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8 DOUGLAS & TAZ DOVE, individually,
9 and on behalf of Aggrieved Employees
10 pursuant to the California Private
11 Attorneys General Act

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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

11 BRANDON DOUGLAS & TAZ DOVE
12 individually, and on behalf of Aggrieved
13 Employees pursuant to the California Private
14 Attorneys General Act,

15 Plaintiffs,

16 vs.

17 VERIDIAM, INC.; and DOES 1 through 25,
18 inclusive,

19 Defendants.

ELECTRONICALLY FILED
Superior Court of California,
County of San Diego
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Clerk of the Superior Court
By A. Villasenor ,Deputy Clerk

Case No. 25CU023968C

**FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR
ENFORCEMENT ACTION UNDER THE
PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT,
CAL. LABOR CODE §§ 2698 ET SEQ.**

1 Plaintiffs BRANDON DOUGLAS & TAZ DOVE (“Plaintiffs”), individually, and on behalf
2 of all similarly aggrieved employees, allege against Defendants VERIDIAM, INC. and DOES 1
3 through 25 (collectively, “Defendants”) as follows:

4 **INTRODUCTION**

5 1. This is an enforcement action under the California Labor Code Private Attorneys
6 General Act of 2004, California Labor Code sections 2698, *et seq.* (“PAGA”) to recover civil penalties
7 on behalf of Plaintiffs, the State of California, and all individuals who worked for Defendants in the
8 State of California as hourly-paid and/or non-exempt employees at any time from one year prior to
9 Plaintiffs’ submission of written notice of Defendants’ alleged violations of the California Labor Code
10 to the Labor & Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”) through final judgment (“Aggrieved
11 Employees”).

12 2. Plaintiffs allege that Defendants hired Plaintiffs and Aggrieved Employees but failed
13 to properly pay them all wages owed for all time worked (including minimum wages, straight time
14 wages, and overtime wages), failed to provide one day’s rest in seven, failed to provide them with all
15 meal periods and rest periods and associated premium wages to which they were entitled, failed to
16 timely pay them all wages due during their employment, failed to timely pay them all wages due upon
17 termination of their employment, failed to provide them with accurate itemized wage statements, failed
18 to maintain accurate payroll records, and failed to reimburse them for necessary business expenses.

19 3. As a result, Defendants violated, *inter alia*, California Labor Code sections 201, 202,
20 203, 204, 226(a), 226.7, 510, 512(a), 551, 552, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800, and 2802,
21 and the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission (“IWC”) Wage Order. Defendants’ conduct giving
22 rise to these violations was malicious, fraudulent, and/or oppressive within the meaning of PAGA.
23 Through this action, Plaintiffs seek to recover all available remedies under PAGA including but not
24 limited to civil penalties and attorneys’ fees and costs.

25 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

26 4. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to the California Constitution,
27 Article VI, section 10. The statutes under which this action is brought do not specify any other basis
28 for jurisdiction.

5. This Court has jurisdiction over all Defendants because, upon information and belief, Defendants are either citizens of California, have sufficient minimum contacts in California, or otherwise intentionally availed themselves of the California market to render the exercise of jurisdiction over them by the California courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice. Further, no federal question is at issue because the claims asserted herein are based solely on California law.

6. Venue is proper in this Court because, upon information and belief, Defendants maintain offices, have agents, employ individuals, and/or transact business in the State of California, County of San Diego, including at 1717 Cuyamaca St, El Cajon, CA 92020. Many of the acts, events, and violations alleged herein relating to Plaintiffs occurred in the State of California, County of San Diego.

THE PARTIES

7. At all times mentioned herein, Plaintiff BRANDON DOUGLAS was and is a resident of San Diego County in the State of California.

8. At all times mentioned herein, Plaintiff TAZ DOVE was and is a resident of the State of California.

9. At all times herein mentioned, Defendant VERIDIAM, INC. was and is an employer who does business in California, with locations throughout the State of California, and whose employees are engaged throughout San Diego County and the State of California, including at 1717 Cuyamaca St, El Cajon, CA 92020.

10. Plaintiffs are unaware of the true names or capacities of the Defendants sued herein under the fictitious names DOES 1 through 25 but will seek leave of this Court to amend the complaint and serve such fictitiously named Defendants once their names and capacities become known.

11. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that each and all of the acts and omissions alleged herein were performed by, or are attributable to defendant VERIDIAM, INC. and/or DOES 1 through 25, each acting as the agent, employee, alter ego, and/or joint venturer of, or working in concert with, each of the other co-Defendants and within the course and scope of such agency, employment, joint venture, or concerted activity with legal authority to act on the others' behalf. The

1 acts of any and all Defendants represent and were in accordance with Defendants' official policy.

2 12. At all relevant times, Defendants were the employers of Plaintiffs within the meaning
3 of all applicable state laws and statutes. Defendants directly or indirectly controlled or affected the
4 working conditions, wages, working hours, and conditions of employment of Plaintiffs to make each
5 of said Defendants employers and employers liable under the statutory provisions set forth herein.

6 13. Defendants had the authority to hire and terminate Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved
7 Employees, to set work rules and conditions governing their employment, and to supervise their
8 daily employment activities.

9 14. Defendants exercised sufficient authority over the terms and conditions of Plaintiffs'
10 and the Aggrieved Employees' employment for them to be their joint employers.

11 15. Defendants directly hired and paid wages and benefits to Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved
12 Employees.

13 16. Defendants continue to employ hourly paid and/or non-exempt employees within the
14 State of California.

15 17. At all relevant times, Defendants, and each of them, ratified the acts and omissions
16 complained of herein. At all relevant times, Defendants, and each of them, aided and abetted the acts
17 and omissions of each and all the other Defendants in proximately causing the damages herein alleged.

18 18. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that each of said Defendants is
19 in some manner intentionally, negligently, or otherwise responsible for the acts, omissions,
20 occurrences, and transactions alleged herein.

21 **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

22 19. Plaintiff BRANDON DOUGLAS worked for Defendants from approximately May
23 2024 through approximately January 2025 as a Furnace Operator. Defendants jointly and severally
24 employed BRANDON DOUGLAS at their location in El Cajon, CA. BRANDON DOUGLAS
25 performed various duties for Defendants including, among other things, operating a furnace as well as
26 inspecting and finishing parts.

27 20. Plaintiff TAZ DOVE worked for Defendants from approximately August 2023 through
28 approximately May 2024 as a CNC Setup Operator. Defendants jointly and severally employed TAZ

DOVE at 4665 North Ave, Oceanside, CA 92056. TAZ DOVE performed various duties for Defendants including, among other things, setting up and operating CNC machines.

21. Defendants hired Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved Employees but failed to properly pay them all overtime wages and minimum wages for all hours worked, failed to provide one day's rest in seven, failed to provide all meal and rest breaks to which they were entitled, failed to timely pay all wages upon termination of employment, failed to provide accurate wage statements, failed to keep accurate employment records, failed to reimburse necessary business-related expenses, and failed to adhere to other related protections afforded by the California Labor Code and applicable IWC Wage Order.

22. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved Employees were entitled to the protections afforded by the California Labor Code and the applicable IWC Wage Order, yet as set forth in detail below, engaged in a systematic pattern and practice of violating the California Labor Code and the applicable IWC Wage Order.

PAGA ALLEGATIONS

23. PAGA is and was applicable to Defendants' employment of Plaintiffs and Aggrieved Employees.

24. PAGA provides that any provision of law under the California Labor Code that provides for a civil penalty, including unpaid wages and premium wages, to be assessed and collected by the LWDA for violations of the California Labor Code may, as an alternative, be recovered through a civil action brought by an aggrieved employee on behalf of themselves and other current or former employees pursuant to the procedures outlined in California Labor Code section 2699.3.

25. Pursuant to PAGA, a civil action may be brought by an "aggrieved employee," who is any person employed by the alleged violator and who suffered the violations alleged.

26. Plaintiffs and the other hourly-paid, non-exempt employees are "Aggrieved Employees" as defined by California Labor Code section 2699(c).

27. Pursuant to California Labor Code sections 2699.3 and 2699.5, an aggrieved employee, including Plaintiffs, may pursue a civil action arising under PAGA after the following requirements

1 have been met:

2 (a) The aggrieved employee shall give written notice by certified mail (hereinafter
3 “Employee’s Notice”) to the LWDA and the employer of the specific provisions of the
4 California Labor Code alleged to have been violated, including the facts and theories to
5 support the alleged violations.

6 (b) The LWDA shall provide notice (“LWDA Response”) to the employer and the aggrieved
7 employee by certified mail that it does not intend to investigate the alleged violation within
8 sixty (60) calendar days of the postmark date of the Employee’s Notice. Upon receipt of
9 the LWDA Response, or if the LWDA Response is not provided within sixty-five (65)
10 calendar days of the postmark date of the Employee’s Notice, the aggrieved employee
11 may commence a civil action pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699 to recover
12 civil penalties in addition to any other penalties to which the employee may be entitled.

13 28. On March 3, 2025, Plaintiff BRANDON DOUGLAS provided notice by electronic
14 submission to the LWDA and by certified mail to Defendants regarding the specific provisions of the
15 California Labor Code alleged to have been violated, including the facts and theories to support the
16 alleged violations, pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699.3. **A true and correct copy of the**
17 **Employee’s Notice is attached hereto as Exhibit A.**

18 29. On March 18, 2025, Plaintiffs BRANDON DOUGLAS and TAZ DOVE provided an
19 amended notice by electronic submission to the LWDA and by certified mail to Defendants regarding
20 the specific provisions of the California Labor Code alleged to have been violated, including the facts
21 and theories to support the alleged violations, pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699.3, and
22 adding Plaintiff TAZ DOVE to the PAGA matter. **A true and correct copy of the Employee’s Notice**
23 **is attached hereto as Exhibit B.**

24 30. Plaintiffs did not receive a LWDA Response within sixty-five (65) calendar days of
25 providing the Employee’s Notice.

26 31. Therefore, the administrative prerequisites under California Labor Code section
27 2699.3(a) to recover civil penalties against Defendants, in addition to other remedies for violations of,
28 *inter alia*, California Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 226(a), 226.7, 510, 512(a), 551, 552,

1 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800, and 2802 have been satisfied.

2 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

3 **VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA LABOR CODE §§ 2699, *ET SEQ.***

4 **(Against All Defendants)**

5 32. Plaintiffs incorporate herein by specific reference, as though fully set forth, the
6 allegations in all preceding paragraphs.

7 33. Plaintiffs bring this action on an individual basis and on a representative basis on behalf
8 of other Aggrieved Employees and the State of California, in Plaintiffs' capacity as a private attorney
9 general pursuant to the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, California Labor Code § 2698, *et seq.*

10 34. PAGA expressly provides for a private right of action to recover civil penalties for
11 violations of the California Labor Code as follows: "*Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any*
12 *provision of this code that provides for a civil penalty to be assessed and collected by the Labor and*
13 *Workforce Development Agency or any of its departments, divisions, commissions, boards, agencies,*
14 *or employees, for a violation of this code, may, as an alternative, be recovered through a civil action*
15 *brought by an aggrieved employee on behalf of himself or herself and other current or former*
16 *employees against whom a violation of the same code provision was committed pursuant to the*
17 *procedures specified in Section 2699.3.*" Cal. Lab. Code § 2699(a).

18 35. Whenever the LWDA, or any of its departments, divisions, commissions, boards,
19 agencies, or employees has discretion to assess a civil penalty, a court in a civil action is authorized to
20 exercise the same discretion, subject to the same limitations and conditions, to assess a civil penalty.

21 36. Plaintiffs and the other hourly-paid, non-exempt employees are "aggrieved employees"
22 as defined by California Labor Code section 2699(c).

23 37. Defendants' conduct, as alleged herein, violates numerous sections of the California
24 Labor Code, including, but not limited to, the following:

25 (a) Violation of California Labor Code sections 510 and 1198 for failure to pay
26 overtime wages, as set forth more fully below;

27 (b) Violation of California Labor Code sections 1194, 1197, and 1197.1 for failure to
28 pay minimum wages, as set forth more fully below;

- 1 (c) Violation of California Labor Code sections 551 and 552 for failure to provide one
2 day's rest in seven, as set forth more fully below;
- 3 (d) Violation of California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512(a) for failure to provide
4 legally required meal periods, as set forth more fully below;
- 5 (e) Violation of California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512(a) for failure to pay
6 required meal period premiums, as set forth more fully below;
- 7 (f) Violation of California Labor Code section 226.7 for failure to provide legally
8 required rest periods, as set forth more fully below;
- 9 (g) Violation of California Labor Code section 226.7 for failure to pay required rest
10 period premiums, as set forth more fully below;
- 11 (h) Violation of California Labor Code section 204 for failure to timely pay wages to
12 Plaintiffs and Aggrieved Employees during employment, as set forth more fully
13 below;
- 14 (i) Violation of California Labor Code sections 201, 202, and 203 for failure to pay all
15 wages at time of discharge from employment, as set forth more fully below;
- 16 (j) Violation of California Labor Code section 226(a) for failure to provide accurate
17 wage statements to Plaintiffs and Aggrieved Employees, as set forth more fully
18 below;
- 19 (k) Violation of California Labor Code section 1174(d) for failure to keep complete
20 and accurate payroll records relating to Plaintiffs and Aggrieved Employees, as set
21 forth more fully below; and
- 22 (l) Violation of California Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802 for failure to reimburse
23 Plaintiffs and Aggrieved Employees for necessary business-related expenses, as set
24 forth more fully below.

25 38. Pursuant to PAGA, and in particular California Labor Code sections 2699(a), 2699.3,
26 and 2699.5, Plaintiffs, acting in the public interest as private attorneys general, seek assessment and
27 collection of civil penalties for Plaintiffs, all Aggrieved Employees, and the State of California against
28 Defendants for violations of California Labor Code sections set forth herein, including penalties under

1 California Labor Code sections 2699, 558, 210, 1197.1, 226, 226.3, 1174.5, and 1197.1, penalties
2 under the applicable IWC Wage Order, and any and all additional penalties and remedies as provided
3 by the California Labor Code and/or other statutes.

4 39. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699(m), civil penalties recovered by the
5 Aggrieved Employees shall be distributed as follows: sixty-five percent (65%) to the LWDA for the
6 enforcement of labor laws and education of employers and employees about their rights and
7 responsibilities and thirty-five (35%) to the Aggrieved Employees.

8 40. Plaintiffs retained counsel to file this court action, and to assess and collect the civil
9 penalties owed by Defendants. Plaintiffs therefore seek an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and
10 costs pursuant to California Labor Code sections 210, 218.5, and 2699(g)(1), and any other applicable
11 statute.

12 **Failure to Pay Minimum Wages**

13 41. California Labor Code sections 1194, 1197, and 1197.1 provide that the minimum wage
14 for employees fixed by the IWC Wage Order is the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the
15 payment of a wage less than the minimum so fixed is unlawful.

16 42. The applicable IWC Wage Order sets the minimum wage for Plaintiffs and the
17 Aggrieved Employees.

18 43. Defendants failed to pay minimum wages to Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved Employees
19 for a wide range of off-the-clock work performed prior to clocking-in and/or after clocking-out for
20 their shifts.

21 44. Accordingly, Defendants regularly failed to pay at least minimum wages to Plaintiffs
22 and the Aggrieved Employees for all hours they worked in violation of California Labor Code sections
23 1194, 1197, and 1197.1. Defendants' conduct giving rise to these violations was malicious, fraudulent,
24 and/or oppressive within the meaning of PAGA.

25 **Failure to Pay Proper Overtime Wages**

26 45. California Labor Code section 510 and the applicable IWC Wage Order require
27 Defendants to pay Plaintiffs and Aggrieved Employees who worked more than eight (8) hours in a
28 day, more than forty (40) hours in a workweek, and/or seven (7) consecutive days, at the rate of one-

1 and-a-half times their regular rate for all such hours worked.

2 46. California Labor Code section 510 and the applicable IWC Wage Order further requires
3 Defendants to pay Plaintiffs and Aggrieved Employees who worked more than twelve (12) hours in a
4 day or more than eight (8) hours on the seventh consecutive day, overtime compensation at a rate of
5 two (2) times their regular rate of pay for all such hours worked.

6 47. During the relevant time period, Plaintiffs and Aggrieved Employees regularly worked
7 in excess of eight (8) hours in a day, in excess of twelve (12) hours in a day, in excess of forty (40)
8 hours in a workweek, and/or for seven (7) or more consecutive days, but Defendants routinely failed
9 to properly account for all such overtime hours and further failed to compensate Plaintiffs and
10 Aggrieved Employees at the correct overtime rates.

11 48. Defendants' failure to pay correct overtime wages included, *inter alia*: (a) when the
12 combined total of the off-the-clock work discussed *supra* and the on-the-clock work exceed the
13 number of hours that trigger the payment of overtime wages under California Labor Code sections
14 510 and/or the applicable IWC Wage Order; (b) when Defendants intentionally, willfully, and/or
15 negligently mischaracterized overtime as straight time or double time as time-and-a-half; (c) when
16 Defendants assigned more work than could reasonably be completed in a workday or workweek to
17 Plaintiffs and Aggrieved Employees, but refused to authorize the overtime necessary for them to
18 complete the assigned work; and (d) when Defendants failed to include all required wages and
19 renumeration when calculating the overtime rate.

20 49. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiffs and Aggrieved Employees proper overtime
21 compensation, as required by California law, violates the provisions of California Labor Code section
22 510, and is therefore unlawful. Defendants' conduct giving rise to these violations was malicious,
23 fraudulent, and/or oppressive within the meaning of PAGA.

24 **Failure to Provide One Day's Rest In Seven**

25 50. California Labor Code section 551 states that "[e]very person employed in any
26 occupation of labor is entitled to one day's rest therefrom in seven." California Labor Code section
27 552 prohibits and employer from "caus[ing] his employees to work more than six days in seven."

28 51. Further, the California Code of Regulations, Title 8 ("Cal. Code Regs.") provide for

1 the amounts at which employees should be paid when working on the seventh day in the manner
2 proscribed by Cal. Lab. Codes 551 and 552. For example, Cal. Code Reg. section 11170 for
3 miscellaneous employees section 4 provides:

4 Daily Overtime - General Provisions. The following overtime provisions are applicable
5 to employees eighteen (18) years of age or over and to employees 16 or 17 years of age
6 who are not required by law to attend school, and are not otherwise prohibited by law
7 from engaging in the subject work. Such employees shall not be employed more than
8 eight (8) hours in any workday or more than 40 hours in any workweek unless the
9 employee receives one and one-half (1 1/2) times such employee's regular rate of pay
for all hours worked over 40 hours in the workweek. Eight (8) hours of labor constitutes
a day's work. Employment beyond eight (8) hours in any workday or more than six (6)
days in any workweek is permissible provided the employee is compensated for such
overtime at not less than:

10 (A) One and one-half (1 1/2) times the employee's regular rate of pay
11 for all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours up to and including 12
hours in any workday, and for the first eight (8) hours worked on the
seventh (7th) consecutive day of work in a workweek; and

12 (B) Double the employee's regular rate of pay for all hours worked in
13 excess of 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.

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

17 52. During the relevant time period, Plaintiffs and other Aggrieved Employees were
18 subjected to numerous work periods where they were not afforded one day's rest in seven.

19 53. Therefore, Defendants failed to provide Plaintiffs and other Aggrieved Employees the
20 legally-mandated rest days as required by California law, and in violation of California Labor Code
21 sections 551 and 552. Defendants' conduct giving rise to these violations was malicious, fraudulent,
22 and/or oppressive within the meaning of PAGA.

23 **Failure to Provide Meal Periods**

24 54. California Labor Code section 226.7 provides that no employer shall require an
25 employee to work during any meal period mandated by an applicable IWC Order.

26 55. California Labor Code section 512(a) provides that an employer may not require, cause,
27 or permit an employee to work for a period of more than five (5) hours per day without providing the
28 employee with a meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes, except that if the total work period

1 per day of the employee is not more than six (6) hours, the meal period may be waived by mutual
2 consent of both the employer and the employee.

3 56. California Labor Code section 512(a) further provides that an employer may not
4 employ an employee for a work period of more than ten (10) hours per day without providing the
5 employee with a second meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes, except that if the total hours
6 worked is no more than twelve (12) hours, the second meal period may be waived by mutual consent
7 of the employer and the employee only if the first meal period was not waived.

8 57. The applicable IWC Wage Order sets forth the same requirements for meal breaks.

9 58. Plaintiffs and Aggrieved Employees who were scheduled to work for no longer than
10 six (6) hours, and who did not waive their legally mandated meal periods by mutual consent, were
11 required to work for periods longer than five (5) hours without a meal period of not less than thirty
12 (30) minutes.

13 59. Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved Employees who were scheduled to work for more than six
14 (6) hours were required to work for periods longer than five (5) hours without an uninterrupted meal
15 period of not less than thirty (30) minutes.

16 60. Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved Employees, who were scheduled to work for more than
17 ten (10) hours but no longer than twelve (12) hours, and who did not waive their legally mandated meal
18 periods by mutual consent, were required to work in excess of ten (10) hours without receiving a
19 second uninterrupted meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes.

20 61. Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved Employees, who were scheduled to work for more than
21 twelve (12) hours, were required to work for periods longer than ten (10) hours without a second
22 uninterrupted meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes.

23 62. Moreover, when meal breaks were provided, they were often interrupted, cut short,
24 and/or Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved Employees were not relieved of all duties as required by law.

25 63. Such conduct violates California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512(a) and the
26 applicable IWC Wage Order. Defendants' conduct giving rise to these violations was malicious,
27 fraudulent, and/or oppressive within the meaning of PAGA.

28 ///

1 **Failure to Pay Compliant Meal Break Premiums**

2 64. California Labor Code section 226.7 provides: “[i]f an employer fails to provide an
3 employee a [meal] period in accordance with a state law, including, but not limited to, an applicable
4 statute or applicable regulation, standard, or order of the Industrial Welfare Commission... the
5 employer shall pay the employee one additional hour of pay at the employee’s regular rate of
6 compensation for each workday that the [meal] period is not provided.”

7 65. The applicable IWC Wage Order provides: “[i]f an employer fails to provide an
8 employee a meal period in accordance with the applicable provisions of this Order, the employer shall
9 pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee’s regular rate of compensation for each workday
10 that the meal period is not provided.”

11 66. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and Aggrieved Employees meal period premiums
12 due in violation of California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512 on each day when a complete, timely,
13 and uninterrupted meal period of at least thirty (30) minutes was not provided.

14 67. Moreover, if and when meal break premiums were provided, Defendants failed to
15 incorporate all nondiscretionary payments for work performed by Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved
16 Employees in the regular rate of compensation for purposes of such premiums.

17 68. Defendants’ conduct violates the applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor
18 Code section 226.7. Defendants’ conduct giving rise to these violations was malicious, fraudulent,
19 and/or oppressive within the meaning of PAGA.

20 **Failure to Provide Rest Periods**

21 69. California Labor Code section 226.7 provides that no employer shall require an
22 employee to work during any rest period mandated by an applicable IWC Wage Order.

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

28 71. Defendants required Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved Employees to work four (4) or more

1 hours without authorizing or permitting a timely ten (10) minute uninterrupted rest period during
2 which time they were relieved of their duties per each four (4) hour period, or major fraction thereof
3 worked.

4 72. Defendants' conduct therefore violates the applicable IWC Wage Order and California
5 Labor Code section 226.7. Defendants' conduct giving rise to these violations was malicious,
6 fraudulent, and/or oppressive within the meaning of PAGA.

7 **Failure to Pay Rest Break Premiums**

8 73. California Labor Code section 226.7 provides: "[i]f an employer fails to provide an
9 employee a [rest] period in accordance with a state law, including, but not limited to, an applicable
10 statute or applicable regulation, standard, or order of the Industrial Welfare Commission, the employer
11 shall pay the employee one additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for
12 each workday that the [rest] period is not provided."

13 74. The applicable IWC Wage Order provides: "[i]f an employer fails to provide an
14 employee a rest period in accordance with the applicable provisions of this Order, the employer shall
15 pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday
16 that the rest period is not provided."

17 75. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and Aggrieved Employees required rest break
18 premiums due when compliant rest periods were not provided.

19 76. Moreover, if and when rest break premiums were provided, Defendants failed to
20 incorporate all nondiscretionary payments for work performed by Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved
21 Employees in the regular rate of compensation for purposes of such premiums.

22 77. Defendants' conduct violates the applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor
23 Code section 226.7. Defendants' conduct giving rise to these violations was malicious, fraudulent,
24 and/or oppressive within the meaning of PAGA.

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

26 78. California Labor Code section 204 provides that all wages earned by any person in any
27 employment between the 1st and 15th days, inclusive, of any calendar month, other than those wages
28 due upon termination of an employee, are due and payable between the 16th and the 26th day of the

1 month during which the labor was performed. It further provides all wages earned by any person in
2 any employment between the 16th and the last day, inclusive, of any calendar month, other than those
3 wages due upon termination of an employee, are due and payable between the 1st and the 10th day of
4 the following month.

5 79. California Labor Code section 204 provides that all wages earned for labor in excess
6 of the normal work period shall be paid no later than the payday for the next regular payroll period.

7 80. During the relevant time period, Defendants intentionally and willfully failed to pay
8 Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved Employees all wages due to them, within any time period permissible
9 under California Labor Code section 204, including wages for overtime compensation, minimum wage
10 compensation, meal period premiums, and rest period premiums.

11 81. Such conduct violates California Labor Code section 204. Defendants' conduct giving
12 rise to these violations was malicious, fraudulent, and/or oppressive within the meaning of PAGA.

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

14 82. Pursuant to California Labor Code sections 201, 202, and 203, Defendants are required
15 to timely pay all earned and unpaid wages to an employee who is discharged.

16 83. California Labor Code section 201 mandates that if an employer discharges an
17 employee, the employee's wages accrued and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable
18 immediately.

19 84. California Labor Code section 202 mandates that if an employee quits, his or her wages
20 shall become due and payable not later than seventy-two (72) hours thereafter, unless the employee
21 has given seventy-two (72) hours' notice of his or her intention to quit, in which case the employee
22 is entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting.

23 85. California Labor Code section 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to pay,
24 in accordance with California Labor Code sections 201 and 202, any wages of an employee who is
25 discharged or who quits, the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date
26 thereof at the same rate until paid or until an action therefore is commenced; but the wages shall not
27 continue for more than thirty (30) days.

28 86. At the time that Plaintiffs' and Aggrieved Employees' employment with Defendants

1 ended, Defendants knowingly and willfully failed to pay Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved Employees all
2 wages owed to them pursuant to California Labor Code sections 201 and 202, including, without
3 limitation, overtime wages, minimum wages, and meal and rest period premium wages.

4 87. Such conduct violates California Labor Code sections 201, 202, and 203. Defendants'
5 conduct giving rise to these violations was malicious, fraudulent, and/or oppressive within the meaning
6 of PAGA.

7 **Failure to Provide Compliant Wage Statements**

8 88. California Labor Code section 226(a) provides that every employer shall furnish each
9 of its employees an accurate itemized statement in writing showing (1) gross wages earned, (2) total
10 hours worked by the employee, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate
11 if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions, provided that all deductions made on
12 written orders of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item, (5) net wages earned, (6)
13 the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee and his
14 or her social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and (9)
15 all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours
16 worked at each hourly rate by the employee.

17 89. Defendants intentionally and willfully failed to provide employees with complete and
18 accurate wage statements. The deficiencies include, among other things, the failure to state all correct
19 rates of pay, all hours worked, all meal period premium wages earned, and all rest period premium
20 wages earned.

21 90. Such conduct violates California Labor Code section 226. Defendants' conduct giving
22 rise to these violations was malicious, fraudulent, and/or oppressive within the meaning of PAGA.

23 **Failure to Keep Requisite Payroll Records**

24 91. California Labor Code section 1174(d) requires an employer to keep at a central
25 location in the state or at the plants or establishments at which employees are employed, payroll
26 records showing the hours worked daily by and the wages paid to, and the number of piece-rate units
27 earned by and any applicable piece rate paid to, employees employed at the respective plants or
28 establishments. These records shall be kept in accordance with rules established for this purpose by

1 the commission, but in any case, shall be kept on file for not less than three years.

2 92. Defendants intentionally and willfully failed to keep accurate and complete payroll
3 records showing the hours worked daily and the wages paid to Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved Employees.

4 93. As a result of Defendants' violation of California Labor Code section 1174(d),
5 Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved Employees have suffered injury and damage to their statutorily protected
6 rights.

7 94. More specifically, Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved Employees have been injured by
8 Defendants' intentional and willful violation of California Labor Code section 1174(d) because they
9 were denied both their legal right and protected interest, in having available, accurate and complete
10 payroll records pursuant to California Labor Code section 1174(d). Defendants' conduct giving rise
11 to these violations was malicious, fraudulent, and/or oppressive within the meaning of PAGA.

12 **Failure to Reimburse Necessary Business Expenses**

13 95. Pursuant to California Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802, an employer must
14 reimburse its employees for all necessary expenditures incurred by the employee in direct consequence
15 of the discharge of his or her job duties or in direct consequence of his or her job duties or in direct
16 consequence of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer.

17 96. Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved Employees incurred necessary business-related expenses
18 and costs that were not fully reimbursed by Defendants.

19 97. Defendants intentionally and willfully failed to reimburse Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved
20 Employees for all necessary business-related expenses and costs.

21 98. Such conduct violates California Labor Code sections 2802. Defendants' conduct
22 giving rise to these violations was malicious, fraudulent, and/or oppressive within the meaning of
23 PAGA.

24 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

25 Plaintiffs, individually, and on behalf of Aggrieved Employees pursuant to the California
26 Private Attorneys General Act, pray for relief and judgment against Defendants, jointly and severally,
27 as follows:

28 1. For the imposition of civil penalties pursuant to California Labor Code sections 2699,

1 210, 558, 226, 226.3, 1174.5, and 1197.1 and all other penalties allowed by the California Labor Code
2 and/or other applicable statutes;

3 2. For injunctive relief;

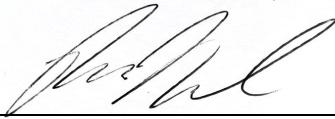
4 3. For statutory attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to sections 210, 218.5, and 2699(g)(1)
5 of the California Labor Code; and

6 4. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem proper.
7

8 Dated: May 23, 2025

BLACKSTONE LAW, APC

9
10 By:



Ryan A. Quadrel, Esq.

11 *Attorney for* Plaintiffs BRANDON DOUGLAS
12 & TAZ DOVE, individually, and on behalf of
13 Aggrieved Employees pursuant to the California
14 Private Attorneys General Act
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EXHIBIT A

March 3, 2025

PAGA Claim Notice Via Online Electronic Submission

California Labor & Workforce Development Agency

800 Capitol Mall, Suite 5000 (MIC-55)

Sacramento, CA 95814

<https://www.dir.ca.gov/Private-Attorneys-General-Act/Private-Attorneys-General-Act.html>

RE: *Brandon Douglas v. Veridiam, Inc.*

To Whom It May Concern:

This office represents Brandon Douglas (“Claimant”) with respect to their claims under the California Labor Code against Veridiam, Inc. (including all affiliates, subsidiaries, parents, directors, and officers) (collectively referred to herein as “Employers”). This letter is being sent simultaneously to Employers by certified mail.

Employers employed Brandon Douglas from approximately May 2024 to January 2025 as a non-exempt, hourly-paid employee. Brandon Douglas worked as a Furnace Operator for Employers and was based out of Employers’ facility located at 1717 Cuyamaca St, El Cajon, CA 92020.

Claimant intends to bring a representative action seeking penalties for violations of the California Labor Code which are recoverable under the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, California Labor Code sections 2698, *et seq.* (“PAGA”). Claimant is seeking penalties on behalf of themselves and in a representative capacity on behalf of the State of California and all current and former hourly-paid and/or non-exempt employees who worked for Employers in the State of California during the relevant statutory period who suffered the violations alleged (“Aggrieved Employees”). This letter is being sent in compliance with California Labor Code section 2699.3 and shall serve as Claimant’s notice of the provisions of the California Labor Code alleged to have been violated, including the facts and theories in support thereof.

As detailed below, Employers violated several of California’s wage and hour laws during Claimant’s employment, including but not limited to California Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 226(a), 226.7, 510, 512(a), 551, 552, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800, 2802, and the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order (“IWC Wage Order”). Employers’ conduct giving rise to the violations detailed below was malicious, fraudulent, and/or oppressive

within the meaning of PAGA.

The claims made on behalf of Claimant and Aggrieved Employees are based upon the following facts and theories:

1. FAILURE TO PAY FOR ALL TIME WORKED AT CORRECT RATES OF PAY, INCLUDING MINIMUM WAGES, STRAIGHT TIME WAGES, AND OVERTIME COMPENSATION

Employers engaged in numerous unlawful practices which resulted in the failure to pay Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees for all time worked at the correct rates of pay, including minimum wages, straight time wages, and overtime compensation.

California Labor Code sections 1194, 1197, and 1197.1 and the applicable IWC Wage Order require employers to pay at least the legal minimum wage to their employees. California Labor Code sections 510 and 1198 and the applicable IWC Wage Order further require employers to pay no less than one and one-half times an employee's regular rate of pay for hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in one workday, for hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours in one workweek, and for the first eight (8) hours worked on the seventh day of work in any one workweek, and to pay no less than twice an employee's regular rate of pay of the employee for hours worked in excess of twelve (12) hours in one workday and for any work in excess of eight (8) hours on any seventh day of a workweek.

Throughout the relevant time, Employers regularly required Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees to perform work off-the-clock. Employers failed to compensate Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees for any of this off-the-clock work, in violation of California law.

This uncompensated work often resulted in the total number of hours worked by Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees exceeding the daily and/or weekly triggers for overtime wages, yet Employers failed to pay Claimant and Aggrieved Employees applicable overtime rate(s) for these hours.

Employers also failed to accurately record the actual time worked by Claimant and Aggrieved Employees.

Employers also failed to pay overtime to Claimant and Aggrieved Employees for all overtime hours worked based on regular rates of pay correctly calculated to include all applicable remuneration, including non-discretionary commissions, non-discretionary bonuses, and non-discretionary performance pay.

As a result of the foregoing practices, Employers failed to pay Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees for all wages earned at the correct rates of pay, including minimum wages, straight time wages, and overtime compensation. Accordingly, Employers violated the applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor Code sections 204, 510, 1194, 1197, 1197.1 and 1198.

Claimant and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699; penalties pursuant to the applicable IWC Wage Orders; penalties pursuant to California Labor Code sections 558, 1197.1, and 1199; injunctive relief; and attorneys' fees and costs.

2. MEAL BREAK VIOLATIONS

California law requires employers to provide employees with an opportunity to take an uninterrupted meal period of no less than thirty (30) minutes before the end of the fifth hour of work when an employee works more than five (5) hours in a day. Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 & 512(a). Employers must provide a second meal period of no less than thirty (30) minutes before the end of the tenth hour of work when an employee works more than ten (10) hours in a day. *Id.* For each day that an employer fails to provide compliant meal period(s), the employer must pay the employee a meal penalty equal to one hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation. *Id.*

During the relevant time period, Employers failed to provide Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees with legally compliant 30-minute meal periods. Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees were required by Employers to work more than five (5) hours per day but were not provided with uninterrupted 30-minute meal periods. Further, Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees were not provided with a second uninterrupted 30-minute meal period when they worked over ten (10) hours per day. Employers regularly required Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees to work through their first and second meal periods, to take their first meal period after their fifth (5th) hour of work, and/or to take their second meal periods after their tenth (10th) hour of work. Meal breaks, when provided, were oftentimes interrupted and/or cut short.

Employers' policies, practices, and procedures were responsible for the violations alleged above and prevented Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees from taking timely, complete and duty-free meal periods because, amongst other reasons: (1) Employers did not have legally-compliant policies regarding the provision and timing of meal periods or systematically disregarded their own purported meal period policies; (2) Employers' management at various levels failed and refused to implement and enforce legally compliant meal period policies and practices; (3) Employers failed to adequately inform and train Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees regarding their right to take timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free meal periods; (4) Employers failed to adequately inform and train Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees about their right to premium wages for non-compliant meal periods; (5) Employers failed to ensure that there was adequate staffing to allow Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees to take timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free meal periods; (6) Employers required Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees to respond to work-related requests at all times, including during meal periods; and (7) Employers' policy and culture prevented Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees from taking timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free meal periods because of the priority placed on maximizing profits over employees' right to receive timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free meal periods.

Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees did not receive an extra hour of wages at their regular rate of pay for each day a compliant meal period was not provided to them in compliance with California law.

Accordingly, Employers violated the applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor Code sections 226.7, 512(a) and 1198.

Claimant and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699; penalties pursuant to paragraph of the applicable IWC Wage Orders; penalties pursuant to California Labor Code sections 558 and 1199; injunctive relief; and attorneys' fees and costs.

3. REST BREAK VIOLATIONS

California law requires employers to authorize and permit employees to take an uninterrupted rest period of no less than ten (10) minutes for every four (4) hours, or major fraction thereof, worked. Cal. Lab. Code § 226.7. For each day that an employer fails to authorize and permit a compliant rest period, the employer owes the employee one hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation. Cal. Lab. Code § 226.7(c).

Employers failed to authorize and permit Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees to take compliant 10-minute rest periods. Employers required Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees to work through rest periods. Claimant and Aggrieved Employees were not provided with uninterrupted, duty-free rest periods when they worked more than four (4) hours or a major fraction thereof. Further, Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees were not provided with a second uninterrupted, duty-free rest period when they worked more than six (6) hours in a day, or a third uninterrupted, duty-free rest period after working more than ten (10) hours in day. In the rare event that a rest period was taken, it was frequently interrupted or cut short. Moreover, Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees were not completely relieved of duty as required by *Augustus v. ABM Security Services, Inc.*, 2 Cal.5th 257 (2016).

Employers' policies, practices, and procedures were responsible for the violations alleged above and prevented Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees from taking timely and complete rest periods because, amongst other reasons: (1) Employers did not have legally-compliant policies regarding the provision and timing of rest periods or systematically disregarded its own purported rest period policies; (2) Employers' management at various levels failed and refused to implement and enforce legally compliant rest period policies and practices; (3) Employers failed to adequately inform and train Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees regarding their right to take timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free rest periods; (4) Employers failed to adequately inform and train Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees about their right to premium wages for non-compliant rest periods; (5) Employers failed to ensure that there was adequate staffing to allow Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees to take timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free rest periods; (6) Employers required Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees to respond to work-related requests at all times, including during rest periods; and (7) Employers' policy and culture prevented

Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees from taking timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free rest periods because of the priority placed on completing job requirements over employees' right to receive rest periods.

Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees did not receive an extra hour of wages at their regular rate of pay for each day a rest period was not provided to them in compliance with California law. Accordingly, Employers violated the applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 1198.

Claimant and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699; penalties pursuant to the applicable IWC Wage Orders; Labor Code sections 558 and 1199 penalties; injunctive relief; and attorneys' fees and costs.

4. FAILURE TO TIMELY PAY WAGES DURING EMPLOYMENT

California Labor Code section 204 requires that all wages earned by any person in any employment between the 1st and the 15th days, inclusive, of any calendar month, other than those wages due upon termination of an employee, are due and payable between the 16th and the 26th day of the month during which the labor was performed, and that all wages earned by any person in any employment between the 16th and the last day, inclusive, of any calendar month, other than those wages due upon termination of an employee, are due and payable between the 1st and the 10th day of the following month.

California Labor Code section 204 also requires that all wages earned for labor in excess of the normal work period shall be paid no later than the payday for the next regular payroll period. During the relevant time period, Employers willfully and intentionally failed to timely pay all wages earned because Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees were not paid all the wages they were owed including, *inter alia*, overtime compensation, straight time wages, minimum wages, and meal and rest period premiums. Accordingly, Employers violated California Labor Code section 204(a).

Claimant and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699; penalties pursuant to California Labor Code sections 210 and 1199; injunctive relief; and attorneys' fees and costs.

5. FAILURE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE ITEMIZED WAGE STATEMENTS

California Labor Code section 226(a) requires an employer semimonthly or at the time of each payment of wages to furnish wage statements to its employees setting forth, *inter alia*, (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the employee, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee and only the last four digits of his or her social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security

number, and (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer.

As a result of the practices described above, the wage statements provided to Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees failed to include the actual hours worked (including time spent working off-the-clock), the actual gross wages earned (including wages owed for time spent working off the clock and meal and rest period premiums), and the correct rates of pay. Employers' failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements was knowing and intentional. Accordingly, Employers violated California Labor Code section 226(a).

Claimant and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties; penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 226.3; injunctive relief; and attorneys' fees and costs.

6. FAILURE TO MAINTAIN ACCURATE RECORDS

California Labor Code section 1174(d) requires an employer to keep, at a central location in the state or at the plants or establishments at which employees are employed, payroll records showing the hours worked daily by and the wages paid to, and the number of piece-rate units earned by and any applicable piece rate paid to, employees employed at the respective plants or establishments. These records shall be kept with rules established for this purpose by the commission, but in any case, shall be kept on file for not less than three years. During the relevant time period, Employers have failed to maintain accurate records relating to Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees' work periods, meal periods, total daily hours worked, and total hours worked per payroll period. Accordingly, Employers violated the applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor Code sections 1198.5 and 1174(d).

Claimant and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699; penalties pursuant to penalties paragraph of the applicable IWC Wage Orders; California Labor Code section 1174.5 penalties; injunctive relief; and attorneys' fees and costs.

7. FAILURE TO REIMBURSE NECESSARY EXPENDITURES

California Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802 require an employer to reimburse its employees for all necessary expenditures incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of his or her job duties or in direct consequence of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer. The applicable IWC Wage Order requires employers to provide employees with the tools or equipment necessary for the performance of their job. During the relevant time period, Claimant and Aggrieved Employees incurred necessary business-related expenses and costs that were not fully reimbursed by Employers.

Accordingly, Employers violated the applicable IWC Order and California Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802. Claimant and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699; penalties pursuant to penalties paragraph of the applicable IWC Wage Orders; injunctive relief; and attorneys' fees and costs.

8. FAILURE TO PROVIDE ONE DAY'S REST IN SEVEN

California Labor Code section 551 states that “[e]very person employed in any occupation of labor is entitled to one day’s rest therefrom in seven.” California Labor Code section 552 prohibits and employer from “caus[ing] his employees to work more than six days in seven.”

Further, the California Code of Regulations, Title 8 (“Cal. Code Regs.”) provide for the amounts at which employees should be paid when working on the seventh day in the manner proscribed by Cal. Lab. Codes 551 and 552. For example, Cal. Code Reg. section 11170 for miscellaneous employees section 4 provides:

4. Daily Overtime - General Provisions

The following overtime provisions are applicable to employees eighteen (18) years of age or over and to employees 16 or 17 years of age who are not required by law to attend school, and are not otherwise prohibited by law from engaging in the subject work. Such employees shall not be employed more than eight (8) hours in any workday or more than 40 hours in any workweek unless the employee receives one and one-half (1 1/2) times such employee's regular rate of pay for all hours worked over 40 hours in the workweek. Eight (8) hours of labor constitutes a day's work. Employment beyond eight (8) hours in any workday or more than six (6) days in any workweek is permissible provided the employee is compensated for such overtime at not less than:

(A) One and one-half (1 1/2) times the employee's regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours up to and including 12 hours in any workday, and for the first eight (8) hours worked on the seventh (7th) consecutive day of work in a workweek; and

(B) Double the employee's regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of 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.

(C) 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.

During the relevant time period, Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees were subjected to numerous work periods where they were not afforded one day’s rest in seven. Therefore, Employers failed to provide Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees the legally-mandated rest days as required by California law, and in violation of California Labor Code sections 551 and 552.

Based on these violations, Claimant will seek civil penalties under PAGA, Labor Code section

2698, *et seq.*, on behalf of the LWDA, and injunctive relief against Employers, if authorized to file a representative action on behalf of the State of California.

9. FAILURE TO TIMELY PAY ALL WAGES UPON TERMINATION

California Labor Code sections 201 and 202 provide that if an employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately, and if an employee quits his or her employment, his or her wages shall become due and payable not later than seventy-two (72) hours thereafter, unless the employee has given seventy-two (72) hours' notice of his or her intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting.

During the relevant time period, upon the termination of employment (including but not limited to when they were temporarily laid off, laid off, discharged, and/or resigned), Employers failed to pay all wages due to their employees within twenty-four (24) hours of termination or even within seventy-two (72) hours for those who resigned. Specifically, as a result of Employers' practices of requiring Claimant and Aggrieved Employees to work off-the-clock without compensation, failing to pay proper overtime compensation, failure to properly calculate regular rates, and failure to accurately record all hours actually worked, Employers failed to pay Claimant and Aggrieved Employees for all straight time wage, minimum wages and overtime compensation owed to them upon termination of their employment. Employers also failed to pay Claimant and Aggrieved Employees for meal period premiums and rest period premiums they were owed, amongst other wages. Accordingly, Employers violated California Labor Code sections 201 and 202.

Claimant and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699; penalties pursuant to California Labor Code sections 203 and 1199; and attorneys' fees and costs.

10. CONCLUSION

Claimant hereby provides notice to the LWDA under the California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, California Labor Code Sections 2698, *et seq.*, and specifically asks for an investigation, or if the agency does not intend to investigate the alleged violations, a letter confirming the same so that Claimant may allege a cause of action under PAGA against Employers for the violations discussed in this letter.

This letter is sent in compliance with the reporting requirements of California Labor Code section 2699.3. By law, an employee alleging a violation of one of the above referenced sections must notify his or her employer and the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) before he or she can invoke the provisions of Sections 2699, *et seq.*, by seeking redress in court. Cal. Lab. Code § 2699.3(a)(1). The LWDA must then notify the employer and the employee within 60 calendar days regarding whether it intends to investigate the alleged violation. Cal. Lab. Code § 2699.3(a)(2)(B). If the LWDA advises it will not investigate, or if no notice is provided within 65 calendar days, the employee may file a lawsuit invoking the provisions under Labor Code §



8383 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 745
Beverly Hills, CA 90211
Phone: (310) 622-4278
Fax: (855) 786-6356

2699. Cal. Lab. Code § 2699.3(a)(2)(A). It is Claimant's intention to file a civil complaint and to bring the appropriate claims under California Labor Code § 2699 on behalf of themselves, the State of California and all Aggrieved Employees should your office not address Employers' alleged violations within this timeframe.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact my office. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

BLACKSTONE LAW

Ryan Quadrel, Esq.

cc: By U.S. Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested

Veridiam, Inc.
Agent for Service, Antonio Vega
1304 Pinnacle Peak Drive
Chula Vista, CA91915

Veridiam, Inc.
1717 N. Cuyamaca St
El Cajon, CA 92020

EXHIBIT B

March 18, 2025

PAGA Claim Notice Via Online Electronic Submission

California Labor & Workforce Development Agency

800 Capitol Mall, Suite 5000 (MIC-55)

Sacramento, CA 95814

<https://www.dir.ca.gov/Private-Attorneys-General-Act/Private-Attorneys-General-Act.html>

RE: AMENDED PAGA LETTER

Brandon Douglas and Taz Dove v. Veridiam, Inc.

Case Number: LWDA-CM-1083753-25

To Whom It May Concern:

On March 3, 2025, pursuant to the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (“PAGA”) (California Labor Code § 2699.3), our office provided notice to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) and Veridiam, Inc., on behalf of Brandon Douglas (“Mr. Douglas”) that Mr. Douglas may allege a cause of action under PAGA in a civil action against Veridiam, Inc. (including any and all affiliates, subsidiaries, parents, directors, and officers thereof) (collectively referred to herein as “Employers”).

We write to inform you that we have been retained by Taz Dove (“Mr. Dove”) who was employed by Employers as a CNC Setup Operator from approximately August 2023 to May 2024 at Employers’ location at 4665 North Ave, Oceanside, CA 92056. Mr. Dove intends to be added to the action as a named plaintiff and seeks penalties for violations of the California Labor Code which are recoverable under PAGA. Mr. Dove seeks these penalties on behalf of himself and in a representative capacity on behalf of the State of California and all current and former hourly-paid and/or non-exempt employees who worked for Employers in the State of California during the relevant statutory period who suffered the violations alleged (“Aggrieved Employees”).

As detailed below, Employers violated several of California’s wage and hour laws during Claimants’ employment, including but not limited to California Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 226(a), 226.7, 510, 512(a), 551, 552, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800, 2802, and the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order (“IWC Wage Order”). Employers’ conduct giving rise to the violations detailed below was malicious, fraudulent, and/or oppressive within the meaning of PAGA.

The claims made on behalf of Claimants and Aggrieved Employees are based upon the following facts and theories:

1. FAILURE TO PAY FOR ALL TIME WORKED AT CORRECT RATES OF PAY, INCLUDING MINIMUM WAGES, STRAIGHT TIME WAGES, AND OVERTIME COMPENSATION

Employers engaged in numerous unlawful practices which resulted in the failure to pay Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees for all time worked at the correct rates of pay, including minimum wages, straight time wages, and overtime compensation.

California Labor Code sections 1194, 1197, and 1197.1 and the applicable IWC Wage Order require employers to pay at least the legal minimum wage to their employees. California Labor Code sections 510 and 1198 and the applicable IWC Wage Order further require employers to pay no less than one and one-half times an employee's regular rate of pay for hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in one workday, for hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours in one workweek, and for the first eight (8) hours worked on the seventh day of work in any one workweek, and to pay no less than twice an employee's regular rate of pay of the employee for hours worked in excess of twelve (12) hours in one workday and for any work in excess of eight (8) hours on any seventh day of a workweek.

Throughout the relevant time, Employers regularly required Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees to perform work off-the-clock. Employers failed to compensate Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees for any of this off-the-clock work, in violation of California law.

This uncompensated work often resulted in the total number of hours worked by Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees exceeding the daily and/or weekly triggers for overtime wages, yet Employers failed to pay Claimants and Aggrieved Employees applicable overtime rate(s) for these hours.

Employers also failed to accurately record the actual time worked by Claimants and Aggrieved Employees.

Employers also failed to pay overtime to Claimants and Aggrieved Employees for all overtime hours worked based on regular rates of pay correctly calculated to include all applicable remuneration, including non-discretionary commissions, non-discretionary bonuses, and non-discretionary performance pay.

As a result of the foregoing practices, Employers failed to pay Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees for all wages earned at the correct rates of pay, including minimum wages, straight time wages, and overtime compensation. Accordingly, Employers violated the applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor Code sections 204, 510, 1194, 1197, 1197.1 and 1198.

Claimants and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699; penalties pursuant to the applicable IWC Wage Orders; penalties pursuant to California Labor Code sections 558, 1197.1, and 1199; injunctive relief; and

attorneys' fees and costs.

2. MEAL BREAK VIOLATIONS

California law requires employers to provide employees with an opportunity to take an uninterrupted meal period of no less than thirty (30) minutes before the end of the fifth hour of work when an employee works more than five (5) hours in a day. Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 & 512(a). Employers must provide a second meal period of no less than thirty (30) minutes before the end of the tenth hour of work when an employee works more than ten (10) hours in a day. *Id.* For each day that an employer fails to provide compliant meal period(s), the employer must pay the employee a meal penalty equal to one hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation. *Id.*

During the relevant time period, Employers failed to provide Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees with legally compliant 30-minute meal periods. Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees were required by Employers to work more than five (5) hours per day, but were not provided with uninterrupted 30-minute meal periods. Further, Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees were not provided with a second uninterrupted 30-minute meal period when they worked over ten (10) hours per day. Employers regularly required Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees to work through their first and second meal periods, to take their first meal period after their fifth (5th) hour of work, and/or to take their second meal periods after their tenth (10th) hour of work. Meal breaks, when provided, were oftentimes interrupted and/or cut short.

Employers' policies, practices, and procedures were responsible for the violations alleged above and prevented Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees from taking timely, complete and duty-free meal periods because, amongst other reasons: (1) Employers did not have legally-compliant policies regarding the provision and timing of meal periods or systematically disregarded their own purported meal period policies; (2) Employers' management at various levels failed and refused to implement and enforce legally compliant meal period policies and practices; (3) Employers failed to adequately inform and train Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees regarding their right to take timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free meal periods; (4) Employers failed to adequately inform and train Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees about their right to premium wages for non-compliant meal periods; (5) Employers failed to ensure that there was adequate staffing to allow Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees to take timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free meal periods; (6) Employers required Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees to respond to work-related requests at all times, including during meal periods; and (7) Employers' policy and culture prevented Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees from taking timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free meal periods because of the priority placed on maximizing profits over employees' right to receive timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free meal periods.

Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees did not receive an extra hour of wages at their regular rate of pay for each day a compliant meal period was not provided to them in compliance with California law.

Accordingly, Employers violated the applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor

Code sections 226.7, 512(a) and 1198.

Claimants and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699; penalties pursuant to penalties paragraph of the applicable IWC Wage Orders; penalties pursuant to California Labor Code sections 558 and 1199; injunctive relief; and attorneys' fees and costs.

3. REST BREAK VIOLATIONS

California law requires employers to authorize and permit employees to take an uninterrupted rest period of no less than ten (10) minutes for every four (4) hours, or major fraction thereof, worked. Cal. Lab. Code § 226.7. For each day that an employer fails to authorize and permit a compliant rest period, the employer owes the employee one hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation. Cal. Lab. Code § 226.7(c).

Employers failed to authorize and permit Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees to take compliant 10-minute rest periods. Employers required Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees to work through rest periods. Claimants and Aggrieved Employees were not provided with uninterrupted, duty-free rest periods when they worked more than four (4) hours or a major fraction thereof. Further, Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees were not provided with a second uninterrupted, duty-free rest period when they worked more than six (6) hours in a day, or a third uninterrupted, duty-free rest period after working more than ten (10) hours in day. In the rare event that a rest period was taken, it was frequently interrupted or cut short. Moreover, Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees were not completely relieved of duty as required by *Augustus v. ABM Security Services, Inc.*, 2 Cal.5th 257 (2016).

Employers' policies, practices, and procedures were responsible for the violations alleged above and prevented Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees from taking timely and complete rest periods because, amongst other reasons: (1) Employers did not have legally-compliant policies regarding the provision and timing of rest periods or systematically disregarded its own purported rest period policies; (2) Employers' management at various levels failed and refused to implement and enforce legally compliant rest period policies and practices; (3) Employers failed to adequately inform and train Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees regarding their right to take timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free rest periods; (4) Employers failed to adequately inform and train Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees about their right to premium wages for non-compliant rest periods; (5) Employers failed to ensure that there was adequate staffing to allow Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees to take timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free rest periods; (6) Employers required Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees to respond to work-related requests at all times, including during rest periods; and (7) Employers' policy and culture prevented Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees from taking timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free rest periods because of the priority placed on completing job requirements over employees' right to receive rest periods.

Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees did not receive an extra hour of wages at their regular rate of pay for each day a rest period was not provided to them in compliance with California law. Accordingly, Employers violated the applicable IWC Wage Order and California

Labor Code sections 226.7 and 1198.

Claimants and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699; penalties pursuant to the applicable IWC Wage Orders; Labor Code sections 558 and 1199 penalties; injunctive relief; and attorneys' fees and costs.

4. FAILURE TO TIMELY PAY WAGES DURING EMPLOYMENT

California Labor Code section 204 requires that all wages earned by any person in any employment between the 1st and the 15th days, inclusive, of any calendar month, other than those wages due upon termination of an employee, are due and payable between the 16th and the 26th day of the month during which the labor was performed, and that all wages earned by any person in any employment between the 16th and the last day, inclusive, of any calendar month, other than those wages due upon termination of an employee, are due and payable between the 1st and the 10th day of the following month.

California Labor Code section 204 also requires that all wages earned for labor in excess of the normal work period shall be paid no later than the payday for the next regular payroll period. During the relevant time period, Employers willfully and intentionally failed to timely pay all wages earned because Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees were not paid all the wages they were owed including, *inter alia*, overtime compensation, straight time wages, minimum wages, and meal and rest period premiums. Accordingly, Employers violated California Labor Code section 204(a).

Claimants and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699; penalties pursuant to California Labor Code sections 210 and 1199; injunctive relief; and attorneys' fees and costs.

5. FAILURE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE ITEMIZED WAGE STATEMENTS

California Labor Code section 226(a) requires an employer semimonthly or at the time of each payment of wages to furnish wage statements to its employees setting forth, *inter alia*, (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the employee, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee and only the last four digits of his or her social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security number, and (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer.

As a result of the practices described above, the wage statements provided to Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees failed to include the actual hours worked (including time spent working off-the-clock), the actual gross wages earned (including wages owed for time spent working off the clock and meal and rest period premiums), and the correct rates of pay. Employers' failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements was knowing and intentional. Accordingly, Employers violated California Labor Code section 226(a).

Claimants and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties; penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 226.3; injunctive relief; and attorneys' fees and costs.

6. FAILURE TO MAINTAIN ACCURATE RECORDS

California Labor Code section 1174(d) requires an employer to keep, at a central location in the state or at the plants or establishments at which employees are employed, payroll records showing the hours worked daily by and the wages paid to, and the number of piece-rate units earned by and any applicable piece rate paid to, employees employed at the respective plants or establishments. These records shall be kept with rules established for this purpose by the commission, but in any case, shall be kept on file for not less than three years. During the relevant time period, Employers have failed to maintain accurate records relating to Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees' work periods, meal periods, total daily hours worked, and total hours worked per payroll period. Accordingly, Employers violated the applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor Code sections 1198.5 and 1174(d).

Claimants and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699; penalties pursuant to paragraph of the applicable IWC Wage Orders; California Labor Code section 1174.5 penalties; injunctive relief; and attorneys' fees and costs.

7. FAILURE TO REIMBURSE NECESSARY EXPENDITURES

California Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802 require an employer to reimburse its employees for all necessary expenditures incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of his or her job duties or in direct consequence of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer. The applicable IWC Wage Order requires employers to provide employees with the tools or equipment necessary for the performance of their job. During the relevant time period, Claimants and Aggrieved Employees incurred necessary business-related expenses and costs that were not fully reimbursed by Employers.

Accordingly, Employers violated the applicable IWC Order and California Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802. Claimants and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699; penalties pursuant to paragraph of the applicable IWC Wage Orders; injunctive relief; and attorneys' fees and costs.

8. FAILURE TO PROVIDE ONE DAY'S REST IN SEVEN

California Labor Code section 551 states that "[e]very person employed in any occupation of labor is entitled to one day's rest therefrom in seven." California Labor Code section 552 prohibits and employer from "caus[ing] his employees to work more than six days in seven."

Further, the California Code of Regulations, Title 8 ("Cal. Code Regs.") provide for the amounts at which employees should be paid when working on the seventh day in the manner

proscribed by Cal. Lab. Codes 551 and 552. For example, Cal. Code Reg. section 11170 for miscellaneous employees section 4 provides:

4. Daily Overtime - General Provisions

The following overtime provisions are applicable to employees eighteen (18) years of age or over and to employees 16 or 17 years of age who are not required by law to attend school, and are not otherwise prohibited by law from engaging in the subject work. Such employees shall not be employed more than eight (8) hours in any workday or more than 40 hours in any workweek unless the employee receives one and one-half (1 1/2) times such employee's regular rate of pay for all hours worked over 40 hours in the workweek. Eight (8) hours of labor constitutes a day's work. Employment beyond eight (8) hours in any workday or more than six (6) days in any workweek is permissible provided the employee is compensated for such overtime at not less than:

(A) One and one-half (1 1/2) times the employee's regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours up to and including 12 hours in any workday, and for the first eight (8) hours worked on the seventh (7th) consecutive day of work in a workweek; and

(B) Double the employee's regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of 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.

(C) 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.

During the relevant time period, Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees were subjected to numerous work periods where they were not afforded one day's rest in seven. Therefore, Employers failed to provide Claimants and other Aggrieved Employees the legally-mandated rest days as required by California law, and in violation of California Labor Code sections 551 and 552.

Based on these violations, Claimants will seek civil penalties under PAGA, Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.*, on behalf of the LWDA, and injunctive relief against Employers, if authorized to file a representative action on behalf of the State of California.

9. FAILURE TO TIMELY PAY ALL WAGES UPON TERMINATION

California Labor Code sections 201 and 202 provide that if an employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately, and if an employee quits his or her employment, his or her wages shall become due and payable not later than seventy-two (72) hours thereafter, unless the employee has given seventy-two (72) hours' notice of his or her intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her

wages at the time of quitting.

During the relevant time period, upon the termination of employment (including but not limited to when they were temporarily laid off, laid off, discharged, and/or resigned), Employers failed to pay all wages due to their employees within twenty-four (24) hours of termination or even within seventy-two (72) hours for those who resigned. Specifically, as a result of Employers' practices of requiring Claimants and Aggrieved Employees to work off-the-clock without compensation, failing to pay proper overtime compensation, failure to properly calculate regular rates, and failure to accurately record all hours actually worked, Employers failed to pay Claimants and Aggrieved Employees for all straight time wage, minimum wages and overtime compensation owed to them upon termination of their employment. Employers also failed to pay Claimants and Aggrieved Employees for meal period premiums and rest period premiums they were owed, amongst other wages. Accordingly, Employers violated California Labor Code sections 201 and 202.

Claimants and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699; penalties pursuant to California Labor Code sections 203 and 1199; and attorneys' fees and costs.

10. CONCLUSION

Claimants hereby provide notice to the LWDA under the California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, California Labor Code Sections 2698, *et seq.*, and specifically ask for an investigation, or if the agency does not intend to investigate the alleged violations, a letter confirming the same so that we may allege a cause of action under PAGA against Employers for the violations discussed in this letter.

This letter is sent in compliance with the reporting requirements of California Labor Code section 2699.3. By law, an employee alleging a violation of one of the above referenced sections must notify his or her employer and the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) before he or she can invoke the provisions of Sections 2699, *et seq.*, by seeking redress in court. Cal. Lab. Code § 2699.3(a)(1). The LWDA must then notify the employer and the employee within 60 calendar days regarding whether it intends to investigate the alleged violation. Cal. Lab. Code § 2699.3(a)(2)(B). If the LWDA advises it will not investigate, or if no notice is provided within 65 calendar days, the employee may file a lawsuit invoking the provisions under Labor Code § 2699. Cal. Lab. Code § 2699.3(a)(2)(A). It is Claimants' intention to file a civil complaint and to bring the appropriate claims under California Labor Code § 2699 on behalf of themselves, the State of California and all Aggrieved Employees should your office not address Employers' alleged violations within this timeframe.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact my office. Thank you for your attention to this matter.



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