



AEGIS LAW FIRM, PC

KASHIF HAQUE, State Bar No. 218672
SAMUEL A. WONG, State Bar No. 217104
JESSICA L. CAMPBELL, State Bar No. 280626
JOSEPH M. SZILAGYI, State Bar No. 317450
9811 Irvine Center Drive, Suite 100
Irvine, California 92618
Email: jcampbell@aegislawfirm.com
Email: jszilagyi@aegislawfirm.com
Telephone: (949) 379-6250
Facsimile: (949) 379-6251

Attorneys for Plaintiff Johnell Harris Jr.,
individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated.

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF VENTURA**

JOHNELL HARRIS JR., individually and
on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

VENTURE TRANSPORT, LLC; and
DOES 1 through 20, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 56-2022-00564747-CU-OE-VTA

Assigned for All Purposes to:
Hon. Henry Walsh
Dept. 42

FIRST AMENDED 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 Pay All Wages to Piece-Rate Workers for Rest Breaks
6. Failure to Reimburse Business Expenses;
7. Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Wage Statements;
8. Failure to Timely Pay All Wages Due During Employment;
9. Failure to Pay All Wages Due Upon Separation of Employment;
10. Violation of Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*; and
11. Enforcement of Labor Code § 2698 *et seq.* ("PAGA")

1 Plaintiff Johnell Harris Jr., individually, and on behalf of others similarly situated, alleges
2 as follows:

3 **NATURE OF ACTION AND INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT**

4 1. Plaintiff Johnell Harris Jr. ("Plaintiff") brings this putative class action against
5 defendants Venture Transport, LLC, 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 or employees paid in
8 whole or in part on a piece rate basis throughout California.

9 2. Defendants are in the trucking and transportation industry.

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

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

- 16 (a) failing to pay all wages (including minimum wages and overtime wages);
- 17 (b) failing to pay wages for non-productive time at all or at the correct rate;
- 18 (c) failing to provide lawful meal periods or compensation in lieu thereof;
- 19 (d) failing to authorize or permit lawful rest breaks or provide compensation
20 in lieu thereof;
- 21 (e) failing to pay wages to piece-rate workers for time spent in rest breaks
22 and/or recovery periods at the correct rate of pay;
- 23 (f) failing to reimburse necessary business-related costs;
- 24 (g) failing to timely pay wages due during employment;
- 25 (h) failing to provide accurate itemized wage statements; and
- 26 (i) failing to pay all wages due upon separation of employment.

27 5. Plaintiff seeks monetary relief against Defendants on behalf of himself and all
28 others similarly situated in California to recover, among other things, unpaid wages, un-

1 reimbursed business expenses, benefits, interest, attorneys' fees, costs and expenses, and
2 penalties pursuant to Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 223, 226, 226.2, 226.7, 246, 227.3,
3 510, 512, 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198, 2800, and 2802, and Code of California Civil
4 Procedure § 1021.5.

5 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

6 6. This is a class action pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 382. The
7 monetary damages and restitution sought by Plaintiff exceeds the minimal jurisdictional limits of
8 the Superior Court and will be established according to proof at trial.

9 7. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to the California
10 Constitution, Article VI, § 10, which grants the Superior Court original jurisdiction in all causes
11 except those given by statutes to other courts. The statutes under which this action is brought do
12 not specify any other basis for jurisdiction.

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

18 9. Venue is proper in this Court because, upon information and belief, Defendants
19 reside, transact business, or have offices in this county, and the acts and omissions alleged herein
20 took place in this county.

21 **THE PARTIES**

22 10. Plaintiff is a resident of California and worked for Defendants during the relevant
23 time periods as alleged herein.

24 11. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that at all times hereinafter
25 mentioned, Defendants were and are subject to the Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders as
26 employers, whose employees were and are engaged throughout this county and the State of
27 California.

1 12. Plaintiff is unaware of the true names or capacities of the defendants sued herein
2 under the fictitious names DOES 1 through 20, but will seek leave of this Court to amend this
3 Complaint and serve such fictitiously named defendants once their names and capacities become
4 known.

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

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

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

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

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

25 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

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

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

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

4 Class

5 All California residents currently or formerly employed by Defendants in the
6 State of California as non-exempt employees or employees paid in whole or in
7 part on a piece rate basis at any time between October 16, 2017¹ and the date of
8 class certification ("Class").

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

10 Waiting Time Subclass

11 All members of the Class who separated their employment with Defendants at any
12 time between October 16, 2018 and the date of class certification ("Waiting Time
13 Subclass").

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

17 23. Members of the Class and the Waiting Time Subclass described above will be
18 collectively referred to as "Class Members."

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

- 22 (a) Whether Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and Class Members all wages
23 (including minimum wages and overtime wages) for all hours worked by
24 Plaintiff and Class Members.

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.

- (b) Whether Defendants required Plaintiff and Class Members to work over eight (8) hours per day, over twelve (12) hours per day, and/or over forty (40) hours per week and failed to pay them overtime compensation for all overtime hours worked.
- (c) Whether Defendants secretly paid Plaintiff and Class Members less than what was promised.
- (d) Whether Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and Class Members for non-productive time, including time spent in rest breaks.
- (e) Whether Defendants deprived Plaintiff and Class Members of timely meal periods or required Plaintiff and Class Members to work through meal periods without legal compensation.
- (f) Whether Defendants deprived Plaintiff and Class Members of rest breaks or required Plaintiff and Class Members to work through rest breaks.
- (g) Whether Defendants failed to pay all wages to piece-rate employees for time spent in rest breaks.
- (h) Whether Defendants failed to reimburse Plaintiff and Class Members for necessary business-related costs expended for the benefit of Defendants.
- (i) Whether Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff and Class Members accurate itemized wage statements.
- (j) Whether Defendants failed to timely pay wages to Plaintiff and Class Members during their employment.
- (k) Whether Defendants failed to timely pay the Waiting Time Subclass all wages due upon termination or within seventy-two (72) hours of resignation.
- (l) Whether Defendants' conduct was willful or reckless.
- (m) Whether Defendants engaged in unfair business practices in violation of Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

9 26. At all relevant times mentioned herein, Defendants employed Plaintiff and other
10 California residents as non-exempt employees or employees paid in whole or in part on a piece
11 rate basis throughout California at Defendants' California business location(s).

12 27. Defendants continue to employ non-exempt employees or employees paid in
13 whole or in part on a piece rate basis within California.

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

18 29. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants knew or
19 should have known that Plaintiff and Class Members were entitled to receive wages for all time
20 worked (including minimum wages and overtime wages) and that they were not receiving all
21 wages earned for work that was required to be performed. In violation of the Labor Code and
22 IWC Wage Orders, Plaintiff and Class Members were not paid all wages (including minimum
23 wages and overtime wages) for all hours worked, including, but not limited to, non-productive
24 time, as well as when Defendants required Plaintiff and Class Members to work off-the-clock,
25 rounded time punches, and secretly paid Plaintiff and Class Members less than their promised
26 wages. Further Defendants failed to properly calculate the overtime rate owed to Plaintiff and
27 Class Members due to failure to properly included commissions, bonuses, and/or piece rate.
28

1 30. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants knew or
2 should have known that Plaintiff and Class Members were entitled to receive all required meal
3 periods or payment of one (1) additional hour of pay at Plaintiff's and Class Members' regular
4 rate of pay when they did not receive a timely, uninterrupted meal period. In violation of the
5 Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders, Plaintiff and Class Members did not receive all meal periods
6 or payment of one (1) additional hour of pay at Plaintiff's and Class Members' regular rate of
7 pay when they did not receive a timely, uninterrupted meal period.

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

15 32. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants knew or
16 should have known they had a duty to separately compensate Plaintiff and Class Members who
17 were piece-rate workers for time spent during rest breaks, when rest breaks were taken. In
18 violation of the Labor Code, Defendants did not pay piece-rate workers for time spent during rest
19 breaks at the correct rate.

20 33. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants knew or
21 should have known that Plaintiff and Class Members were entitled to reimbursement and/or
22 indemnification for all necessary business expenditures or losses as a direct consequence of the
23 discharge of their duties, or of their obedience to the directions of Defendants. In violation of the
24 Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders, Plaintiff and Class Members incurred necessary business
25 expenses or losses, but were not reimbursed nor indemnified of such expenses or losses that were
26 incurred as a direct consequence of the discharge of their duties, or of their obedience to the
27 directions of Defendants.
28

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

14 35. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants knew or
15 should have known they had a duty to compensate Plaintiff and Class Members within a certain
16 amount of days from the close of the pay period. In violation of the Labor Code, Defendants did
17 not pay Plaintiff and Class Members all earned wages timely during their employment.

18 36. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants knew or
19 should have known that the Waiting Time Subclass was entitled to timely payment of final
20 wages, including vested vacation pay, due upon separation of employment. In violation of the
21 Labor Code, the Waiting Time Subclass did not receive payment of all wages within the
22 permissible time periods.

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

27 38. Therefore, Plaintiff brings this lawsuit seeking monetary and injunctive relief
28 against Defendants on Plaintiff's own behalf and on behalf of all Class Members to recover,

among other things, unpaid wages (including minimum wages and overtime wages), unpaid meal period premium payments, unpaid rest period premium payments, unreimbursed business expenditures, interest, attorneys' fees, penalties, costs, and expenses.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES

(Violation of Labor Code §§ 223, 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1197; Violation of IWC Wage Order)

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

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

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

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

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

44. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff and Class Members the required minimum wage violates Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1197. Pursuant to these sections, Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to recover the unpaid balance of their minimum wage compensation as well as interest, costs, and attorneys' fees.

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

///

///

///

1 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **FAILURE TO PAY OVERTIME**

3 (Violation of Labor Code §§ 223, 510, 1194, 1198; Violation of IWC Wage Order)

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

6 47. Labor Code § 1198 and the applicable IWC Wage Order provide that it is
7 unlawful to employ persons without compensating them at a rate of pay either one and one-half
8 (1½) or two (2) times the person's regular rate of pay, depending on the number of hours
9 worked by the person on a daily or weekly basis.

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

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

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

25 51. Labor Code § 510 and the applicable IWC Wage Orders provide that employment
26 of more than six days in a workweek is only permissible if the employer pays proper overtime
27 compensation as set forth herein.
28

1 52. Plaintiff and Class Members were employees entitled to the protections of
2 California Labor Code §§ 510 and 1194.

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

6 54. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and Class
7 Members overtime wages for all overtime hours worked when Defendants failed to pay for time
8 spent working off-the-clock, and during off-duty hours without being compensated for these
9 hours. To the extent these hours qualify for the payment of overtime wages, Plaintiff and Class
10 Members were not paid proper overtime wages. When Defendants paid overtime wages, they
11 were sometimes miscalculated because, among other reasons, Defendants did not include all
12 non-discretionary pay in the calculation.

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

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

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

22 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

23 **FAILURE TO PROVIDE MEAL PERIODS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 65. At all relevant times, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and Class Members meal
24 period premiums for missed, late, and/or short meal periods pursuant to Labor Code § 226.7(b)
25 and section 11 of the applicable IWC Wage Order.

26 66. As a result of Defendants’ failure to pay Plaintiff and Class Members an
27 additional hour of pay for each day a compliant meal period was not provided, Plaintiff and
28 Class Members suffered and continue to suffer a loss of wages and compensation.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

FAILURE TO PERMIT REST BREAKS

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

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

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

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

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

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

72. At all relevant times, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and Class Members rest period premiums for missed, late, and/or interrupted rest periods pursuant to Labor Code § 226.7(b) and section 12 of the applicable IWC Wage Order.

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

///
///
///

1 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **FAILURE TO PAY ALL WAGES TO COMISSION OR PIECE-RATE WORKERS FOR**
3 **REST BREAKS**

4 (Violation of Labor Code § 226.2; Violation of IWC Wage Order)

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

7 75. Labor Code § 226.2 requires employees who are paid on a piece-rate basis to be
8 compensated for rest and recovery periods and other nonproductive time separate from any
9 piece-rate compensation.

10 76. Labor Code § 226.2(a) provides that employees compensated on a piece-rate
11 basis shall be compensated for rest and recovery periods, and other nonproductive time separate
12 from any piece-rate compensation. Employees shall be compensated at a regular hourly rate that
13 is no less than the higher of:

14 (a) An average hourly rate determined by dividing the total compensation for the
15 workweek, exclusive of compensation for rest and recovery periods and any
16 premium compensation for overtime, by the total hours worked during the
17 workweek, exclusive of rest and recovery periods.

18 (b) The applicable minimum wage.

19 77. During the relevant time period, Plaintiff and Class Members who were paid on a
20 piece-rate basis were not compensated for rest and recovery periods and other nonproductive
21 time separate from any piece-rate compensation at the correct rate of pay.

22 78. At all relevant times, Defendants knowingly and intentionally failed to comply
23 with Labor Code § 226.2 denying compensated rest and recovery periods to employees paid on a
24 piece-rate basis.

25 79. As a result of Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff and Class Members
26 compensated rest and recovery periods, Plaintiff and Class Members suffered and continue to
27 suffer a loss of wages and compensation.

28 ///

1 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **FAILURE TO REIMBURSE BUSINESS EXPENSES**

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

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

6 81. Labor Code § 2800 states that “[a]n employer shall in all cases indemnify his
7 employee for losses caused by the employer’s want of ordinary care.”

8 82. Labor Code § 2802(a) states that “[a]n employer shall indemnify his or her
9 employee for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employee in direct
10 consequence of the discharge of his or her duties, or of his or her obedience to the directions of
11 the employer”

12 83. Labor Code § 2802(b) states that “[a]ll awards made by a court . . . for
13 reimbursement of necessary expenditures under this section shall carry interest at the same rate
14 as judgments in civil actions. Interest shall accrue from the date on which the employee incurred
15 the necessary expenditure or loss.”

16 84. Labor Code § 2802(c) states that “[f]or purposes of this section, the term
17 “necessary expenditures or losses” shall include all reasonable costs, including, but not limited
18 to, attorney’s fees incurred by the employee enforcing the rights granted by this section.”

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

22 86. In violation of Labor Code §§ 2800 and 2802, Defendants failed to reimburse or
23 indemnify Plaintiff and Class Members for their expenses due to Defendants’ knowing and
24 intentional failure to reimburse necessary business expenditures in connection with Plaintiff’s
25 and Class Members’ work and job duties.

26 87. As a direct result, Plaintiff and Class Members have suffered and continue to
27 suffer losses, and therefore seek complete reimbursement and indemnification of necessary
28

1 business expenditures or losses, interest thereon at the required rate, and all reasonable costs in
2 enforcing the rights under Labor Code § 2802, including, but not limited to attorneys' fees.

3 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

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

5 (Violation of Labor Code § 226)

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

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

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

25 91. As a result of Defendants' knowing and intentional failure to comply with Labor
26 Code § 226(a), Plaintiff and Class Members have suffered injury and damage to their statutorily-
27 protected rights. Specifically, Plaintiff and Class Members are deemed to suffer an injury
28 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.

92. 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.

93. 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.

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION

FAILURE TO PAY ALL WAGES DUE UPON DURING EMPLOYMENT

(Violation of Labor Code §§ 204 and 210)

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

95. Labor Code § 204 provides the applicable time limits for employers to pay wages to non-exempt employees during their employment.

1 96. During the relevant time period, Defendants willfully failed to pay all earned
2 wages to Plaintiff and Class Members within the required time periods.

3 97. Defendants' failure to pay the Plaintiff and Class Members within the
4 applicable time periods violates Labor Code § 204.

5 98. Pursuant to Labor Code § 210, Plaintiff and Class Members entitled to recover
6 from Defendants the statutory penalty of one hundred dollars (\$100) for each failure to pay
7 each employee for any initial violation, and for each subsequent violation, or any willful or
8 intentional violation, two hundred dollars (\$200) for each failure to pay each employee, plus
9 25 percent of the amount unlawfully withheld.

10 **NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

11 **FAILURE TO PAY ALL WAGES DUE UPON SEPARATION OF EMPLOYMENT**

12 (Violation of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 227.3)

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

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

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

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

104. 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.

10 **TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

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

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

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

15 106. California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, prohibits acts of
16 unfair competition, which includes any “unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business act or practice . .
17 . .”

18 107. A violation of California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, may
19 be predicated on a violation of any state or federal law. In the instant case, Defendants' policies
20 and practices violated state law, causing Plaintiff and Class Members to suffer and continue to
21 suffer injuries-in-fact.

108. Defendants' policies and practices violated state law in at least the following
respects:

(a) Failing to pay all wages earned (including minimum wage and overtime wages) to Plaintiff and Class Members at the proper rate in violation of Labor Code §§ 226.2, 223, 510, 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, and 1198.

- 1 (b) Failing to provide compliant meal periods without paying Plaintiff and
2 Class Members premium wages for every day said meal periods were not
3 provided in violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512.
- 4 (c) Failing to authorize or permit compliant rest breaks without paying
5 Plaintiff and Class Members premium wages for every day said rest
6 breaks were not authorized or permitted in violation of Labor Code §
7 226.7.
- 8 (d) Failing to pay wages to piece-rate workers for time spent in rest breaks
9 and/or recovery periods at all or at the correct rate in violation of Labor
10 Code § 226.2.
- 11 (e) Failing to reimburse Plaintiff and Class Members for necessary business-
12 related expenses in violation of Labor Code §§ 2800 and 2802.
- 13 (f) Failing to provide Plaintiff and Class Members with accurate itemized
14 wage statements in violation of Labor Code § 226.
- 15 (g) Failing to timely pay all earned wages to Plaintiff and Class Members
16 during their employment in violation of Labor Code §§ 204 and 210.
- 17 (h) Failing to timely pay all earned wages to the members of the Waiting
18 Time Subclass upon separation of employment in violation of Labor Code
19 §§ 201, 202, 203, and 227.3.

20 109. As alleged herein, Defendants systematically engaged in unlawful conduct in
21 violation of the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders, such as failing to pay all wages
22 (minimum and overtime wages), failing to pay for non-productive time at the proper rate of pay,
23 secretly paying less than promised, failing to provide meal periods and rest breaks or
24 compensation in lieu thereof, failing to reimburse necessary business-related costs and
25 expenses, failing to furnish accurate wage statements, failing to pay wages timely during
26 employment, and failing to pay all wages due and owing upon separation of employment in a
27 timely manner to the Waiting Time Subclass, all in order to decrease their costs of doing
28 business and increase their profits.

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

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

7 112. By violating the foregoing statutes and regulations as herein alleged, Defendants'
8 acts constitute unfair and unlawful business practices under California Business and Professions
9 Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

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

13 114. Plaintiff seeks to enforce important rights affecting the public interest within the
14 meaning of California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5. Defendants' conduct, as alleged
15 herein, has been and continues to be unfair, unlawful, and harmful to Plaintiff, Class Members,
16 and the general public. Based on Defendants' conduct as alleged herein, Plaintiff and Class
17 Members are entitled to an award of attorneys' fees pursuant to California Code of Civil
18 Procedure § 1021.5.

19 **ELEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

20 **ENFORCEMENT OF LABOR CODE §§ 2698 *ET SEQ.* ("PAGA")**

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

23 116. Pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(a), any provision of the Labor Code that provides
24 for a civil penalty to be assessed and collected by the Labor and Workforce Development
25 Agency ("LWDA") or any of its departments, divisions, commissions, boards, agencies, or
26 employees for violation of the Labor Code may, as an alternative, be recovered through a civil
27 action brought by an aggrieved employee on behalf of himself or herself and other current or
28 former employees pursuant to the procedures specified in Labor Code § 2699.3.

1 117. For all provisions of the Labor Code except those for which a civil penalty is
2 specifically provided, Labor Code § 2699(f) imposes upon Defendants a civil penalty of one
3 hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial violation and
4 two hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent pay
5 period in which Defendants violated these provisions of the Labor Code.

6 118. Defendants' conduct violates numerous Labor Code sections, including, but not
7 limited to, the following:

8 (a) violation of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 510, 1194, and 1198 for
9 failure to timely pay all earned wages (including overtime wages) owed to Plaintiff and
10 other aggrieved employees during employment and upon separation of employment as
11 herein alleged;

12 (b) violation of Labor Code § 226.2 for failure to pay wages to piece-rate
13 workers for time spent in rest breaks and/or recovery periods at the correct rate of pay;

14 (c) violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512 for failure to provide meal
15 periods to Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees and failure to pay premium wages
16 for missed meal periods as herein alleged;

17 (d) violation of Labor Code § 226.7 for failure to permit rest breaks to
18 Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees and failure to pay premium wages for missed
19 rest periods as herein alleged;

20 (e) violation of Labor Code § 226 for failure to provide accurate itemized
21 wage statements to Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees as herein alleged; and

22 (f) violation of Labor Code §§ 1174 and 1174.5 for failure to maintain
23 accurate and complete records showing, among other things, the hours worked daily
24 and the wages paid to aggrieved employees as herein alleged; and

25 (g) violation of Labor Code §§ 2800 and 2802 for failure to reimburse
26 Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees for necessary business expenses as herein
27 alleged.
28

1 119. Plaintiff is an “aggrieved employee” because he was employed by the alleged
2 violator and had one or more of the violations committed against him, and therefore is properly
3 suited to represent the interests of all other aggrieved employees.

4 120. Plaintiff has exhausted the procedural requirements under Labor Code § 2699.3
5 as to Defendants and is therefore able to pursue a claim for penalties on behalf of himself and
6 all other aggrieved employees under PAGA.

7 121. Pursuant to Labor Code §§ 2699(a), 2699.3 and 2699.5, Plaintiff is entitled to
8 recover civil penalties in addition to other remedies, for violation of the Labor Code sections
9 cited above.

10 122. For bringing this action, Plaintiff is entitled to attorneys’ fees and costs incurred
11 herein.

12 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

13 On Plaintiff’s own behalf and on behalf of all others similarly situated, Plaintiff prays
14 for relief and judgment against Defendants, jointly and severally, as follows:

- 15 1. For certification under California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 of the proposed
16 Class and any other appropriate subclass;
- 17 2. For appointment of Johnell Harris Jr. as the class representative;
- 18 3. For appointment of Aegis Law Firm, PC, as class counsel for all purposes;
- 19 4. For compensatory damages in an amount according to proof at trial;
- 20 5. For an award of damages in the amount of unpaid compensation including, but
21 not limited to, unpaid wages, unreimbursed expenses, benefits, and penalties;
- 22 6. For economic and/or special damages in an amount according to proof at trial;
- 23 7. For liquidated damages pursuant to Labor Code § 1194.2;
- 24 8. For statutory penalties to the extent permitted by law, including those pursuant to
25 the Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders;
- 26 9. For injunctive relief as provided by the California Labor Code and California
27 Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*;
- 28 10. For restitution as provided by Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*;

1 11. For an order requiring Defendants to restore and disgorge all funds to each
2 employee acquired by means of any act or practice declared by this Court to be unlawful, unfair,
3 or fraudulent and, therefore, constituting unfair competition under Business and Professions
4 Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*;

5 12. For pre-judgment interest;

6 13. For civil penalties against Defendants on behalf of all aggrieved employees and
7 the LWDA pursuant to Labor Code § 2698, *et seq.*;

8 14. For reasonable attorneys' fees, costs of suit, and interest to the extent permitted
9 by law, including, but not limited to, Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5 and Labor Code §§
10 226(e), 2698, and 1194; and

11 15. For such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

12
13
14 Dated: January 9, 2024

AEGIS LAW FIRM, PC

15
16
17 By: _____

18 Joseph M. Szilagyi
19 Attorneys for Plaintiff Johnell Harris Jr.
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, am employed in the County of Orange, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action; am employed with Aegis Law Firm PC and my business address is 9811 Irvine Center Drive, Suite 100, Irvine, California 92618.

On January 9, 2024, I served the foregoing document entitled:

1. FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

on all the appearing and/or interested parties in this action by delivering ☐ the original ☒ a true copy thereof on the party(ies) addressed below as follows:

Christian J. Rowley
SEYFARTH SHAW LLP
560 Mission Street, 31st Floor
San Francisco, California 94105
Telephone: (415) 397-2823
Facsimile: (415) 397-8549
crowley@seyfarth.com

Eric Suits
SEYFARTH SHAW LLP
400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2350
Sacramento, California 95814-4428
Telephone: (916) 448-0159
Facsimile: (916) 558-4839
esuits@seyfarth.com

Attorneys for Defendant:
VENTURE TRANSPORT, LLC

☐ **(BY MAIL)** I am readily familiar with the firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing. Under that practice it would be deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on that same day with postage thereon fully prepaid at Irvine, California in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postage cancellation date or postage meter date is more than one day after date of deposit for mailing this affidavit. (*Cal Code Civ. Proc.* § 1013(a); *Fed. R. Civ. Proc.* 5(a); *Fed. R. Civ. Proc.* 5(c).)

☐ **(BY OVERNIGHT MAIL)** I am personally and readily familiar with the business practice of Aegis Law Firm PC for collection and processing correspondence for overnight delivery, and I caused such document(s) described herein to be deposited for delivery to a facility regularly maintained Federal Express for overnight delivery. (*Cal Code Civ. Proc.* § 1013(c); *Fed. R. Civ. Proc.* 5(c).)

☒ **(BY ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION)** I caused said document(s) to be served via electronic transmission via the above listed email addresses on the date below. (*Cal. Code Civ. Proc.* § 1010.6(6); *Fed. R. Civ. Proc.* 5(b)(2)(E); *Fed. R. Civ. Proc.* 5(b)(3).)

☐ **(BY PERSONAL SERVICE)** I delivered the foregoing document by hand delivery to the addressed named above. (*Cal Code Civ. Proc.* § 1011; *Fed. R. Civ. Proc.* 5(b)(2)(A).)

///

///

///

///

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

1 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the
2 foregoing is true and correct.

3 Executed on January 9, 2024, at Irvine, California.

4 

5 _____
6 Jacquelyn Enciso