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

ADAM LOERA, MIGUEL DIAZ, SUDIPA
BISTA and RICK ZURLO, individually, on
behalf of other members of the general public
similarly situated, and on behalf of aggrieved
employees pursuant to the Private Attorneys
General Act ("PAGA");

Plaintiffs,

v.

TRUGREEN, INC., a Delaware corporation;
TRUGREEN LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, a
Delaware limited partnership; and DOES 1
through 100, inclusive;

Defendants.

STK-CV- 2022-5745

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR
DAMAGES**

- (1) Violation of California Labor Code §§ 510 and 1198 (Unpaid Overtime);
- (2) Violation of California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512(a) (Unpaid Meal Period Premiums);
- (3) Violation of California Labor Code § 226.7 (Unpaid Rest Period Premiums);
- (4) Violation of California Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1197 (Unpaid Minimum Wages);
- (5) Violation of California Labor Code §§ 201 and 202 (Final Wages Not Timely Paid);
- (6) Violation of California Labor Code § 226(a) (Non-Compliant Wage Statements);
- (7) Violation of California Labor Code §§ 2800 and 2802 (Unreimbursed Business Expenses);
- (8) Violation of California Labor Code § 2698 *et seq.* (Private Attorneys General Act of 2004); and
- (9) Violation of California Business & Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.*

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

COMES NOW, Plaintiffs ADAM LOERA, MIGUEL DIAZ, SUDIPA BISTA and RICK ZURLO (collectively “Plaintiffs”), individually, on behalf of other members of the general public similarly situated, and on behalf of aggrieved employees pursuant to the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, allege as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This class action is brought pursuant to the California Code of Civil Procedure section 382. The monetary damages and restitution sought by Plaintiffs exceeds the minimal jurisdiction limits of the Superior Court and will be established according to proof at trial. The “amount in controversy” for the named Plaintiffs, including claims for compensatory damages, restitution, penalties, wages, premium pay, and pro rata share of attorneys’ fees, is less than seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000).

2. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to the California Constitution, Article VI, Section 10, which grants the superior court “original jurisdiction in all other causes” except those given by statute to other courts. The statutes under which this action is brought do not specify any other basis for jurisdiction.

3. This Court has jurisdiction over Defendants because, upon information and belief, Defendants are citizens of California, have sufficient minimum contacts in California, or otherwise intentionally avail themselves of the California market so as to render the exercise of jurisdiction over them by the California courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

4. Venue is proper in this Court because, upon information and belief, Defendants transact business and/or have offices in this county, and the acts and omissions alleged herein relating to Plaintiffs and other class members took place in the State of California, including the County of San Joaquin. Moreover, this action is brought on behalf of the State of California as a private attorney general and has jurisdiction in this venue.

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PARTIES

5. Plaintiff ADAM LOERA is an individual residing in the State of California. Plaintiff ADAM LOERA was employed by Defendants within the statutory time period. Plaintiff MIGUEL DIAZ is an individual residing in the State of California. Plaintiff MIGUEL DIAZ was employed by Defendants within the statutory time period. Plaintiff SUDIPA BISTA is an individual residing in the State of California. Plaintiff SUDIPA BISTA was employed by Defendants within the statutory time period. Plaintiff RICK ZURLO is an individual residing in the State of California. Plaintiff RICK ZURLO was employed by Defendants within the statutory time period.

6. Defendant TRUGREEN, INC., at all times herein mentioned, was and is, upon information and belief, a Delaware corporation, and at all times herein mentioned, was and is, an employer whose employees are engaged throughout the State of California, including the County of San Joaquin. Defendant TRUGREEN LIMITED PARTNERSHIP at all times herein mentioned, was and is, upon information and belief, a Delaware limited partnership, and at all times herein mentioned, was and is, an employer whose employees are engaged throughout the State of California, including the County of San Joaquin.

7. At all relevant times, Defendant TRUGREEN, INC. and TRUGREEN LIMITED PARTNERSHIP were the “employer” of Plaintiffs within the meaning of all applicable California laws and statutes.

8. At all times herein relevant, Defendants TRUGREEN, INC., TRUGREEN LIMITED PARTNERSHIP and DOES 1 through 100, and each of them, were the agents, partners, joint venturers, joint employers, representatives, servants, employees, successors-in-interest, co-conspirators and assigns, each of the other, and at all times relevant hereto were acting within the course and scope of their authority as such agents, partners, joint venturers, joint employers, representatives, servants, employees, successors, co-conspirators and assigns, and all acts or omissions alleged herein were duly committed with the ratification, knowledge, permission, encouragement, authorization, and consent of each defendant designated herein.

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9. The true names and capacities, whether corporate, associate, individual or otherwise, of Defendants DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, are unknown to Plaintiffs, who sue said defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based on that information and belief allege, that each of the Defendants designated as a DOE is legally responsible for the events and happenings referred to in this Complaint, and unlawfully caused the injuries and damages to Plaintiffs and the other class members as alleged in this Complaint. Plaintiffs will seek leave of court to amend this Complaint to show the true names and capacities when the same have been ascertained.

10. Defendants TRUGREEN, INC., TRUGREEN LIMITED PARTNERSHIP and DOES 1 through 100 will hereinafter collectively be referred to as “Defendants.”

11. Plaintiffs further allege that Defendants directly or indirectly controlled or affected the working conditions, wages, working hours, and conditions of employment of Plaintiffs and the other class members so as to make each of said Defendants employers and employers liable under the statutory provisions set forth herein.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

12. Plaintiffs bring this action on their own behalf and on behalf of all other members of the general public similarly situated, and, thus, seek class certification under Code of Civil Procedure section 382.

13. The proposed class is defined as follows:

All current and former California-based (*i.e.*, currently “residing” in California with the intent to remain in California indefinitely) hourly-paid or non-exempt employees of Defendants within the State of California at any time during the period from January 19, 2017¹ to final judgment.

14. Plaintiffs reserve the right to establish subclasses as appropriate.

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¹ 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. Accordingly, Plaintiffs' claims were tolled during that time period.

1 15. The class is ascertainable and there is a well-defined community of interest in
2 the litigation:

3 a. Numerosity: The class members are so numerous that joinder of all class
4 members is impracticable. The membership of the entire class is
5 unknown to Plaintiffs at this time; however, the class is estimated to be
6 greater than fifty (50) individuals and the identity of such membership is
7 readily ascertainable by inspection of Defendants' employment records.

8 b. Typicality: Plaintiffs' claims are typical of all other class members'
9 claims as demonstrated herein. Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately
10 protect the interests of the other class members with whom they have a
11 well-defined community of interest.

12 c. Adequacy: Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of
13 each class member, with whom they have a well-defined community of
14 interest and typicality of claims, as demonstrated herein. Plaintiffs have
15 no interest that is antagonistic to the other class members. Plaintiffs'
16 attorneys, the proposed class counsel, are versed in the rules governing
17 class action discovery, certification, and settlement. Plaintiffs have
18 incurred, and during the pendency of this action will continue to incur,
19 costs and attorneys' fees, that have been, are, and will be necessarily
20 expended for the prosecution of this action for the substantial benefit of
21 each class member.

22 d. Superiority: A class action is superior to other available methods for the
23 fair and efficient adjudication of this litigation because individual joinder
24 of all class members is impractical.

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- 1 e. Public Policy Considerations: Certification of this lawsuit as a class
2 action will advance public policy objectives. Employers of this great
3 state violate employment and labor laws every day. Current employees
4 are often afraid to assert their rights out of fear of direct or indirect
5 retaliation. However, class actions provide the class members who are
6 not named in the complaint anonymity that allows for the vindication of
7 their rights.

8 16. There are common questions of law and fact as to the class members that
9 predominate over questions affecting only individual members. The following common
10 questions of law or fact, among others, exist as to the members of the class:

- 11 a. Whether Defendants' failure to pay wages, without abatement or
12 reduction, in accordance with the California Labor Code, was willful;
13 b. Whether Defendants failed to pay their hourly-paid or non-exempt
14 employees within the State of California for all hours worked, missed
15 meal periods and rest breaks in violation of California law;
16 c. Whether Defendants required Plaintiffs and the other class members to
17 work over eight (8) hours per day and/or over forty (40) hours per week
18 and failed to pay the legally required overtime compensation to Plaintiffs
19 and the other class members;
20 d. Whether Defendants properly calculated the regular rate for Plaintiffs
21 and the other class members to worked overtime and earned incentive
22 pay;
23 e. Whether Defendants deprived Plaintiffs and the other class members of
24 meal and/or rest periods or required Plaintiffs and the other class
25 members to work during meal and/or rest periods without compensation;
26 f. Whether Defendants failed to pay minimum wages to Plaintiffs and the
27 other class members for all hours worked;

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- 1 g. Whether Defendants failed to pay all wages due to Plaintiffs and the
2 other class members within the required time upon their discharge or
3 resignation;
- 4 h. Whether Defendants failed to timely pay all wages due to Plaintiffs and
5 the other class members during their employment;
- 6 i. Whether Defendants complied with wage reporting as required by the
7 California Labor Code, including, inter alia, section 226;
- 8 j. Whether Defendants failed to reimburse Plaintiffs and the other class
9 members for necessary business-related expenses and costs;
- 10 k. Whether Defendants' conduct was willful or reckless;
- 11 l. Whether Defendants engaged in unfair business practices in violation of
12 California Business & Professions Code section 17200, *et seq.*;
- 13 m. The appropriate amount of damages, restitution, and/or monetary
14 penalties resulting from Defendants' violation of California law; and
- 15 n. Whether Plaintiffs and the other class members are entitled to
16 compensatory damages pursuant to the California Labor Code.

17 **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

18 17. During the relevant time period set forth herein, Defendants employed Plaintiffs
19 and other persons as hourly-paid or non-exempt employees within the State of California.

20 18. Defendants, jointly and severally, employed Plaintiff Loera as an hourly-paid
21 non-exempt employee from 2017 to 2019 in the State of California. Defendants, jointly and
22 severally, employed Plaintiff Diaz as an hourly-paid non-exempt employee from 2017 to 2018
23 in the State of California. Defendants, jointly and severally, employed Plaintiff Bista as an
24 hourly-paid non-exempt employee in 2021 in the State of California. Defendants, jointly and
25 severally, employed Plaintiff Zurlo as an hourly-paid non-exempt employee from 2020 to 2021
26 in the State of California.

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1 19. Defendants had the authority to hire and terminate Plaintiffs and other class
2 members; to set work rules and conditions governing Plaintiffs' and other class members'
3 employment; and to supervise their daily employment activities.

4 20. Defendants exercised sufficient authority over the terms and conditions of
5 Plaintiffs' and other class members' employment for them to be joint employers of Plaintiffs
6 and the other class members.

7 21. Defendants directly hired and paid wages and benefits to Plaintiffs and other
8 class members.

9 22. Defendants continue to employ hourly-paid or non-exempt employees within the
10 State of California.

11 23. Plaintiffs and other class members worked over eight (8) hours in a day, and/or
12 forty (40) hours in a week during their employment with Defendants.

13 24. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants
14 engaged in a pattern and practice of wage abuse against their hourly-paid or non-exempt
15 employees within the State of California. This scheme involved, inter alia, failing to pay them
16 for all hours worked, missed meal periods, and missed rest breaks in violation of California
17 law.

18 25. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants
19 knew or should have known that Plaintiffs and other class members were entitled to receive
20 certain wages for overtime compensation and that Plaintiffs and other class members were not
21 receiving wages for overtime compensation.

22 26. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants
23 failed to provide Plaintiffs and other class members the required rest and meal periods during
24 the relevant time period as required under the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders
25 and thus they are entitled to any and all applicable penalties.

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1 27. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants
2 knew or should have known that Plaintiffs and other class members were entitled to receive all
3 timely and complete meal periods or payment of one additional hour of pay at Plaintiffs' and
4 the other class members' regular rate of pay when a meal period was missed, late or
5 interrupted, and that Plaintiffs and other class members did not receive all timely and proper
6 meal periods or payment of one additional hour of pay at their regular rate of pay when a meal
7 period was missed.

8 28. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants
9 knew or should have known that Plaintiffs and other class members were entitled to receive all
10 timely rest periods without interruption or payment of one additional hour of pay at Plaintiffs'
11 and the other class members' regular rate of pay when a rest period was missed, late or
12 interrupted, and that Plaintiffs and other class members did not receive all rest periods or
13 payment of one additional hour of pay at their regular rate of pay when a rest period was
14 missed.

15 29. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants
16 knew or should have known that Plaintiffs and other class members were entitled to receive at
17 least minimum wages for compensation and that Plaintiffs and other class members were not
18 receiving at least minimum wages for all hours worked.

19 30. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants
20 knew or should have known that Plaintiffs and other class members were entitled to receive the
21 wages owed to them upon discharge or resignation, including overtime and minimum wages
22 and meal and rest period premiums, and that Plaintiffs and other class members did not, in fact,
23 receive such wages owed to them at the time of their discharge or resignation.

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1 31. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants
2 knew or should have known that Plaintiffs and other class members were entitled to receive
3 complete and accurate wage statements in accordance with California law, but, in fact,
4 Plaintiffs and other class members did not receive complete and accurate wage statements from
5 Defendants. The deficiencies included, inter alia, the failure to include the total number of
6 hours worked by Plaintiffs and other class members.

7 32. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants
8 knew or should have known that Plaintiffs and the other class members were entitled to
9 reimbursement for necessary business-related expenses.

10 33. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants
11 knew or should have known that Defendants had to keep complete and accurate payroll records
12 for Plaintiffs and other class members in accordance with California law, but, in fact, did not
13 keep complete and accurate payroll records for Plaintiffs and other class members.

14 34. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants
15 knew or should have known that they had a duty to compensate Plaintiffs and other class
16 members pursuant to California law, and that Defendants had the financial ability to pay such
17 compensation, but willfully, knowingly, and intentionally failed to do so, and falsely
18 represented to Plaintiffs and other class members that they were properly denied wages, all in
19 order to increase Defendants' profits.

20 35. As a pattern and practice, during the relevant time period set forth herein,
21 Defendants failed to pay overtime wages to Plaintiffs and other class members for all hours
22 worked. Plaintiffs and other class members were required to work more than eight (8) hours
23 per day and/or forty (40) hours per week without overtime compensation.

24 36. As a pattern and practice, during the relevant time period set forth herein,
25 Defendants failed to provide the requisite uninterrupted and timely meal and rest periods to
26 Plaintiffs and other class members.

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37. As a pattern and practice, during the relevant time period set forth herein, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and other class members at least minimum wages for all hours worked.

38. As a pattern and practice, during the relevant time period set forth herein, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and other class members the wages owed to them upon discharge or resignation.

39. As a pattern and practice, during the relevant time period set forth herein, Defendants failed to provide complete or accurate wage statements to Plaintiffs and other class members.

40. As a pattern and practice, during the relevant time period set forth herein, Defendants failed to keep complete or accurate payroll records for Plaintiffs and other class members.

41. As a pattern and practice, during the relevant time period set forth herein, Defendants failed to properly compensate Plaintiffs and other class members pursuant to California law in order to increase Defendants' profits.

42. California Labor Code section 218 states that nothing in Article 1 of the Labor Code shall limit the right of any wage claimant to “sue directly . . . for any wages or penalty due to him [or her] under this article.”

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of California Labor Code §§ 510 and 1198)

(Against TRUGREEN, INC., TRUGREEN LIMITED PARTNERSHIP and DOES 1 through 100)

43. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 42, and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

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1 44. California Labor Code section 1198 and the applicable Industrial Welfare
2 Commission (“IWC”) Wage Order provide that it is unlawful to employ persons without
3 compensating them at a rate of pay either time-and-one-half or two-times that person’s regular
4 rate of pay, depending on the number of hours worked by the person on a daily or weekly
5 basis.

6 45. Specifically, the applicable IWC Wage Order provides that Defendants are and
7 were required to pay Plaintiffs and other class members employed by Defendants, who
8 work(ed) more than eight (8) hours in a day or more than forty (40) hours in a workweek, at
9 the rate of time-and-one-half for all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a day or more
10 than forty (40) hours in a workweek.

11 46. The applicable IWC Wage Order further provides that Defendants are and were
12 required to pay Plaintiffs and other class members overtime compensation at a rate of two
13 times their regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of twelve (12) hours in a day.

14 47. California Labor Code section 510 codifies the right to overtime compensation
15 at one-and-one-half times the regular hourly rate for hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours
16 in a day or forty (40) hours in a week or for the first eight (8) hours worked on the seventh day
17 of work, and overtime compensation at twice the regular hourly rate for hours worked in
18 excess of twelve (12) hours in a day or in excess of eight (8) hours in a day on the seventh day
19 of work.

20 48. During the relevant time period set forth herein, Plaintiffs and other class
21 members worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a day, and/or in excess of forty (40) hours in a
22 week.

23 49. As a pattern and practice, during the relevant time period set forth herein,
24 Defendants intentionally and willfully failed to pay overtime wages owed to Plaintiffs and
25 other class members (but not all).

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50. Defendants' pattern and practice of failing to pay Plaintiffs and other class members the unpaid balance of overtime compensation, as required by California laws, violates the provisions of California Labor Code sections 510 and 1198, and is therefore unlawful.

51. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 1194, Plaintiffs and other class members are entitled to recover unpaid overtime compensation, as well as interest, costs, and attorneys' fees.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512(a))

(Against TRUGREEN, INC., TRUGREEN LIMITED PARTNERSHIP and DOES 1 through 100)

52. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 51, and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

53. During the relevant time period set forth herein, the IWC Order and California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512(a) were applicable to Plaintiffs' and other class members' employment by Defendants.

54. During the relevant time period set forth herein, California Labor Code section 226.7 provides that no employer shall require an employee to work during any meal or rest period mandated by an applicable order of the California IWC.

55. During the relevant time period set forth herein, the applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor Code section 512(a) provide that an employer may not require, cause or permit an employee to work for a work period of more than five (5) hours per day without providing the employee with a meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes, except that if the total work period per day of the employee is no more than six (6) hours, the meal period may be waived by mutual consent of both the employer and employee.

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1 56. During the relevant time period set forth herein, the applicable IWC Wage
2 Order and California Labor Code section 512(a) further provide that an employer may not
3 require, cause, or permit an employee to work for a work period of more than ten (10) hours
4 per day without providing the employee with a second uninterrupted meal period of not less
5 than thirty (30) minutes, except that if the total hours worked is no more than twelve (12)
6 hours, the second meal period may be waived by mutual consent of the employer and the
7 employee only if the first meal period was not waived.

8 57. As a pattern and practice, during the relevant time period set forth herein,
9 Plaintiffs and other class members (but not all) who were scheduled to work for a period of
10 time no longer than six (6) hours, and who did not waive their legally-mandated meal periods
11 by mutual consent, were required to work for periods longer than five (5) hours without an
12 uninterrupted meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes and/or without a rest period.

13 58. As a pattern and practice, during the relevant time period set forth herein,
14 Plaintiffs and other class members (but not all) who were scheduled to work for a period of
15 time no longer than twelve (12) hours, and who did not waive their legally-mandated meal
16 periods by mutual consent, were required to work for periods longer than ten (10) hours
17 without an uninterrupted meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes and/or without a rest
18 period.

19 59. As a pattern and practice, during the relevant time period set forth herein,
20 Plaintiffs and other class members (but not all) who were scheduled to work for a period of
21 time in excess of six (6) hours were required to work for periods longer than five (5) hours
22 without an uninterrupted meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes and/or without a rest
23 period.

24 60. As a pattern and practice, during the relevant time period set forth herein,
25 Plaintiffs and other class members (but not all) who were scheduled to work for a period of
26 time in excess of twelve (12) hours were required to work for periods longer than ten (10)
27 hours without an uninterrupted meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes and/or without
28 a rest period.

61. As a pattern and practice, during the relevant time period set forth herein, Defendants intentionally and willfully required Plaintiffs and other class members (but not all) to work during meal periods and failed to compensate Plaintiffs and the other class members (but not all) the full meal period premium for work performed during meal periods.

62. As a pattern and practice, during the relevant time period set forth herein, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and other class members (but not all) the full meal period premium due pursuant to California Labor Code section 226.7.

63. Defendants' conduct violates applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512(a).

64. Pursuant to the applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor Code section 226.7(b), Plaintiffs and other class members are entitled to recover from Defendants one additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that the meal or rest period is not provided.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of California Labor Code § 226.7)

(Against TRUGREEN, INC., TRUGREEN LIMITED PARTNERSHIP and DOES 1 through 100)

65. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 64, and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

66. During the relevant time period set forth herein, the applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor Code section 226.7 were applicable to Plaintiff's and other class members' employment by Defendants.

67. During the relevant time period set forth herein, California Labor Code section 226.7 provides that no employer shall require an employee to work during any rest period mandated by an applicable order of the California IWC.

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1 68. During the relevant time period set forth herein, the applicable IWC Wage
2 Order provides that “[e]very employer shall authorize and permit all employees to take rest
3 periods, which insofar as practicable shall be in the middle of each work period” and that the
4 “rest period time shall be based on the total hours worked daily at the rate of ten (10) minutes
5 net rest time per four (4) hours or major fraction thereof” unless the total daily work time is
6 less than three and one-half (3 ½) hours.

7 69. As a pattern and practice, during the relevant time period set forth herein,
8 Defendants required Plaintiffs and other class members (but not all) to work four (4) or more
9 hours without authorizing or permitting a ten (10) minute rest period per each four (4) hour
10 period worked.

11 70. As a pattern and practice, during the relevant time period set forth herein,
12 Defendants willfully required Plaintiffs and other class members (but not all) to work during
13 rest periods and failed to pay Plaintiffs and the other class members the full rest period
14 premium for work performed during rest periods.

15 71. As a pattern and practice, during the relevant time period set forth herein,
16 Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and the other class members (but not all) the full rest period
17 premium due pursuant to California Labor Code section 226.7

18 72. Defendants’ conduct violates applicable IWC Wage Orders and California
19 Labor Code section 226.7.

20 73. Pursuant to the applicable IWC Wage Orders and California Labor Code section
21 226.7(b), Plaintiffs and the other class members are entitled to recover from Defendants one
22 additional hour of pay at the employees’ regular hourly rate of compensation for each workday
23 that the rest period was not provided.

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1 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **(Violation of California Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1197)**

3 **(Against TRUGREEN, INC., TRUGREEN LIMITED PARTNERSHIP and DOES 1**
4 **through 100)**

5 74. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1
6 through 73 and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set
7 forth herein.

8 75. During the relevant time period set forth herein, California Labor Code sections
9 1194 and 1197 provide that the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a
10 lesser wage than the minimum so fixed, is unlawful.

11 76. As a pattern and practice, during the relevant time period set forth herein,
12 Defendants failed to pay minimum wages to Plaintiffs and other class members (but not all) as
13 required, pursuant to California Labor Code sections 1194 and 1197.

14 77. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiffs and other class members the minimum
15 wage as required violates California Labor Code sections 1194 and 1197. Pursuant to those
16 sections, Plaintiffs and other class members are entitled to recover the unpaid balance of their
17 minimum wage compensation as well as interest, costs, and attorney's fees, and liquidated
18 damages in an amount equal to the wages unlawfully unpaid and interest thereon.

19 78. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 1194.2, Plaintiffs and other class
20 members are entitled to recover liquidated damages in an amount equal to the wages
21 unlawfully unpaid and interest thereon.

22 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

23 **(Violation of California Labor Code §§ 201 and 202)**

24 **(Against TRUGREEN, INC., TRUGREEN LIMITED PARTNERSHIP and DOES 1**
25 **through 100)**

26 79. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1
27 through 78, and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set
28 forth herein.

1 80. During the relevant time period set forth herein, California Labor Code sections
2 201 and 202 provide that if an employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid
3 at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately, and if an employee quits his or her
4 employment, his or her wages shall become due and payable not later than seventy-two (72)
5 hours thereafter, unless the employee has given seventy-two (72) hours notice of his or her
6 intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time of
7 quitting.

8 81. As a pattern and practice, during the relevant time period set forth herein,
9 Defendants intentionally and willfully failed to pay Plaintiffs and other class members (but not
10 all) who are no longer employed by Defendants their wages, earned and unpaid, within
11 seventy-two (72) hours of their leaving Defendants' employ.

12 82. Defendants' pattern and practice of failing to pay Plaintiffs and other class
13 members who are no longer employed by Defendants their wages, earned and unpaid, within
14 seventy-two (72) hours of their leaving Defendants' employ, is in violation of California Labor
15 Code sections 201 and 202.

16 83. California Labor Code section 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to
17 pay wages owed, in accordance with sections 201 and 202, then the wages of the employee
18 shall continue as a penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or until an
19 action is commenced; but the wages shall not continue for more than thirty (30) days.

20 84. Plaintiffs and other class members are entitled to recover from Defendants the
21 statutory penalty wages for each day they were not paid, up to the thirty (30) day maximum as
22 provided by Labor Code section 203.

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1 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **(Violation of California Labor Code § 226(a))**

3 **(Against TRUGREEN, INC., TRUGREEN LIMITED PARTNERSHIP and DOES 1**
4 **through 100)**

5 85. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1
6 through 84, and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set
7 forth herein.

8 86. During the relevant time period set forth herein, California Labor Code section
9 226(a) provides that every employer shall furnish each of his or her employees an accurate
10 itemized statement in writing showing (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the
11 employee, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the
12 employee is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions, provided that all deductions made on
13 written orders of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item, (5) net wages
14 earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the
15 employee and his or her social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal entity
16 that is the employer, and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the
17 corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee. The deductions
18 made from payments of wages shall be recorded in ink or other indelible form, properly dated,
19 showing the month, day, and year, and a copy of the statement or a record of the deductions
20 shall be kept on file by the employer for at least three years at the place of employment or at a
21 central location within the State of California.

22 87. As a pattern and practice, Defendants have intentionally and willfully failed to
23 provide Plaintiffs and other class members (but not all) with complete and accurate wage
24 statements. The deficiencies include but are not limited to: the failure to include the total
25 number of hours worked by Plaintiffs and other class members.

26 88. As a result of Defendants' violation of California Labor Code section 226(a),
27 Plaintiffs and other class members have suffered injury and damage to their statutorily
28 protected rights.

89. More specifically, Plaintiffs and other class members have been injured by Defendants' intentional and willful violation of California Labor Code section 226(a) because they were denied both their legal right to receive, and their protected interest in receiving, accurate and itemized wage statements pursuant to California Labor Code section 226(a).

90. Plaintiffs and other class members are entitled to recover from Defendants the greater of their actual damages caused by Defendants' failure to comply with California Labor Code section 226(a), or an aggregate penalty not exceeding four thousand dollars per employee.

91. Plaintiffs and other class members are also entitled to injunctive relief to ensure compliance with this section, pursuant to California Labor Code section 226(g).

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of California Labor Code §§ 2800 and 2802)

(Against TRUGREEN, INC., TRUGREEN LIMITED PARTNERSHIP and DOES 1 through 100)

92. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 91, and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

93. Pursuant to California Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802, an employer must 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.

94. Defendants have intentionally and willfully failed to reimburse Plaintiffs and other class members (but not all) for all necessary business-related expenses and costs. Plaintiffs and other class members are entitled to recover from Defendants their business-related expenses and costs incurred during the course and scope of their employment, plus interest accrued from the date on which the employee incurred the necessary expenditures at the same rate as judgments in civil actions in the State of California.

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EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of PAGA)

**(Against TRUGREEN, INC., TRUGREEN LIMITED PARTNERSHIP and DOES 1
through 100)**

95. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 94, and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

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

97. On August 13, 2021, Plaintiffs Sudipa Bista and Rick Zurlo provided written notice to the LWDA and Defendants of the specific provisions of the Labor Code they contend were violated, and the theories supporting their contentions. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** and incorporated by reference is a copy of the written notice to the LWDA. Plaintiffs believe that on or about October 17, 2021, the sixty-five (65) day notice period expired, and the LWDA did not take any action to investigate or prosecute this matter. Therefore, Plaintiffs have exhausted their administrative remedies.

98. Plaintiffs and the other hourly-paid or non-exempt employees are “aggrieved employees” as defined by California Labor Code § 2699(c) in that they are all current or former employees of Defendants who worked for Defendants in the State of California at any time during the period from August 13, 2020 to the present, and one or more of the alleged violations was committed against them.

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

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

6 100. As a pattern and practice, Defendants failed to compensate Plaintiffs and other
7 aggrieved current and former employees for all hours worked, resulting in a failure to pay all
8 minimum wages and overtime wages, where applicable.

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

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

14 102. As a pattern and practice, Defendants failed to provide Plaintiffs and other
15 aggrieved current and former employees with legally-mandated meal periods and rest breaks and
16 failed to pay proper compensation for this failure.

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

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

20 104. As a pattern and practice, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and other aggrieved
21 current and former employees all wages due and owing them within the required time period.

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

23 105. At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to pay their employees all
24 wages owed in a timely fashion at the end of employment pursuant to California Labor Code §§
25 201 to 204.

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1 106. As a result of Defendants' Labor Code violations alleged above, Defendants
2 failed to pay Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved former employees their final wages pursuant to
3 Labor Code §§ 201 to 204 and accordingly owe waiting time penalties pursuant to Labor Code §
4 203.

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

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

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

14 **Failure to Provide Paid Sick Days**

15 109. At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to provide their employees
16 with paid sick days pursuant to Labor Code § 246.

17 110. As a policy and practice, Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff and other
18 aggrieved current and former employees with paid sick days pursuant to Labor Code § 246.

19 **Failure to Reimburse Business Expenses**

20 111. At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to reimburse their
21 employees for any and all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employees in direct
22 consequences of the discharge or their duties pursuant to the mandate of Labor Code §§ 2800
23 and 2802.

24 112. As a pattern and practice, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and other aggrieved
25 current and former employees all business expenses incurred and owing them within the required
26 time period.

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Penalties

113. Pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699, Plaintiffs, as individuals, and on behalf of other current and former aggrieved employees, request and are entitled to recover from Defendants, and each of them, civil penalties, interest, attorneys' fees and costs pursuant, including but not limited to:

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

115. Penalties under California Code of Regulations Title 8 § 11040 in the amount of 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;

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

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

118. Any and all additional penalties as provided by the Labor Code and/or other statutes; and

119. Attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code §§ 210, 1194, and 2699, and any other applicable statute.

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NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*)

**(Against TRUGREEN, INC., TRUGREEN LIMITED PARTNERSHIP and DOES 1
through 100)**

120. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 119, and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

121. Defendants' conduct, as alleged herein, has been, and continues to be unfair, unlawful and harmful to Plaintiffs, other class members, to the general public, and Defendants' competitors. Accordingly, Plaintiffs seek to enforce important rights affecting the public interest within the meaning of Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5.

122. Defendants' activities as alleged herein are violations of California law, and constitute unlawful business acts and practices in violation of California Business & Professions Code section 17200, *et seq.*

123. A violation of California Business & Professions Code section 17200, *et seq.* may be predicated on the violation of any state or federal law. In this instant case, Defendants' pattern and practice of requiring Plaintiffs and other class members work overtime hours without paying them proper compensation violate California Labor Code sections 510 and 1198. Additionally, Defendants' pattern and practice of requiring Plaintiffs and other class members, to work through their meal and rest periods without paying them proper compensation violate California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512(a). Moreover, Defendants' pattern and practice of failing to timely pay wages to Plaintiffs and other class members violate California Labor Code sections 201 and 202. Defendants also violated California Labor Code sections 226(a), 1194, 1197, 2800 and 2802.

124. As a result of the herein described violations of California law, Defendants unlawfully gained an unfair advantage over other businesses.

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1 125. Plaintiffs and other class members (but not all) have been personally injured by
2 Defendants' unlawful business acts and practices as alleged herein, including but not
3 necessarily limited to the loss of money and/or property.

4 126. Pursuant to California Business & Professions Code sections 17200, *et seq.*,
5 Plaintiffs and other class members are entitled to restitution of the wages withheld and retained
6 by Defendants during a period that commences four years prior to the filing of this Complaint;
7 an award of attorneys' fees pursuant to California Code of Civil procedure section 1021.5 and
8 other applicable laws; and an award of costs.

9 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

10 Plaintiffs, individually, and on behalf of other members of the general public similarly
11 situated, requests a trial by jury.

12 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

13 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf of all other members of the
14 general public similarly situated, prays for relief and judgment against Defendants, jointly and
15 severally, as follows:

16 **Class Certification**

- 17 1. That this action be certified as a class action;
18 2. That Plaintiffs be appointed as representatives of the Class;
19 3. That counsel for Plaintiffs be appointed as Class Counsel; and
20 4. That Defendants provide to Class Counsel immediately the names and most
21 current contact information (address, e-mail and telephone numbers) of all class members.

22 **As to the First Cause of Action**

- 23 5. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendants violated California
24 Labor Code sections 510 and 1198 and applicable IWC Wage Orders by willfully failing to pay
25 all overtime wages due to Plaintiffs and other class members (but not all);

- 26 6. For general unpaid wages at overtime wage rates and such general and special
27 damages as may be appropriate;

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1 7. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid overtime compensation commencing
2 from the date such amounts were due;

3 8. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to
4 California Labor Code section 1194; and

5 9. For such other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

6 **As to the Second Cause of Action**

7 10. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendants violated California
8 Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512 and applicable IWC Wage Orders by willfully failing to
9 provide all meal periods (including second meal periods) to Plaintiffs and other class members
10 (but not all);

11 11. That the Court make an award to Plaintiffs and the other class members of one
12 (1) hour of pay at each employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that a meal
13 period was not provided;

14 12. For all actual, consequential, and incidental losses and damages, according to
15 proof;

16 13. For premium wages pursuant to California Labor Code section 226.7(b);

17 14. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid wages from the date such amounts
18 were due;

19 15. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein; and

20 16. For such other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

21 **As to the Third Cause of Action**

22 17. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendants violated California
23 Labor Code section 226.7 and applicable IWC Wage Orders by willfully failing to provide all
24 rest periods to Plaintiffs and other class members (but not all);

25 18. That the Court make an award to Plaintiffs and the other class members of one
26 (1) hour of pay at each employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that a rest
27 period was not provided;

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1 19. For all actual, consequential, and incidental losses and damages, according to
2 proof;

3 20. For premium wages pursuant to California Labor Code section 226.7(b);

4 21. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid wages from the date such amounts
5 were due; and

6 22. For such other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

7 **As to the Fourth Cause of Action**

8 23. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendants violated California
9 Labor Code sections 1194 and 1197 by willfully failing to pay minimum wages to Plaintiffs
10 and other class members (but not all);

11 24. For general unpaid wages and such general and special damages as may be
12 appropriate;

13 25. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid compensation from the date such
14 amounts were due;

15 26. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to
16 California Labor Code section 1194(a);

17 27. For liquidated damages pursuant to California Labor Code section 1194.2; and

18 28. For such other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

19 **As to the Fifth Cause of Action**

20 29. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendants violated California
21 Labor Code sections 201, 202, and 203 by willfully failing to pay all compensation owed at the
22 time of termination of the employment of Plaintiffs and other class members (but not all) no
23 longer employed by Defendants;

24 30. For all actual, consequential, and incidental losses and damages, according to
25 proof;

26 31. For statutory wage penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 203 for
27 the other class members who have left Defendants' employ;

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32. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid compensation from the date such amounts were due; and

33. For such other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

As to the Sixth Cause of Action

34. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendants violated the record keeping provisions of California Labor Code section 226(a) and applicable IWC Wage Orders as to Plaintiffs and other class members (but not all), and willfully failed to provide accurate itemized wage statements thereto;

35. For actual, consequential and incidental losses and damages, according to proof;

36. For statutory penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 226(e);

37. For injunctive relief to ensure compliance with this section, pursuant to California Labor Code section 226(g); and

38. For such other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

As to the Seventh Cause of Action

39. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendants violated California Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802 by willfully failing to reimburse Plaintiffs and other class members (but not all) for all necessary business-related expenses as required by California Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802;

40. For actual, consequential and incidental losses and damages, according to proof;

41. For the imposition of civil penalties and/or statutory penalties;

42. For punitive damages and/or exemplary damages according to proof at trial;

43. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein; and

44. For such other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

As to the Eighth Cause of Action

45. Upon the Eighth 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, and the IWC Wage Orders.

1 46. Upon the Cause of Action, for costs and attorneys' fees pursuant to Labor Code
2 §§ 210, 218.5, 1194, and 2699, and any other applicable statute; and

3 47. For such other and further relief that the court may deem just and proper.

4 **As to the Ninth Cause of Action**

5 48. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendants violated California
6 Business and Professions Code sections 17200, *et seq.* by failing to provide Plaintiffs and other
7 class members all overtime compensation due to them, failing to provide all meal and rest
8 periods to Plaintiffs and the other class members, failing to pay at least minimum wages to
9 Plaintiffs and the other class members, failing to pay Plaintiffs' and other class members'
10 wages timely as required by California Labor Code section 201, 202.

11 49. For restitution of unpaid wages to Plaintiffs and other class members and all
12 pre-judgment interest from the day such amounts were due and payable;

13 50. For the appointment of a receiver to receive, manage and distribute any and all
14 funds disgorged from Defendants and determined to have been wrongfully acquired by
15 Defendants as a result of violation of California Business and Professions Code sections
16 17200, *et seq.*;

17 51. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to
18 California Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5;

19 52. For injunctive relief to ensure compliance with this section, pursuant to
20 California Business and Professions Code sections 17200, *et seq.*; and

21 53. For such other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

22
23 Dated: July 8, 2022

JUSTICE LAW CORPORATION

24
25
26 By: 

Douglas Han
Shunt Tatavos-Gharajeh
Talia Lux
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

EXHIBIT 1

August 13, 2021

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: TRUGREEN LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

Dear Representative:

We have been retained to represent Sudipa Bista and Rick Zurlo against TruGreen Limited Partnership (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 "TRUGREEN").

Ms. Bista and Mr. Zurlo are pursuing their California Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.*, the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA") claim on a representative basis. Therefore, Ms. Bista and Mr. Zurlo 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.

TruGreen Limited Partnership is a Delaware limited partnership located at 1790 Kirby Parkway Ste. 300, Memphis, Tennessee 38138.

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¹ Ms. Bista and Mr. Zurlo do 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. Bista and Mr. Zurlo will amend this notice when the true names and capacities are known. Ms. Bista and Mr. Zurlo are informed and believe that each DOE was responsible in some way for the matters alleged herein and proximately caused Ms. Bista, Mr. Zurlo and other current and former aggrieved employees to be subject to the illegal employment practices, wrongs and injuries complained of herein.

TRUGREEN employed Ms. Bista as a Sales Representative within one year of the data of this letter (until in or around March of 2021²) in the State of California. TRUGREEN employed Mr. Zurlo as a Lawn Care Specialist within one year of the data of this letter (until in or around March of 2021) in the State of California. TRUGREEN directly controlled the wages, hours and/or working conditions of Ms. Bista, Mr. Zurlo and other aggrieved employees' employment, including direction, retention, scheduling, supervision, and termination.

The "aggrieved employees" that Ms. Bista and Mr. Zurlo may seek penalties on behalf of are all current and former hourly-paid, commissioned, and/or non-exempt employees (whether hired directly or through a staffing agency) of TRUGREEN within the State of California.

TRUGREEN failed to properly pay its hourly-paid, commissioned and/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. Bista and Mr. Zurlo have standing to pursue penalties on behalf of the state for violations affecting all the aggrieved employees at TRUGREEN, regardless of their classification, job title, location, or whether they were hired directly or through a staffing agency.

TRUGREEN 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, 246, 510, 512(a), 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800 and 2802, and the IWC Wage Orders.

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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. Bista and Mr. Zurlo's PAGA cause of action is tolled.

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. Bista, Mr. Zurlo and other aggrieved employees routinely worked in excess of 8 hours in a day and 40 hours in a week. TRUGREEN failed to compensate Ms. Bista, Mr. Zurlo and other aggrieved employees for all hours worked and performing off-the-clock work, including pre- and post-shift, donning and doffing uniforms, cleaning, inspecting and loading vehicles, and during meal breaks. TRUGREEN also failed to include non-discretionary bonuses, commissions and incentives in Ms. Bista, Mr. Zurlo and other aggrieved employees' regular rate of pay for purposes of overtime compensation. Therefore, Ms. Bista, Mr. Zurlo 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 section 246 requires that employers provide employees with paid sick leave of not less than one hour per every 30 hours worked. California Labor Code section 246(l) also requires that paid sick leave be paid at a non-exempt employee's regular rate of pay for the workweek in which the employee uses paid sick time or at a rate calculated by dividing the employee's total wages, not including overtime premium pay, by the employee's total hours worked in the full pay periods of the prior 90 days of employment. During the relevant time period, TRUGREEN failed to pay Ms. Bista, Mr. Zurlo and other aggrieved employees with paid sick leave that complied with California Labor Code section 246, by, for example, failing to pay paid sick leave at non-exempt employee's regular rate of pay or at a rate calculated by dividing the employee's total wages, not including overtime premium pay, by the employee's total hours worked in the full pay periods of the prior 90 days of employment.

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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, TRUGREEN routinely required Ms. Bista, Mr. Zurlo and other aggrieved employees to work through, interrupt, cut short, and/or delay their meal and rest breaks to comply with TRUGREEN's policies and expectations. TRUGREEN failed to provide coverage to Ms. Bista, Mr. Zurlo and other aggrieved employees so they may be relieved of all work duties and take legally mandated meal and rest breaks. Moreover, TRUGREEN assigned Mr. Zurlo and other aggrieved employees to work routes with a high volume of properties that needed servicing and expected them to complete their routes before the end of the workday. TRUGREEN simultaneously required Mr. Zurlo and other aggrieved employees to complete each property within a timeframe and to minimize the amount of overtime worked. Consequently, Mr. Zurlo and other aggrieved had forewent meal and rest breaks to complete their routes in a timely manner and minimize overtime. Mr. Zurlo and other aggrieved employees considered the time spent travelling from house to house as their meal break time. TRUGREEN also failed to authorize and permit Ms. Bista, Mr. Zurlo 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, TRUGREEN failed to compensate Ms. Bista, Mr. Zurlo and other aggrieved employees all the premium wages they were owed, including failing to pay premium wages at their regular rate of pay.

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, TRUGREEN failed to pay Ms. Bista, Mr. Zurlo and other aggrieved employees all wages, including for uncompensated off-the-clock work, unpaid overtime premiums and premium wages for failing to provide legally mandated meal and rest breaks, due to them within any time period specified by California Labor Code sections 201 and 203 and therefore is liable under California Labor Code section 203.

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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, TRUGREEN failed to pay Ms. Bista, Mr. Zurlo and other aggrieved employees all wages due to them, including for uncompensated off-the-clock work, unpaid overtime premiums and premium wages for failing to provide legally mandated meal and rest breaks within any time period specified by California Labor Code section 204.

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, TRUGREEN did not provide Ms. Bista, Mr. Zurlo and other aggrieved employees with complete and accurate itemized wage statements. The wage statements they received from TRUGREEN 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. Bista, Mr. Zurlo and other aggrieved employees, (2) total hours worked by Ms. Bista, Mr. Zurlo and other aggrieved employees, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate by Ms. Bista, Mr. Zurlo and other aggrieved employees (4) all deductions for Ms. Bista, Mr. Zurlo and other aggrieved employees, (5) net wages earned by Ms. Bista, Mr. Zurlo and other aggrieved employees, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which Ms. Bista, Mr. Zurlo 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. Bista, Mr. Zurlo and other aggrieved employees.

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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. Bista, Mr. Zurlo 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, TRUGREEN failed to keep accurate and complete payroll records showing the hours worked daily and the wages paid to Ms. Bista, Mr. Zurlo and other aggrieved employees.

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, TRUGREEN did not provide Ms. Bista, Mr. Zurlo and other aggrieved employees with the minimum wages to which they were entitled despite constructive and actual knowledge of off-the-clock work, including pre- and post-shift, donning and doffing uniforms, cleaning, inspecting and loading vehicles, and during meal breaks.

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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, Ms. Bista, Mr. Zurlo and other aggrieved employees incurred necessary business-related expenses and costs that were not fully reimbursed by TRUGREEN, including for using their personal cellular phones and vehicles for work-related purposes.

We believe that Ms. Bista, Mr. Zurlo and other current and former California-based hourly-paid, commissioned and/or non-exempt employees are entitled to penalties 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, 246, 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. Bista and Mr. Zurlo will seek these penalties on their own behalf and on behalf of other similarly situated California-based hourly-paid, commissioned and/or non-exempt employees of TRUGREEN within one year of the date of this letter, as allowed by law.

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LWDA
August 13, 2021
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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', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Douglas Han, Esq.

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

C T Corporation System
c/o TruGreen Limited Partnership
330 N. Brand Blvd.
Glendale, California 91203
Agent for Service of Process for TruGreen Limited Partnership

CC: (By Electronic Mail Only):

John Mavros, Esq.
jmavros@fisherphillips.com
Kristina Buan, Esq.
kbuan@fisherphillips.com
FISHER & PHILLIPS LLP
Counsel of Record for TruGreen Limited Partnership

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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 jkislow@justicelawcorp.com

On July 14, 2022, I served the foregoing document described as

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

for the following case: **Loera, et al. v. Trugreen, Inc., et al.**
LWDA/Court Case No.: **LWDA Case No.: CM- 841323-21**
Court Case No.: STK-CV-UOE-2022-00057452
San Joaquin 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 July 14, 2022, at Pasadena, California.


Jillian Kislow