

Joseph Lavi, Esq. (SBN 209776)
Vincent C. Granberry, Esq. (SBN 276483)
Matthew J. Gustin, Esq. (SBN 310714)
LAVI & EBRAHIMIAN, LLP
8889 W. Olympic Boulevard, Suite 200
Beverly Hills, California 90211
Telephone: (310) 432-0000
Facsimile: (310) 432-0001
Email: jlavi@lelawfirm.com
vgranberry@lelawfirm.com
mgustin@lelawfirm.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff EDUARDO ELOISA,
on behalf of himself and current and former aggrieved employees

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – CENTRAL DISTRICT**

EDUARDO ELOISA, on behalf of himself and
current and former aggrieved employees

Plaintiff,

vs.

CRUNCH, LLC; CRUNCH HOLDINGS, LLC;
and DOES 1 to 100, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: **25STCV08594**

PAGA ACTION

**PLAINTIFF EDUARDO ELOISA'S
COMPLAINT FOR:**

- CIVIL PENALTIES PURSUANT
TO THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS
GENERAL ACT OF 2004
("PAGA"), LABOR CODE
SECTIONS 2698, ET SEQ.**

COMES NOW Plaintiff EDUARDO ELOISA ("Plaintiff"), who alleges and complains
against Defendants CRUNCH, LLC; CRUNCH HOLDINGS, LLC; and DOES 1 to 100, inclusive
(collectively "Defendants") as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This is a Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, Labor Code §§ 2698, *et seq.*
("PAGA") representative action brought by Plaintiff on behalf of the State of California, himself
and other current and former aggrieved employees of Defendants who worked as hourly non-exempt
employees in California during the relevant time period seeking civil penalties associated with
Defendants' violation of the Labor Code based on Defendants' failure to pay wages for all hours
worked at minimum wage and all overtime hours worked at the overtime rate of pay; failure to pay

1 overtime wages at the proper overtime rate of pay; failure to authorize or permit all legally required
2 and/or compliant meal periods or pay meal period premium wages; failure to authorize or permit
3 all legally required and/or compliant rest periods or pay rest period premium wages; failure to pay
4 wages for accrued paid sick time at the regular rate of pay; statutory penalties for failure to timely
5 pay earned wages during employment; statutory penalties for failure to provide accurate wage
6 statements; Plaintiff seeks on a representative basis, following notice to the Labor and Workforce
7 Development Agency, civil penalties, reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to Labor Code section
8 2699(g)(1) and costs brought on behalf of Plaintiff, the State of California, and others aggrieved.

9 **II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

10 2. This Court has jurisdiction over the claims of Plaintiff and all other current and
11 former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees because Plaintiff's lawsuit seeks
12 civil penalties on behalf of himself, all other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
13 non-exempt employees, and the State of California in excess of twenty-five thousand dollars
14 (\$25,000); Defendants employed Plaintiff and all other current and former aggrieved California-
15 based hourly non-exempt employees; and the injuries to Plaintiff and all other current and former
16 aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees occurred in locations throughout
17 California, including but not limited to Los Angeles County, at 11819 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles,
18 CA 90025.

19 **III. PARTIES**

20 1. Plaintiff brings this action as a representative of the Labor and Workforce
21 Development Agency on behalf of himself and other current and former employees subject to
22 violations of the Labor Code. The named Plaintiff and the persons on whose behalf this action is
23 filed include current, former and/or future employees of Defendants who work, worked, or will work
24 for Defendants as direct employees as well as temporary employees employed through temp
25 agencies as hourly non-exempt employees in California. At all times mentioned herein, the currently
26 named Plaintiff is and was domiciled and a resident and citizen of California and was employed by
27 Defendants in an hourly position at from in or around October 2022, until on or about currently.

28 2. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant CRUNCH, LLC

1 is authorized to do business within the State of California and is doing business in the State of
2 California and/or that Defendants DOES 1-40 are, and at all times relevant hereto were persons
3 acting on behalf of Defendant CRUNCH, LLC in the establishment of, or ratification of, the
4 aforementioned illegal wage and hour practices or policies. Defendant CRUNCH, LLC operates in
5 Los Angeles County and employed aggrieved employees in Los Angeles County, at 11819 Wilshire
6 Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90025.

7 3. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant CRUNCH
8 HOLDINGS, LLC is authorized to do business within the State of California and is doing business
9 in the State of California and/or that Defendants DOES 41-50 are, and at all times relevant hereto
10 were persons acting on behalf of Defendant CRUNCH HOLDINGS, LLC in the establishment of,
11 or ratification of, the aforementioned illegal wage and hour practices or policies. Defendant
12 CRUNCH HOLDINGS, LLC operates in Los Angeles County and employed aggrieved employees
13 in Los Angeles County, at 11819 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90025.

14 4. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants DOES 1
15 through 50 are corporations, or are other business entities or organizations of a nature unknown to
16 Plaintiff that employed Plaintiff and aggrieved California non-exempt employees, permitted
17 Plaintiff and aggrieved employees to work, and exercised control over the wages, hours and working
18 conditions of employment of Plaintiff and aggrieved employees.

19 5. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants DOES 51
20 through 100 are individuals unknown to Plaintiff. Each of the individual defendants is sued
21 individually and in his or her capacity as an agent, shareholder, owner, representative, manager,
22 supervisor, independent contractor and/or employee of each defendant who violated or caused to be
23 violated the minimum wage and overtime provisions of the Labor Code and/or any provision of the
24 Industrial Welfare Commission's wage orders regulating hours and days of work.

25 6. Plaintiff is unaware of the true names of Defendants DOES 1 through 100. Plaintiff
26 sues said defendants by said fictitious names, and will amend this complaint when the true names
27 and capacities are ascertained or when such facts pertaining to liability are ascertained, or as
28 permitted by law or by the Court. Plaintiff is informed and believes that each of the fictitiously

1 named defendants is in some manner responsible for the events and allegations set forth in this
2 complaint.

3 7. Plaintiff makes the allegations in this complaint without any admission that, as to
4 any particular allegation, Plaintiff bears the burden of pleading, proving, or persuading and Plaintiff
5 reserves all of Plaintiff's right to plead in the alternative.

6 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

7 **CIVIL PENALTIES PURSUANT TO THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT OF**
8 **2004, LABOR CODE SECTIONS 2698, ET SEQ.**

9 **(Against all Defendants by Plaintiff on behalf of Themselves, the State of California, and**
10 **Other Current and Former Aggrieved Employees)**

11 8. Plaintiff incorporates all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

12 9. During Plaintiff's employment and continuing through the present, Plaintiff alleges
13 Defendants violated Labor Code sections 204, 223, 226, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 1194, 1197, sections
14 3,4, 11 and 12 of the applicable Wage Orders.

15 10. Specifically, Defendants have committed the following violations of California
16 Labor Code:

17 11. **Failure to pay wages for all hours worked at the legal minimum wage:**
18 Defendants employed many of their employees, including Plaintiff, as hourly non-exempt
19 employees. In California, an employer is required to pay hourly employees for all "hours worked,"
20 which includes all time that an employee is under control of the employer and all time the employee
21 is suffered and permitted to work. This includes the time an employee spends, either directly or
22 indirectly, performing services which inure to the benefit of the employer.

23 12. Labor Code sections 1194 and 1197 require an employer to compensate employees
24 for all "hours worked" at least at a minimum wage rate of pay as established by the IWC and the
25 Wage Orders.

26 13. In this case, Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
27 non-exempt employees worked more minutes per shift than Defendants credited them with having
28 worked. Specifically, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved

1 California-based hourly non-exempt employees all wages at the applicable minimum wage for all
2 hours worked due to Defendants' policies, practices, and/or procedures including, but not limited
3 to:

4 (a) Requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
5 non-exempt employees to clock out at times for their meal periods at their work station and proceed
6 to walk to the breakroom before being able to start their meal period.

7 14. Therefore, Defendants suffered, permitted, and required Plaintiff and other current
8 and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees to be subject to Defendants'
9 control without paying wages for that time. This resulted in Plaintiff and other current and former
10 aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees working time for which they were not
11 compensated any wages, in violation of Labor Code sections 1194 and 1197 and the applicable
12 Wage Order.

13 15. **Failure to pay wages for overtime hours worked at the overtime rate of pay**
14 **and/or failure to pay overtime wages at the proper rate of pay:** Defendants employed many of
15 their employees, including Plaintiff, as hourly non-exempt employees. In California, an employer
16 is required to pay hourly employees for all "hours worked," which includes all time that an employee
17 is under control of the employer and all time the employee is suffered and permitted to work. This
18 includes the time an employee spends, either directly or indirectly, performing services that inure to
19 the benefit of the employer.'

20 16. Labor Code sections 510 and 1194 require an employer to compensate employees a
21 higher rate of pay for hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a workday, in excess of forty (40)
22 hours in a workweek, and on any seventh consecutive day of work in a workweek:

23 Any work in excess of eight (8) hours in one workday, any work in excess of forty (40) hours
24 in any one (1) workweek, and the first eight (8) hours worked on the seventh day of work in
25 any one (1) workweek, shall be compensated at the rate of no less than one-and-one-half
26 (1.5) times the regular rate of pay for an employee. Any work in excess of twelve (12) hours
27 in one (1) day shall be compensated at the rate of no less than twice the regular rate of pay
28 for an employee. In addition, any work in excess of eight (8) hours on any seventh day of a
workweek shall be compensated at the rate of no less than twice the regular rate of pay of an
employee.

Labor Code section 510.

1 17. In this case, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved
2 California-based hourly non-exempt employees overtime wages for all overtime hours worked due
3 to Defendants' policies, practices, and/or procedures including, but not limited to:

4 (a) Requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
5 non-exempt employees to clock out at times for their meal periods at their work station and proceed
6 to walk to the breakroom before being able to start their meal period.

7 18. Furthermore, overtime is based upon an employee's regular rate of pay. "The regular
8 rate at which an employee is employed shall be deemed to include all remuneration for employment
9 paid to, or on behalf, of the employee." See Division of Labor Standards Enforcement –
10 Enforcement Policies and Interpretations Manual, Section 49.1.2.

11 19. In this case, Plaintiff alleges that when he and other current and former aggrieved
12 California-based hourly non-exempt employees earned overtime wages, Defendants failed to pay
13 them overtime wages at the proper overtime rate of pay due to Defendants' failure to include all
14 remuneration when calculating the overtime rate of pay. Specifically, Defendants maintained a
15 policy, practice, and/or procedure of failing to include all remuneration such as commission pay for
16 example, when calculating Plaintiff's and other current and former aggrieved California-based
17 hourly non-exempt employees' regular rate of pay for the purpose of paying overtime.

18 20. The foregoing policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in time during each
19 workday that Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt
20 employees were under the control of Defendants but were not compensated. To the extent that the
21 foregoing uncompensated time occurred when Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved
22 California-based hourly non-exempt employees worked more than eight (8) hours in a workday,
23 more than forty (40) hours in a workweek, and/or seven (7) days in a workweek, Defendants failed
24 to pay them at their overtime rate of pay for overtime hours worked, in violation of Labor Code
25 sections 510, 1194 and 1198, and the applicable Wage Order.

26 21. **Failure to pay wages to hourly non-exempt employees for workdays that**
27 **Defendants failed to provide legally required and compliant meal periods and/or failure to**
28 **pay period premium wages:** Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based

1 hourly non-exempt employees regularly worked shifts of more than five (5) hours in length and
2 shifts of more than ten (10) hours in length.

3 22. California law requires an employer to authorize or permit an employee an
4 uninterrupted meal period of no less than thirty (30) minutes in which the employee is relieved of
5 all duties and the employer relinquishes control over the employee's activities prior to the
6 employee's sixth hour of work. Labor Code sections 226.7, 512, and 1198; Wage Order 4 at §11;
7 *Brinker Rest. Corp. v. Super Ct. (Hohnbaum)* (2012) 53 Cal.4th 1004. An employer may not employ
8 an employee for a work period of more than ten (10) hours per day without providing the employee
9 with a second such meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the eleventh
10 hour of work. *Id.* If the employee is not relieved of all duty during a meal period, the meal period
11 shall be considered an "on duty" meal period and counted as time worked. A paid "on duty" meal
12 period is only permitted when: (1) the nature of the work prevents an employee from being relieved
13 of all duty; and (2) the parties have a written agreement agreeing to on-duty meal periods.

14 23. If an employer fails to provide an employee a meal period in accordance with the
15 law, the employer must pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of pay
16 for each workday that a legally required and compliant meal period was not provided. Labor Code
17 sections 226.7 and 1198; Wage Order 4 at §11.

18 24. In this case, Defendants failed to authorize or permit legally required and compliant
19 meal periods to Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-
20 exempt employees due to Defendants' policies, practices, and/or procedures, including but not
21 limited to:

22 (a) Failing at times to provide Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved
23 California-based hourly non-exempt employees timely, uninterrupted, duty-free meal breaks of at
24 least 30 minutes for every five hours worked due to chronic understaffing.

25 (b) Requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
26 non-exempt employees to clock out for their meal periods at their work-station at times and proceed
27 to walk to the breakroom before being able to start their meal period.

28 25. Additionally, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants maintained a policy, practice, and/or

1 procedure of failing to compensate Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based
2 hourly non-exempt employees one (1) hour of pay at their regular rate of pay for each workday that
3 Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees did
4 not receive legally required and compliant meal periods, in violation of Labor Code section 226.7.

5 26. Finally, on occasions when Defendants paid Plaintiff and other current and former
6 aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees a “premium” wage for late, missed, short,
7 on-premise, on-duty, and/or interrupted meal periods, Defendants failed to pay the one (1) additional
8 hour of pay at Plaintiff’s and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-
9 exempt employees’ regular rate of compensation. Specifically, Defendants maintained a policy,
10 practice, and/or procedure of failing to include all remuneration such as commission pay for
11 example, when calculating Plaintiff’s and other current and former aggrieved California-based
12 hourly non-exempt employees’ regular rate of pay for the purpose of paying meal period premium
13 wages.

14 27. Defendants’ foregoing policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in Plaintiff and
15 other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees not receiving
16 wages to compensate them for workdays during which Defendants did not provide them with meal
17 periods in compliance with California law.

18 28. **Failure to pay wages to hourly non-exempt employees for workdays that**
19 **Defendants failed to provide legally required and compliant rest periods and/or failure to pay**
20 **rest period premium:** Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
21 non-exempt employees regularly worked shifts of more than three-and-a-half (3.5) hours.

22 29. California law requires every employer to authorize and permit an employee a rest
23 period of ten (10) net minutes for every four (4) hours worked or major fraction thereof. Labor Code
24 section 226.7; Wage Order 4 at §12. Under California law, “[e]mployees are entitled to 10 minutes’
25 rest for shifts from three and one-half to six hours in length, 20 minutes for shifts of more than six
26 hours up to 10 hours, 30 minutes for shifts of more than 10 hours up to 14 hours, and so on.” *Brinker*
27 *Restaurant Corp. v. Sup. Ct. (Hohnbaum)* (2012) 53 Cal.4th 1004, 1029; Labor Code section 226.7;
28 Wage Order 4 at §12. Rest periods, insofar as practicable, shall be in the middle of each work period.

1 Wage Order 4 at §12. Additionally, the rest period requirement “obligates employers to permit –
2 and authorizes employees to take – off-duty rest periods.” *Augustus v. ABM Security Services, Inc.*,
3 (2016) 5 Cal.5th 257, 269. That is, during rest periods employers must relieve employees of all
4 duties and relinquish control over how employees spend their time. *Id.*

5 30. If the employer fails to authorize or permit a required rest period, the employer must
6 pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee’s regular rate of pay for each workday the
7 employer did not authorize or permit a legally required rest period. Labor Code section 226.7; Wage
8 Order 4 at § 12.

9 31. In this case, Defendants failed to authorize or permit all legally required and
10 compliant rest periods to Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
11 non-exempt employees due to Defendants’ policies, practices, and/or procedures including, but not
12 limited to:

13 (a) Failing at times to provide Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved
14 California-based hourly non-exempt employees with a second net ten (10) minute rest breaks for
15 every six (6) hours worked or major fraction thereof.

16 (b) Failing to provide Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based
17 hourly non-exempt employees timely, uninterrupted, duty-free rest breaks of at least 10 minutes for
18 every three and a half hours worked due to chronic understaffing.

19 32. Additionally, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants maintained a policy, practice, and/or
20 procedure of failing to compensate Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based
21 hourly non-exempt employees with one (1) hour of pay at their regular rate of pay for each workday
22 they did not receive legally required and compliant rest periods, in violation of Labor Code section
23 226.7.

24 33. Finally, on occasions when Defendants did pay Plaintiff and other current and former
25 aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees a “premium” wage for late, missed, short,
26 on-premise, on-duty, and/or interrupted rest periods, Defendants failed to pay the one (1) additional
27 hour of pay at Plaintiff’s and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-
28 exempt employees’ regular rate of compensation. Specifically, Defendants maintained a policy,

1 practice, and/or procedure of failing to include all remuneration such commission pay for example,
2 when calculating Plaintiff's and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-
3 exempt employees' regular rate of pay for the purpose of paying rest period premiums.

4 34. Defendants' foregoing policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in Plaintiff and
5 other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees not receiving
6 wages to compensate them for workdays in which Defendants did not provide them with rest periods
7 in compliance with California law.

8 35. **Failure to provide sick pay wages:** Defendants had a policy and/or procedure where
9 Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees
10 accrued paid sick time.

11 36. Labor Code section 246, subdivision (a), states in relevant part "[a]n employee
12 who...works in California for the same employer for 30 or more days within a year from the
13 commencement of employment is entitled to paid sick days." Additionally, an employee accrues
14 paid sick days at the rate of no-less-than one (1) hour per every thirty (30) hours worked, beginning
15 at the commencement of employment. Labor Code section 246(b).

16 37. Here, Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-
17 exempt employees were employed by Defendants for 30 or more days and were entitled to paid sick
18 days. Defendants, however, lacked a policy, practice, and/or procedure whereby Plaintiffs and other
19 current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees who were employed
20 by Defendants for 30 days or more could accrue paid sick days at the rate of no-less-than one (1)
21 hour per every thirty (30) hours worked, beginning at the commencement of employment as required
22 by Labor Code section 246(b).

23 38. In this case, Plaintiff alleges that when he and other current and former aggrieved
24 California-based hourly non-exempt employees elected to use paid sick time, Defendants failed to
25 pay them sick time wages at the proper sick time rate of pay due to Defendants' failure to include
26 all remuneration when calculating the sick time rate of pay. Specifically, Defendants maintained a
27 policy, practice, and/or procedure of failing to include all remuneration including but not limited to
28 commission pay for example, when calculating Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved

1 California-based hourly non-exempt employees' regular rate of pay for the purpose of paying sick
2 time.

3 39. Defendants' foregoing policy, practice, and/or procedure resulted in Defendants
4 failing to provide Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-
5 exempt employees' paid sick days, in violation of Labor Code section 246.

6 40. **Failure to timely pay earned wages during employment:** In California, wages
7 must be paid at least twice during each calendar month on days designated in advance by the
8 employer as regular paydays, subject to some exceptions. Labor Code section 204(a). Wages earned
9 between the 1st and 15th days, inclusive, of any calendar month must be paid between the 16th and
10 the 26th day of that month and wages earned between the 16th and the last day, inclusive, of any
11 calendar month must be paid between the 1st and 10th day of the following month. *Id.* Other payroll
12 periods such as those that are weekly, biweekly, or semimonthly, must be paid within seven (7)
13 calendar days following the close of the payroll period in which wages were earned. Labor Code
14 section 204(d).

15 41. As a derivative of Plaintiff's claims above, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants failed to
16 timely pay Plaintiff's and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt
17 employees' earned wages (including minimum wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages
18 and/or rest period premium wages), in violation of Labor Code section 204. Defendants'
19 aforementioned policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in their failure to pay Plaintiff's and
20 other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees' their earned
21 wages within the applicable time frames outlined in Labor Code section 204.

22 42. **Secret payment of lower wages than designated by statute:** Labor Code section
23 223 provides that, where any statute or contract requires an employer to maintain the designated
24 wage scale, it shall be unlawful to secretly pay a lower wage while purporting to pay the wage
25 designated by statute or contract. By engaging in the unlawful conduct alleged herein, including by
26 failing to: pay overtime wages at the applicable legal overtime rate, meal break premiums and lawful
27 sick pay at the employees' regular rate of pay, as established by Labor Code sections 226.7, 246,
28 510, 1194 and sections 11 and 12 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders, as incorporated by Labor

1 Code section 1198, the Defendant secretly paid a lower wage than designated by statute while
2 purporting to pay the wages designated by statute, in violation of Labor Code section 223.

3 **43. Failure to provide complete and accurate wage statements:** Labor Code section
4 226, subdivision (a). Labor Code section 226(a) provides, *inter alia*, that, upon paying an employee
5 his or her wages, the employer must “furnish each of his or her employees ... an itemized statement
6 in writing showing (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the employee, except for any
7 employee whose compensation is solely based on a salary and who is exempt from payment of
8 overtime under subdivision (a) of Section 515 or any applicable order of the Industrial Welfare
9 Commission, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee
10 is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions, provided, that all deductions made on written orders
11 of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive
12 dates of the pay period for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee and his or her
13 social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and (9) all
14 applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours
15 worked at each hourly rate by the employee.”

16 **44.** As a result of Defendants’ knowing and intentional failure to pay Plaintiff and other
17 current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees all wages earned
18 (including minimum wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages, and/or rest period
19 premium wages) Plaintiff’s and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-
20 exempt employees’ wage statements were rendered inaccurate, in violation of Labor Code section
21 226(a)(1, 2, 5 & 9). As such Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
22 non-exempt employees were unable to promptly and easily determine the accurate information
23 required by Labor Code section 226(a).

24 **45.** Plaintiff has complied with the procedures for bringing suit specified in Labor Code
25 section 2699.3. On January 17, 2025, Plaintiff filed a PAGA Claim Notice with the LWDA and
26 provided notice to Defendants by certified mail which provided notice of the specific provisions of
27 the Labor Code alleged to have been violated, including the facts and theories to support the
28 violations alleged.

1 46. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, the LWDA must give written notice by
2 certified mail to the parties that it intends to investigate the alleged violations of the Labor Code
3 within 60 days of the date of the complainant's written notice. The LWDA failed to provide the
4 parties notice within 60 days of the date of Plaintiff's PAGA Claim Notice that the LWDA intends
5 to investigate Plaintiff's claims.

6 47. Pursuant to Labor Code sections 2699(a) and (f), Plaintiff is entitled to recover civil
7 penalties for Defendants' violations of 204, 223, 226(a), 226.7, 246, 510, 512, and 1194 During
8 Plaintiff's employment and continuing through the present, preceding Plaintiff sending the initial
9 PAGA Claim Notice to the LWDA to the present, in the following amounts:

10 a. For violations of Labor Code sections 226(a), and 226.7, one hundred dollars
11 (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial violation and two hundred dollars
12 (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation [penalty amounts
13 established by Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)].

14 b. For violations of Labor Code section 226(a), alternatively, two hundred fifty
15 dollars (\$250) for each employee for each pay period for the initial violation, and for each
16 subsequent violation, one thousand dollars (\$1000) for each underpaid employee for each pay period
17 [penalty amounts established by Labor Code section 226.3].

18 c. For violations of Labor Code section 510 and 512, fifty dollars (\$50) for each
19 employee for each pay period for the initial violation, and for each subsequent violation, one
20 hundred dollars (\$100) for each underpaid employee for each pay period [penalty amounts
21 established by Labor Code section 558].

22 d. For violations of Labor Code section 204, one hundred dollars (\$100) for
23 each failure to pay each employee in any initial violation, and for each subsequent violation, or any
24 willful or intentional violation, two hundred dollars (\$200) for each failure to pay each employee,
25 plus 25 percent of the amount unlawfully withheld [penalty amounts established by Labor Code
26 section 210].

27 e. For violations of Labor Code section 223, one hundred dollars (\$100) for
28 each failure to pay each employee in any initial violation, and for each subsequent violation, or any

1 willful or intentional violation, two hundred dollars (\$200) for each failure to pay each employee,
2 plus 25 percent of the amount unlawfully withheld [penalty amounts established by Labor Code
3 section 225.5].

4 48. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(g), Plaintiff is entitled to an award of
5 reasonable attorneys' fees and costs in connection with his claims for civil penalties.

6 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

7 **WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF, ON BEHALF OF HIMSELF AND ON OTHER AGGRIEVED**
8 **EMPLOYEES, PRAYS AS FOLLOWS:**

9 **ON THE FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION:**

10 1. That Defendants be found to have violated the provisions of the Labor Code and the
11 IWC Wages Orders as to the Plaintiff and aggrieved employees;

12 2. For any and all legally applicable penalties during the relevant statute of limitations
13 subject to any permissible tolling, including but not limited to those recoverable under the California
14 Labor Code, including but not limited to sections 210, 225.5, 226.3, 558, 2699(f);

15 3. For attorneys' fees and costs of suit, including but not limited to those recoverable
16 under California Labor Code section 2699(g); and

17 4. For such and other further relief, in law and/or equity, as the Court deems just or
18 appropriate.

19
20 Dated: March 25, 2025

Respectfully submitted,
LAVI & EBRAHIMIAN, LLP

21
22 By: /s/ Matthew J. Gustin
23 Joseph Lavi, Esq.
24 Vincent C. Granberry, Esq.
25 Matthew J. Gustin, Esq.
26 Attorneys for Plaintiff
27 EDUARDO ELOISA
28 on behalf of himself and current and former
aggrieved employees