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Electronically
FILED
by Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo
ON 6/2/2022
By /s/ Una Finau
Deputy Clerk

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

KATHERINE GUARDADO, individually,
and on behalf of aggrieved employees
pursuant to the Private Attorneys General Act
("PAGA");

Plaintiff,

v.

PAUL MARTIN'S AMERICAN GRILL, a
Delaware limited liability company; F-
PMAB, LLC, a Delaware limited liability
company; PMAB-1, LLC, a Delaware limited
liability company; PMAB-2, LLC, a
Delaware limited liability company; PMAB-
3, LLC, a Delaware limited liability
company; PMAB-4, LLC, a Delaware limited
liability company; PMAB-5, LLC, a
Delaware limited liability company; PMAB-
8, LLC, a Delaware limited liability
company; and DOES 1 through 100,
inclusive;

Defendants.

Case No.: 22-CIV-02208

**COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL
PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF
LABOR CODE § 2698 *et seq.*
(PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL
ACT OF 2004)**

1 Plaintiff Katherine Guardado (“Plaintiff”) hereby submits this Complaint against
2 Defendants Paul Martin’s American Grill, F-PMAB, LLC, PMAB-1, LLC, PMAB-2, LLC,
3 PMAB-3, LLC, PMAB-4, LLC, PMAB-5, LLC, PMAB-8, LLC and DOES 1 through 100,
4 inclusive; (collectively, “Defendants”), on behalf of herself and other current and former
5 aggrieved employees of Defendants for penalties as follows:

6 **INTRODUCTION**

7 1. This representative action brought pursuant to Labor Code § 2698 *et seq.*
8 (the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (“PAGA”)) for Defendants’ violations of Labor
9 Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 221, 226(a)-(c), 226.3, 226.7, 246, 432.5, 510, 512(a),
10 551, 552, 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1198.5, 2800 and 2802.

11 2. This Complaint challenges Defendants’ systemic illegal employment
12 practices resulting in violations of the stated provisions of the Labor Code against the identified
13 group of employees.

14 3. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants
15 jointly and severally acted intentionally and with deliberate indifference and conscious
16 disregard to the rights of all employees in (1) failing to pay all meal period wages and rest break
17 wages, (2) failing to properly calculate and pay all minimum and overtime wages, (3) failing to
18 provide accurate wage statements, (4) failing to pay all wages due and owing during
19 employment and upon termination of employment, and (5) failing to reimburse all necessary
20 business expenses.

21 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

22 4. This action is brought pursuant to PAGA. The civil penalties sought by
23 Plaintiff exceed the minimal jurisdiction limits of the Superior Court and will be established
24 according to proof at trial.

25 5. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to California
26 Constitution, Article VI, Section 10, which grants the Superior Court original jurisdiction in all
27 causes except those given by statute to other courts. The statutes under which this action is
28 brought do not specify any other basis for jurisdiction.

6. This Court has jurisdiction over the violations of PAGA and Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 221, 226(a)-(c), 226.3, 226.7, 246, 432.5, 510, 512(a), 551, 552, 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1198.5, 2800 and 2802.

7. This Court has jurisdiction over all Defendants because, upon information and belief, each party has sufficient minimum contacts in California, or otherwise intentionally avails itself of California law so as to render the exercise of jurisdiction over it by the California courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

8. Venue is proper in this Court because, upon information and belief, the named Defendants transact business and/or have offices in this county, and the acts and omissions alleged herein took place in this county. Moreover, this action is brought on behalf of the State of California as a private attorney general and has jurisdiction in this venue.

PARTIES

9. Plaintiff is an individual residing in the State of California. Plaintiff was employed by Defendants within the statutory time period.

10. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants are licensed to do business and actually doing business in the State of California, including the County of San Mateo.

11. Plaintiff does not know the true names or capacities, whether individual, partner or corporate, of Defendants sued herein as DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, and for that reason, said Defendants are sued under such fictitious names, and Plaintiff prays for leave to amend the complaint when the true names and capacities are known. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that each of Defendants designated as a DOE was responsible in some way for the matters alleged herein and proximately caused Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved employees to be subject to the illegal employment practices, wrongs and injuries complained of herein.

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1 **12.** At all times herein mentioned, Defendants, and each of them, were agents,
2 partners, joint venturers, representatives, servants, employees, successors-in-interest, co-
3 conspirators and assigns, each of the other, and at all times relevant hereto were acting within
4 the course and scope of their authority as such agents, partners, joint venturers, representatives,
5 servants, employees, successors, co-conspirators and assigns, and that all acts or omissions
6 alleged herein were duly committed with ratification, knowledge, permission, encouragement,
7 authorization and consent of each Defendant designated herein.

8 **13.** As such, and based upon all the facts and circumstances incident to
9 Defendants' business in California, Defendants are subject to PAGA and Labor Code §§ 201,
10 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 221, 226(a)-(c), 226.3, 226.7, 246, 432.5, 510, 512(a), 551, 552, 558,
11 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1198.5, 2800 and 2802.

12 **CAUSE OF ACTION**

13 **VIOLATION OF PAGA**

14 **(AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS BY PLAINTIFF)**

15 **14.** Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 13
16 as though fully set forth herein.

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

22 **16.** On March 25, 2022, Plaintiff provided written notice to the LWDA and
23 Defendants of the specific provisions of the Labor Code she contends were violated, and the
24 theories supporting her contentions. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** and incorporated by reference
25 is a copy of Plaintiff Ibarra's written notice to the LWDA. Plaintiff believes that on or about
26 May 31, 2022, the sixty-five (65) day notice period expired, and the LWDA did not take any
27 action to investigate or prosecute this matter. Therefore, Plaintiff has exhausted her
28 administrative remedies.

1 17. Plaintiff and the other hourly-paid or non-exempt employees are
2 “aggrieved employees” as defined by California Labor Code § 2699(c) in that they are all
3 current or former employees of Defendants who worked for Defendants or were subjected to
4 Defendants’ illegal conduct at any time during the period from March 25, 2021 to the present,
5 and one or more of the alleged violations was committed against them.

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

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

11 19. As a policy and practice, Defendants failed to compensate aggrieved
12 current and former employees for all hours worked, resulting in a failure to pay all minimum
13 wages and overtime wages, where applicable.

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

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

20 21. As a policy and practice, Defendants failed to provide aggrieved current
21 and former employees with legally-mandated meal periods and rest breaks and failed to pay
22 proper compensation for this failure.

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

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

26 23. As a policy and practice, Defendants failed to pay aggrieved current and
27 former employees all wages due and owing them within the required time period.

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

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

5 **25.** As a result of Defendants' Labor Code violations alleged above,
6 Defendants failed to pay aggrieved former employees their final wages pursuant to Labor Code
7 §§ 201 to 204 and accordingly owe waiting time penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 203.

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

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

12 **27.** As a result of Defendants' various Labor Code violations, Defendants
13 failed to keep accurate records regarding aggrieved current and former employees. For
14 example, Defendants failed in their affirmative obligation to keep accurate records regarding
15 aggrieved current and former employees' gross wages earned, total hours worked, all
16 deductions, net wages earned, and all applicable hourly rates and the number of hours worked
17 at each hourly rate.

18 **Failure to Provide Paid Sick Days**

19 **28.** At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to provide their
20 employees with paid sick days pursuant to Labor Code § 246.

21 **29.** As a policy and practice, Defendants failed to provide aggrieved current
22 and former employees with paid sick days pursuant to Labor Code § 246.

23 **Failure to Reimburse Business Expenses**

24 **30.** At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to reimburse their
25 employees for any and all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employees in direct
26 consequences of the discharge or their duties pursuant to the mandate of Labor Code §§ 2800
27 and 2802.

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1 **31.** As a policy and practice, Defendants failed to pay aggrieved current and
2 former employees all business expenses incurred and owing them within the required time
3 period.

4 **Failure to Timely Produce Personnel File Upon Request**

5 **32.** At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to produce their
6 employees' personnel files upon an employee's request within 30 calendar days pursuant to
7 California Labor Code § 1198.5.

8 **33.** As a policy and practice, Defendants failed to produce Plaintiff and other
9 aggrieved employees' personnel files upon Plaintiff and the other aggrieved employees' request
10 within the relevant time period.

11 **Penalties**

12 **34.** Pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699, Plaintiff, as an individual, and
13 on behalf of other current and former aggrieved employees, requests and is entitled to recover
14 from Defendants, and each of them, civil penalties, interest, attorneys' fees and costs pursuant,
15 including but not limited to:

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

20 **36.** Penalties under California Code of Regulations Title 8 § 11040 in the
21 amount of fifty dollars (\$50) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial
22 violation, and one hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each
23 subsequent violation;

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

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

4 **39.** Any and all additional penalties as provided by the Labor Code and/or
5 other statutes; and

6 **40.** Attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code §§ 210, 1194, and 2699,
7 and any other applicable statute.

8 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

9 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on her own behalf as an individual, and as a
10 representative of other current and former aggrieved employees pursuant to PAGA, prays for
11 judgment as follows:

- 12 1. Upon the Cause of Action, for civil penalties pursuant to statute as set forth in
13 Labor Code § 2698 *et seq.*, for Defendants' violations of Labor Code §§ 201, 202,
14 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 221, 226(a)-(c), 226.3, 226.7, 246, 432.5, 510, 512(a), 551,
15 552, 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1198.5, 2800 and 2802.
- 16 2. Upon the Cause of Action, for costs and attorneys' fees pursuant to Labor Code
17 §§ 210, 218.5, 1194, 1198.5 and 2699, and any other applicable statute; and
- 18 3. For such other and further relief the court may deem just and proper.

19
20 Dated: June 2, 2022

JUSTICE LAW CORPORATION

21
22 By: 

23 Douglas Han
24 Shunt Tatavos-Gharajeh
25 Talia Lux
26 *Attorneys for Plaintiff*
27
28

EXHIBIT 1

March 25, 2022

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: PAUL MARTIN'S AMERICAN GRILL, F-PMAB, LLC, PMAB-1, LLC, PMAB-2, LLC, PMAB-3, LLC, PMAB-4, LLC, PMAB-5, LLC, and PMAB-8, LLC

Dear Representative:

We have been retained to represent Katherine Guardado against Paul Martin's American Grill, F-PMAB, LLC, PMAB-1, LLC, PMAB-2, LLC, PMAB-3, LLC, PMAB-4, LLC, PMAB-5, LLC, and PMAB-8, LLC (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 "PMAB").

Ms. Guardado is pursuing her California Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.*, the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA") claim on a representative basis. Therefore, Ms. Guardado 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.

Paul Martin's American Grill, F-PMAB, LLC, PMAB-1, LLC, PMAB-2, LLC, PMAB-3, LLC, PMAB-4, LLC, PMAB-5, LLC, and PMAB-8, LLC are Delaware limited liability companies located at 100 Spectrum Center Drive, Suite 1240, Irvine, California 92618. F-PMAB, LLC is the sole manager of PMAB-1, LLC, PMAB-2, LLC, PMAB-3, LLC, PMAB-4, LLC, PMAB-5, LLC, and PMAB-8, LLC.

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

PMAB employed Ms. Guardado as an hourly-paid non-exempt Server/Bartender during the relevant time period in the State of California. PMAB directly controlled the wages, hours and/or working conditions of Ms. Guardado and other aggrieved employees' employment, including direction, retention, scheduling, supervision, and termination.

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

PMAB failed to properly pay its hourly-paid 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. Guardado has standing to pursue penalties on behalf of the state for violations affecting all the aggrieved employees at PMAB, regardless of their classification, job title, location, or whether they were hired directly or through a staffing agency.

PMAB 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, 210, 218.5, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 246, 432.5, 510, 512(a), 551, 552, 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1198.5, 2800 and 2802, and the IWC Wage Orders.

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. Guardado and other aggrieved employees routinely worked in excess of 8 hours in a day and 40 hours in a week. PMAB failed to compensate Ms. Guardado and other aggrieved employees for all hours worked and performing off-the-clock work, including pre- and post-shift, donning and doffing uniforms, and during meal breaks. PMAB also failed to include non-discretionary bonuses and incentives in aggrieved employees' regular rate of pay for purposes of overtime compensation. Therefore, Ms. Guardado 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, PMAB failed to pay Ms. Guardado 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.

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, PMAB routinely required Ms. Guardado and other aggrieved employees to work through, interrupt, cut short, and/or delay their meal and rest breaks to comply with PMAB's policies and expectations. PMAB failed to provide coverage to Ms. Guardado and other aggrieved employees so they may be relieved of all work duties and take legally mandated meal and rest breaks. Lastly, PMAB also failed to authorize and permit Ms. Guardado 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, PMAB failed to compensate Ms. Guardado and other aggrieved employees all the premium wages they were owed, including failing to pay premium wages at Ms. Guardado and other aggrieved employees' regular rate of pay.

California Labor Code section 551 states "[e]very person employed in any occupation of labor is entitled to one day's rest therefrom in seven." Section 552 further states "[n]o employer of labor shall cause his employees to work more than six days in seven." PMAB required aggrieved employees to work seven days in a row or more without one day's rest.

California Labor Code section 432.5 states "[n]o employer, or agent, manager, superintendent, or officer thereof, shall require any employee or applicant for employment to agree, in writing, to any term or condition which is known by such employer, or agent, manager, superintendent, or officer thereof to be prohibited by law." PMAB required Ms. Guardado and other aggrieved employees to execute arbitration agreements as a condition of employment despite knowing that such agreements are prohibited under Labor Code section 432.5.

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, PMAB failed to pay Ms. Guardado 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.

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, PMAB failed to pay Ms. Guardado 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.

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

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. Guardado and other aggrieved employees have been denied their wages and premium wages and, therefore, are entitled to penalties.

California Labor Code section 1198.5 requires an employer to produce an employees' personnel file upon request within 30 calendar days. On December 8, 2021, Ms. Guardado requested her personnel file from PMAB. PMAB's deadline to produce the requested documents was January 7, 2022. To date, PMAB has yet to produce the entirety of Ms. Guardado's personnel file.

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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, PMAB failed to keep accurate and complete payroll records showing the hours worked daily and the wages paid, to Ms. Guardado 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, PMAB did not provide Ms. Guardado 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, and during meal breaks.

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. Guardado and other aggrieved employees incurred necessary business-related expenses and costs that were not fully reimbursed by PMAB, including for purchasing tools and equipment they were required to use and wear while working.

We believe that Ms. Guardado and other current and former California-based hourly-paid 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, 210, 218.5, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 246, 432.5, 510, 512(a), 551, 552, 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1198.5, 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.

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LWDA
March 25, 2022
Page 7 of 7

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. Guardado will seek these penalties on her own behalf and on behalf of other similarly situated California-based hourly-paid or non-exempt employees of PMAB within one year of the date of this letter, as allowed by law.

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 stylized flourish at the end.

Douglas Han, Esq.

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

PAUL MARTIN'S AMERICAN GRILL, F-PMAB, LLC, PMAB-1, LLC, PMAB-2, LLC, PMAB-3, LLC,
PMAB-4, LLC, PMAB-5, LLC, PMAB-8, LLC
c/o CSC - Lawyers Incorporating Service
2710 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 150N
Sacramento, California 95833
Agent for Service of Process for PAUL MARTIN'S AMERICAN GRILL, F-PMAB, LLC, PMAB-1,
LLC, PMAB-2, LLC, PMAB-3, LLC, PMAB-4, LLC, PMAB-5, LLC, PMAB-8, LLC

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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 pswanson@justicelawcorp.com

On June 9, 2022, I served the foregoing document described as

COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE
§ 2698 et seq. (PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT OF 2004)

for the following case: **Guardado v. Paul Martin's American Grill et al.**
LWDA/Court Case No.: **LWDA Case No.: LWDA-CM-875493-22**
Court Case No.: 22-CIV-02208
San Mateo 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

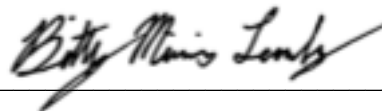
[X] BY ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

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 June 9, 2022, at Pasadena, California.



Bitty Minnis-Lemley