

Electronically FILED by Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles on 02/19/2021 02:01 PM Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court, by M. Barel, Deputy Clerk

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7 PORTILLO SANCHEZ, as an aggrieved employee,

and on behalf of all other aggrieved employees

8 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**9 **FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – CENTRAL DISTRICT**

11 ROCIO STEPHANIE PORTILLO SANCHEZ
12 as an aggrieved employee, and on behalf of all
13 other aggrieved employees under the Labor
Code Private Attorneys' General Act of 2004,

14 Plaintiff,

15 v.

16 PARAGON SERVICES JANITORIAL
17 ORANGE COUNTY, LLC, a California
18 limited liability company; PARAGON
19 SERVICES JANITORIAL, LLC, a California
limited liability company; SAN DIEGO
SERVICES, LLC, a California limited liability
company; and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive,

20 Defendants.

CASE NO.: 21STCV06657

REPRESENTATIVE ACTION

**COMPLAINT UNDER THE LABOR
CODE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS'
GENERAL ACT OF 2004 FOR CIVIL
PENALTIES UNDER LABOR CODE
SECTIONS 210, 226.3, 558, 1174.5, 1197.1
and 2699**

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

[Amount in Controversy Greater Than
\$25,000.00]

26 COMES NOW plaintiff ROCIO STEPHANIE PORTILLO SANCHEZ ("Plaintiff"), as
27 aggrieved employees, and on behalf of all other aggrieved employees under the Labor Code Private
28 Attorneys' General Act of 2004, and alleges as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This is a representative action, pursuant to the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, codified at Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.* ("PAGA"), against PARAGON SERVICES JANITORIAL ORANGE COUNTY, LLC ("PARAGON OC"), PARAGON SERVICES JANITORIAL, LLC ("PARAGON"), SAN DIEGO SERVICES, LLC ("SDS"), and any of their respective subsidiaries or affiliated companies within the State of California (collectively hereinafter, with DOES 1 through 100, as further defined below. "Defendants"), as a proxy of the Labor and Workforce Development Agency of the State of California ("LWDA"), on behalf of Plaintiff and all other current and former non-exempt employees of Defendants working within the Civil Penalty Period, as further defined herein, and, as it pertains to the alleged claims for failure to comply with Labor Code section 2810.5, Labor Code section 203, Labor Code section 226, Labor Code section 227.3, Labor Code section 246, *et seq.*, Labor Code section 2802, restraints on competition, whistleblowing and freedom of speech on behalf of all employees of Defendants working within the Civil Penalty Period (collectively, "Aggrieved Employees").

2. Jurisdiction exists in the Superior Court of the State of California pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 410.10.

3. Venue is proper in Los Angeles County, California pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure sections 392, *et seq.* because, among other things, Los Angeles County is where the causes of action complained of herein arose; the county in which the employment relationship began; the county in which performance of the employment contract, or part of it, between Plaintiffs, or some of them, and Defendants was due to be performed; the county in which the employment contract, or part of it, between Plaintiff and Defendants was actually performed; and the county in which Defendants, or some of them, reside. Moreover, the unlawful acts alleged herein have a direct effect on Plaintiffs and Aggrieved Employees in Los Angeles County, and because Defendants employ numerous Aggrieved Employees in Los Angeles County.

4. Plaintiff is an "aggrieved employee" under PAGA. as Plaintiff was employed by Defendants during the applicable statutory period and suffered one or more of the Labor Code violations set forth herein. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks to recover civil penalties, as the term "civil

1 penalty” is defined under *ZB N.A. v. Superior Court* (2019) 8 Cal.5th 175, under the Labor Code
2 Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, codified at Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.* (“PAGA”) plus
3 reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs, for Plaintiff and all other aggrieved current and former
4 employees of Defendants during the Civil Penalty Period.

5 5. Specifically, Plaintiff seeks to recover PAGA civil penalties through a representative
6 action permitted by PAGA and the California Supreme Court in, among other authorities, *Arias v.*
7 *Superior Court* (2009) 46 Cal.4th 969. According to the same authorities, class certification of the
8 PAGA allegations described herein is not required.

9 6. During the period beginning one (1) year preceding the provision of notice to the
10 LWDA regarding the herein-described Labor Code violations (the “Civil Penalty Period”),
11 Defendants violated, *inter alia*, Labor Code sections 96, 98.6, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226,
12 226.3, 226.7, 227.3, 232, 232.5, 246, *et seq.*, 432, 510, 512, 558, 1102.5, 1174, 1174.5, 1194, 1197,
13 1197.1, 1197.5, 1198.5, 2699, 2802, and 2810.5, among others.

14 7. Labor Code section 2699, subdivisions (a) and (g), authorizes aggrieved employees
15 such as Plaintiff, on behalf of Plaintiff and all other aggrieved current and former employees within
16 the statutory period, to bring a civil action to recover civil penalties pursuant to the procedures
17 specified in Labor Code section 2699.3.

18 8. On or around October 6, 2020, Plaintiff provided written notice pursuant to Labor
19 Code section 2699.3 online and by certified mail, with return receipt requested, of Defendants’
20 violation of various, including the herein-described, provisions of the Labor Code, to the LWDA,
21 as well as by certified mail, with return receipt requested to Defendants, and each of them.

22 9. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subdivision (a)(2)(A), the LWDA did not
23 provide notice of its intention to investigate Defendants’ alleged violations within sixty-five (65)
24 calendar days of the October 6, 2020 postmarked date of the herein-described notice sent by Plaintiff
25 to the LWDA and Defendants.

26 **PAGA REPRESENTATIVE ALLEGATIONS**

27 10. At all relevant times mentioned herein, Defendants had and have a policy or practice
28 of failing to pay overtime wages to Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees in the State of

1 California in violation of California state wage and hour laws as a result of, without limitation,
2 Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees working over eight (8) hours per day, forty (40) hours per
3 week, and/or seven (7) straight workdays in a workweek without paying them proper overtime
4 wages, as a result of, without limitation, failing to accurately track and/or pay for all minutes actually
5 worked; engaging, suffering, or permitting employees to work off the clock, including, without
6 limitation, by requiring employees: to remain on-call, to suffer under Defendants' control to
7 complete pre-shift tasks before clocking in and post-shift tasks after clocking out (including cleaning
8 and loading carts), to clock out for meal periods and continue working, to don and doff uniforms
9 and/or safety equipment off the clock, to attend company meetings off the clock, to make phone
10 calls or drive off the clock; failing to include all forms of remuneration, including non-discretionary
11 bonuses, incentive pay, meal allowances, and other forms of remuneration into the regular rate of
12 pay for the pay periods where overtime was worked and the additional compensation was earned
13 for the purpose of calculating the overtime rate of pay; detrimental rounding of employee time
14 entries, editing and/or manipulation of time entries to show less hours than actually worked; and
15 for paying straight pay instead of overtime pay to the detriment of Plaintiff and other Aggrieved
16 Employees.

17 11. At all relevant times mentioned herein, Defendants had and have a practice or policy
18 of failing to compensate Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees with minimum wages for all hours
19 worked or otherwise under Defendants' control as a result of, without limitation, failing to
20 accurately track and/or pay for all minutes actually worked; by requiring employees: to remain on-
21 call; to suffer under Defendants' control to complete pre-shift tasks before clocking in and post-shift
22 tasks after clocking out (including answering cleaning and loading carts), to clock out for meal
23 periods and continue working, to don and doff uniforms and/or safety equipment off the clock, to
24 attend company meetings off the clock, to make phone calls or drive off the clock; detrimental
25 rounding of employee time entries, editing and/or manipulation of time entries to show less hours
26 than actually worked; failing to pay reporting time pay; paid time off and vacation time owed;
27 requiring employees to clock out for lunch and continue working; and failing to pay split shift
28 premiums, to the detriment of Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees.

1 12. At all relevant times mentioned herein, Defendants had and have a policy or practice
2 of failing to provide Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees a thirty (30) minute uninterrupted,
3 timely, and complete meal period for days on which the employee worked in excess of five (5) and
4 ten (10) hours per day without being afforded uninterrupted, timely, and complete 30-minute meal
5 periods or compensation in lieu thereof including, without limitation, by interrupting meal periods;
6 not providing timely meal periods; failing to provide first and second meal periods; providing short
7 meal periods; requiring that employees carry cellular telephones or walkie-talkies during meal
8 periods; not permitting employees to leave the premises; otherwise requiring on-duty/on-call meal
9 periods; and/or auto-deducting meal periods that could not be auto-deducted by law or during which
10 employees worked as required by California wage and hour laws

11 13. At all relevant times mentioned herein, Defendants had and have a policy or practice
12 of failing to provide Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees paid, uninterrupted, timely, and
13 complete rest periods of at least ten (10) minutes per four (4) hours worked or major fractions
14 thereof, or compensation in lieu thereof, including, without limitation, by failing to provide rest
15 periods all together; requiring that they be bundled together and/or with meal periods; interrupting
16 them; requiring that employees carry cellular telephones or walkie-talkies during rest periods not
17 providing them in a timely fashion; and not permitting employees to leave the premises; and/or
18 otherwise requiring on-duty/on-call rest periods, as required by California wage and hour laws.

19 14. At all relevant times mentioned herein, Defendants had and have a policy or practice
20 of failing to comply with Labor Code section 226, subdivision (a) by intentionally failing to furnish
21 Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees with itemized wage statements that accurately reflect gross
22 wages earned; total hours worked by the employee; net wages earned; all deductions; all applicable
23 hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each
24 hourly rate by the employee; the legal name of the employer and/or the name and address of the legal
25 entity securing the employer's services if the employer is a farm labor contractor; and other such
26 information as required by Labor Code section 226, subdivision (a).

27 15. At all relevant times mentioned herein, Defendants had and have a policy or practice
28 of failing to comply with Labor Code section 226, subdivision (a) by intentionally failing to furnish

1 Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees with documents signed to obtain or hold employment
2 under Labor Code section 432, personnel records under Labor Code section 1198.5, and time records
3 under Labor Code section 1174, making it difficult for Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees to
4 calculate their unpaid wages and/or premium payments, to the detriment of Plaintiffs and other
5 Aggrieved Employees.

6 16. At all relevant times mentioned herein, Defendants had and have a policy or practice
7 of failing to timely pay Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees, among other wages, all wages
8 owed as a result of Defendants' practice or policy of failing to pay, among other wages, overtime
9 wages, minimum wages, premium wages, paid time off and vacation time owed as required by Labor
10 Code sections 201, 202, and 203.

11 17. At all relevant times herein, Defendants had and have a policy or practice of failing
12 to pay Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees their paid time off and vacation time owed upon
13 separation of employment as wages at their final rate of pay in violation of Labor Code section 227.3
14 and applicable Wage Orders.

15 18. At all relevant times mentioned herein, Defendants have had a policy or practice of
16 failing and refusing, and continue to fail and refuse, to reimburse employees, including, without
17 limitation, Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees, with their costs incurred for driving personal
18 vehicles (*i.e.*, mileage and gas), purchasing uniforms, providing uniform and other deposits,
19 separately laundering mandatory uniforms, for the purchase of tools and safety equipment (including
20 work boots to handle oil), for the purchase and maintenance of cellular phones and cellular phone
21 plans, in direct consequence of the discharge of their duties, or of their obedience to the directions
22 of Defendants, as required by Labor Code 2802.

23 19. At all relevant times mentioned herein, Defendants have had a policy or practice of
24 failing to comply with the notice requirements of Labor Code section 2810.5 (*i.e.*, the Wage Theft
25 Protection Act of 2011) by, among other things, failing to provide Plaintiff and other Aggrieved
26 Employees with the rates of pay and overtime rates of pay applicable to their employment;
27 allowances claimed as part of the minimum wage; the regular payday designated by Defendants; the
28 name, address, and telephone number of the workers' compensation insurance carrier; information

1 regarding paid sick leave; and other pertinent information required to be disclosed by Defendants
2 under Labor Code section 2810.5.

3 20. At all relevant times mentioned herein, Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff and
4 other Aggrieved Employees with the amount of paid sick leave required to be provided pursuant to
5 California law (including, without limitation Labor Code section 246, *et seq.*), and also did not
6 permit its use upon request as contemplated under California laws, to the detriment of Plaintiff and
7 all other Aggrieved Employees.

8 21. At all relevant times mentioned herein, Defendants have had a policy or practice of
9 failing to pay Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees their wages in accordance with Labor Code
10 Section 204, which requires that: "[l]abor performed between the 1st and 15th days, inclusive, of
11 any calendar month shall be paid for between the 16th and 26th day of the month during which the
12 labor was performed, and labor performed between the 16th and the last day, inclusive of any
13 calendar month, shall be paid for between the 1st and 10th day of the following month."

14 22. At all relevant times mentioned herein, Defendants had and have a policy or practice
15 of preventing Plaintiff and/or Aggrieved Employees from using or disclosing the skills, knowledge
16 and experience they obtained at Defendants for purposes of competing with Defendants, including,
17 without limitation, preventing Employees from disclosing their wages in negotiating a new job with
18 a prospective employer, and from disclosing who else works at Defendants and under what
19 circumstances that they might be receptive to an offer from a rival employer. Plaintiff is informed
20 and believes that this policy and/or practice violates Business and Professions Code sections 17200,
21 16600 and 16700, and, by virtue thereof, various provisions of the Labor Code, including Labor
22 Code sections 232, 232.5, and 1197.5, subdivision (k).

23 23. Defendants had and have a policy or practice of preventing Plaintiff and/or other
24 Aggrieved Employees from disclosing violations of state and federal law, either within Defendants
25 to their managers or outside to private attorneys or government officials, among others, in violation
26 of Business and Professions Code section 17200, and, thus, in violation of Labor Code section
27 1102.5. In addition, Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendants' herein-described policies
28 and/or practices prevent Plaintiff and/or other Aggrieved Employees from disclosing information

1 about unsafe or discriminatory working conditions, or about wage and hour violations in violation
2 of Labor Code section 232 and 232.5.

3 24. Defendants had and have a policy or practice of preventing Plaintiff and/or other
4 Aggrieved Employees from engaging in lawful conduct during non-work hours, thus violating state
5 statutes entitling employees to disclose wages, working conditions, and illegal conduct, including,
6 without limitation, Labor Code sections 96, subdivision (k), 98.6, 232, 232.5, and 1197.5,
7 subdivision (k). Plaintiff is informed and believes that this lawful conduct includes the exercise of
8 Plaintiff's and/or other Aggrieved Employee's constitutional rights of freedom of speech and
9 economic liberty.

10 25. Plaintiff, in Plaintiff's representative capacity, seeks civil penalties under Labor
11 Code sections 210, 226.3, 558, 1174.5, 1197.1, and 2699 for the herein-described acts, which violate
12 the California Labor Code as described above, including on behalf of Plaintiff and other Aggrieved
13 Employees pursuant to PAGA.

14 **PARTIES**

15 **A. Plaintiff**

16 26. Plaintiff is a resident of the State of California. At all relevant times herein, Plaintiff
17 is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges that Defendants employed Plaintiff as a non-
18 exempt employee, with duties that included, but were not limited to, cleaning building interiors.
19 Plaintiff is informed and believes that Plaintiff worked for Defendants from approximately June of
20 2019 through approximately October of 2019.

21 **B. Defendants**

22 27. Plaintiff is informed and believes and based thereon alleges that defendant
23 PARAGON OC is, and at all times relevant hereto was, a limited liability company organized and
24 existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of California and doing business in the County
25 of Los Angeles, State of California.

26 28. Plaintiff is informed and believes and based thereon alleges that defendant
27 PARAGON is, and at all times relevant hereto was, a limited liability company organized and
28 existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of California and doing business in the County

1 of Los Angeles, State of California.

2 29. Plaintiff is informed and believes and based thereon alleges that defendant SDS is,
3 and at all times relevant hereto was, a limited liability company organized and existing under and
4 by virtue of the laws of the State of California and doing business in the County of Los Angeles,
5 State of California.

6 30. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate, or otherwise,
7 of defendants sued herein as DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, are currently unknown to Plaintiff,
8 who therefore sues defendants by such fictitious names under Code of Civil Procedure section 474.
9 Plaintiff is informed and believes and based thereon alleges that each of the defendants designated
10 herein as DOE is legally responsible in some manner for the unlawful acts referred to herein.
11 Plaintiff will seek leave of court to amend this Complaint to reflect the true names and capacities of
12 the defendants designated hereinafter as DOES when such identities become known. Plaintiff is
13 informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that each defendant acted in all respects pertinent
14 to this action, as the agent of the other defendant(s), carried out a joint scheme, business plan or
15 policy in all respects pertinent hereto, and the acts of each defendant are legally attributable to the
16 other defendants. Whenever, heretofore or hereinafter, reference is made to "Defendants," it shall
17 include PARAGON OC, PARAGON, SDS, and any of their parent, subsidiary, or affiliated
18 companies within the State of California, as well as DOES 1 through 100 identified herein.

19 **JOINT LIABILITY ALLEGATIONS**

20 31. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that at all times
21 mentioned herein, each of the defendants was the agent, principal, employee, employer,
22 representative, joint venture or co-conspirator of each of the other defendants, either actually or
23 ostensibly, and in doing the things alleged herein acted within the course and scope of such agency,
24 employment, joint venture, and conspiracy.

25 32. All of the acts and conduct described herein of each and every corporate defendant
26 was duly authorized, ordered, and directed by the respective and collective defendant corporate
27 employers, and the officers and management-level employees of said corporate employers. In
28 addition thereto, said corporate employers participated in the aforementioned acts and conduct of

1 their said employees, agents, and representatives, and each of them; and upon completion of the
2 aforesaid acts and conduct of said corporate employees, agents, and representatives, the defendant
3 corporation respectively and collectively ratified, accepted the benefits of, condoned, lauded,
4 acquiesced, authorized, and otherwise approved of each and all of the said acts and conduct of the
5 aforementioned corporate employees, agents and representatives.

6 33. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that despite the
7 formation of the purported corporate existence of PARAGON OC, PARAGON, SDS, and DOES 1
8 through 50, inclusive (the "Alter Ego Defendants"), they, and each of them, are one and the same
9 with DOES 51 through 100 ("Individual Defendants"), and each of them, due to, but not limited to,
10 the following reasons:

11 a. The Alter Ego Defendants are completely dominated and controlled by the
12 Individual Defendants who personally committed the wrongful and illegal acts and violated the laws
13 as set forth in this Complaint, and who have hidden and currently hide behind the Alter Ego
14 Defendants to perpetrate frauds, circumvent statutes, or accomplish some other wrongful or
15 inequitable purpose;

16 b. The Individual Defendants derive actual and significant monetary benefits by
17 and through the Alter Ego Defendants' unlawful conduct, and by using the Alter Ego Defendants as
18 the funding source for the Individual Defendants' own personal expenditures;

19 c. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the Individual
20 Defendants and the Alter Ego Defendants, while really one and the same, were segregated to appear
21 as though separate and distinct for purposes of perpetrating a fraud, circumventing a statute, or
22 accomplishing some other wrongful or inequitable purpose;

23 d. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the business affairs
24 of the Individual Defendants and the Alter Ego Defendants are, and at all relevant times mentioned
25 herein were, so mixed and intermingled that the same cannot reasonably be segregated, and the same
26 are inextricable confusion. The Alter Ego Defendants are, and at all relevant times mentioned herein
27 were, used by the Individual Defendants as mere shells and conduits for the conduct of certain of
28

1 their, and each of their affairs. The Alter Ego Defendants are, and at all relevant times mentioned
2 herein were, the alter egos of the Individual Defendants;

3 e. The recognition of the separate existence of the Individual Defendants from
4 the Alter Ego Defendants would promote injustice insofar that it would permit these defendants to
5 insulate themselves from liability to Plaintiffs for violations to the Civil Code, Government Code,
6 and other statutory violations. The corporate existence of these defendants should thus be
7 disregarded in equity and for the ends of justice because such disregard is necessary to avoid fraud
8 and injustice to Plaintiff herein;

9 f. Accordingly, the Alter Ego Defendants constitute the alter ego of the
10 Individual Defendants (and vice versa), and the fiction of their separate corporate existence must be
11 disregarded.

12 34. As a result of the aforementioned facts, Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based
13 thereon alleges that Defendants, and each of them, are joint employers.

14 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

15 **(Civil Penalties Under Labor Code § 210 – Against All Defendants)**

16 35. Plaintiff re-alleges each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs
17 and incorporates each by reference as though fully set forth hereat.

18 36. At all relevant times herein, Labor Code section 204, requires and required that:
19 “[l]abor performed between the 1st and 15th days, inclusive, of any calendar month shall be paid for
20 between the 16th and 26th day of the month during which the labor was performed, and labor
21 performed between the 16th and the last day, inclusive, of any calendar month, shall be paid for
22 between the 1st and 10th day of the following month.”

23 37. At all relevant times herein, Labor Code section 210, subdivision (a) states and stated
24 that “[i]n addition to, and entirely independent and apart from, any other penalty provided in this
25 article, every person who fails to pay the wages of each employee as provided in Sections 201.3,
26 204, 204b, 204.1, 205, 205.5, and 1197.5, shall be subject to a civil penalty as follows: (1) For any
27 initial violation, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each failure to pay each employee” and “(2) For
28 each subsequent violation, or any willful or intentional violation, two hundred dollars (\$200) for

1 each failure to pay each employee, plus 25 percent of the amount unlawfully withheld.”

2 38. At all relevant times herein, Defendants have had a consistent policy or practice of
3 failing to pay Plaintiff and/or Aggrieved Employees during their employment on a timely basis as
4 per Labor Code section 204. Thus, pursuant to Labor Code section 210, Plaintiff and other
5 Aggrieved Employees are entitled to recover civil penalties for Defendants’ violations of Labor
6 Code section 204, in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100) for each Aggrieved Employee for
7 each initial violation per employee, and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each Aggrieved Employee
8 for each subsequent violation in connection with each payment that was made in violation of Labor
9 Code section 204.

10 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

11 **(Civil Penalties Under Labor Code § 226.3 – Against All Defendants)**

12 39. Plaintiff re-alleges each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs
13 and incorporates each by reference as though fully set forth hereat.

14 40. Defendants had and have a policy or practice of failing to comply with Labor Code
15 section 226, subdivision (a) by intentionally failing to furnish Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees
16 with itemized wage statements that accurately reflect gross wages earned; total hours worked; net
17 wages earned; the name and address of each employer with whom they have been placed to work;
18 all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours
19 worked at each hourly rate; the legal name of the employer and/or the name and address of the legal
20 entity securing the employer’s services if the employer is a farm labor contractor; and other such
21 information as required by Labor Code section 226, subdivision (a).

22 41. Labor Code section 226.3 states that “[a]ny employer who violates subdivision (a)
23 of Section 226 shall be subject to a civil penalty in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250)
24 per employee per violation in an initial citation and one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per employee for
25 each violation in a subsequent citation, for which the employer fails to provide the employee a wage
26 deduction statement or fails to keep the records required in subdivision (a) of Section 226.”

27 42. Labor Code section 226.3 further provides that “[t]he civil penalties provided for in
28 this section are in addition to any other penalty provided by law.”

47. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon allege, that Defendants, and each of them, violated, or caused to be violated, the Labor Code sections described herein, including causing Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees not to: be paid overtime wages and minimum wages; receive meal and rest periods or compensation in lieu thereof; be paid timely wages during their employment and after their employment separation; receive accurate, itemized wage statements; be provided with the opportunity to inspect employment records; be provided with notice as required under Labor Code section 2810.5; be provided with the proper accrual and use of paid sick leave; and/or be paid out all paid time off and/or vacation wages owed at the proper rate of pay.

48. As a direct and proximate result of the herein-described Labor Code violations, pursuant to Labor Code section 558, Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees are entitled to recover civil penalties for Defendants' herein-described Labor Code violations in the amount 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.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of Labor Code § 1174.5 – Against All Defendants)

49. Plaintiff re-alleges each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs and incorporates each by reference as though fully set forth hereat.

50. At all times mentioned herein, Labor Code section 1174, subdivision (b) has required every person employing labor in California to “[a]llow any member of the commission or the employees of the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement free access to the place of business or employment of the person to secure any information or make any investigation that they are authorized by this chapter to ascertain or make. The commission may inspect or make excerpts, relating to the employment of employees, from the books, reports, contracts, payrolls, documents, or papers of the person.”

51. At all times mentioned herein, Labor Code section 1174, subdivision (c) has required every person employing labor in California to “[k]eep a record showing the names and addresses of all employees employed and the ages of all minors.”

52. At all times mentioned herein, Labor Code section 1174, subdivision (d) has required every person employing labor in California to “[k]eep, 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 applicable piece rate paid to, employees employed at the respective plants or establishments. 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 three years. An employer shall not prohibit an employee from maintaining a personal record of hours worked, or, if paid on a piece-rate basis, piece-rate units earned.”

53. Pursuant to Labor Code section 1174.5, “[a]ny person employing labor who willfully fails to maintain the records required by subdivision (c) of [Labor Code] Section 1174 or accurate and complete records required by subdivision (d) of [Labor Code] Section 1174, or to allow any member of the commission or employees of the division to inspect records pursuant to subdivision (b) of [Labor Code] Section 1174, shall be subject to a civil penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500).

54. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants have willfully failed to maintain the records required by Labor Code subdivision (c), failed to maintain accurate and complete records required by Labor Code subdivision (d), and/or failed to allow inspection of records as required by Labor Code subdivision (b).

55. As a direct and proximate result of the herein-described Labor Code violations, pursuant to Labor Code section 1174.5, Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees are entitled to recover civil penalties for Defendants' herein-described Labor Code violations in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500) per violation per Aggrieved Employee.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of Labor Code § 1197.1 – Against All Defendants)

56. Plaintiff re-alleges each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs and incorporates each by reference as though fully set forth hereat.

57. Pursuant to Labor Code section 1197.1, subdivision (a): "Any employer or other person acting either individually or as an officer, agent, or employee of another person, who pays

1 or causes to be paid to any employee a wage less than the minimum fixed by an applicable state or
2 local law, or by an order of the commission shall be subject to a civil penalty, restitution of wages,
3 liquidated damages payable to the employee, and any applicable penalties imposed pursuant to
4 Section 203 as follows:

5 (1) For any initial violation that is intentionally committed, one hundred dollars
6 (\$100) for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the
7 employee is underpaid. This amount shall be in addition to an amount
8 sufficient to recover underpaid wages, liquidated damages pursuant to Section
9 1194.2, and any applicable penalties imposed pursuant to Section 203.

10 (2) For each subsequent violation for the same specific offense, two hundred fifty
11 dollars (\$250) for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the
12 employee is underpaid regardless of whether the initial violation is
13 intentionally committed. This amount shall be in addition to an amount
14 sufficient to recover underpaid wages, liquidated damages pursuant to Section
15 1194.2, and any applicable penalties imposed pursuant to Section 203.

16 (3) Wages, liquidated damages, and any applicable penalties imposed pursuant to
17 Section 203, recovered pursuant to this section shall be paid to the affected
18 employee."

19 58. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants caused
20 Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees not to be paid minimum wages as a result of Defendants, without
21 limitation, routinely failing to pay Plaintiff or other Aggrieved Employees' wages for all hours
22 worked or otherwise under Defendants' control due to, without limitation, routinely failing to
23 accurately track and/or pay for all hours actually worked; detrimental rounding or manipulation of
24 time entries; paying straight pay instead of overtime or otherwise failing to pay overtime hours at
25 the proper overtime rate of pay; engaging, suffering, or permitting employees to work off the clock.

26 59. As a direct and proximate result of the herein-described Labor Code violations,
27 pursuant to Labor Code section 1197.1, Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees are entitled to
28 recover civil penalties for Defendants' herein-described Labor Code violations in the amount one

1 hundred dollars (\$100) for each Aggrieved Employee per pay period for the initial violation, and
2 two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) for each Aggrieved Employee per pay period for each
3 subsequent violation.

4 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

5 **(Civil Penalties Under Labor Code § 2699 – Against All Defendants)**

6 60. Plaintiff re-alleges each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs
7 and incorporates each by reference as though fully set forth hereat.

8 61. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699, subdivision (a), notwithstanding any other
9 provision of law, any provision of the Labor Code that provides for a civil penalty to be assessed
10 and collected by the LWDA or any of its departments, divisions, commissions, boards, agencies or
11 employees for a violation of the Labor Code may, as an alternative, be recovered through a civil
12 action brought by an aggrieved employee on behalf of himself or herself and other current or former
13 employees pursuant to the procedures specified in Labor Code section 2699.3.

14 62. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699, subdivision (f), for all provisions of the Labor
15 Code except those for which a civil penalty is specifically provided, the established civil penalty for
16 a violation of those provisions is as follows: if, at the time of the alleged violation, the person
17 employs one or more employees, the civil penalty is one hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved
18 employee per pay period for the initial violation and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved
19 employee per pay period for each subsequent violation.

20 63. Plaintiff is informed and believes and based thereon alleges that Defendants, and
21 each of them, violated the Labor Code sections described herein, including, without limitation, for
22 the failure to: pay overtime wages and minimum wages; provide meal and rest periods or
23 compensation in lieu thereof; provide accurate, itemized wage statements; pay timely wages during
24 employment and after employment separation; provide employees the opportunity to inspect
25 employment records; reimburse Aggrieved Employees for costs incurred in furtherance of their
26 work duties; provide notice as required under Labor Code section 2810.5; provide the proper accrual
27 and use of paid sick leave; paying employees all owed paid time off and vacation time owed by
28 separation at the proper rate of pay; and placing restraints on competition, whistleblowing and

1 freedom of speech, entitling Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees to civil penalties for each of
2 these Labor Code violations in the amounts set forth in Labor Code section 2699, subdivision (f).

3 64. Moreover, Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees within the State of California
4 whom he seeks to represent are entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs in
5 connection with their herein-described claims for civil penalties.

6 **REQUEST FOR JURY TRIAL**

7 65. Plaintiff hereby requests a trial by jury.

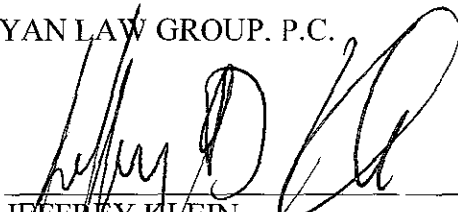
8 **PRAYER**

9 **WHEREFORE**, on behalf of Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees. Plaintiff prays for
10 judgment against Defendants as follows:

- 11 A. An award of civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 210, 226.3, 558,
12 1174.5, 1197.1, and 2699;
13 B. An award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code sections
14 210, 226.3, 558, 1174.5, 1197.1, and 2699;
15 C. Pre-judgment and post-judgment interest;
16 D. For costs of suit incurred herein; and
17 E. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

18 Dated: February 18, 2021

BIBIYAN LAW GROUP, P.C.

19
20
21 BY: 

JEFFREY KLEIN

DAVID D. BIBIYAN

22 Attorneys for Plaintiff ROCIO STEPHANIE
23 PORTILLO SANCHEZ, as an aggrieved
24 employee, and on behalf of all other aggrieved
25 employees under the Labor Code Private
26 Attorneys' General Act of 2004,
27
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