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and on behalf of all others similarly situated.

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

CHADD HUNTER ELAM, individually
and on behalf of all others similarly
situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

JEROME'S FURNITURE WAREHOUSE;
and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR:

1. Failure to Pay Minimum Wages;
2. Failure to Pay Overtime Wages;
3. Failure to Provide Meal Periods;
4. Failure to Permit Rest Breaks;
5. Failure to Reimburse Business Expenses;
6. Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Wage Statements;
7. Failure to Pay All Wages Due Upon Separation of Employment; and
8. Violation of Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

1 Plaintiff Chadd Hunter Elam, individually and on behalf of others similarly situated,
2 alleges as follows:

3 **NATURE OF ACTION AND INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT**

4 1. Plaintiff Chadd Hunter Elam (“Plaintiff”) brings this putative class action against
5 defendant Jerome’s Furniture Warehouse, and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive (collectively,
6 “Defendants”), on Plaintiff’s own behalf and on behalf of a putative class of California citizens
7 who are and were employed by Defendants as non-exempt employees throughout California.

8 2. Defendants are in the furniture retail industry.

9 3. Through this action, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants engaged in a systematic
10 pattern of wage and hour violations under the California Labor Code and Industrial Welfare
11 Commission (“IWC”) Wage Orders, all of which contribute to Defendants’ deliberate unfair
12 competition.

13 4. Plaintiff is informed and believe, and thereon alleges, that Defendants have
14 increased their profits by violating state wage and hour laws by, among other things:

- 15 (a) failing to pay all wages (including minimum wages and overtime wages);
- 16 (b) failing to provide lawful meal periods or compensation in lieu thereof;
- 17 (c) failing to authorize or permit lawful rest breaks or provide compensation
18 in lieu thereof;
- 19 (d) failing to reimburse necessary business-related costs;
- 20 (e) failing to provide accurate itemized wage statements; and
- 21 (f) failing to pay all wages due upon separation of employment.

22 5. Plaintiff seeks monetary relief against Defendants on behalf of himself and all
23 others similarly situated in California to recover, among other things, unpaid wages, un-
24 reimbursed business expenses, benefits, interest, attorneys’ fees, costs and expenses, and
25 penalties pursuant to Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226, 226.7, 510, 512, 1182.12,
26 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198, 2800, and 2802, and Code of California Civil Procedure § 1021.5.

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1 13. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that DOES 1 through 20
2 are or were the partners, agents, owners, shareholders, managers, or employees of Defendants at
3 all relevant times.

4 14. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that each defendant acted
5 in all respects pertinent to this action as the agent of the other defendant, carried out a joint
6 scheme, business plan, or policy in all respects pertinent hereto, and the acts of each defendant
7 are legally attributable to the other defendant. Furthermore, defendants in all respects acted as the
8 employer and/or joint employer of Plaintiff and the class members.

9 15. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that each and all of the acts
10 and omissions alleged herein were performed by, or are attributable to, Defendants and/or DOES
11 1 through 20, acting as the agent or alter ego for the other, with legal authority to act on the
12 other's behalf. The acts of any and all Defendants were in accordance with, and represent, the
13 official policy of Defendants.

14 16. At all relevant times, Defendants, and each of them, acted within the scope of
15 such agency or employment, or ratified each and every act or omission complained of herein. At
16 all relevant times, Defendants, and each of them, aided and abetted the acts and omissions of
17 each and all the other Defendants in proximately causing the damages herein alleged.

18 17. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that each of said
19 Defendants is in some manner intentionally, negligently, or otherwise responsible for the acts,
20 omissions, occurrences, and transactions alleged herein.

21 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

22 18. Plaintiff brings this action under Code of Civil Procedure § 382 on Plaintiff's own
23 behalf and on behalf of all others similarly situated who were affected by Defendants' Labor
24 Code, Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, and IWC Wage Order violations.

25 19. All claims alleged herein arise under California law for which Plaintiff seeks
26 relief authorized by California law.

27 20. Plaintiff's proposed class consists of and is defined as follows:
28

1 Class

2 All California citizens currently or formerly employed by Defendants as non-
3 exempt employees in the State of California at any time between February 6,
4 2017¹ and the date of class certification (“Class”).

5 21. Plaintiff also seeks to certify the following subclasses of employees:

6 Waiting Time Subclass

7 All members of the Class who separated their employment with Defendant at any
8 time between February 6, 2018 and the date of class certification (“Waiting Time
9 Subclass”).

10 22. Plaintiff reserves the right to modify or re-define the Class, establish additional
11 subclasses, or modify or re-define any class or subclass definition as appropriate based on
12 investigation, discovery, and specific theories of liability.

13 23. Members of the Class and the Waiting Time Subclass described above will be
14 collectively referred to as “Class Members.”

15 24. There are common questions of law and fact as to the Class Members that
16 predominate over any questions affecting only individual members including, but not limited to,
17 the following:

18 (a) Whether Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and Class Members all wages
19 (including minimum wages and overtime wages) for all hours worked by
20 Plaintiff and Class Members.

21 (b) Whether Defendants required Plaintiff and Class Members to work over
22 eight (8) hours per day, over twelve (12) hours per day, and/or over forty
23 (40) hours per week and failed to pay them proper overtime compensation
24 for all overtime hours worked.

25
26
27 ¹ The statute of limitations for this matter was tolled between April 6, 2020 and October 1, 2020
28 pursuant to Cal. Rules of Court, Appendix I, Emergency Rule No. 9.

- 1 (c) Whether Defendants deprived Plaintiff and Class Members of timely meal
2 periods or required Plaintiff and Class Members to work through meal
3 periods without legal compensation at the regular rate of pay.
- 4 (d) Whether Defendants deprived Plaintiff and Class Members of rest breaks
5 or required Plaintiff and Class Members to work through rest breaks
6 without legal compensation at the regular rate of pay.
- 7 (e) Whether Defendants failed to reimburse Plaintiff and Class Members for
8 necessary business-related costs expended for the benefit of Defendants.
- 9 (f) Whether Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff and Class Members
10 accurate itemized wage statements.
- 11 (g) Whether Defendants failed to timely pay the Waiting Time Subclass all
12 wages due upon termination or within seventy-two (72) hours of
13 resignation.
- 14 (h) Whether Defendants' conduct was willful or reckless.
- 15 (i) Whether Defendants engaged in unfair business practices in violation of
16 Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

17 25. There is a well-defined community of interest in this litigation and the proposed
18 Class and subclasses are readily ascertainable:

19 (a) Numerosity: The Class Members are so numerous that joinder of all
20 members is impractical. Although the members of the Class are unknown to Plaintiff at this time,
21 on information and belief, the Class is estimated to be greater than fifty (50) individuals. The
22 identities of the Class Members are readily ascertainable by inspection of Defendants'
23 employment and payroll records.

24 (b) Typicality: Plaintiff's claims (or defenses, if any) are typical of the claims
25 (or defenses, if any) of the Class Members because Defendants' failure to comply with the
26 provisions of California's wage and hour laws entitled each Class Member to similar pay,
27 benefits, and other relief. The injuries sustained by Plaintiff are also typical of the injuries
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1 sustained by the Class Members, because they arise out of and are caused by Defendants'
2 common course of conduct as alleged herein.

3 (c) Adequacy: Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the
4 interests of all Class Members because it is in Plaintiff's best interest to prosecute the claims
5 alleged herein to obtain full compensation and penalties due. Plaintiff's attorneys, as proposed
6 class counsel, are competent and experienced in litigating large employment class actions and
7 versed in the rules governing class action discovery, certification, and settlement. Plaintiff has
8 incurred and, throughout the duration of this action, will continue to incur attorneys' fees and
9 costs that have been and will be necessarily expended for the prosecution of this action for the
10 substantial benefit of the Class Members.

11 (d) Superiority: The nature of this action makes use of class action
12 adjudication superior to other methods. A class action will achieve economies of time, effort, and
13 expense as compared with separate lawsuits and will avoid inconsistent outcomes because the
14 same issues can be adjudicated in the same manner for the entire Class and Waiting Time
15 Subclass at the same time. If appropriate, this Court can, and is empowered to, fashion methods
16 to efficiently manage this case as a class action.

17 (e) Public Policy Considerations: Employers in the State of California violate
18 employment and labor laws every day. Current employees are often afraid to assert their rights
19 out of fear of direct or indirect retaliation. Former employees are fearful of bringing actions
20 because they believe their former employers might damage their future endeavors through
21 negative references and/or other means. Class actions provide class members who are not named
22 in the complaint with a type of anonymity that allows for the vindication of their rights while
23 affording them privacy protections.

24 **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

25 26. At all relevant times mentioned herein, Defendants employed Plaintiff and other
26 California citizens as non-exempt employees or employees throughout California at Defendants'
27 California business location(s).
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1 27. Defendants continue to employ non-exempt employees or employees within
2 California.

3 28. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that at all times herein
4 mentioned, Defendants were advised by skilled lawyers, employees, and other professionals who
5 were knowledgeable about California's wage and hour laws, employment and personnel
6 practices, and the requirements of California law.

7 29. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants knew or
8 should have known that Plaintiff and Class Members were entitled to receive wages for all time
9 worked (including minimum wages and overtime wages) and that they were not receiving all
10 wages earned for work that was required to be performed. In violation of the Labor Code and
11 IWC Wage Orders, Plaintiff and Class Members were not paid all wages (including minimum
12 wages and overtime wages) for all hours worked, including, but not limited to requiring Plaintiff
13 and Class Members to work off-the-clock, and failing to compensate Plaintiff and Class
14 Members for these hours.

15 30. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants knew or
16 should have known that Plaintiff and Class Members were entitled to receive all required meal
17 periods or payment of one (1) additional hour of pay at Plaintiff's and Class Members' regular
18 rate of pay when they did not receive a timely, uninterrupted meal period. In violation of the
19 Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders, Plaintiff and Class Members did not receive all meal periods
20 or payment of one (1) additional hour of pay at Plaintiff's and Class Members' regular rate of
21 pay when they did not receive a timely, uninterrupted meal period. When meal period premiums
22 were paid, the base rate of pay was used instead of the regular rate of pay, which would include
23 all non-discretionary pay such as commissions or other incentive pay.

24 31. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants knew or
25 should have known that Plaintiff and Class Members were entitled to receive all rest breaks or
26 payment of one (1) additional hour of pay at Plaintiff's and Class Members' regular rate of pay
27 when a rest break was late, missed, or interrupted. In violation of the Labor Code and IWC Wage
28 Orders, Plaintiff and Class Members did not receive all rest breaks or payment of one (1)

1 additional hour of pay at Plaintiff's and Class Members' regular rate of pay when a rest break
2 was missed, late, or interrupted. If rest period premiums were paid, the base rate of pay was used
3 instead of the regular rate of pay, which would include all non-discretionary pay such as
4 commissions or other incentive pay.

5 32. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants knew or
6 should have known that Plaintiff and Class Members were entitled to reimbursement and/or
7 indemnification for all necessary business expenditures or losses as a direct consequence of the
8 discharge of their duties, or of their obedience to the directions of Defendants. In violation of the
9 Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders, Plaintiff and Class Members incurred necessary business
10 expenses or losses, such as cell phones, but were not reimbursed nor indemnified of such
11 expenses or losses that were incurred as a direct consequence of the discharge of their duties, or
12 of their obedience to the directions of Defendants.

13 33. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants knew or
14 should have known that Plaintiff and Class Members were entitled to receive itemized wage
15 statements that accurately showed the following information pursuant to the Labor Code: (1)
16 gross wages earned; (2) total hours worked by the employee; (3) the number of piece-rate units
17 earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis; (4) all
18 deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee may be
19 aggregated and shown as one item; (5) net wages earned; (6) the inclusive dates of the period for
20 which the employee is paid; (7) the name of the employee and only the last four digits of his or
21 her social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security
22 number; (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer; and (9) all applicable
23 hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at
24 each hourly rate by the employee. In violation of the Labor Code, Plaintiff and Class Members
25 were not provided with accurate itemized wage statements.

26 34. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants knew or
27 should have known that the Waiting Time Subclass was entitled to timely payment of wages due
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1 upon separation of employment. In violation of the Labor Code, the Waiting Time Subclass did
2 not receive payment of all wages within the permissible time periods.

3 35. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants knew or
4 should have known they had a duty to compensate Plaintiff and Class Members, and Defendants
5 had the financial ability to pay such compensation but willfully, knowingly, and intentionally
6 failed to do so in order to increase Defendants' profits.

7 36. Therefore, Plaintiff brings this lawsuit seeking monetary and injunctive relief
8 against Defendants on Plaintiff's own behalf and on behalf of all Class Members to recover,
9 among other things, unpaid wages (including minimum wages and overtime wages), unpaid meal
10 period premium payments, unpaid rest period premium payments, unreimbursed business
11 expenditures, interest, attorneys' fees, penalties, costs, and expenses.

12 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

13 **FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES**

14 (Violation of Labor Code §§ 1194, 1194.2, and 1197; Violation of IWC Wage Order §3-4)

15 37. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs above as
16 though fully set forth herein.

17 38. Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1197 provide that the minimum wage for employees
18 fixed by the IWC is the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a lesser
19 wage than the minimum so fixed is unlawful.

20 39. Plaintiff and Class Members were employees entitled to the protections of Labor
21 Code §§ 1194 and 1197.

22 40. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and Class
23 Members all wages owed when Defendants did not pay for all hours worked, including, but not
24 limited to, hours spent working off-the-clock, among others.

25 41. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to pay at least minimum wage
26 to Plaintiff and Class Members for all hours worked pursuant to Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1197.

27 42. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff and Class Members the required minimum
28 wage violates Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1197. Pursuant to these sections, Plaintiff and Class

1 Members are entitled to recover the unpaid balance of their minimum wage compensation as
2 well as interest, costs, and attorneys' fees.

3 43. Pursuant to Labor Code § 1194.2, Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to
4 recover liquidated damages in an amount equal to the wages unlawfully unpaid and the accrued
5 interest thereon.

6 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

7 **FAILURE TO PAY OVERTIME**

8 (Violation of Labor Code §§ 510, 1194, and 1198; Violation of IWC Wage Order § 3)

9 44. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs above as
10 though fully set forth herein.

11 45. Labor Code § 1198 and the applicable IWC Wage Order provide that it is
12 unlawful to employ persons without compensating them at a rate of pay either one and one-half
13 (1½) or two (2) times the person's regular rate of pay, depending on the number of hours
14 worked by the person on a daily or weekly basis.

15 46. Specifically, the applicable IWC Wage Orders provide that Defendants are and
16 were required to pay overtime compensation to Plaintiff and Class Members at the rate of one
17 and one-half times (1½) their regular rate of pay when working and for all hours worked in
18 excess of eight (8) hours in a day or more than forty (40) hours in a workweek and for the first
19 eight (8) hours of work on the seventh day of work in a workweek.

20 47. The applicable IWC Wage Orders further provide that Defendants are and were
21 required to pay overtime compensation to Plaintiff and Class Members at a rate of two times
22 their regular rate of pay when working and for all hours worked in excess of twelve (12) hours in
23 a day or in excess of eight (8) hours on the seventh day of work in a workweek.

24 48. California Labor Code § 510 codifies the right to overtime compensation at one
25 and one-half (1½) times the regular hourly rate for hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a
26 day or forty (40) hours in a week and for the first eight (8) hours worked on the seventh
27 consecutive day of work, and overtime compensation at twice the regular hourly rate for hours
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1 worked in excess of twelve (12) hours in a day or in excess of eight (8) hours in a day on the
2 seventh day of work in a workweek.

3 49. Labor Code § 510 and the applicable IWC Wage Orders provide that employment
4 of more than six days in a workweek is only permissible if the employer pays proper overtime
5 compensation as set forth herein.

6 50. Plaintiff and Class Members were employees entitled to the protections of
7 California Labor Code §§ 510 and 1194.

8 51. During the relevant time period, Defendants required Plaintiff and Class Members
9 to work in excess of eight (8) hours in a day, forty (40) hours in a week, and/or on a seventh
10 consecutive day of work, entitling them to overtime wages.

11 52. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and Class
12 Members overtime wages for all overtime hours worked when Defendants failed to pay for time
13 spent working off-the-clock, among other reasons. To the extent these hours qualify for the
14 payment of overtime wages, Plaintiff and Class Members were not paid proper overtime wages.

15 53. In violation of California law, Defendants knowingly and willfully refused to
16 perform their obligations and compensate Plaintiff and Class Members for all wages earned and
17 all hours worked.

18 54. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff and Class Members the unpaid balance of
19 overtime compensation, as required by California law, violates the provisions of Labor Code §§
20 510 and 1198, and is therefore unlawful.

21 55. Pursuant to Labor Code § 1194, Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to
22 recover their unpaid overtime and double time compensation as well as interest, costs, and
23 attorneys' fees.

24 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

25 **FAILURE TO PROVIDE MEAL PERIODS**

26 (Violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512; Violation of IWC Wage Order § 11)

27 56. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs above as
28 though fully set forth herein.

1 57. Labor Code § 226.7 provides that no employer shall require an employee to work
2 during any meal period mandated by the IWC Wage Orders.

3 58. Section 11 of the applicable IWC Wage Order states, “[n]o employer shall
4 employ any person for a work period of more than five (5) hours without a meal period of not
5 less than 30 minutes, except that when a work period of not more than six (6) hours will
6 complete the day’s work the meal period may be waived by mutual consent of the employer and
7 the employee.”

8 59. Labor Code § 512(a) provides that an employer may not require, cause, or permit
9 an employee to work for a period of more than five (5) hours per day without providing the
10 employee with an uninterrupted meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes, except that if
11 the total work period per day of the employee is not more than six (6) hours, the meal period may
12 be waived by mutual consent of both the employer and the employee.

13 60. Labor Code § 512(a) also provides that an employer may not employ an employee
14 for a work period of more than ten (10) hours per day without providing the employee with a
15 second meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes, except that if the total hours worked is no
16 more than twelve (12) hours, the second meal period may be waived by mutual consent of the
17 employer and the employee only if the first meal period was not waived.

18 61. During the relevant time period, Plaintiff and Class Members did not receive
19 compliant meal periods for working more than five (5) and ten (10) hours per day because their
20 meal periods were missed, late, short, interrupted, and/or they were not permitted to take a
21 second meal period.

22 62. Labor Code § 226.7(b) and section 11 of the applicable IWC Wage Order require
23 an employer to pay an employee one (1) additional hour of pay at the employee’s regular rate of
24 compensation for each work day that a compliant meal period is not provided.

25 63. At all relevant times, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and Class Members meal
26 period premiums for missed, late, and/or short meal periods pursuant to Labor Code § 226.7(b)
27 and section 11 of the applicable IWC Wage Order. When meal period premiums were paid, the
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1 base rate of pay was used instead of the regular rate of pay, which would include all non-
2 discretionary pay such as commissions or other incentive pay.

3 64. As a result of Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff and Class Members an
4 additional hour of pay for each day a compliant meal period was not provided, Plaintiff and
5 Class Members suffered and continue to suffer a loss of wages and compensation.

6 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

7 **FAILURE TO PERMIT REST BREAKS**

8 (Violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7; Violation of IWC Wage Order § 12)

9 65. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs above as
10 though fully set forth herein.

11 66. Labor Code § 226.7(a) provides that no employer shall require an employee to
12 work during any rest period mandated by the IWC Wage Orders.

13 67. Section 12 of the applicable IWC Wage Order states "[e]very employer shall
14 authorize and permit all employees to take rest periods, which insofar as practicable shall be in
15 the middle of each work period[.]" and the "[a]uthorized rest period time shall be based on the
16 total hours worked daily at the rate of ten (10) minutes net rest time per four (4) hours or major
17 fraction thereof[.]" unless the total daily work time is less than three and one-half (3½) hours.

18 68. During the relevant time period, Plaintiff and Class Members did not receive a ten
19 (10) minute rest period for every four (4) hours or major fraction thereof worked, including
20 working in excess of ten (10) hours in a day, because they were required to work through their
21 rest periods and/or were not authorized to take their rest periods.

22 69. Labor Code § 226.7(b) and section 12 of the applicable IWC Wage Order requires
23 an employer to pay an employee one (1) additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of
24 compensation for each work day that a compliant rest period is not provided.

25 70. At all relevant times, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and Class Members rest
26 period premiums for missed, late, and/or interrupted rest periods pursuant to Labor Code §
27 226.7(b) and section 12 of the applicable IWC Wage Order. If rest period premiums were paid,
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1 the base rate of pay was used instead of the regular rate of pay, which would include all non-
2 discretionary pay such as commissions or other incentive pay.

3 71. As a result of Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff and Class Members an
4 additional hour of pay for each day a compliant rest period was not provided, Plaintiff and Class
5 Members suffered and continue to suffer a loss of wages and compensation.

6 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

7 **FAILURE TO REIMBURSE BUSINESS EXPENSES**

8 (Violation of Labor Code §§ 2800, 2802)

9 72. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs above as
10 though fully set forth herein.

11 73. Labor Code § 2800 states that "[a]n employer shall in all cases indemnify his
12 employee for losses caused by the employer's want of ordinary care."

13 74. Labor Code § 2802(a) states that "[a]n employer shall indemnify his or her
14 employee for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employee in direct
15 consequence of the discharge of his or her duties, or of his or her obedience to the directions of
16 the employer"

17 75. Labor Code § 2802(b) states that "[a]ll awards made by a court . . . for
18 reimbursement of necessary expenditures under this section shall carry interest at the same rate
19 as judgments in civil actions. Interest shall accrue from the date on which the employee incurred
20 the necessary expenditure or loss."

21 76. Labor Code § 2802(c) states that "[f]or purposes of this section, the term
22 "necessary expenditures or losses" shall include all reasonable costs, including, but not limited
23 to, attorney's fees incurred by the employee enforcing the rights granted by this section."

24 77. During the relevant time period, Plaintiff and Class Members incurred necessary
25 business-related costs that were not fully reimbursed by Defendants, including, but not limited
26 to, cell phone use required for work.

27 78. In violation of Labor Code §§ 2800 and 2802, Defendants failed to reimburse or
28 indemnify Plaintiff and Class Members for their expenses due to Defendants' knowing and

1 intentional failure to reimburse necessary business expenditures in connection with Plaintiff's
2 and Class Members' work and job duties.

3 79. As a direct result, Plaintiff and Class Members have suffered and continue to
4 suffer losses, and therefore seek complete reimbursement and indemnification of necessary
5 business expenditures or losses, interest thereon at the required rate, and all reasonable costs in
6 enforcing the rights under Labor Code § 2802, including, but not limited to attorneys' fees.

7 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

8 **FAILURE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE ITEMIZED WAGE STATEMENTS**

9 (Violation of Labor Code § 226; Violation of IWC Wage Order)

10 80. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs above as
11 though fully set forth herein.

12 81. Labor Code § 226(a) requires Defendants to provide each employee with an
13 accurate wage statement in writing showing nine pieces of information, including, the following:
14 (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the employee, (3) the number of piece-rate
15 units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all
16 deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee may be
17 aggregated and shown as one item, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for
18 which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee and the last four digits of his or her
19 social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security number,
20 (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and (9) all applicable hourly
21 rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each
22 hourly rate by the employee.

23 82. During the relevant time period, Defendants have knowingly and intentionally
24 failed to comply with Labor Code § 226(a) on wage statements that were provided to Plaintiff
25 and Class Members. The deficiencies include, among other things, the failure to correctly state
26 the employer's name, the gross and net wages earned, total hours worked, all applicable hourly
27 rates in effect, and the number of hours worked at each hourly rate by Plaintiff and Class
28 Members.

83. As a result of Defendants' knowing and intentional failure to comply with Labor Code § 226(a), Plaintiff and Class Members have suffered injury and damage to their statutorily-protected rights. Specifically, Plaintiff and Class Members are deemed to suffer an injury pursuant to Labor Code § 226(e) where, as here, Defendants intentionally violated Labor Code § 226(a). Plaintiff and Class Members were denied both their legal right to receive, and their protected interest in receiving, accurate itemized wage statements under Labor Code § 226(a). In addition, because Defendants failed to provide the accurate rates of pay on wage statements, Defendants prevented Plaintiff and Class Members from determining if all hours worked were paid at the appropriate rate and the extent of the underpayment. Plaintiff had to file this lawsuit in order to analyze the extent of the underpayment, thereby causing Plaintiff to incur expenses and lost time. Plaintiff would not have had to engage in these efforts and incur these costs had Defendants provided the accurate hours worked, wages earned, and rates of pay. This has also delayed Plaintiff's ability to demand and recover the underpayment of wages from Defendants.

84. Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to recover from Defendants the greater of all actual damages caused by Defendants' failure to comply with Labor Code § 226(a) or fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the initial pay period in which a violation occurred and one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per employee for each violation in subsequent pay periods in an amount not exceeding four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) per employee, plus attorneys' fees and costs.

85. Defendants' violations of California Labor Code § 226(a) prevented Plaintiff and Class Members from knowing, understanding, and disputing the wages paid to them and resulted in an unjustified economic enrichment to Defendants. As a result of Defendants' knowing and intentional failure to comply with California Labor Code § 226(a), Plaintiff and Class Members have suffered an injury, in the exact amount of damages and/or penalties to be shown according to proof at trial.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

FAILURE TO PAY ALL WAGES DUE UPON SEPARATION OF EMPLOYMENT

(Violation of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, and 203)

86. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

87. Labor Code §§ 201 and 202 provide that if an employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately, and that if an employee voluntarily leaves his or her employment, his or her wages shall become due and payable not later than seventy-two (72) hours thereafter, unless the employee has given seventy-two (72) hours previous notice of an intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting.

88. During the relevant time period, Defendants willfully failed to pay the Waiting Time Subclass all their earned wages upon termination, including, but not limited to, proper minimum wage and overtime compensation, meal period premiums, and rest period premiums either at the time of discharge or within seventy-two (72) hours of their leaving Defendants' employ.

89. Defendants' failure to pay the Waiting Time Subclass all their earned wages at the time of discharge or within seventy-two (72) hours of their leaving Defendants' employ is in violation of Labor Code §§ 201 and 202.

90. Labor Code § 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to pay wages owed immediately upon discharge or resignation in accordance with Labor Code §§ 201 and 202, then the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date at the same rate until paid or until an action is commenced; but the wages shall not continue for more than thirty (30) days.

91. Pursuant to Labor Code § 203, the Waiting Time Subclass is entitled to recover from Defendants the statutory penalty, which is defined as the Waiting Time Subclass members' regular daily wages at their regular hourly rate of pay for each day they were not paid, up to a maximum of thirty (30) days.

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE §§ 17200, ET SEQ.

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

1 92. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs above as
2 though fully set forth herein.

3 93. California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, prohibits acts of
4 unfair competition, which includes any “unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business act or practice . .
5 . .”

6 94. A violation of California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, may
7 be predicated on a violation of any state or federal law. In the instant case, Defendants’ policies
8 and practices violated state law, causing Plaintiff and Class Members to suffer and continue to
9 suffer injuries-in-fact.

10 95. Defendants’ policies and practices violated state law in at least the following
11 respects:

- 12 (a) Failing to pay all wages earned (including, sick pay, minimum wage and
13 overtime wages) to Plaintiff and Class Members at the proper rate in
14 violation of Labor Code §§ 246, 510, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, and 1198.
- 15 (b) Failing to provide compliant meal periods without paying Plaintiff and
16 Class Members premium wages at the regular rate of compensation for
17 every day said meal periods were not provided in violation of Labor Code
18 §§ 226.7 and 512.
- 19 (c) Failing to authorize or permit compliant rest breaks without paying
20 Plaintiff and Class Members premium wages at the regular rate of
21 compensation for every day said rest breaks were not authorized or
22 permitted in violation of Labor Code § 226.7.
- 23 (d) Failing to reimburse Plaintiff and Class Members for necessary business-
24 related expenses in violation of Labor Code §§ 2800 and 2802.
- 25 (e) Failing to provide Plaintiff and Class Members with accurate itemized
26 wage statements in violation of Labor Code § 226.

1 (f) Failing to timely pay all earned wages to the members of the Waiting
2 Time Subclass upon separation of employment in violation of Labor Code
3 §§ 201, 202, and 203.

4 96. As alleged herein, Defendants systematically engaged in unlawful conduct in
5 violation of the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders, such as failing to pay all wages
6 (minimum and overtime wages), failing to provide meal periods and rest breaks or
7 compensation at the regular rate of pay in lieu thereof, failing to reimburse necessary business-
8 related costs and expenses, failing to furnish accurate wage statements, and failing to pay all
9 wages due and owing upon separation of employment in a timely manner to the Waiting Time
10 Subclass, all in order to decrease their costs of doing business and increase their profits.

11 97. At all relevant times herein, Defendants held themselves out to Plaintiff and Class
12 Members as being knowledgeable concerning the labor and employment laws of California.

13 98. At all times relevant herein, Defendants intentionally avoided paying Plaintiff and
14 Class Members wages and monies, thereby creating for Defendants an artificially lower cost of
15 doing business in order to undercut their competitors and establish and/or gain a greater
16 foothold in the marketplace.

17 99. By violating the foregoing statutes and regulations as herein alleged, Defendants'
18 acts constitute unfair and unlawful business practices under California Business and Professions
19 Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

20 100. As a result of the unfair and unlawful business practices of Defendants as alleged
21 herein, Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to injunctive relief, disgorgement, and
22 restitution in an amount to be shown according to proof at trial.

23 101. Plaintiff seeks to enforce important rights affecting the public interest within the
24 meaning of California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5. Defendants' conduct, as alleged
25 herein, has been and continues to be unfair, unlawful, and harmful to Plaintiff, Class Members,
26 and the general public. Based on Defendants' conduct as alleged herein, Plaintiff and Class
27 Members are entitled to an award of attorneys' fees pursuant to California Code of Civil
28 Procedure § 1021.5.

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1. For certification under California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 of the proposed Class and any other appropriate subclass;
2. For appointment of Chadd Hunter Elam as class representative;
3. For appointment of Aegis Law Firm, PC, as class counsel for all purposes;
4. For compensatory damages in an amount according to proof at trial;
5. For an award of damages in the amount of unpaid compensation including, but not limited to, unpaid wages, unreimbursed expenses, benefits, and penalties;
6. For economic and/or special damages in an amount according to proof at trial;
7. For liquidated damages pursuant to Labor Code § 1194.2;
8. For statutory penalties to the extent permitted by law, including those pursuant to the Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders;
9. For injunctive relief as provided by the California Labor Code and California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*;
10. For restitution as provided by Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*;
11. For an order requiring Defendants to restore and disgorge all funds to each employee acquired by means of any act or practice declared by this Court to be unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent and, therefore, constituting unfair competition under Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*;
12. For pre-judgment interest;
13. For reasonable attorneys' fees, costs of suit, and interest to the extent permitted by law, including, but not limited to, Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5 and Labor Code §§ 226(e) and 1194; and

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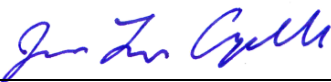
1 14. For such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

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3 Dated: August 3, 2021

AEGIS LAW FIRM, PC

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By: 

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Jessica L. Campbell

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Attorneys for Plaintiff Chadd Hunter Elam

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DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

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Plaintiff hereby demands a jury trial with respect to all issues triable of right by jury.

10 Dated: August 3, 2021

AEGIS LAW FIRM, PC

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By: 

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Jessica L. Campbell

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Attorneys for Plaintiff Chadd Hunter Elam

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