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Attorneys for Plaintiff REYNA AREVALO
 on behalf of herself and current and former aggrieved employees

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

REYNA AREVALO, on behalf of herself and
 other aggrieved employees,

Plaintiff,

vs.

SHASON INC.; and DOES 1 to 100, inclusive,
 Defendants.

Case No.: **21STCV28167**

PAGA ACTION

**PLAINTIFF REYNA AREVALO'S
 COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES AND
 RESTITUTION FOR:**

**1. CIVIL PENALTIES PURSUANT
 TO THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS
 GENERAL ACT OF 2004
 ("PAGA"), LABOR CODE
 SECTION 2698, et seq.**

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

COME NOW Plaintiff REYNA AREVALO ("Plaintiff"), who alleges and complains
 against Defendants SHASON INC. and DOES 1 to 100, inclusive (collectively "Defendants") as
 follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This is a Private Attorneys' General Act of 2004, Lab. Code § 2698, et seq.
 ("PAGA"). representative action brought by Plaintiff on behalf of the State of California, herself
 and other current and former aggrieved employees of Defendants who worked as hourly non-
 exempt employees, in California during the relevant time period seeking civil penalties associated

1 with Defendants' violation of the Labor Code based on Defendant's failure to pay wages for all
2 hours worked at minimum wage and all overtime hours worked at the overtime rate of pay; failure
3 to authorize or permit all legally required and compliant meal periods or pay meal period
4 premium wages; failure to authorize or permit all legally required and compliant rest periods or
5 pay rest period premium wages; statutory penalties for failure to timely pay earned wages during
6 employment; statutory penalties for failure to provide accurate wage statements. Plaintiff seeks on
7 a representative basis, following notice to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, civil
8 penalties, reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(g)(1) and costs brought
9 on behalf of Plaintiff, the State of California, and others aggrieved.

10 **II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

11 2. This Court has jurisdiction over Plaintiff and the Class Members' claims because
12 Plaintiff's lawsuit seeks damages in excess of \$25,000 and Defendants employed class members
13 and injuries occurred in locations in California including but not limited to Los Angeles County, at
14 5525 S. Soto St., Vernon, California 90058.

15 **III. PARTIES**

16 3. Plaintiff brings this action as a representative of the Labor and Workforce
17 Development Agency on behalf of herself and other current and former employees subject to
18 violations of the Labor Code. The named Plaintiff and the persons on whose behalf this action is
19 filed include current, former and/or future employees of Defendants who worked, work, or will
20 work for Defendants as hourly non-exempt employees in California. At all times mentioned
21 herein, the currently named Plaintiff is and was domiciled and a resident and citizen of California
22 and was employed by Defendants in an hourly non-exempt position at Defendants' location in Los
23 Angeles from approximately June 2018 to June 9, 2020.

24 4. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant SHASON
25 INC. is authorized to do business within the State of California and is doing business in the State
26 of California and/or that Defendants DOES 1-50 are, and at all times relevant hereto were persons
27 acting on behalf of Defendant SHASON INC. in the establishment of, or ratification of, the
28 aforementioned illegal wage and hour practices or policies. Defendant SHASON INC. operates in

Los Angeles County and employed Plaintiff and putative class members in Los Angeles County, including but not limited to, at 5525 S. Soto St., Vernon, California 90058.

5. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants DOES 1 through 50 are corporations, or are other business entities or organizations of a nature unknown to Plaintiff that employed Plaintiff and aggrieved California non-exempt employees, permitted Plaintiff and aggrieved employees to work, and exercised control over the wages, hours and working conditions of employment of Plaintiff and aggrieved employees.

6. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants DOES 51 through 100 are individuals unknown to Plaintiff. Each of the individual defendants is sued individually and in his or her capacity as an agent, shareholder, owner, representative, manager, supervisor, independent contractor and/or employee of each defendant who violated or caused to be violated the minimum wage and overtime provisions of the Labor Code and/or any provision of the Industrial Welfare Commission's wage orders regulating hours and days of work.

7. Plaintiff is unaware of the true names of Defendants DOES 1 through 100. Plaintiff sues said defendants by said fictitious names, and will amend this complaint when the true names and capacities are ascertained or when such facts pertaining to liability are ascertained, or as permitted by law or by the Court. Plaintiff is informed and believes that each of the fictitiously named defendants is in some manner responsible for the events and allegations set forth in this complaint.

8. Plaintiff makes the allegations in this complaint without any admission that, as to any particular allegation, Plaintiff bears the burden of pleading, proving, or persuading and Plaintiff reserves all of Plaintiff's right to plead in the alternative.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

CIVIL PENALTIES AND WAGES PURSUANT TO THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS

GENERAL ACT OF 2004, LABOR CODE SECTION 2698, et seq.

(Against all Defendants)

9. Plaintiff incorporates all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

10. During the period beginning one-year period preceding the sending of the initial

notice to the LWDA to the present, Defendants violated Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 226, 226.7, 510, 512, 1194, 1197, 1198, and the applicable Wage Orders.

11. Specifically, Defendants have committed the following violations of California Labor Code:

12. Failure to pay wages for all hours worked at the legal minimum wage: Defendants employed many of their employees, including Plaintiff, as hourly non-exempt employees. In California, an employer is required to pay hourly employees for all “hours worked,” which includes all time that an employee is under control of the employer and all time the employee is suffered and permitted to work. This includes the time an employee spends, either directly or indirectly, performing services which inure to the benefit of the employer.

13. Labor Code sections 1194 and 1197 require an employer to compensate employees for all “hours worked” at least at a minimum wage rate of pay as established by the IWC and the Wage Orders.

14. In this case, Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees worked more minutes per shift than Defendants credited them with having worked. Specifically, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees all wages at the applicable minimum wage for all hours worked due to Defendants’ policies, practices, and/or procedures including, but not limited to: (1) rounding down or shaving down the hours worked by Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees to the nearest hour to the benefit of Defendants; (2) automatically deducted 30-minutues from Plaintiff’s and similarly situated employees’ daily hours worked and attributed that time to a meal break, regardless of whether Plaintiff’s and similarly situated employees’ were provided a meal break.

15. Therefore, Defendants suffered, permitted, and required Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees to be subject to Defendants’ control without paying wages for that time. This resulted in Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees working time for which they were not compensated any wages, in violation of Labor Code sections 1194 and 1197 and the applicable

1 Wage Order.

2 16. **Failure to pay wages for overtime hours worked at the overtime rate of pay:**
3 Defendants employed many of their employees, including Plaintiff, as hourly non-exempt
4 employees. In California, an employer is required to pay hourly employees for all “hours worked,”
5 which includes all time that an employee is under control of the employer and all time the
6 employee is suffered and permitted to work. This includes the time an employee spends, either
7 directly or indirectly, performing services that inure to the benefit of the employer.’

8 17. Labor Code sections 510 and 1194 require an employer to compensate employees a
9 higher rate of pay for hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a workday, in excess of forty
10 (40) hours in a workweek, and on any seventh consecutive day of work in a workweek:

11 Any work in excess of eight (8) hours in one workday, any work in excess of forty (40)
12 hours in any one (1) workweek, and the first eight (8) hours worked on the seventh day of
13 work in any one (1) workweek, shall be compensated at the rate of no less than one-and-
14 one-half (1.5) times the regular rate of pay for an employee. Any work in excess of twelve
15 (12) hours in one (1) day shall be compensated at the rate of no less than twice the regular
16 rate of pay for an employee. In addition, any work in excess of eight (8) hours on any
17 seventh day of a workweek shall be compensated at the rate of no less than twice the
18 regular rate of pay of an employee.

19 Labor Code section 510.

20 18. In this case, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and other current and former
21 aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees overtime wages for all overtime hours
22 worked due to Defendants’ policies, practices, and/or procedures including, but not limited to: (1)
23 rounding down or shaving down the hours worked by Plaintiff and other current and former
24 aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees to the nearest hour to the benefit of
25 Defendants; (2) automatically deducted 30-minutues from Plaintiff’s and similarly situated
26 employees’ daily hours worked and attributed that time to a meal break, regardless of whether
27 Plaintiff’s and similarly situated employees’ were provided a meal break.

28 19. The foregoing policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in time during each
workday that Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt
employees were under the control of Defendants but were not compensated. To the extent that the
foregoing uncompensated time occurred when Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved

1 California-based hourly non-exempt employees worked more than eight (8) hours in a workday,
2 more than forty (40) hours in a workweek, and/or seven (7) days in a workweek, Defendants failed
3 to pay them at their overtime rate of pay for overtime hours worked, in violation of Labor Code
4 sections 510 and 1194 and the applicable Wage Order.

5 20. **Failure to pay wages to hourly non-exempt employees for workdays that**
6 **Defendants failed to provide legally required and compliant meal periods:** Plaintiff and other
7 current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees regularly worked
8 shifts of more than five (5) hours in length and shifts of more than ten (10) hours in length.

9 21. California law requires an employer to authorize or permit an employee an
10 uninterrupted meal period of no less than thirty (30) minutes in which the employee is relieved of
11 all duties and the employer relinquishes control over the employee's activities prior to the
12 employee's sixth hour of work. Labor Code sections 226.7, 512; Wage Order 9 at §11; *Brinker*
13 *Rest. Corp. v. Super Ct. (Hohnbaum)* (2012) 53 Cal.4th 1004. An employer may not employ an
14 employee for a work period of more than ten (10) hours per day without providing the employee
15 with a second such meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the eleventh
16 hour of work. *Id.* If the employee is not relieved of all duty during a meal period, the meal period
17 shall be considered an "on duty" meal period and counted as time worked. A paid "on duty" meal
18 period is only permitted when: (1) the nature of the work prevents an employee from being
19 relieved of all duty; and (2) the parties have a written agreement agreeing to on-duty meal periods.

20 22. If an employer fails to provide an employee a meal period in accordance with the
21 law, the employer must pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of pay
22 for each workday that a legally required and compliant meal period was not provided. Labor Code
23 section 226.7; Wage Order 9 at §11.

24 23. In this case, Defendants failed to authorize or permit legally required and compliant
25 meal periods to Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-
26 exempt employees due to Defendants' policies, practices, and/or procedures, including but not
27 limited to: (1) automatically deducting 30-minutues from Plaintiff's and similarly situated
28 employees' daily hours worked and attributed that time to a meal break, regardless of whether

1 Plaintiff's and similarly situated employees' were provided a meal break; and (2) failing to
2 authorize or permit Plaintiff and similarly situated employees a second uninterrupted duty-free
3 meal period of no less than thirty (30) minutes on each workday that Plaintiff and similarly
4 situated employees work shifts over ten (10) hours.

5 24. Additionally, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants maintained a policy, practice, and/or
6 procedure of failing to compensate Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-
7 based hourly non-exempt employees one (1) hour of pay at their regular rate of pay for each
8 workday that Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt
9 employees did not receive legally required and compliant meal periods, in violation of Labor Code
10 section 226.7.

11 25. Defendants' foregoing policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in Plaintiff
12 and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees not
13 receiving wages to compensate them for workdays during which Defendants did not provide them
14 with meal periods in compliance with California law.

15 26. **Failure to pay wages to hourly non-exempt employees for workdays that**
16 **Defendants failed to provide legally required and compliant rest periods:** Plaintiff and other
17 current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees regularly worked
18 shifts of more than three-and-a-half (3.5) hours.

19 27. California law requires every employer to authorize and permit an employee a rest
20 period of ten (10) net minutes for every four (4) hours worked or major fraction thereof. Labor
21 Code section 226.7; Wage Order 9 at §12. Under California law, "[e]mployees are entitled to 10
22 minutes' rest for shifts from three and one-half to six hours in length, 20 minutes for shifts of more
23 than six hours up to 10 hours, 30 minutes for shifts of more than 10 hours up to 14 hours, and so
24 on." *Brinker Restaurant Corp. v. Sup. Ct. (Hohnbaum)* (2012) 53 Cal.4th 1004, 1029; Labor Code
25 section 226.7; Wage Order 9 at §12. Rest periods, insofar as practicable, shall be in the middle of
26 each work period. Wage Order 9 at §12. Additionally, the rest period requirement "obligates
27 employers to permit – and authorizes employees to take – off-duty rest periods." *Augustus v. ABM*
28 *Security Services, Inc.*, (2016) 5 Cal.5th 257, 269. That is, during rest periods employers must

1 relieve employees of all duties and relinquish control over how employees spend their time. *Id.*

2 28. If the employer fails to authorize or permit a required rest period, the employer
3 must pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of pay for each workday
4 the employer did not authorize or permit a legally required rest period. Labor Code section 226.7;
5 Wage Order 9 at § 12.

6 29. In this case, Defendants failed to authorize or permit all legally required and
7 compliant rest periods to Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
8 non-exempt employees due to Defendants' policies, practices, and/or procedures including, but not
9 limited to: (1) failing to authorize or permit a third rest period to Plaintiff and other current and
10 former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees when they worked more than
11 ten (10) hours in a workday.

12 30. Additionally, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants maintained a policy, practice, and/or
13 procedure of failing to compensate Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-
14 based hourly non-exempt employees with one (1) hour of pay at their regular rate of pay for each
15 workday they did not receive legally required and compliant rest periods, in violation of Labor
16 Code section 226.7.

17 31. Defendants' foregoing policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in Plaintiff
18 and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees not
19 receiving wages to compensate them for workdays in which Defendants did not provide them with
20 rest periods in compliance with California law.

21 32. **Failure to timely pay earned wages during employment:** In California, wages
22 must be paid at least twice during each calendar month on days designated in advance by the
23 employer as regular paydays, subject to some exceptions. Labor Code section 204(a). Wages
24 earned between the 1st and 15th days, inclusive, of any calendar month must be paid between the
25 16th and the 26th day of that month and wages earned between the 16th and the last day,
26 inclusive, of any calendar month must be paid between the 1st and 10th day of the following
27 month. *Id.* Other payroll periods such as those that are weekly, biweekly, or semimonthly, must be
28 paid within seven (7) calendar days following the close of the payroll period in which wages were

1 earned. Labor Code section 204(d).

2 33. As a derivative of Plaintiff's claims above, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants failed
3 to timely pay Plaintiff's and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-
4 exempt employees' earned wages (including minimum wages, overtime wages, meal period
5 premium wages and/or rest period premium wages), in violation of Labor Code section 204.
6 Defendants' aforementioned policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in their failure to pay
7 Plaintiff's and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees'
8 their earned wages within the applicable time frames outlined in Labor Code section 204.

9 34. **Failure to provide complete and accurate wage statements:** Labor Code section
10 226, subdivision (a). Labor Code section 226(a) provides, *inter alia*, that, upon paying an
11 employee his or her wages, the employer must "furnish each of his or her employees ... an
12 itemized statement in writing showing (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the
13 employee, except for any employee whose compensation is solely based on a salary and who is
14 exempt from payment of overtime under subdivision (a) of Section 515 or any applicable order of
15 the Industrial Welfare Commission, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable
16 piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions, provided, that all
17 deductions made on written orders of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item, (5)
18 net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the pay period for which the employee is paid, (7) the
19 name of the employee and his or her social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal
20 entity that is the employer, and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and
21 the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee."

22 35. As a derivative of Plaintiff's allegations above, Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff
23 and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees all wages
24 earned (including minimum wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages, and/or rest
25 period premium wages) rendered Plaintiff's and other current and former aggrieved California-
26 based hourly non-exempt employees' wage statements inaccurate, in violation of Labor Code
27 section 226.

28 ///

1 36. **Failure to pay employees all wages due at time of termination/resignation:** An
2 employer is required to pay all unpaid wages timely after an employee's employment ends. The
3 wages are due immediately upon termination (Labor Code section 201) or within seventy-two (72)
4 hours of resignation (Labor Code section 202).

5 37. As a derivative of Plaintiff's allegations above, because Defendants failed to pay
6 Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees
7 all their earned wages (including minimum wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages,
8 and/or rest period premium wages), Defendants failed to pay those employees timely after each
9 employee's termination and/or resignation, in violation of Labor Code sections 201, 202, and 203.

10 38. Defendants' violations of Wage Order 7 constituted violations of Labor Code
11 section 1198, which prohibits employment under conditions of labor that violate the Wage Orders.

12 39. Labor Code sections 2699, subdivisions (a) and (g) authorize an aggrieved
13 employee, on behalf of himself or herself and other current or former employees, to bring a civil
14 action to recover civil penalties against all Defendants pursuant to the procedures specified in
15 Labor Code section 2699.3.

16 40. Plaintiff has complied with the procedures for bringing suit specified in Labor
17 Code section 2699.3. On May 10, 2021, Plaintiff filed notice with LWDA and provided notice to
18 Defendants by certified mail which provided notice of the specific provisions of the Labor Code
19 alleged to have been violated, including the facts and theories to support the violations alleged.

20 41. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, the LWDA must give written notice by
21 certified mail to the parties that it intends to investigate the alleged violations of the Labor Code
22 within 60 days of the date of the complainant's written notice. The LWDA failed to provide the
23 parties notice within 60 days of the date of Plaintiff's letter that the LWDA intends to investigate
24 Plaintiff's claims.

25 42. Pursuant to Labor Code sections 2699(a) and (f), Plaintiff is entitled to recover civil
26 penalties for Defendants' violations of Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204 226, 226.7, 510,
27 512, 1194, 1197, and 1198, during the Civil Penalty Period in the following amounts:

28 a. For violations of Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 226.7, 512, and

1 1198; one hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial
2 violation and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each
3 subsequent violation [penalty amounts established by Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)].

4 b. For violations of Labor Code section 226, two hundred fifty dollars (\$250)
5 for each employee for each pay period for the initial violation, and for each subsequent violation,
6 one thousand dollars (\$1000) for each underpaid employee for each pay period [penalty amounts
7 established by Labor Code section 226.3].

8 c. For violations of Labor Code section 510, fifty dollars (\$50) for each
9 employee for each pay period for the initial violation, and for each subsequent violation, one
10 hundred dollars (\$100) for each underpaid employee for each pay period [penalty amounts
11 established by Labor Code section 558] and any unpaid wages.

12 d. For violations of Labor Code section 1194 and 1197, one hundred dollars
13 (\$100) for each underpaid employee for each pay period for the initial violation, and for each
14 subsequent violation, two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each underpaid employee for each pay
15 period [penalty amounts established by Labor Code section 1197.1] and any unpaid wages.

16 43. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(g), Plaintiff is entitled to an award of
17 reasonable attorney's fees and costs in connection with her claims for civil penalties

18 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

19 **WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF, ON HER BEHALF AND ON OTHER AGGRIEVED PRAYS**
20 **AS FOLLOWS:**

21 **ON THE FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION:**

22 1. That the Defendants be found to have violated the provisions of the Labor Code
23 and the IWC Wages Orders as to the Plaintiff and aggrieved employees;

24 2. For any and all legally applicable penalties during the relevant statute of limitations
25 subject to any permissible tolling, including but not limited to that recoverable under California
26 Labor Code, including but not limited to sections 2699(f).

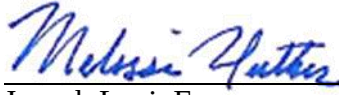
27 3. For attorneys' fees and costs of suit, including but not limited to that recoverable
28 under California Labor Code section 2699(g); and,

1 4. For such and other further relief, in law and/or equity, as the Court deems just or
2 appropriate

3
4 Dated: July 30, 2021

Respectfully submitted,
LAVI & EBRAHIMIAN, LLP

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6 By:



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