

1 Alan Harris (SBN 146079)
2 Priya Mohan (SBN 228984)
3 HARRIS & RUBLE
4 655 North Central Avenue 17th Floor
5 Glendale California 91203
6 Tel: 323.962.3777
7 Fax: 323.962.3004
8 harrisa@harrisandruble.com
9 pmohan@harrisandruble.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff D. Shinjo

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10 D. SHINJO, individually and on behalf of
11 all others similarly situated,

12 Plaintiff,

13 v.

14 RADICALMEDIA, LLC, and DOE 1
15 through and including DOE 10,

16 Defendants.
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

Case No: 2:22-CV-04738-SSS-KKx
Related Case: 2:21-CV-09632-SSS-KKx

**FIRST AMENDED CLASS AND
COLLECTIVE ACTION
COMPLAINT**

1. Cal. Lab. Code (the “Code”) § 203,
Continuing Wages
2. Code §226(a), Wage Statements
3. Code § 226.7 and Wage Order,
Failure to Provide Rest Breaks
4. Code §§ 1194 and 1198 Failure to
Provide Pay Proper Minimum Wages
5. Cal. Bus & Prof. Code §§ 17200 *et*
seq. – Restitution
6. Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C.
§201 *et seq.*
7. Code §§ 2698 *et seq.*, PAGA civil
penalties

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

1 Plaintiff Daniel Shinjo (“Shinjo” or “Plaintiff”), by and through his undersigned
 2 attorneys, alleges a motion picture industry representative, class and collective action
 3 seeking unpaid wages, damages, statutory penalties, attorneys’ fees, costs and such other
 4 relief as may be appropriate in the circumstances, as follows:

5 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

6 1. The central issues over which this Court has federal question and
 7 supplemental or ancillary jurisdiction are Plaintiff’s allegations regarding the tardy
 8 payment of earned wages, in violation of the FLSA (Biggs v. Wilson, 1 F.3d 1537, 1541
 9 (9th Cir. 1993) and the California Labor Code (the “Code”) requirements for payment of
 10 both “continuing wages” and liquidated damages under the minimum wage law;
 11 Augustus violations by Defendant’s misuse of walkie-talkies and/or cell phones during
 12 the physical/on-set production of motion pictures;¹ the defense paying wages with
 13 defective wage statements; and the defense responsibility to pay PAGA civil penalties to
 14 the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”) of the State of California,
 15 with Shinjo and other Aggrieved Employees (Aggrieved Employees being those who
 16 suffered from one or more of the alleged PAGA violations within the period commencing
 17 one year prior to the filing of the Shinjo PAGA Notice to date) to potentially receive a
 18 portion of the PAGA recovery.

19 2. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1441(b).
 20 Defendant constitutes an “enterprise” within the meaning of the Fair Labor Standards
 21 Act, 29 U.S.C. § 203. See 29 U.S.C. § 203(r) (defining “enterprise”). Defendant is
 22 engaged in interstate commerce, with annual sales in excess of \$1,000,000 and with more
 23 than 1000 employees. This Court has federal-question jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C.
 24 § 1331. Furthermore, under 28 U.S.C. § 1367, this Court may exercise supplemental
 25

26 ¹ The production of a “motion picture” is defined in the Code (the “Code”) as “the
 27 development, creation, presentation, or broadcasting of theatrical or televised motion
 28 pictures, television programs, commercial advertisements, music videos, or any other
 moving images.” Code § 201.5(a)(4). This case is focused on Defendants’ production of
 motion pictures.

1 jurisdiction over Plaintiff's state-law claims. This Court should exercise its jurisdiction
2 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367. See 28 U.S.C. § 1367(c) (explaining grounds on which
3 courts may decline to exercise supplemental jurisdiction). Venue as to Defendants is
4 proper in this judicial district. Defendants maintain an office, transact business, have an
5 agent, or are found in the County of Los Angeles and are within the jurisdiction of this
6 Court for purposes of service of process. The violations of the FLSA alleged herein had
7 a direct effect on and were committed within the State of California, impacting Plaintiff
8 and other similarly situated employees.

9 3. Emergency Rule 9 as promulgated by the Judicial Council of California
10 provides: "Notwithstanding any other law, the statutes of limitations and repose for civil
11 causes of action that exceed 180 days are tolled from April 6, 2020, until October 1,
12 2020." The Advisory Committee Comment notes that: "Emergency rule 9 is intended to
13 apply broadly to toll any statute of limitations on the filing of a pleading in court
14 asserting a civil cause of action. The term "civil causes of action" includes special
15 proceedings. (See Code Civ. Proc., §§ 312, 363 ["action," as used in title 2 of the code
16 (Of the Time of Commencing Civil Actions), is construed "as including a special
17 proceeding of a civil nature"). . . . The rule also applies to statutes of limitations on filing
18 of causes of action in court found in codes other than the Code of Civil Procedure."
19 Further, the pendency of a class action in California, Divinity v. RM Studio Enterprises,
20 Inc., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV37526 (filed September 30, 2020)
21 tolls any applicable statutes of limitation implicated by the California state law claims
22 herein.

23 **THE PARTIES**

24 4. Plaintiff Shinjo is an individual, who, during the time periods relevant to this
25 Complaint, was an employee of Defendant in the County of Los Angeles, State of
26 California. He has been a resident of this judicial district during the relevant period.

27 5. RadicalMedia, LLC ("RM") is a Delaware limited liability company, which
28 at all times relevant herein conducted business within the County of Los Angeles, State

1 of California, continuously since it was founded, having the expertise to produce music
 2 videos for the likes of Janet Jackson and Jay-Z, as well as RM television commercials for
 3 Verizon, GMC, Taco Bell, Subway, Burger King, Adidas, George Forman Grills,
 4 Budweiser, Jack In The Box, Safeway, Bud Lite, and Cadillac, yet nevertheless failing to
 5 pay its crew on those motion pictures in timely fashion, leading to its settlement of earlier
 6 cases, similar to that now plead, including Greenberg v. EP Mgmt. Servs., LP, Los
 7 Angeles Superior Court (Case No. BC237787) and Harrington v. Manpay, LLC, Los
 8 Angeles Superior Court (Case No. BC312171). According to RM:

9 The company develops, produces and distributes award-winning projects in a
 10 variety of media including television, digital, feature films, music programming,
 11 commercials, graphic and interactive design, exhibitions, and live events, with
 12 offices in New York, Los Angeles, Berlin, Sydney and Shanghai. . . . The company
 13 has been honored with an Academy Award®, Emmys®, a Golden Globe®,
 14 Grammys® . . . two Palme d’Ors at the Cannes Lions International Advertising
 15 Festival, and just about every other accolade and trophy associated with the
 16 advertising, marketing, and programming businesses.

17 (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/radicalmedia/about/>)(last accessed June 25, 2022).

18 6. Defendants Doe One through and including Doe Ten are sued herein under
 19 the provisions of section 474 of the California Code of Civil Procedure. Plaintiff is
 20 unaware of the true names, identities or capacities, whether corporate, individual or
 21 otherwise, of said fictitiously named defendants, but leave of Court will be prayed to
 22 amend this pleading to insert the same herein when finally ascertained. Plaintiff is
 23 informed, believes and thereupon alleges that each of the fictitiously named Defendants
 24 is an entity, which during the relevant time period maintained a place of business in the
 25 County of Los Angeles of the State of California.

26 7. Defendants RM and Does One through and including Doe Ten are
 27 collectively referred to as the “Defendant” or “Defendants”.
 28

1 8. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon allege that all Defendants,
2 including the fictitious Doe defendants, were at all relevant times acting as actual agents,
3 conspirators, ostensible agents, alter egos, partners and/or joint venturers and/or
4 employees of all other defendants, and that all acts alleged herein occurred within the
5 course and scope of said agency, employment, partnership, and joint venture, conspiracy
6 or enterprise, and with the express and/or implied permission, knowledge, consent
7 authorization and ratification of their co-defendants; however, each of these allegations
8 are deemed “alternative” theories whenever not doing so would result in a contradiction
9 with other allegations.

10 **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

11 9. Code §§226(a)(1) and (5) require that the employer provide its employees
12 with wage statements showing the gross and net wages earned. Plaintiff’s wage
13 statement does not provide the correct amount of gross and net wages earned, as wage
14 statements must show premium wages for missed, tardy or truncated rest breaks and meal
15 periods. Naranjo v. Spectrum Security Services, 13 Cal. 5th 93 (2022). The wage
16 statements issued by RM to Plaintiff and other employees who worked on motion
17 pictures for it failed to comply.

18 10. Code §226(a)(6) requires the employer to provide a wage statement which
19 shows “the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid.” Here, the
20 defense at times, for some employees, only provided the day on which work for the
21 Acura commercial was undertaken, making it impossible for the employee to determine
22 whether they were paid timely or for all accrued overtime during the week at issue. For
23 example, another member of the April 16, 2022, Acura crew, Kevin Payne, was provided
24 a tardy paycheck, dated May 12, 2022, for a faux “Pay Period” – “04/16/2002 –
25 04/16/2022,” also mailed on or after May 13, 2022. At least two members of the crew
26 who worked on the April 16, 2022, Acura commercial – Plaintiff Daniel Shinjo and
27 Edward F. Martinez, Jr. – were provided a wage statement with a faux “Pay Period” of
28 “04/10/2022 – 05/21/2022,” along with a tardy check, dated May 12, 2022, but not

1 mailed until on or after May 13, 2022. As with those issued wage statements which
2 reflected a pay period of a single day, employees who are issued wage statements with
3 faux, long pay periods (as with Plaintiff, 04/10/2022 – 05/21/2022) also have no way in
4 which to determine – from the wage statement alone -- whether the payment is timely.
5 The wage statement issued to Shinjo and other members of the crew as well as other
6 persons who provided services for RM on other motion pictures reveal that Defendant did
7 not properly compensate them for their earned wages for their work for Defendant RM,
8 the paychecks being tardy and unsuccessful in meeting the requirement to reflect earned
9 wages on account of Defendant's failure to provide them with required rest periods
10 and/or meal breaks.

11 11. For many years, RM has issued wage statements to its temporary services
12 employees advising them that their "Pay Period" is "W[EEKLY]." (E.g., RADICAL-
13 MANN 000002).² In addition, pursuant to the provisions of Code section 2810.5, the
14 California Wage Theft Prevention Act, it has advised the temporary services employees
15 that their "Regular pay day" is weekly, on Fridays. (E.g., RADICAL-MANN 000002).
16 For example, on September 7, 2018, in connection with its responsibilities under the
17 California Wage Theft Prevention Act (WTPA), RM gave formal Notice to a member of
18 its crew for another television commercial – "Cadillac #2753" – that the "Regular pay
19 day" was "Friday." See RADICAL-MANN 000001.

20 12. Section 226(a)(6) violations result in the employees being "deemed to suffer
21 injury" under Code §226(e)(2)(B)(i).

22 13. On April 16, 2022, Shinjo was employed by Defendant to provide it with
23 services on a location shoot for an Acura commercial. Shinjo received a wage statement
24 and paycheck for his services, but it was not mailed to him until on or after May 13,
25 2022, failing the timeliness requirements of Code sections 201.3, 201.5, 203 and/or 204,

26
27 ² This reference, along with other, similar ones, is to the RM production of documents in
28 an alpha-numeric sequence, enabling the Parties to identify the source of the materials.
Since a protective order has yet to be entered in this case, the document itself, while
known to the Defendants, is not yet placed in the record.

1 resulting in FLSA liability for payment of liquidated damages under Biggs v. Wilson, 1
2 F.3d 1537 (1993).

3 14. On April 16, 2022, Plaintiff worked for Defendant on a motion picture
4 project known as “ACURA #3066” for a single day, after which he was laid off without a
5 return date, at all. With respect to his work on April 16, 2022, Shinjo was engaged for
6 over eight hours, entitling him to payment of wages in excess of the straight time rate. He
7 and most other crew were issued a walkie-talkie by RM. Throughout the workday,
8 Plaintiff and others were expected to and did monitor it. Shinjo and others were required
9 to and did respond to calls throughout the whole workday. Nevertheless, they were not
10 provided an additional hour of pay for missed rest breaks.

11 15. When Plaintiff ceased working for Defendant, he was not timely paid all
12 wages accrued, including minimum wages or overtime, a violation of the FLSA giving
13 rise to a right for liquidated damages. Brooklyn Savings Bank v. O'Neil, 324 U.S. 697,
14 707 (1945)(“failure to pay the statutory minimum on time may be . . . detrimental to
15 maintenance of the minimum standard of living 'necessary for health, efficiency, and
16 general well-being of workers' and to the free flow of commerce. . . .”); Biggs v.
17 Wilson; 1998 DOLWH LEXIS 70, *2 (Dep't of Labor Wage & Hour Div. July 20,
18 1998)(“It has been our longstanding position that an employer is required to pay
19 employees the full minimum wages and overtime due on the regular payday for the
20 workweek in question. See, for example, Opinion Letter 63 (Nov. 30, 1961), and the
21 Department's interpretative regulations at 29 CFR 778.106 and 790.21(b).”)

22 16. Here, the Defendant permitted Plaintiff and other members of their motion
23 picture crews to perform functions that are normally part of the business of motion
24 picture production. The Defendants had a duty to ensure that Plaintiff and other crew
25 were properly paid the wages that they had been promised, but RM failed to do so in
26 timely fashion, or failed to do so at all with respect to rest breaks and or meal periods.
27 Defendant RM failed to ensure that Plaintiff and others were timely paid their final
28 wages, with an appropriate wage statement and appropriate rest breaks and meal periods.

1 17. As is routine in the motion picture industry (which includes the production
2 of feature films and television programs, as well as commercials and music videos), after
3 a short stint of work (even just a single day), Plaintiff and many others were discharged
4 under Code sections 201.3 and 201.5, when their employment ceased. Smith v. Superior
5 Court, 39 Cal. 4th 77, 80 (2006) (holding that hair model who worked for one day at a
6 show was discharged at the end of the workday and entitled to penalties under section
7 203 when she was paid two months later).

8 18. It is “an employer’s duty under the FLSA to maintain accurate records of its
9 employees’ hours” and that duty “is non-delegable.” Kuebel v. Black & Decker Inc., 643
10 F.3d 352, 363 (2d Cir. 2011). Although Kuebel establishes that it is solely the
11 employer’s duty to keep track of hours worked under the federal FLSA, and although
12 many of Plaintiff’s wage-and-hour claims are brought under the Code, the fact remains
13 that Defendant, at all times, was subject to the FLSA and therefore was itself required to
14 keep track of Plaintiff’s hours worked. See Troester v. Starbucks Corp., 5 Cal. 5th 829,
15 839 (2018) (explaining that, although California’s wage-and-hour laws are “more
16 protective than federal law” and that “California is free to offer [employees] greater
17 protection,” the FLSA “provide[s] a level of employee protection that a state may not
18 derogate”). Troester, 5 Cal. 5th at 846 (“Nor is it clear why, when it is difficult to keep
19 track of time worked, the employee alone should bear the burden of that difficulty”), 848
20 (“An employer may be able to customize and adapt available time tracking tools or
21 develop new ones when no off-the-shelf product meets its needs. And even when neither
22 a restructuring of work nor a technological fix is practical, it may be possible to
23 reasonably estimate work time . . . and to compensate employees for that time.”). Marlo
24 v. United Parcel Serv., Inc., No. CV 03-04336 DDP (RZx), 2009 WL 1258491, at *3
25 (C.D. Cal. May 5, 2009) explains that, under California law, “employers must keep track
26 of the hours . . . employees work.”

27 19. Before an employee starts to work for an employer, the employer is required
28 to have the employee fill out the requisite new-hire paperwork, including the W-4 and I-

1 9, tasks which were here completed. (GE 1-2) See, e.g., Ketchikan Drywall Servs., Inc.
 2 v. Immigration & Customs Enforcement, 725 F.3d 1103, 1113 (9th Cir. 2013) (stating
 3 that 8 U.S.C. § 1324a “clearly makes employers responsible for documenting employee
 4 work authorization” and that, “[w]here [a defendant] cho[oses] to hire employees who
 5 ha[ve] failed to fill out [s]ection 1 [of I-9 Forms] completely, it d[oes] so at its own
 6 peril”); 26 C.F.R. § 31-3402(f)(2)-1 subsec. (a) (stating that a withholding-exemption
 7 certificate must be completed “[o]n or before the date on which an individual commences
 8 employment”); 22 Cal. Code Regs. § 4340-1(a) stating that a withholding-exemption
 9 certificate must be completed “[o]n or before the date on which an individual commences
 10 employment”). If, for example, the employee fails to complete the necessary tax
 11 documents—the employer must follow the guidance from the Internal Revenue Service
 12 and the California Employment Development Department by withholding taxes as if the
 13 employee is single with no withholding allowances. *See Internal Revenue Serv., Topic*
 14 *Number 753 – Form W-4 – Employee’s Withholding Allowance Certificate* (last updated
 15 Mar. 1, 2018), <https://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc753>. There is an analogous cite from the
 16 California EDD (re defaulting to the single-no-allowances rule): Cal. Emp’t Dev. Dep’t,
 17 *Employer’s Obligations for Form W-4 or DE 4* (2016), [https://www.edd.ca.gov/](https://www.edd.ca.gov/pdf_pub_ctr/de71.pdf)
 18 [pdf_pub_ctr/de71.pdf](https://www.edd.ca.gov/pdf_pub_ctr/de71.pdf)).

19 20. In addition, Defendants failed to provide proper rest breaks or meal periods.
 20 In the motion picture industry and in motion pictures produced by RM, the making of a
 21 motion picture is routinely divided into three phases: pre-production, on-set production
 22 and post-production, with the largest number of individual crew working during on-set
 23 production.

24 21. During on-set production, the Production Department (including in relevant
 25 part the First Assistant Director, the Second Assistant Director[s], and Production
 26 Assistants), the Camera Department, the Grip Department, the Electric Department, the
 27 Transportation Department, the Location Department (including the Location Manager
 28 and their assistants as well as the Fire Safety Advisor[s] and off-duty or retired members

1 of the LAPD) are all issued walkie-talkies or required to man their cell phones
2 (hereinafter, collectively, the “On-Set Communicators”). The On-Set Communicators are
3 required to and do respond to queries and/or instructions at any time from when they
4 commence work at the beginning of the workday of on-set production until they are
5 released at the end of their workday. The practices herein described with respect to
6 walkie-talkie and/or cell phone uses in the motion picture industry are deeply rooted in
7 the history and traditions of the motion picture business. Since crew were required to
8 monitor their walkie-talkies and/or cell phones all day they are entitled to premium wages
9 for Defendants’ failure to provide compliant rest breaks and meal periods.

10 22. Aggrieved Employees and the 17200 Class have not ever been compensated
11 for with wages for missed, tardy or interrupted rest breaks. Plaintiff and the 17200 Class
12 consistently worked more than 6-hour workdays. However, they were required to keep
13 their walkie talkies and/or cell phones on their persons, turned on and audible at all times,
14 including during “down time” and/or rest periods and meal breaks, during which time
15 they were precluded from leaving the set. Accordingly, they were denied their breaks
16 and are entitled to an additional payment of premium wages for workday in excess of six
17 hours, once for each day worked in excess of four hours for rest breaks and six hours for
18 meal periods. Augustus v. ABM Security Services, Inc., 2 Cal.5th 257 (2016). Certain
19 RM employees were paid some premium wages for two or more missed, tardy or
20 truncated meals during a seven day workweek, but their wage statements violated Code
21 section 226(a)(9) insofar as the statements failed to show “all applicable hourly rates in
22 effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each
23 hourly rate by the employee.”

24 23. Defendants did not compensate Plaintiff, Aggrieved Employees or Code
25 Class Members on its many motion picture productions as required by the Fair Labor
26 Standards Act or sections 201.3 and 201.5 of the Code.

27 24. Defendants failed to properly compensate Plaintiff and other nonexempt
28 workers who performed services for it on the production of motion pictures. Plaintiff and

1 the Class Members worked either on the Productions specifically referenced herein,
2 and/or other California motion picture projects, toiling more than six hours in a single
3 day, yet not being paid timely, for missed rest breaks and meal periods, or with
4 appropriate wage statements, all due to Defendant's insufficient funding of the payroll
5 accounting function and desire to make such payments from funds received for each
6 project, all pursuant to a separate budget, rather than from working capital.

7 25. For example, in connection with the RM production in or about August and
8 September, 2021, for Apple, Inc. ("Apple") of a motion picture with the "Job Name" of
9 "Tropic", RM routinely required crew to work each day during seven (7) day work
10 weeks, yet then did not pay them in timely fashion. RM did not timely pay its crew for
11 Apple during the consecutive weeks they worked, from, for example, the weeks ending
12 August 14, 2021, August 21, 2021, and August 28, 2021 (all paid in tardy fashion in
13 violation of the FLSA and in violation of Code section 210) or for the final week on
14 which most of the crew worked, the week ending September 4, 2021 (also paid late in
15 violation of the FLSA and Code section 203). Further, RM did not pay the crew for any
16 missed, truncated or tardy rest breaks. RM paid the crew for some, but not all of the
17 missed, truncated or tardy meal periods. RM did not pay the crew with compliant wage
18 statements, those documents failing to provide correct detail (either proper accounting for
19 accrued meal periods and rest breaks or reporting of "the inclusive dates of the period for
20 which the employee is paid"). Further, with respect to the RM requirement that crew
21 work for seven consecutive days in a row, it appears that RM attempted to manipulate the
22 payroll to avoid or minimize the overtime requirements of Code section 510. As a result
23 of the RM violation of the requirements of Augustus, the On-Set Communicators were
24 routinely deprived of their meal periods and rest breaks. Based on its systematic Code
25 violations on the Apple "Tropic" motion picture, in light of the requirements of Code
26 section 203, it appears that the entire crew of over 100 workers, or the great majority of
27 them, may be entitled to an additional thirty days of wages, as well as liquidated damages
28 under the FLSA. Specifically, one member of the crew, Fernando Lopez, worked during

1 the faux “pay period” of “09/01/21 – 09/01/21” but was not paid at all until on or after
2 September 23, 2021, when his check was prepared. His paycheck for September 1, 2021,
3 should have been prepared for him on or before Friday, September 10, 2021. Lopez was
4 an on On-Set Communicator on “Tropic” but has yet to be paid his wages on account of
5 missed rest breaks.

6 26. On another television commercial for “Cheetos #2918”, crew member Kevin
7 T. Payne worked on the faux “Pay Period” of “10/23/2020 – 10/23/2020” yet he was not
8 paid at all until on or after November 9, 2020. His paycheck for October 23, 2020,
9 should have been prepared for him on or before Friday, October 30, 2020. Payne was an
10 on On-Set Communicator on the “Cheetos #2918” commercial, but has yet to be paid his
11 wages on account of missed meal periods or rest breaks.

12 27. On another television commercial for “Old Navy #2931”, crew member
13 Andres Cruz worked on the faux “Pay Period” of “01/26/21 – 01/26/2021” yet he was not
14 paid at all until on or after February 5, 2021. His paycheck for January 26, 2021, should
15 have been prepared for him on or before Friday, February 5, 2021. Cruz was an on On-
16 Set Communicator on the “Old Navy #2931” commercial, but has yet to be paid his
17 wages on account of missed meal periods or rest breaks.

18 28. On another television commercial for “Target #3012”, crew member Andres
19 Cruz worked on the faux “Pay Period” of “08/17/2021-08/17/2021” yet he was not paid
20 at all until on or after September 3, 2021. His paycheck for August 17, 2021, should
21 have been prepared for him on or before Friday, August 27, 2021. Cruz was an on On-
22 Set Communicator on the “Target #3012” commercial, but has yet to be paid his wages
23 on account of missed rest breaks.

24 29. On another television commercial for “BMW #2972”, crew member Kevin
25 T. Payne worked on the faux “Pay Period” of “05/14/2021 – 05/15/2021” yet he was not
26 paid at all until on or after May 28, 2021. His paycheck for May 14-15, 2021, should
27 have been prepared for him on or before Friday, May 21, 2021. Payne was an on On-Set
28

1 Communicator on the “BMW #2972” commercial, but has yet to be paid his wages on
2 account of missed meal periods or rest breaks.

3 30. On another television commercial for “LA Tourism # 3019”, crew member
4 Kevin T. Payne worked on the “Pay Period” of “10/31/21 – 11/06/2021” yet he was not
5 paid at all until on or after November 18, 2021. His paycheck for the week ending
6 November 6, 2021, should have been prepared for him on or before Friday, November
7 12, 2021. Payne was an on On-Set Communicator on the “LA Tourism #3019”
8 commercial, but has yet to be paid his wages on account of missed rest breaks.

9 31. On another television commercial for “Cadillac #2753”, crew member John
10 H. Washington worked on the “Pay Period” of “09/08/2018 – 09/08/2018” yet he was not
11 paid all overtime wages until on or after October 10, 2018. (RADICAL-WASHINGTON
12 000002). His paycheck for September 8, 2018, should have been prepared for him on or
13 before Friday, September 14, 2018. Washington was an on On-Set Communicator on the
14 “Cadillac # 2753” commercial, but has yet to be paid his wages on account of missed rest
15 breaks or meal periods.

16 32. As another example, in connection with the RM commercial shoot with a
17 RM “Job Name” of “Noom #3018,” crew provided services during the “Pay Period” from
18 “09/19/2021-09/25/2021” yet final paychecks were not prepared until well over a week
19 after September 25, 2021, as they were not cut until on or after October 6, 2021. As a
20 result of the RM violation of the requirements of Augustus, the On-Set Communicators
21 for the Noom production, as well as other recent motion pictures of RM (including,
22 without limitation, motion pictures featuring major companies/brands such as US
23 Cellular, Wrangler, Meijer, Facebook, Nationwide Insurance, Mountain Dew, Old Navy,
24 AT&T, Toyota, Allstate, Cheetos, Lexus, Blue Shield, Oreo, Kraft, Pillsbury, Lincoln,
25 BMW, Dodge, GAP, KIA, McDonald’s, Toyota, Ford, Chase Bank, L’Oreal, EBAY,
26 Honda and Jack Daniels) were routinely deprived of their meal periods and rest breaks.

27 33. At all relevant times mentioned herein, Wage Order 12 (Motion Picture
28 Industry) of the California Industrial Welfare Commission applied to Plaintiff and

1 Collective Action Members. In part, the Wage Order reflects employer obligations
2 regarding hours and days of work, reporting time pay, records, and rest periods
3 (obligations which the employer, here, failed to fulfill, both with respect to Plaintiff and
4 Collective Action Members). The Wage Order provides, in relevant part:

5 **3. Hours and Days of Work.**

6 (A) Daily Overtime-General Provisions

7 (1) The following overtime provisions are applicable to employees eighteen
8 (18) years of age or over and to employees sixteen (16) or seventeen (17)
9 years of age who are not required by law to attend school and are not
10 otherwise prohibited by law from engaging in the subject work.

11 Such employees shall not be employed more than eight (8) hours in any
12 workday or more than forty (40) hours in any workweek unless the
13 employee receives one and one-half (1 ½) times such employee's regular
14 rate of pay for all hours worked over forty (40) hours in the workweek Eight
15 (8) hours of labor constitutes a day's work. Employment beyond eight (8)
16 hours in any workday or more than six (6) days in any workweek is
17 permissible provided the employee is compensated for such overtime as
18 follows:

19 (a) Employees may be employed up to a maximum of sixteen (16) hours
20 including meal periods in any one day from the time they are required and
21 do report until dismissed, provided the employee is compensated for such
22 overtime at not less than:

23 (1) For daily employees and weekly employees, excluding weekly
24 employees guaranteed more than forty (40) hours a workweek and "on call"
25 employees, one and one-half (1 ½) times the employee's regular rate of pay
26 for all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours up to and including twelve
27 (12) hours in any one workday, and for the first eight (8) hours worked on
28 the seventh (7th) consecutive day of work in a workweek; and

(2) Double the employee's regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of twelve (12) hours in any workday, , and for all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours on the seventh (7th) consecutive day of work in a workweek.

(3) Overtime payments shall not be compounded and all payments made by the employer for daily overtime on the basis herein above specified shall be applied toward any sum for weekly overtime.

(4) The overtime rate of compensation required to be paid to a nonexempt full-time salaried employee shall be computed by using the employee's regular hourly salary as one fortieth (1/40) of the employee's weekly salary.

...

7. Records.

(A) Every employer shall keep accurate information with respect to each employee including the following:

(1) Full name, home address, occupation and social security number.

(2) Birth date, if under 18 years, and designation as a minor.

(3) Time records showing when the employee begins and ends each work period. Meal periods, split shift intervals and total daily hours worked shall also be recorded. Meal periods during which operations cease and authorized rest periods need not be recorded.

(4) Total wages paid each payroll period, including value of board, lodging, or other compensation actually furnished to the employee.

(5) Total hours worked in the payroll period and applicable rates of pay.

This information shall be made readily available to the employee upon reasonable request.

(6) When a piece rate or incentive plan is in operation, piece rates or an explanation of the incentive plan formula shall be provided to employees.

An accurate production record shall be maintained by the employer.

1 (B) Every employer shall semimonthly or at the time of each payment of
2 wages furnish each employee, either as a detachable part of the check, draft,
3 or voucher paying the employee's wages, or separately, an itemized
4 statement in writing showing: (1) all deductions; (2) the inclusive dates of
5 the period for which the employee is paid; (3) the name of the employee or
6 the employee's social security number; and (4) the name of the employer,
7 provided all deductions made on written orders of the employee may be
8 aggregated and shown as one item.

9 (C) All required records shall be in the English language and in ink or other
10 indelible form, properly dated, showing month, day and year, and shall be
11 kept on file by the employer for at least three years at the place of
12 employment or at a central location within the State of California. An
13 employee's records shall be available for inspection by the employee upon
14 reasonable request.

15 . . .

16 **11. Meal Periods.**

17 (A) No employer shall employ any person for a work period of more than
18 six (6) hours without a meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes, nor
19 more than one (1) hour. Subsequent meal period for all employees shall be
20 called not later than six (6) hours after the termination of the preceding meal
21 period.

22 (B) Unless the employee is relieved of all duty during a thirty (30) minute
23 meal period, the meal period shall be considered an "on duty" meal period
24 and counted as time worked. An "on duty" meal period shall be permitted
25 only when the nature of the work prevents an employee from being relieved
26 of all duty and when by written agreement between the parties an on-the-job
27 paid meal period is agreed to. The written agreement shall state that the
28 employee may, in writing, revoke the agreement at any time.

(C) If an employer fails to provide an employee a meal period in accordance with the applicable provisions of this Order, the employer shall pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each work day that the meal period is not provided.

(D) In all places of employment where employees are required to eat on the premises, a suitable place for that purpose shall be designated.

12. Rest Periods.

(A) Every employer shall authorize and permit all employees to take rest periods, which insofar as practicable shall be in the middle of each work period. The authorized 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. However, a rest period need not be authorized for employees whose total daily work time is less than three and one-half (3 ½) hours. Authorized rest period time shall be counted as hours worked for which there shall be no deduction from wages.

(B) If an employer fails to provide an employee a rest period in accordance with the applicable provisions of this Order, the employer shall pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each work day that the rest period is not provided.

(C) Swimmers, dancers, skaters, and other performers engaged in strenuous physical activities shall have additional interim rest periods during periods of actual rehearsal or shooting.

Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 8, § 11120 ("Wage Order").

34. At all times relevant herein, Plaintiff was a "temporary services employee" under section 201.3 of the Code, and the Code provided that employees of temporary services employers be paid "no less frequently than weekly." Similarly, section 201.5 of the Code provided in part:

(a) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

1 (1) “An employee engaged in the production or broadcasting of motion
2 pictures” means an employee to whom both of the following apply:

3 (A) The employee’s job duties relate to or support the production or
4 broadcasting of motion pictures or the facilities or equipment used in the
5 production or broadcasting of motion pictures.

6 (B) The employee is hired for a period of limited duration to render services
7 relating to or supporting a particular motion picture production or
8 broadcasting project, or is hired on the basis of one or more daily or weekly
9 calls.

10 (2) “Daily or weekly call” means an employment that, by its terms, will
11 expire at the conclusion of one day or one week, unless renewed.

12 (3) “Next regular payday” means the day designated by the employer,
13 pursuant to Section 204, for payment of wages earned during the payroll
14 period in which the termination occurs.

15 (4) “Production or broadcasting of motion pictures” means the development,
16 creation, presentation, or broadcasting of theatrical or televised motion
17 pictures, television programs, commercial advertisements, music videos, or
18 any other moving images, including, but not limited to, productions made
19 for entertainment, commercial, religious, or educational purposes, whether
20 these productions are presented by means of film, tape, live broadcast, cable,
21 satellite transmission, Web cast, or any other technology that is now in use
22 or may be adopted in the future.

23 (b) An employee engaged in the production or broadcasting of motion
24 pictures whose employment terminates is entitled to receive payment of the
25 wages earned and unpaid at the time of the termination by the next regular
26 payday.

27 (c) The payment of wages to employees covered by this section may be
28 mailed to the employee or made available to the employee at a location

1 specified by the employer in the county where the employee was hired or
 2 performed labor. The payment shall be deemed to have been made on the
 3 date that the employee's wages are mailed to the employee or made
 4 available to the employee at the location specified by the employer,
 5 whichever is earlier.

6 (d) For purposes of this section, an employment terminates when the
 7 employment relationship ends, whether by discharge, lay off, resignation,
 8 completion of employment for a specified term, or otherwise.

9 (e) Nothing in this section prohibits the parties to a valid collective
 10 bargaining agreement from establishing alternative provisions for final
 11 payment of wages to employees covered by this section if those provisions
 12 do not exceed the time limitation established in Section 204.

13 Code § 201.5.

14 35. Defendants employed individuals such as Plaintiff and similarly situated
 15 Code Class and Collective Action Members to work on the production on motion
 16 pictures, yet Defendants failed to timely or fully pay them, all in violation, inter alia, of
 17 Code sections 201.3 and 201.5.

18 36. At all relevant times mentioned herein, section 203 of the Code provided:
 19 If an employer willfully fails to pay, without abatement or reduction, in
 20 accordance with Sections 201, 201.3, 201.5, 201.6, 201.8, 201.9, 202 and
 21 202.5, any wages of an employee who is discharged or who quits, the wages
 22 of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date thereof at the
 23 same rate until paid or until action therefore is commenced; but the wages
 24 shall not continue for more than 30 days.

25 Code § 203. By failing to pay Plaintiff and similarly situated Class and Collective Action
 26 Members all wages when due at termination, Plaintiff, Class and Collective Action
 27 Members are entitled to continuing wages pursuant to section 203 of the Code.

28 37. At all times relevant herein, section 204 of the Code provided in part:

1 All wages, other than those mentioned in Section 201, 201.3, 202, 204.1, or
 2 204.2, earned by any person in any employment are due and payable twice
 3 during each calendar month, on days designated in advance by the employer
 4 as the regular paydays. Labor performed between the 1st and 15th days,
 5 inclusive, of any calendar month shall be paid for between the 16th and the
 6 26th day of the month during which the labor was performed, and labor
 7 performed between the 16th and the last day, inclusive, of any calendar
 8 month, shall be paid for between the 1st and 10th day of the following
 9 month.

10 Code § 204.

11 38. In no event should Plaintiff, Class or Collective Action Members have been
 12 paid later than the time periods established by sections 201.3, 201.5 or 204 of the Code,
 13 but certain payments were not made in a timely fashion, all leading to penalties under
 14 sections 203 and 204 of the Code.

15 39. At all times relevant herein, section 210 of the Code provided:

16 In addition to, and entirely independent and apart from, any other penalty
 17 provided in this article, every person who fails to pay the wages of each
 18 employee as provided in Sections 204, 204b, 204.1, 204.2, 205, 205.5, and
 19 1197.5, shall be subject to a civil penalty as follows: (a) For any initial
 20 violation, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each failure to pay each employee;
 21 (b) For each subsequent violation, or any willful or intentional violation, two
 22 hundred dollars (\$200) for each failure to pay each employee, plus 25
 23 percent of the amount unlawfully withheld.

24 Code § 210. Further, the Defendants' policy has been to devote insufficient resources to
 25 the payroll accounting function, with the inevitable result that employees are routinely
 26 paid in tardy fashion, in violation of sections 203 and 204 of the Code, and otherwise in
 27 violation of the Code.
 28

1 40. Code sections 226.7, 512 and Section 12 of the Wage Order require an
2 employer to pay an additional hour of compensation for each rest break and/or meal
3 period the employer fails to provide. Section 12 requires that: “No employer shall employ
4 any person for a work period of more than six (6) hours without a meal period of not less
5 than thirty (30) minutes, nor more than one (1) hour. Subsequent meal period for all
6 employees shall be called not later than six (6) hours after the termination of the
7 preceding meal period.”

8 41. Here, Defendants failed to apprise Plaintiff and all 17200 Class Members of
9 their rights associated with meal periods and rest breaks and failed to provide timely meal
10 periods and rest breaks. On information and belief, prior to the filing of this lawsuit
11 Defendants have never paid a Plaintiff or 17200 Class Members one hour of pay at the
12 employees’ regular rate of compensation for any workday in which a proper rest break
13 was not provided. Plaintiff and all 17200 Class Members are entitled to restitution of the
14 sums owing to them on account of missed meal periods and rest breaks.

15 42. Defendant had a pattern and practice of not providing compliant rest breaks
16 or meal periods or paying the one-hour of premium wages for each rest break violation to
17 which Plaintiff and §17200 Class Members was entitled.

18 43. Defendants failed to properly notify Plaintiff and Members of the 17200
19 Class of their rights associated with meal periods and rest breaks.

20 44. At all relevant times mentioned herein, section 226.7 of the Code provided:

21 (a) As used in this section, “recovery period” means a cooldown period
22 afforded an employee to prevent heat illness.

23 (b) An employer shall not require an employee to work during a meal or rest
24 or recovery period mandated pursuant to an applicable statute, or applicable
25 regulation, standard, or order of the Industrial Welfare Commission, the
26 Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board, or the Division of
27 Occupational Safety and Health.

28 (c) If an employer fails to provide an employee a meal or rest or recovery

1 period in accordance with a state law, including, but not limited to, an
2 applicable statute or applicable regulation, standard, or order of the
3 Industrial Welfare Commission, the Occupational Safety and Health
4 Standards Board, or the Division of Occupational Safety and Health, the
5 employer shall pay the employee one additional hour of pay at the
6 employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that the meal or
7 rest or recovery period is not provided.

8 Code § 226.7.

9 45. At all relevant times mentioned herein, section 510(a) of the Code provided:
10 Eight hours of labor constitutes a day's work. Any work in excess of eight
11 hours in one workday and any work in excess of 40 hours in any one
12 workweek and the first eight hours worked on the seventh day of work in
13 any one workweek shall be compensated at the rate of at least one and one-
14 half times the regular rate of pay for an employee. Any work in excess of 12
15 hours in one day shall be compensated at the rate of no less than twice the
16 regular rate of pay for an employee. In addition, any work in excess of eight
17 hours on any seventh day of a workweek shall be compensated at the rate of
18 no less than twice the regular rate of pay of an employee. Nothing in this
19 section requires an employer to combine more than one rate of overtime
20 compensation in order to calculate the amount to be paid to an employee for
21 any hour of overtime work.

22 Code § 510.

23 46. Plaintiff and certain Class and Collective Action Members were not timely
24 paid proper overtime wages to which they were entitled in violation of the FLSA and
25 Code §§ 510, 515 and 1194. Both late payment and nonpayment of overtime wages for
26 all hours worked violates the overtime wage statute. Defendants are also subject to the
27 civil penalties for which provision is made in Code § 558 by failing to pay Class and
28 Collective Action Members their overtime wages.

47. At all relevant times mentioned herein, section 1194 of the Code provided: Notwithstanding any agreement to work for a lesser wage, any employee receiving less than the legal minimum wage or the legal overtime compensation applicable to the employee is entitled to recover in a civil action the unpaid balance of the full amount of this minimum wage or overtime compensation, including interest thereon, reasonable attorney's fees, and costs of suit.

Code § 1194.

48. At all relevant times mentioned herein, section 2802 of the Code provided in part:

(a) An employer shall indemnify his or her employee for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of his or duties

(b) All awards made by a court . . . for reimbursement of necessary expenditures under this section shall carry interest at the same rate as judgments in civil actions. Interest shall accrue from the date on which the employee incurred the necessary expenditure or loss.

(c) For purposes of this section, the term "necessary expenditures or losses" shall include all reasonable costs, including, but not limited to, attorney's fees incurred by the employee enforcing rights granted by this section.

Code § 2802. Defendants failed to reimburse Plaintiff, Class and Collective Action Members similarly situated employees for necessary business expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, such as for the use of a personal cell phone and for motion picture production equipment and supplies.

49. At all relevant times mentioned herein, section 558 of the Code provided: Any employer or other person acting on behalf of an employer who violates,

1 or causes to be violated, a section of this chapter or any provision regulating
2 hours and days of work in any order of the Industrial Welfare Commission
3 shall be subject to a civil penalty as follows: (1) For any initial violation,
4 fifty dollars (\$50) for each underpaid employee for each pay period for
5 which the employee was underpaid in addition to an amount sufficient to
6 recover underpaid wages. (2) For each subsequent violation, one hundred
7 dollars (\$100) for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which
8 the employee was underpaid in addition to an amount sufficient to recover
9 underpaid wages. (3) Wages recovered pursuant to this section shall be paid
10 to the affected employee.

11 Code § 558. Defendants are the employers or other persons acting on behalf of an
12 employer who violated, or caused to be violated the relevant sections of the Code
13 referenced herein.

14 50. At all relevant times mentioned herein, section 558.1 of the Code provided:

15 (a) Any employer or other person acting on behalf of an employer, who
16 violates, or causes to be violated, any provision regulating minimum wages
17 or hours and days of work in any order of the Industrial Welfare
18 Commission, or violates, or causes to be violated, Sections 203, 226, 226.7,
19 1193.6, 1194, or 2802, may be held liable as the employer for such violation.

20 (b) For purposes of this section, the term “other person acting on behalf of
21 an employer” is limited to a natural person who is an owner, director,
22 officer, or managing agent of the employer, and the term “managing agent”
23 has the same meaning as in subdivision (b) of Section 3294 of the Civil
24 Code.

25 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the definition of
26 employer under existing law.

27 Code § 558.1. Defendants’ personnel were on the set of the Acura Production and
28 actively participated in the Production.

COLLECTIVE-ACTION ALLEGATIONS

51. Plaintiff seeks to represent all nonexempt employees who worked for Defendants during the period beginning no earlier than three years prior to the filing hereof to the mailing of the FLSA Opt-In Notice (such persons are referred to hereafter as “Collective Action Members.”).

52. Plaintiff is similarly situated to the Collective Action Members in that Plaintiff and the Collective Action Members were employed by Defendants and in that Defendants did not pay Plaintiff and the Collective Action Members their overtime and/or minimum wages when due. Plaintiff’s consent to an FLSA collective action is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**.

53. This action is maintainable as an “opt-in” collective action pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

54. All Collective Action Members should be given notice and be allowed to give their consent in writing to participate in—in other words, to opt into—the collective action pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

55. This action has been brought and may be properly maintained as a Collective Action under the provisions of the FLSA because there is a well-defined community of interest in the litigation and the identity of the members of the proposed Collective Action group is easily ascertainable.

56. Defendants, as to Plaintiff and Collective Action Members, failed to comply with the FLSA and, accordingly, Defendants’ failure to make timely payment entitles Plaintiff and each Collective Action Member to statutory damages and/or liquidated damages.

CLASS-ACTION ALLEGATIONS

57. With respect to persons employed in the State of California, Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated as a class action pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Plaintiff seeks to represent a “17200 Class” composed of and defined as follows:

1 For the period four years and 180 days prior to the filling of this Complaint to date,
2 all persons who were On-Set Communicators (such persons are referred to
3 hereafter as 17200 Class Members, and such period is referred to hereafter as the
4 17200 Class Period).

5 Plaintiff seeks to represent a “226 Class” composed of and defined as follows:

6 For the period one year prior to the filling of this Complaint to date, all persons
7 paid wages on account of services provided for Defendants in the production of
8 Motion Pictures (such persons are referred to hereafter as 226 Class Members, and
9 such period is referred to hereafter as the 226 Class Period).

10 Plaintiff seeks to represent a “Code Class” composed of and defined as follows:

11 For the period three years and 180 days prior to the filling of this Complaint to
12 date, all persons who were not provided with wages within seven days after
13 completion of their last workweek for RM (such persons are referred to hereafter
14 as Code Class Members, and such period is referred to hereafter as the Code Class
15 Period).

16 **A. Numerosity**

17 58. The potential members of each Class as defined are so numerous that joinder
18 of all the members of any Class is impracticable. The number of Class Members is great,
19 but not so great as to make the class unmanageable. It, therefore, is impractical to join
20 each Class Member as a named plaintiff. Accordingly, utilization of a class action is the
21 most economically feasible means of determining the merits of this litigation.

22 59. Despite the size of the proposed Classes, the Class Members are readily
23 ascertainable through an examination of the records that Defendants are required by law
24 to keep. See Wage Order 12 at Para. 7 (“Records”). Likewise, the dollar amount owed
25 to each Class Member is readily ascertainable by an examination of those same records.
26 For example, with respect to Defendant’s violations of section 226(a)(6) of the Code, the
27 damages owing to each Class Member equals the sum of \$50 (for the initial wage
28 statement issued to the employee during the period commencing one year prior to the

1 filing of the Complaint) and the product of the number of further wage statements issued
2 to the employee and \$100, with a per employee cap of \$4,000.

3 **Commonality**

4 60. There are questions of law and fact common to each Class that predominate
5 over any questions affecting only individual Class Members.

6 61. These common questions of law and fact include, without limitation:

- 7 a. Whether Defendants failed to pay all wages in a timely fashion in violation
- 8 of sections 201.3, 201.5, 203 and/or 204 of the Code.
- 9 b. Whether Defendants' failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements
- 10 to each and every employee violates Code section 226(a).
- 11 c. Whether Defendants untimely and/or nonpayment of wages give rise to
- 12 liquidated damages for failure to pay minimum wages under Code section
- 13 1194.2.
- 14 d. Whether Defendants' failure to provide rest breaks to each employee
- 15 violates Code section 226.7.
- 16 e. Whether the crew are temporary service employees as referenced in Code
- 17 section 201.3.

18 **Typicality**

19 62. There is a well-defined community of interest in the questions of law and
20 fact common to the Class Members.

21 63. The claims of the named Plaintiff are typical of the claims of each Class,
22 which claims all arise from the same general operative facts, namely, Defendants did not
23 compensate its employees as required by the Code and applicable Wage Order. Plaintiff
24 and all members of the Classes sustained injuries and damages arising out of and caused
25 by Defendants in violation of laws, regulations that have the force and effect of law, and
26 statutes as alleged herein. Plaintiff has no conflict of interest with the other Class
27 Members and is able to represent the Class Members' interests fairly and adequately.
28

1 Adequacy of Representation

2 64. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the
3 members of each Class. Counsel who represents Plaintiff is sufficiently competent and
4 experienced in decades of litigation of large employment and other class actions, both in
5 state and federal courts. Neither Plaintiff nor his counsel have any conflict with the
6 members of the Classes.

7 65. Plaintiff is an adequate class representative and has no known conflicts with
8 any members of the Classes. Plaintiff worked as an On-Set Communicator. He seeks
9 certification of three classes.

10 66. With respect to shortcomings alleged with respect to wage statements,
11 Plaintiff seeks to represent a “226 Class” as the wage statements do not provide the data
12 as required by Code §226 (a)(1), (5), (6) or (9).

13 67. With respect to the alleged tardy payment of final wages, Plaintiff seeks to
14 represent a “Code Class.” Late in the last century, motion picture producers secured as
15 exemption from Code §201, requiring immediate payment of employees who have been
16 laid off. The revised statute permitted an additional twenty-four hours for payment of
17 crew members when the production was concluded. Motion picture companies ignored
18 this slight advantage, instead routinely paying laid off crew in the regular pay cycle, or
19 later, often, as here, many weeks after the work had been completed. Litigation ensued,³
20 resulting in an industry-wide settlement of the Greenberg case, after which further
21 legislative relief was secured by employers in the entertainment industry. Section 201.5
22 of the Code was amended to permit payment of final wages “by the next regular payday.”
23 Code §201.5(b). Thereafter, in reaction to Smith v. Superior Court, the commercial

24
25 ³ Bithell v. E.P. Mgmt. Servs., 2007 Cal. App. Unpub. LEXIS 9706, *3 (2006) (“On
26 October 2, 2000, plaintiff Greenberg filed this class action (the Greenberg claims). In the
27 original complaint, plaintiff alleged that a purported defendant class of employers in the
28 motion picture industry violated former Code section 201.5 (which the Legislature
amended on May 19, 1998) by failing to pay discharged employees’ wages due and
owing within 24 hours after discharge.”) Another, similar case against RM was, Alderson
v. Avalon Payroll Services, Inc., Los Angeles Superior Court (BC347925).

1 industry secured a new statute, Code §201.3, permitting temporary services employers
 2 such as RM to pay cast and crew in the week following completion of their services.
 3 [https://www.littler.com/new-california-paycheck-law-aimed-temp-industry-creates-risk-](https://www.littler.com/new-california-paycheck-law-aimed-temp-industry-creates-risk-broad-range-industries)
 4 [broad-range-industries](https://www.littler.com/new-california-paycheck-law-aimed-temp-industry-creates-risk-broad-range-industries) (last accessed June 25, 2022) and
 5 [https://www.jacksonlewis.com/resources-publication/californias-paycheck-rule-](https://www.jacksonlewis.com/resources-publication/californias-paycheck-rule-temporary-workers-take-effect-new-years-day)
 6 [temporary-workers-take-effect-new-years-day](https://www.jacksonlewis.com/resources-publication/californias-paycheck-rule-temporary-workers-take-effect-new-years-day) (last accessed June 25, 2022).

7 68. Finally, with respect to the rest break issues, Plaintiff seeks to represent a
 8 “17200 Class.” Plaintiff contends that since On-Set Communicators were required to and
 9 did monitor their walkie-talkies and/or cell phones all day they are entitled to premium
 10 wages for Defendants’ failure to provide compliant rest breaks and meal periods.
 11 Augustus v. ABM Security Services, Inc., 2 Cal.5th 257 (2016).

12 **Superiority of Class Action**

13 69. A class action is superior to other available means for the fair and efficient
 14 adjudication of this controversy. Individual joinder of all Class Members is not
 15 practicable, and questions of law and fact common to the Class predominate over any
 16 questions affecting only individual members of the Class. Each member of the Class has
 17 been damaged and is entitled to recovery by reason of Defendants’ illegal policy and/or
 18 practice of failing to pay hourly wages, failing to pay overtime wages, failing to provide
 19 Class Members rest periods without legal compensation. Class action treatment will
 20 allow those similarly situated persons to litigate their claims in the manner that is most
 21 efficient and economical for the parties and the judicial system. Plaintiff is unaware of
 22 any difficulties that are likely to be construed in the management of this action that would
 23 preclude its maintenance as a class action. The disposition of all claims of the members
 24 of the Class in a class action, rather than in individual actions, benefits the parties and the
 25 Court. The interest of the Class Members in controlling the prosecution of separate
 26 claims against Defendants is small when compared with the efficiency of a class action.

27 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

28 (Continuing Wages, Code §§201.3, 201.5, 203 and/or 204
 On Behalf of Plaintiff and Code Class Against All Defendants)

1 70. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates herein by reference the allegations
2 contained in this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

3 71. Defendants employed Plaintiff and Code Class Action Members. Plaintiff
4 and Code Class Members were not timely paid all wages accrued upon separation from
5 employment.

6 72. For example, with respect to services provided on Saturday, April 16, 2022,
7 RM issued a wage statement to Plaintiff Shinjo, but not until on or after May 13, 2022,
8 tardy by some three weeks. Plaintiff and other similarly situated Class Members, paid
9 later than the Friday after the prior Sunday to Saturday workweek during which they
10 completed their last day of work for Defendants, are all entitled to the penalties for which
11 provision is made by Code section 203.

12 73. Defendants' failure to compensate Plaintiff and Code Class Members within
13 the time for which provision is made by sections 201.3 and 201.5 of the Code, despite
14 their knowledge of their obligation to do so, was and is "willful" as the word is used in
15 section 203.

16 74. Pursuant to section 203 of the Code, Plaintiff and Code Class Members are
17 entitled to continuing wages from Defendants in an amount according to proof. Plaintiff
18 and Code Class Members are also entitled to recover costs and reasonable attorneys' fees
19 under section 218.5 of the Code.

20 21 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

22 (Failure to Provide Compliant Wage Statements or Pay Stubs, Code § 226(a)
23 On Behalf of Plaintiff and 226 Class Members Against Defendants)

24 75. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation set forth in this
25 Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

26 76. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff and 226 Class Members with wage
27 statements conforming to the requirements of section 226(a)(1), (5), (6) or (9) of the
28 Code.

 77. The foregoing was intentional misconduct of Defendants that injured

1 Plaintiff and 226 Class Members insofar as they were deprived of information to which
 2 they were legally entitled, including but not limited to the required data, such as gross
 3 and net wages earned.

4 78. The failure of Defendants to provide compliant wage statements violates
 5 section 226(a) of the Code. Accordingly, Plaintiff and 226 Class Members are entitled to
 6 damages in an amount according to proof and costs and reasonable attorney's fees in
 7 accordance with the provisions of Code section 226(e), all in a sum according to proof.
 8 Plaintiff is entitled to an amount according to proof of at least \$50, not including interest
 9 thereon, reasonable attorneys' fees and cost of suit.

10 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

11 (Failure to Provide Rest Breaks, Code § 226.7 and IWC Wage Order 12)
 12 Liquidated Damages On Behalf of Plaintiff and 17200 Class Against Defendants)

13 79. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation set forth in this
 14 Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

15 80. At all times herein relevant, sections 226.7 of the Code and IWC Wage
 16 Order 12 provided that employees must receive rest periods of at the rate of ten (10)
 17 minutes net rest time per four (4) hours worked, or major fraction thereof.

18 81. By its failure to provide required rest breaks to Plaintiff and 17200 Class
 19 Members, Defendants willfully violated the provisions of Code sections 226.7 and IWC
 20 Wage Order 12. The defense misconduct in this regard, as well as with meal periods owed
 21 to other Aggrieved employees—depriving the workers of fully-compliant meal periods and
 22 rest breaks so they might retain a sufficient degree of repose and relaxation required to
 23 function at a high level – is unfair to the workers and the general public as it is contrary to
 24 established public policy and may be deemed unsafe, immoral, unethical, oppressive and
 25 unscrupulous. By diminishing one's opportunity to have a respite and take a breather, the
 26 defense policies cause injury to Plaintiff, the members of the 17200 Class and the general
 27 public. The work here at issue is strenuous and quite frequently involves lengthy
 28 overtime, taking place at set locations which require the workers to drive to and from the

1 place of work, locations for which public transport is utterly impractical and leading to the
 2 possibility of traffic accidents and physical injury to completely innocent members of the
 3 general public, as well as the Defendant's workers. For example, in the filming of the
 4 Acura commercial on April 16, 2022, Shinjo and other members of the crew were
 5 required to work for more than eight hours on most, if not all, of their workdays.

6 82. Plaintiff and 17200 Class Members were not permitted to leave the set of the
 7 Production for any purported rest periods or meal breaks. They were required to monitor
 8 and be available via walkie-talkie and/or cell phone at all times.

9 83. Because Defendants failed to properly provide the proper rest breaks or meal
 10 periods, Defendants are responsible to Plaintiff and 17200 Class Members for one hour of
 11 additional pay at their regular rate of compensation for each workday during which they
 12 worked for four or more hours, pursuant to Code section 226.7 and IWC Wage Order.

13 84. As a result of the unlawful acts of Defendants, Plaintiff and 17200 Class
 14 Members have been deprived of premium wages, and/or other compensation in amounts
 15 to be determined at trial, and are entitled to recovery of such amounts, plus interest
 16 thereon, and costs.

17 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

18 (Damages for Unpaid Minimum Wages, Code §§ 1194, 1194.2 and 1198
 19 On Behalf of Plaintiff and Code Class Members Against All Defendants)

20 85. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates herein by reference the allegations
 21 contained in this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

22 86. Plaintiff and the 17200 Class Members worked many hours for Defendants,
 23 without compensation for work performed, as required by law. Both late payment and
 24 non-payment of minimum wages violate the state statute requiring the payment of a
 25 minimum hourly wage, the former giving rise as here to a claim for liquidated damages.

26 87. Plaintiff and 17200 Class Members are entitled to recover liquidated
 27 damages under section 1194.2 of the Code in an amount according to proof. Plaintiff and
 28 17200 Class Members are also entitled to recover costs and reasonable attorneys' fees
 under section 1194 of the Code.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Unfair Business Practices Business and Professions Code section 17200 *et seq.*
On Behalf of Plaintiff and 17200 Class Against Defendants)

88. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates herein by reference the allegations contained in this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

89. Business and Professions Code section 17200 *et seq.* prohibits acts of unfair competition, including any “unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business act or practice.” Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 *et seq.* Plaintiff alleges that Defendants engaged in unfair business practices in California by the above-described failure to timely pay all premium wages due on account of the failure of Defendants to provide proper rest breaks and/or meal periods to On-Set Communicators. Under this Cause of Action Plaintiff seeks restitution of these unpaid wages, for his account and for the 17200 Class.

90. Defendants’ violation of California wage and hour laws as herein articulated constitutes a business practice for the reasons set forth above and because Defendants’ aforementioned acts and omissions were done repeatedly over a significant period of time, and in a systematic manner, to the detriment of Plaintiff, 17200 Class Members, their families and the general public. On Set Communicators are routinely deprived of rest breaks, all to the detriment of public safety, as hereinabove described.

91. As a result of Defendants’ unfair and unlawful business practices, Defendants have reaped unfair and illegal profits during the relevant time period herein at the expense of Plaintiff and the Collective Action Members and members of the public. Defendants should be made to disgorge its ill-gotten gains and to restore them to Plaintiff and 17200 Class Members.

92. The actions of Defendants entitle Plaintiff to seek the remedies available under section 17200 *et seq.* Plaintiff seeks full restitution of said amounts from Defendants, as necessary and according to proof, to restore any and all amounts—including interest—withheld, acquired, or converted by Defendants by means of the unfair practices complained of herein. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself, as well as on behalf

1 of the general public, further seeks attorney's fees and costs pursuant to sections 218.5 of
2 the Code and 1021.5 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

3 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

4 (Fair Labor Standards Act On Behalf of Plaintiff and Collective
5 Action Members Against All Defendants)

6 93. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates herein by reference the allegations
7 contained in this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

8 94. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that Defendants
9 are employers engaged in an enterprise in interstate commerce pursuant to the Fair Labor
10 Standards Act ("FLSA"), 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq.*

11 95. Plaintiff was not timely paid his wages. Plaintiff and Collective Action
12 Members worked many hours each day during their employment as herein alleged.

13 96. Under the FLSA, Plaintiff and Collective Action Members are entitled to
14 recover from Defendants their liquidated damages for hours worked, as well as costs and
15 attorney's fees.

16 97. Defendants failed to compensate Plaintiff and Collective Action Members
17 as required by the FLSA.

18 98. Defendants' violations were willful and intentional.

19 99. Plaintiff and Collective Action Members are entitled to damages for unpaid
20 wages and/or the associated liquidated damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

21 100. Plaintiff brings this claim on a collective-action basis pursuant to the FLSA.
22 The FLSA permits an employee to bring an action for unpaid wages on "behalf of
23 himself . . . and other employees similarly situated," so long as all similarly situated
24 employees "give[] [their] consent in writing to become . . . a party." 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).
25 On information and belief, none were timely paid all wages as required by sections 201,
26 202, 203 or 204 of the Code.
27
28

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(PAGA On Behalf of the State of California, Plaintiff and
Aggrieved Employees Against All Defendants)

101. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates herein by reference the allegations contained in this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

102. Pursuant to section 2699.3(a)(1) of the Code, by certified mail posted on July 12, 2022, Plaintiff gave written notice by online filing to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”) of the specific provisions of the Code alleged to have been violated by Defendant, including the theories set forth in this Complaint. At that same time, pursuant to section 2699.3(a)((1)(B) Plaintiff sent by certified mail a filing fee of \$75 to the LWDA. Also on that day, Plaintiff gave written notice by certified mail to Defendant of the specific provisions of the Code alleged to have been violated by Defendant.

103. Under PAGA, “[t]he agency shall notify the employer and the aggrieved employee or representative by certified mail that it does not intend to investigate the alleged violation within 60 calendar days of the postmark date of the notice received pursuant to paragraph (1). Upon receipt of that notice or if no notice is provided within 65 calendar days of the postmark date of the notice given pursuant to paragraph (1), the aggrieved employee may commence a civil action pursuant to Section 2699.” Code § 2699.3(a)(2)(A). Since more than 65 calendar days have passed since the notice was sent, and no notice was provided by the LWDA, Plaintiff may amend this civil action pursuant to Code Section 2699.

104. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant has routinely failed to provide Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees with proper itemized wage statements, final wages, minimum wages, and premium wages owing on account of requiring On Set Communicators to monito their walkie-talkies and/or cell phones throughout the day, even during down time and faux rest breaks and/or meal periods. The foregoing caused Plaintiff to suffer actual injury sufficient to support Article III standing.

105. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant violated PAGA through violations of the

Code and through violations of IWC Wage Order 12. “PAGA actions can serve to *indirectly* enforce certain wage order provisions by enforcing *statutes* that require compliance with wage orders (e.g., § 1198, which prohibits longer work hours than those fixed by wage order or employment under conditions prohibited by a wage order).” Thurman v. Bayshore Transit Mgmt., Inc., 203 Cal. App. 4th 1112, 1132 (2012).

106. Plaintiff is an “aggrieved employee” under PAGA, as he was employed by Defendants during the applicable statutory period and suffered the Code Violations set forth herein. Accordingly, he seeks to recover on behalf of himself, the LWDA and all other current and former Aggrieved Employees of Defendant, the civil penalties for which provision is made by PAGA, as well as reasonable attorney’s fees and costs.

107. Plaintiff seeks to recover the PAGA civil penalties through a representative action permitted by PAGA and the California Supreme Court in Arias v. Superior Court, 46 Cal.4th 969 (2009). Therefore, class certification of the PAGA claims is not required.

108. Plaintiff seeks to recover civil penalties pursuant to PAGA for violations of the following Code provisions:

- a. failure to timely pay wages, including wages owing on account of underpayment of premium wages owing on account of inappropriate rest breaks and/or meal periods as well as accrued and unpaid overtime in violation of Code §§ 201.3, 201.5, 203, 204, 210;
- b. failure to provide itemized wage statements to Aggrieved Employees in violation of Code §§ 226(a) and 226.3;
- c. failure to timely pay minimum wages to Aggrieved Employees in violation of Code §§ 510, 558, 1194, 1197 and/or 1198.

109. With respect to violations of Code §§ 510, Code § 558 imposes a civil penalty in addition to any other penalty provided by law of fifty dollars (\$50) for initial violations for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the employee was underpaid in addition to an amount sufficient to recover unpaid wages, and one hundred dollars (\$100) for subsequent violations for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the

1 employee was underpaid in addition to an amount sufficient to recover underpaid wages.

2 110. With respect to violations of Code § 226(a), section 2699(f) of the Code
3 provides for a default civil penalty when one is not otherwise provided.

4 111. With respect to violations of Code § 246(h), Code § 248.5 imposes a civil
5 penalty in addition to any other penalty provided by law of fifty dollars (\$50) per aggrieved
6 employee for the first violation, not to exceed (\$4,000) per aggrieved employee for all
7 violations of Code § 246 and section 2699(f) of the Code provides for a default civil
8 penalty when one is not otherwise provided.

9 112. With respect to violations of Code § 1174, Code § 1174.5 imposes a civil
10 penalty of \$500.

11 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff prays judgment as follows:

12 1. That the Court certify a Class and Collective Action.

13 2. That, under the First Cause of Action, it be adjudged that the failure of
14 Defendants to make payment of Plaintiff's and Code Class Members' wages was in
15 violation of sections 201.3, 201.5 and/or 204 of the Code, and was "willful" as that word
16 is used in section 203 of the Code, and that the Court enter judgment against Defendants
17 in favor of Plaintiff and Code Class Members. That judgment be entered in favor of
18 Plaintiff and Code Class Members in an amount prescribed by section 203 of the Code,
19 and costs and reasonable attorneys' fees in accordance with the provisions of Code
20 section 218.5, all in a sum of at least \$575,000.

21 3. That, under the Second Cause of Action, this Court enter judgment in favor
22 of Plaintiff and 226 Class Members and award them their damages, penalties, and costs
23 of suit, all according to proof pursuant to section 218.5 and other relevant sections of the
24 Code, in an amount of at least \$1,000.

25 4. That, under the Third Cause of Action, this Court enter judgment in favor of
26 Plaintiff and 17200 Class Members and award them their damages, penalties, and costs of
27 suit, all according to proof, pursuant to section 218.5 and other relevant sections of the
28 Code, all in an amount of at least \$10,000.

1 5. That, under the Fourth Cause of Action, this Court enter judgment in favor
2 of Plaintiff and 17200 Class Members and award them their damages, penalties, and costs
3 of suit, all according to proof, pursuant to section 218.5 and other relevant sections of the
4 Code, all in an amount of at least \$10,000.

5 6. That, under the Fifth Cause of Action, this Court enter judgment in favor of
6 Plaintiff and Code Class Members in the amount of liquidated damages for tardy
7 payment of minimum wages according to proof, including interest thereon, reasonable
8 attorneys' fees and cost of suit, and enter judgment against Defendants in the amount of
9 damages according to proof, interest thereon, reasonable attorneys' fees and cost of suit,
10 pursuant to section 218.5, 1194, 1194.2 and other relevant sections of the Code.

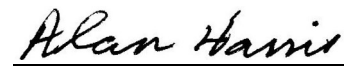
11 7. That, under the Sixth Cause of Action, this Court enter judgment in favor of
12 Plaintiff and Collective Action Members against all Defendants in an amount according
13 to proof, interest thereon, costs and reasonable attorney's fees in accordance with the Fair
14 Labor Standards Act.

15 8. That, with respect to the Seventh Cause of Action, this Court enter judgment
16 in favor of Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees against all Defendants in an amount
17 according to proof, interest thereon, costs and reasonable attorney's fees in accordance
18 with the PAGA, against Defendant.

19 9. For such further relief as the Court may order, attorney's fees, costs, and
20 interest pursuant to Code sections 218.5 and 218.6, and Code of Civil Procedure section
21 1021.5, in an amount according to proof.

22
23 DATED: May 19, 2023

HARRIS & RUBLE

24 
25 Alan Harris
26 *Attorney for Plaintiff*
27
28

INDEX OF EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1 – Plaintiff Shinjo’s FLSA Opt-In

Exhibit 1

FLSA CONSENT FORM

Pursuant to the provisions of 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), the Fair Labor Standards Act, I hereby consent to be a party plaintiff to this action.

5/18/2022

Date

Daniel K. Shinjo

Print Name

DocuSigned by:



DEF78778BE1D453...

Signature