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Via Certified Mail

Desert Jack, LLC
15401 Anacapa Road
Victorville, CA 92392

Subject: *Danny Castro v. Desert Jack, LLC*

Dear Representative:

This office represents Danny Castro (“Plaintiff”) in connection with Labor Code violation claims related to their employment with Desert Jack, LLC (“Employer”).

Plaintiff worked as a restaurant worker at Employer’s Jack in the Box restaurants. Plaintiff suffered each of the Labor Code violations within the applicable one-year statute of limitations period. Plaintiff intends to seek PAGA penalties on behalf of himself and all other nonexempt employees during the PAGA Period (together with Plaintiff, “Aggrieved Employees”). The PAGA Period begins one year prior to the date of this letter and, because the violations are ongoing, the PAGA Period extends beyond the date of this letter.

Minimum Wage Violations

Labor Code section 1194 and the applicable Wage Order require an employer to pay an employee no less than the minimum wage for all hours worked.

Employer failed to pay the Aggrieved Employees the minimum wage for all hours worked because the Aggrieved Employees were required to perform work while off the clock.

Civil Penalties Applicable to Minimum Wage Violations

As a result of the above minimum wage violations, Employer is subject to the civil penalties listed in Labor Code sections 1197.1 and 2699.

Overtime Violations

Labor Code section 510 and the applicable Wage Order provides that an employee shall be paid one and one-half times their regular rate of pay for any work in excess of eight hours in one workday or 40 hours in any one workweek. Labor Code section 510 and the applicable Wage Order further provides that an employee shall be paid twice their regular rate of pay for any work in excess of 12 hours in one day.

Unpaid Overtime Due to Off the Clock Work

The Aggrieved Employees regularly worked in excess of eight hours in a day and 40 hours in a workweek. Since the Aggrieved Employees were required to perform work off the clock, it follows that this time was often overtime. The Aggrieved Employees were not paid all overtime wages owed.

Civil Penalties Applicable to Overtime Violations

As a result of the above overtime violations, Employer is subject to the civil penalties listed in Labor Code sections 558 and 2699.

Meal Break Violations

Labor Code section 512 and the applicable Wage Order provide that an employer shall not employ an employee for a work period of more than five hours per day without providing the employee with a meal period of not less than 30 minutes, or more than 10 hours per day without providing the employee with a second meal period of not less than 30 minutes. Meal periods must be uninterrupted, and the employee must be relieved of all duty.

Labor Code section 226.7 further provides that an employee is entitled to one hour of pay at their regular rate of pay for each day that a compliant meal period was not provided.

On Call / On Premises / On Duty Meal Breaks

An employer provides compliant meal breaks to its employees “if it relieves its employees of all duty, relinquishes control over their activities and permits them a reasonable opportunity to take an uninterrupted 30-minute break.” *Brinker Restaurant Corp. v. Superior Court*, 53 Cal.4th 1004, 1040 (2012).

Civil Penalties Applicable to Meal Break Violations

As a result of the above meal break violations, Employer is subject to the civil penalties listed in Labor Code sections 558 and 2699.

Rest Break Violations

Labor Code section 226.7 and the applicable Wage Order require employers to authorize and permit its employees to take rest periods based on the total hours worked daily at the rate of 10 minutes net per four hours or major fraction thereof. Employees must be relieved of all duties during their rest breaks.

Labor Code section 226.7 further provides that an employee is entitled to one hour of pay at their regular rate of pay for each day that a compliant rest break was not provided.

On Call / On Duty Rest Breaks

The Aggrieved Employees were required to remain on call and generally on duty during their rest breaks. Courts have repeatedly held that employers may not impose any limits on rest breaks. *Augustus v. ABM Sec. Servs., Inc.*, 2 Cal. 5th 257, 269 (2016) (an employer cannot “satisfy its obligation to relieve employees from duties and employer control during rest periods when the employer [] requires its employees to remain on call.”

On Premises Rest Breaks

An employer generally may not place restrictions on its employees during their rest breaks, such as requiring its employees to remain on the premises and subject to the employer's control. Here, since the Aggrieved Employees were not allowed to leave the work premises during their rest breaks, they were subject to Employer's control during the rest breaks. Thus, the Aggrieved Employees were not provided with compliant rest breaks.

Civil Penalties Applicable to Rest Break Violations

As a result of the above rest break violations, Employer is subject to the civil penalties listed in Labor Code section 2699.

Wage Statement Violations

Labor Code section 226 requires an employer to provide wage statements to its employees which include discrete items. Employer failed to provide wage statements which accurately reflected this information.

Civil Penalties Applicable to Wage Statement Violations

As a result of the wage statement violations detailed above, Employer is subject to the civil penalties listed in Labor Code sections 226.3 and 2699.

Waiting Time Penalties

When an employer does not comply with Labor Code sections 201 or 202, the employee is entitled to the equivalent of a day's wage at their regular rate of pay for each day the employer is late, for up to 30 days. (Labor Code section 203). Employer failed to pay all wages owed at the conclusion of the Aggrieved Employees' employment.

Civil Penalties Applicable to Waiting Time Penalties

Employer is subject to the civil penalties listed in Labor Code section 2699.

Sincerely,
/s/ Adam Rose