty as follows: (1) For any initial violation, fifty dollars (\$50) for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the employee was underpaid in addition to an amount sufficient to recover underpaid wages. (2) For each subsequent violation, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the employee was underpaid in addition to an amount sufficient to recover underpaid wages. (3) Wages recovered pursuant to this section shall be paid to the affected employee. Ms. Romulo and other aggrieved employees have been denied their wages and premium wages and, therefore, are entitled to penalties.

California Labor Code sections 1174(d) requires an employer to keep, at a central location in the state or at the plants or establishments at which employees are employed, payroll records showing the hours worked daily by and the wages paid to, and the number of piece-rate units earned by and any applicable piece rate paid to, employees employed at the respective plants or establishments. These records shall be kept with rules established for this purpose by the commission, but in any case, shall be kept on file for not less than two years. During the relevant time period, KIK failed to keep accurate and complete payroll records showing the hours worked daily and the wages paid, to Ms. Romulo and other aggrieved employees.

LWDA

August 12, 2020

Page 6 of 7

California Labor Code sections 1194, 1197 and 1197.1 provide the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a lesser wage than the minimum so fixed is unlawful. During the relevant time period, KIK did not provide Ms. Romulo and other aggrieved employees with the minimum wages to which they were entitled despite constructive and actual knowledge of failing to pay them for all hours worked and off-the-clock work, including pre- and post-shift and during meal breaks, and maintaining an illegal rounding policy.

California Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802 require an employer to reimburse its employee for all necessary expenditures incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of his or her job duties or in direct consequence of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer. During their employment, aggrieved employees incurred necessary business-related expenses and costs that were not fully reimbursed by KIK, including for using their personal cellular phones and vehicles for work purposes, and purchasing personal protective equipment they were required to wear while working.

We believe that Ms. Romulo and other current and former California-based hourly-paid or non-exempt employees are entitled to penalties and wages as allowed under California Labor Code section 2698, et seq. for violations of Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 218.5, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512(a), 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800 and 2802, and the IWC Wage Orders.

California Labor Code section 2699.3 requires that a claimant send a certified letter to the employer in questions and the California Labor & Workforce Development Agency setting forth the claims, and the basis for the claims, thereby giving the California Labor & Workforce Development Agency an opportunity to investigate the claims and/or take any action it deems appropriate.

The purpose of this letter is to satisfy the requirement created by California Labor code section 2699 prior to seeking penalties allowed by law for the aforementioned statutory violations. We look forward to determining whether California Labor & Workforce Development Agency intends to take any action in reference to these claims. We kindly request that you respond to this notice according to the time frame contemplated by the California Labor Code.

Ms. Romulo will seek these penalties and wages on her own behalf and on behalf of other similarly situated California-based hourly-paid or non-exempt employees of KIK within one year of the date of this letter, as allowed by law.

///

LWDA
August 12, 2020
Page 7 of 7

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your attention to this matter and the noble cause you advance each and every day.

Very truly yours,

JUSTICE LAW CORPORATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Han', written over a horizontal line.

Douglas Han, Esq.

CC (By Certified U.S. Mail Only):

C T Corporation System
c/o KIK Pool Additives Inc.
818 West Seventh Street, Suite 930
Los Angeles, California 90017
Agent for Service of Process for KIK Pool Additives Inc.

Legal Department
c/o KIK Custom Products
5160 E. Airport Dr.
Ontario, California 91761

CC (By Electronic Mail Only):

Justin Curley, Esq.
jcurley@seyfarth.com
SEYFARTH SHAW LLP

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

PROOF OF SERVICE
1013A(3) CCP

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action. My business address is 751 N. Fair Oaks Avenue, Suite 101, Pasadena, CA 91103 and my electronic service address is dcseri@justicelawcorp.com

On November 9, 2020, I served the foregoing document described as

COMPLAINT FOR PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE § 2698 *et seq.*
(PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT OF 2004)

for the following case: **Romulo v. Kik Pool Additives Inc., et al.**
LWDA/Court Case No.: **LWDA Case No.: CM- 802260-20**
Court Case No.: CIVDS2023661
San Bernardino County Superior Court

on interested parties in this action by electronically submitting as follows:

State of California
Labor & Workforce Development Agency
800 Capitol Mall, MIC-55
Sacramento, California 95814

[X] BY ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Pursuant to California Senate Bill No. 836, I caused the documents described above to be electronically submitted by and through the procedure stated on the website of the State of California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

[X] STATE

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

Executed on November 9, 2020, at Pasadena, California.



Demiah Cseri