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12 employee, and on behalf of all other aggrieved employees

13 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

14 **FOR THE COUNTY OF SOLANO**

15 ANAHY MACHUCA, as an aggrieved
16 employee, and on behalf of all other aggrieved
17 employees under the Labor Code Private
18 Attorneys' General Act of 2004,

19 Plaintiff,

20 v.

21 CHARLEYS PHILLY STEAKS, an Ohio
22 corporation; MODESTO VENTURES, LLC,
23 an Ohio Limited Liability Company; SAMMY
24 RAMIREZ, an individual; and DOES 1
25 through 100, inclusive,

26 Defendants.

CASE NO.: *FCS058004*

REPRESENTATIVE ACTION

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

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

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

ASSIGNED TO
JUDGE CHRISTINE CARRINGER
FOR ALL PURPOSES

FILED BY FAX

COMES NOW Plaintiff ANAHY MACHUCA (“Plaintiff”), as an aggrieved employee, and on behalf of all other aggrieved employees under the Labor Code Private Attorneys’ General Act of 2004, and alleges as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

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

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

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

1 Class Members in Solano County.

2 4. Plaintiff is an “aggrieved employee” under PAGA, as Plaintiff was employed by
3 Defendants during the applicable statutory period and suffered one or more of the Labor Code
4 violations set forth herein. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks to recover civil penalties, as the term “civil
5 penalty” is defined under *ZB N.A. v. Superior Court* (2019) 8 Cal.5th 175, under the Labor Code
6 Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, codified at Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.* (“PAGA”) plus
7 reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs, for Plaintiff and all other aggrieved current and former
8 employees of Defendants during the Civil Penalty Period.

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

13 6. During the period beginning one (1) year preceding the provision of notice to the
14 LWDA regarding the herein-described Labor Code violations (the “Civil Penalty Period”),
15 Defendants violated, *inter alia*, Labor Code sections 96, 98.6, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226,
16 226.3, 226.7, 227.3, 232, 232.5, 246, *et seq.*, 432, 510, 512, 558, 1102.5, 1174, 1174.5, 1194, 1197,
17 1197.1, 1197.5, 1198.5, 2699, 2802, and 2810.5, among others.

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

22 8. On or around January 24, 2022, Plaintiff provided written notice pursuant to Labor
23 Code section 2699.3 online and by certified mail, with return receipt requested, of Defendants’
24 violation of various, including the herein-described, provisions of the Labor Code, to the LWDA,
25 as well as by certified mail, with return receipt requested to Defendants, and each of them.

26 9. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subdivision (a)(2)(A), the LWDA did not
27 provide notice of its intention to investigate Defendants’ alleged violations within sixty-five (65)
28 calendar days of the January 24, 2022 postmarked date of the herein-described notice sent by

1 Plaintiff to the LWDA and Defendants.

2 **PAGA REPRESENTATIVE ALLEGATIONS**

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

21 11. At all relevant times mentioned herein, Defendants had and have a practice or policy
22 of failing to compensate Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees with minimum wages for all hours
23 worked or otherwise under Defendants' control as a result of, without limitation, failing to
24 accurately track and/or pay for all minutes actually worked; by requiring employees: to remain on-
25 call; to suffer under Defendants' control to complete pre-shift tasks before clocking in and post-shift
26 tasks after clocking out (including answering calls from dispatch and others), to clock out for meal
27 periods and continue working, to don and doff uniforms and/or safety equipment off the clock, to
28 attend company meetings off the clock, to make phone calls or drive off the clock; detrimental

1 rounding of employee time entries, editing and/or manipulation of time entries to show less hours
2 than actually worked; failing to pay reporting time pay; paid time off and vacation time owed; and
3 failing to pay split shift premiums, to the detriment of Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees.

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

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

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

1 information as required by Labor Code section 226, subdivision (a).

2 15. At all relevant times mentioned herein, Defendants had and have a policy or practice
3 of failing to comply with Labor Code section 226, subdivision (a) by intentionally failing to furnish
4 Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees with documents signed to obtain or hold employment
5 under Labor Code section 432, personnel records under Labor Code section 1198.5, and time records
6 under Labor Code section 1174, making it difficult for Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees to
7 calculate their unpaid wages and/or premium payments, to the detriment of Plaintiffs and other
8 Aggrieved Employees.

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

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

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

26 19. At all relevant times mentioned herein, Defendants have had a policy or practice of
27 failing to comply with the notice requirements of Labor Code section 2810.5 (*i.e.*, the Wage Theft
28 Protection Act of 2011) by, among other things, failing to provide Plaintiff and other Aggrieved

1 Employees with the rates of pay and overtime rates of pay applicable to their employment;
2 allowances claimed as part of the minimum wage; the regular payday designated by Defendants; the
3 name, address, and telephone number of the workers' compensation insurance carrier; information
4 regarding paid sick leave; and other pertinent information required to be disclosed by Defendants
5 under Labor Code section 2810.5.

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

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

17 22. At all relevant times mentioned herein, Defendants had and have a policy or practice
18 of preventing Plaintiff and/or Aggrieved Employees from using or disclosing the skills, knowledge
19 and experience they obtained at Defendants for purposes of competing with Defendants, including,
20 without limitation, preventing Employees from disclosing their wages in negotiating a new job with
21 a prospective employer, and from disclosing who else works at Defendants and under what
22 circumstances that they might be receptive to an offer from a rival employer. Plaintiff is informed
23 and believes that this policy and/or practice violates Business and Professions Code sections 17200,
24 16600 and 16700, and, by virtue thereof, various provisions of the Labor Code, including Labor
25 Code sections 232, 232.5, and 1197.5, subdivision (k).

26 23. Defendants had and have a policy or practice of preventing Plaintiff and/or other
27 Aggrieved Employees from disclosing violations of state and federal law, either within Defendants
28 to their managers or outside to private attorneys or government officials, among others, in violation

1 of Business and Professions Code section 17200, and, thus, in violation of Labor Code section
2 1102.5. In addition, Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendants' herein-described policies
3 and/or practices prevent Plaintiff and/or other Aggrieved Employees from disclosing information
4 about unsafe or discriminatory working conditions, or about wage and hour violations in violation
5 of Labor Code section 232 and 232.5.

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

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

17 **PARTIES**

18 **A. Plaintiff**

19 26. Plaintiff is a resident of the State of California. At all relevant times herein, Plaintiff
20 is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges that Defendants employed Plaintiff as a non-
21 exempt employee, with duties that included, but were not limited to, labeling and restocking
22 supplies. Plaintiff is informed and believes that Plaintiff worked for Defendants from approximately
23 February of 2021 through approximately August of 2021.

24 **B. Defendants**

25 27. Plaintiff is informed and believes and based thereon allege that defendant
26 CHARLEYS PHILLY STEAKS is, and at all times relevant hereto was, a corporation organized
27 and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Ohio and doing business in the County
28 of Solano, State of California.

28. Plaintiff is informed and believes and based thereon alleges that Defendant MODESTO is, and at all times relevant hereto was, a limited liability company organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Ohio and doing business in the County of San Bernardino, State of California. At all relevant times herein, MODESTO employed Plaintiff and similarly situated employees within the State of California.

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

JOINT LIABILITY ALLEGATIONS

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

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

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

6 32. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon allege, that there exists such a
7 unity of interest and ownership between Defendants, and each of them, that their individuality and
8 separateness have ceased to exist.

9 33. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon allege that despite the formation
10 of the purported corporate existence of CHARLEYS, MODESTO, and DOES 1 through 50,
11 inclusive (the “Alter Ego Defendants”), they, and each of them, are one and the same with SAMMY
12 and DOES 51 through 100 (“Individual Defendants”), and each of them, due to, but not limited to,
13 the following reasons:

- 14 a. The Alter Ego Defendants are completely dominated and controlled by the
15 Individual Defendants who personally committed the wrongful and illegal acts
16 and violated the laws as set forth in this Complaint, and who has hidden and
17 currently hide behind the Alter Ego Defendants to perpetrate frauds,
18 circumvent statutes, or accomplish some other wrongful or inequitable
19 purpose;
- 20 b. The Individual Defendants derive actual and significant monetary benefits by
21 and through the Alter Ego Defendants’ unlawful conduct, and by using the
22 Alter Ego Defendants as the funding source for the Individual Defendants’
23 own personal expenditures;
- 24 c. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that the Individual
25 Defendants and the Alter Ego Defendants, while really one and the same, were
26 segregated to appear as though separate and distinct for purposes of
27 perpetrating a fraud, circumventing a statute, or accomplishing some other
28 wrongful or inequitable purpose;

- 1 d. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that the business affairs
2 of the Individual Defendants and the Alter Ego Defendants are, and at all
3 relevant times mentioned herein were, so mixed and intermingled that the
4 same cannot reasonably be segregated, and the same are inextricable
5 confusion. The Alter Ego Defendants are, and at all relevant times mentioned
6 herein were, used by the Individual Defendants as mere shells and conduits
7 for the conduct of certain of their, and each of their affairs. The Alter Ego
8 Defendants are, and at all relevant times mentioned herein were, the alter egos
9 of the Individual Defendants;
- 10 e. The recognition of the separate existence of the Individual Defendants and the
11 Alter Ego Defendants would promote injustice insofar that it would permit
12 defendants to insulate themselves from liability to Plaintiff for violations of
13 the Civil Code, Labor Code, and other statutory violations. The corporate
14 existence of these defendants should thus be disregarded in equity and for the
15 ends of justice because such disregard is necessary to avoid fraud and injustice
16 to Plaintiff herein;
- 17 f. Accordingly, the Alter Ego Defendants constitute the alter ego of the
18 Individual Defendants (and vice versa), and the fiction of their separate
19 corporate existence must be disregarded.

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

22 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

23 **(Civil Penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act (2004) – Against All Defendants)**

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

26 **Civil Penalties Under Labor Code § 210**

27 36. At all relevant times herein, Labor Code section 204, requires and required that:
28 “[l]abor performed between the 1st and 15th days, inclusive, of any calendar month shall be paid for

1 between the 16th and 26th day of the month during which the labor was performed, and labor
2 performed between the 16th and the last day, inclusive, of any calendar month, shall be paid for
3 between the 1st and 10th day of the following month.”

4 37. At all relevant times herein, Labor Code section 210, subdivision (a) states and stated
5 that “[i]n addition to, and entirely independent and apart from, any other penalty provided in this
6 article, every person who fails to pay the wages of each employee as provided in Sections 201.3,
7 204, 204b, 204.1, 205, 205.5, and 1197.5, shall be subject to a civil penalty as follows: (1) For any
8 initial violation, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each failure to pay each employee” and “(2) For
9 each subsequent violation, or any willful or intentional violation, two hundred dollars (\$200) for
10 each failure to pay each employee, plus 25 percent of the amount unlawfully withheld.”

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

19 Civil Penalties Under Labor Code § 226.3

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

28 40. Labor Code section 226.3 states that “[a]ny employer who violates subdivision (a)

1 of Section 226 shall be subject to a civil penalty in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250)
2 per employee per violation in an initial citation and one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per employee for
3 each violation in a subsequent citation, for which the employer fails to provide the employee a wage
4 deduction statement or fails to keep the records required in subdivision (a) of Section 226.”

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

7 42. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants had
8 and have a policy or practice of failing to furnish non-exempt employees, including, without
9 limitation, Plaintiff, with itemized wage statements that accurately reflect gross wages earned; total
10 hours worked; net wages earned; all deductions; all applicable hourly rates in effect and the
11 corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate in effect during the pay period; the legal
12 name of the employer and/or the name and address of the legal entity securing the employer’s services
13 if the employer is a farm labor contractor; and other such information as required by Labor Code
14 section 226, subdivision (a).

15 43. Pursuant to Labor Code section 226.3, Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees are
16 entitled to recover civil penalties for Defendants’ violation of Labor Code section 226, subdivision
17 (a) in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each Aggrieved Employee per pay period
18 for the initial violation, and one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each Aggrieved Employee per pay
19 period for each subsequent violation.

20 Violation of Labor Code § 558

21 44. Pursuant to Labor Code section 558, subdivision (a): “Any employer or other person
22 acting on behalf of an employer who violates, or causes to be violated . . . any provision regulating
23 hours and days of work in any of the Industrial Welfare Commission” shall be subject to a civil
24 penalty as follows:

25 (1) For any initial violation, fifty dollars (\$50) for each underpaid employee and for each
26 pay period for which the employee was underpaid in addition to an amount sufficient
27 to recover underpaid wages;

28 (2) For each subsequent violation, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each underpaid

1 employee for each pay period for which the employee was underpaid in addition to
2 an amount sufficient to recover underpaid wages;

3 (3) Wages recovered pursuant to this section shall be paid to the affected employee.

4 45. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon allege, that Defendants, and
5 each of them, violated, or caused to be violated, the Labor Code sections described herein, including
6 causing Plaintiffs and other Aggrieved Employees not to: be paid with the rates of pay and overtime
7 rates of pay applicable to their employment, allowances claimed as part of the minimum wage, the
8 regular payday designated by Employer, the name of the employer, including any “doing business
9 as” names used, the name, address and telephone number of the workers’ compensation insurance
10 carrier, information regarding paid sick leave, and other pertinent information.

11 46. As a direct and proximate result of the herein-described Labor Code violations,
12 pursuant to Labor Code section 558, Plaintiffs and other Aggrieved Employees are entitled to
13 recover civil penalties for Defendants’ herein-described Labor Code violations in the amount fifty
14 dollars (\$50) for each Aggrieved Employee per pay period for the initial violation, and one hundred
15 dollars (\$100) for each Aggrieved Employee per pay period for each subsequent violation.

16 Violation of Labor Code § 1174.5

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

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

27 49. At all times mentioned herein, Labor Code section 1174, subdivision (d) has required
28 every person employing labor in California to “[k]eep, at a central location in the state or at the

1 plants or establishments at which employees are employed, payroll records showing the hours
2 worked daily by and the wages paid to, and the number of piece-rate units earned by and applicable
3 piece rate paid to, employees employed at the respective plants or establishments. These records
4 shall be kept in accordance with rules established for this purpose by the commission, but in any
5 case, shall be kept on file for not less than three years. An employer shall not prohibit an employee
6 from maintaining a personal record of hours worked, or, if paid on a piece-rate basis, piece-rate units
7 earned.”

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

13 51. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants have
14 willfully failed keep adequate or accurate time records including wage statements and similar
15 payroll documents under Labor Code section 226, documents signed to obtain or hold employment
16 under Labor Code section 432, personnel records under Labor Code section 1198.5, and time records
17 under Labor Code section 1174.

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

22 Violation of Labor Code § 1197.1

23 53. Pursuant to Labor Code section 1197.1, subdivision (a): “Any employer or other
24 person acting either individually or as an officer, agent, or employee of another person, who pays
25 or causes to be paid to any employee a wage less than the minimum fixed by an applicable state or
26 local law, or by an order of the commission shall be subject to a civil penalty, restitution of wages,
27 liquidated damages payable to the employee, and any applicable penalties imposed pursuant to
28 Section 203 as follows:

- 1 (1) For any initial violation that is intentionally committed, one hundred dollars
2 (\$100) for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the
3 employee is underpaid. This amount shall be in addition to an amount
4 sufficient to recover underpaid wages, liquidated damages pursuant to Section
5 1194.2, and any applicable penalties imposed pursuant to Section 203.
- 6 (2) For each subsequent violation for the same specific offense, two hundred fifty
7 dollars (\$250) for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the
8 employee is underpaid regardless of whether the initial violation is
9 intentionally committed. This amount shall be in addition to an amount
10 sufficient to recover underpaid wages, liquidated damages pursuant to Section
11 1194.2, and any applicable penalties imposed pursuant to Section 203.
- 12 (3) Wages, liquidated damages, and any applicable penalties imposed pursuant to
13 Section 203, recovered pursuant to this section shall be paid to the affected
14 employee.”

15 54. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants caused
16 Plaintiffs and Aggrieved Employees not to be paid minimum wages as a result of Defendants,
17 without limitation, routinely failing to pay Plaintiffs or other Aggrieved Employees’ to pay
18 minimum wages for all hours worked, entitling Employee and other aggrieved employees to actual
19 and liquidated damages.

20 55. As a direct and proximate result of the herein-described Labor Code violations,
21 pursuant to Labor Code section 1197.1, Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees are entitled to
22 recover civil penalties for Defendants’ herein-described Labor Code violations in the amount one
23 hundred dollars (\$100) for each Aggrieved Employee per pay period for the initial violation, and
24 two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) for each Aggrieved Employee per pay period for each
25 subsequent violation.

26 Civil Penalties Under Labor Code § 2699

27 56. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699, subdivision (a), notwithstanding any other
28 provision of law, any provision of the Labor Code that provides for a civil penalty to be assessed

1 and collected by the LWDA or any of its departments, divisions, commissions, boards, agencies or
2 employees for a violation of the Labor Code may, as an alternative, be recovered through a civil
3 action brought by an aggrieved employee on behalf of himself or herself and other current or former
4 employees pursuant to the procedures specified in Labor Code section 2699.3.

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

11 58. Plaintiff is informed and believes and based thereon alleges that Defendants, and
12 each of them, violated the Labor Code sections described herein, including, without limitation, for
13 the failure to: pay the rates of pay and overtime rates of pay applicable to their employment,
14 allowances claimed as part of the minimum wage, the regular payday designated by Defendants, the
15 name of the employer, including any "doing business as" names used, the name, address and
16 telephone number of the workers' compensation insurance carrier, information regarding paid sick
17 leave, and other pertinent information required to be disclosed by Employer under Labor Code
18 section 2810.5, failing to provide Employee and other aggrieved employees with the amount of paid
19 sick leave required to be provided pursuant to California and local laws.

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

23 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

24 60. Plaintiff hereby requests a trial by jury.

25 **PRAYER**

26 **WHEREFORE**, on behalf of Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees, Plaintiff prays for
27 judgment against Defendants as follows:

28 A. An award of civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 210, 226.3, 558,

1174.5, 1197.1, and 2699;

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

Dated: April 8, 2022

BIBIYAN LAW GROUP, P.C.

BY: Jeffrey D. Klein
JEFFREY D. KLEIN
DAVID D. BIBIYAN

Attorneys for Plaintiff ANAHY MACHUCA,
as an aggrieved employee, and on behalf of all
other aggrieved employees under the Labor
Code Private Attorneys' General Act of 2004