

1 JAMES HAWKINS APLC
2 James R. Hawkins, Esq. (#192925)
3 Gregory Mauro, Esq. (#222239)
4 Michael Calvo, Esq. (#314986)
5 Lauren Falk, Esq. (#316893)
6 Ava Issary, Esq. (#342252)
7 9880 Research Drive, Suite 200
8 Irvine, CA 92618
9 Tel.: (949) 387-7200
10 Fax: (949) 387-6676
11 Email: James@jameshawkinsaplc.com
12 Email: Greg@jameshawkinsaplc.com
13 Email: Michael@jameshawkinsaplc.com
14 Email: Lauren@jameshawkinsaplc.com
15 Email: Ava@jameshawkinsaplc.com

16 Attorneys for Plaintiff CARLOS MARTINEZ,
17 on behalf of the general public as private attorney general

18 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
19 **FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

20 CARLOS MARTINEZ, on behalf of the
21 general public as private attorney general,

22 Plaintiff,

23 v.

24 FINNEY'S USA OPERATIONS LLC, a
25 California Limited Liability Company, and
26 DOES 1-50, inclusive,

27 Defendants.
28

Electronically FILED by
Superior Court of California,
County of Los Angeles
6/09/2025 10:05 AM
David W. Slayton,
Executive Officer/Clerk of Court,
By E. Galicia, Deputy Clerk

CASE NO.: 25STCV16567

**PAGA REPRESENTATIVE
ACTION COMPLAINT PURSUANT
TO THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS
GENERAL ACT (Labor Code §§
2698 et seq).**

COMES NOW Plaintiff CARLOS MARTINEZ (“Plaintiff”), on behalf the general public and all non-exempt aggrieved employees, acting on behalf of the California Attorney General as private attorney general, asserts claims against Defendants FINNEY’S USA OPERATIONS LLC, a California Limited Liability Company, and DOES 1-50, inclusive (collectively “Defendants”) as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This is a representative action for recovery of penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (“PAGA”), Cal. Lab. Code sections 2698 *et seq.* PAGA permits “aggrieved employees” to bring a lawsuit as a representative action on behalf of the general public as private attorney general and all other current and former aggrieved employees, to recover civil penalties and address an employer’s violations of the California Labor Code.

2. In this case, Defendants violated various provisions of the California Labor Code. As set forth below, Defendants implemented policies and practices which led to unpaid wages resulting from Defendant’s: (a) failure to pay wages including overtime, (b) failure to provide meal periods for every work period exceeding more than ten (10) hours per day and failure to pay an additional hour’s of pay or accurately pay an additional hour’s of pay in lieu of providing a meal period; (c) failure to provide rest breaks for every four hours or major fraction thereof worked and failure to pay an additional hour’s of pay or accurately pay an additional hour’s of pay in lieu of providing a rest period; (d) failing to provide accurate itemized wage statements, (e) failure to accurately record and pay sick pay; and (f) failure to indemnify necessary business expenses. As a result Plaintiff seeks penalties under Labor Code 2698, *et. seq.* on behalf of the general public as private attorney general and all other aggrieved employees.

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. The California Superior Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to California Constitution Article VI, Section 10, which grants the Superior Court “original jurisdiction in all cases except those given by statute to other trial courts.” The statutes under which this action is brought do not give jurisdiction to any other court.

4. This Court has jurisdiction over Defendants because, upon information and belief,

1 each Defendant either has sufficient minimum contacts in California, or otherwise intentionally
2 avails itself of the California market so as to render the exercise of jurisdiction over it by the
3 California Courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

4 5. Venue as to each Defendant is proper in this judicial district pursuant to Code of
5 Civil Procedure section 395. Defendants are doing business throughout California, including but
6 not limited to Orange County, and each Defendant is within the jurisdiction of this Court for
7 service of process purposes. The unlawful acts alleged herein have a direct effect on Plaintiff and
8 all other aggrieved employees within the State of California. Defendants employ numerous
9 aggrieved employees in in the State of California.

10 6. On information and belief, Defendants have conducted business within the State of
11 California during the purported liability period and continue to conduct business throughout the
12 State of California. The unlawful acts alleged herein have had a direct effect on Plaintiff, and the
13 similarly situated non-exempt aggrieved employees within California.

14 7. The California Superior Court also has jurisdiction in this matter because on
15 information and belief there are no federal questions at issue, as the issues herein are based solely
16 on California statutes and law, including the California Labor Code, the IWC Wage Orders, the
17 California Code of Civil Procedure, the California Civil Code, and the California Business and
18 Professions Code.

19 8. On information and belief, during the statutory liability period and continuing to
20 the present ("liability period"), Defendant consistently maintained and enforced against
21 Defendant's Non-Exempt Aggrieved Employees, among others, the following unlawful practices
22 and policies, in violation of California state wage and hour laws: (a) failure to pay wages including
23 overtime, (b) failure to provide meal periods for every work period exceeding more than ten (10)
24 hours per day and failure to pay an additional hour's of pay or accurately pay an additional hour's
25 of pay in lieu of providing a meal period; (c) failure to provide rest breaks for every four hours or
26 major fraction thereof worked and failure to pay an additional hour's of pay or accurately pay an
27 additional hour's of pay in lieu of providing a rest period; (d) failing to provide accurate itemized
28 wage statements, (e) failure to accurately record and pay sick pay; and (f) failure to indemnify

1 necessary business expenses. As a result Plaintiff seeks penalties under Labor Code 2698, *et. seq.*
2 on behalf of the general public as private attorney general and all other aggrieved employees.

3 9. Plaintiff on behalf of the general public as private attorney general and all other
4 aggrieved employees bring this action pursuant to Labor Code 2698, *et. seq.* for violations
5 enumerated under 2699.5 as follows: sections 510, 512, 558, 226, 226.7, 226.3, 246, 1174, 1174.5,
6 1175, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2802 and seeking penalties, interest, attorneys' fees and costs

7 **III. PARTIES**

8 10. Plaintiff, CARLOS MARTINEZ, was at all times relevant to this action, a
9 resident of California. Plaintiff was employed by Defendants in approximately June 2021 as a
10 Non-Exempt Employee with the title of Line Cook. Plaintiff is currently still employed by
11 Defendants.

12 11. Defendants FINNEY'S USA OPERATIONS LLC, operates as a restaurant
13 chain of Finney's Crafthouse across Southern California. Plaintiff estimates there are in excess of
14 100 Non-Exempt Employees who work or have worked for Defendants over the last year.

15 12. Other than identified herein, Plaintiff is unaware of the true names, capacities,
16 relationships, and extent of participation in the conduct alleged herein, of the Defendants sued as
17 DOES 1 through 50, but is informed and believes and thereon alleges that said defendants are
18 legally responsible for the wrongful conduct alleged herein and therefore sues these defendants by
19 such fictitious names. Plaintiff will amend this complaint when their true names and capabilities
20 are ascertained.

21 13. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that each defendant, directly
22 or indirectly, or through agents or other persons, employed Plaintiff and other members of
23 Aggrieved Employees, and exercised control over their wages, hours, and working conditions.
24 Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that each Defendants acted in all respects
25 pertinent to this action as the agent of the other Defendants, carried out a joint scheme, business
26 plan or policy in all respects pertinent hereto, and the acts of each Defendants are legally
27 attributable to the other defendants.

28 14. On information and belief, Defendants willfully failed to pay all earned wages in

1 the form regular wages and overtime wages, and meal and rest period premium wages, to its Non-
2 Exempt Employees and members of the Representative Group; nor have Defendants returned to
3 Plaintiff or members of the Representative Group, upon or after separation from employment with
4 Defendants, all wages earned and owing. Plaintiff seeks penalties under Labor Code 2698, *et. seq.*
5 on behalf of the general public as private attorney general and all other aggrieved employees.

6 **IV. GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

7 15. At all times set forth herein, Defendants employed Plaintiff and other persons in the
8 capacity of non-exempt positions, however titled, throughout the state of California.

9 16. Plaintiff is informed and believes Class Members have at all times pertinent hereto
10 been Non-Exempt within the meaning of the California Labor Code and the implementing rules
11 and regulations of the IWC California Wage Orders.

12 17. Defendants continue to employ Non-Exempt Employees, however titled, in
13 California and implement a uniform set of policies and practices to all non-exempt employees, as
14 they were all engaged in the generic job duties related to Defendants' restaurant operations.

15 18. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants are and
16 were advised by skilled lawyers and other professionals, employees, and advisors with knowledge
17 of the requirements of California's wage and employment laws.

18 19. On information and belief, during the relevant time frame, Plaintiff and Class
19 Members frequently worked well over eight (8) hours in a day and forty (40) hours in a work
20 week.

21 20. During the relevant time frame, Defendants compensated Plaintiff and Class
22 Members based upon an hourly rate.

23 21. On information and belief, during the relevant time frame, Plaintiff and Class
24 Members typically worked approximately 4-5 days.

25 22. Plaintiff is informed and believes that the Class Members were required to keep
26 similar schedules.

27 23. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants failed to
28 compensate Plaintiff and Class Members for all time worked resulting in an underpayment of

1 minimum and overtime wages as a consequence of Defendant subjecting Plaintiff and Class
2 Members to off-the-clock work. As a result of the above practices, Plaintiff and Class Members
3 were not compensated correctly for minimum and overtime wages.

4 24. During the relevant time period, Defendants also failed to accurately incorporate all
5 forms of remunerations such as the value of free meals provided into Plaintiff and Class Members'
6 regular rates when calculating overtime, sick pay, and meal and rest period premiums resulting in
7 an inaccurate payment of overtime wage, sick pay, and meal and rest period premiums.

8 25. Plaintiff and the Class Members were regularly required to work shifts in excess of
9 five hours without being provided a lawful meal period and over ten hours in a day without being
10 provided a second lawful meal period as required by law.

11 26. Indeed, during the relevant time, as a consequence of Defendants' staffing and
12 scheduling practices, lack of coverage, work demands, and Defendants' policies and practices,
13 Defendants frequently failed to provide Plaintiff and the Class Members timely, legally compliant
14 uninterrupted 30-minute meal periods on shifts over five hours as required by law.

15 27. Similarly, as a consequence of Defendants' staffing and scheduling practices, lack
16 of coverage, work demands, and Defendants' policies and practices, Defendants frequently failed
17 to provide Plaintiff and the Class Members legally compliant second meal periods on shifts over
18 ten hours as required by law.

19 28. On information and belief, Plaintiff and Class Members did not waive their rights
20 to meal periods under the law.

21 29. Plaintiff and the Class Members were not provided with valid lawful on-duty meal
22 periods.

23 30. Plaintiff and Class Members were also not permitted to leave the restaurant's
24 premises for meal periods.

1 31. Despite the above-mentioned meal period violations, Defendants failed to
2 compensate Plaintiff, and on information and belief, failed to compensate Class Members, one
3 additional hour of pay at their regular rate as required by California law when meal periods were
4 not timely or lawfully provided in a compliant manner.

5 32. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants know,
6 should know, knew, and/or should have known that Plaintiff and the other Class Members were
7 entitled to receive premium wages based on their regular rate of pay under Labor Code §226.7 but
8 were not receiving such compensation.

9 33. During the relevant time frame, Plaintiff and the Non-Exempt Employees were
10 systematically not authorized and permitted to take one net ten-minute paid, rest period for every
11 four hours worked or major fraction thereof, which is a violation of the Labor Code and IWC
12 wage order.

13 34. Defendants maintained and enforced scheduling practices, policies, and imposed
14 work demands that frequently required Plaintiff and Class Members to forego their lawful, paid
15 rest periods of a net ten minutes for every four hours worked or major fraction thereof. Such
16 requisite rest periods were not timely authorized and permitted as a result of Defendants' failure to
17 provide relief for Plaintiff and Class Members to take their lawfully required breaks.

18 35. Despite the above-mentioned rest period violations, Defendants did not compensate
19 Plaintiff, and on information and belief, did not pay Class Members one additional hour of pay at
20 their regular rate as required by California law, including Labor Code section 226.7 and the
21 applicable IWC wage order, for each day on which lawful rest periods were not authorized and
22 permitted.

23 36. Defendants also failed to provide accurate, lawful itemized wage statements to
24 Plaintiff and the Class Members in part because of the above specified violations. In addition,
25 upon information and belief, Defendants omitted an accurate itemization of total hours worked,
26 including premiums due and owing for rest period violations, gross pay and net pay figures from
27 Plaintiff and the Class Members' wage statements.

28 37. Defendants also failed to reimburse Plaintiff and Class Members for business

1 expenses incurred pursuant to Labor Code section 2802. For instance, it was a common practice
2 for Defendants' management to contact Plaintiff and Class Members through their personal
3 cellphones to discuss work-related tasks. Defendants failed to reimburse Plaintiff and Class
4 Members for such personal cellphone use. Further, Defendants supplied Plaintiff and Class
5 Members uniforms, which Plaintiff and Class Members would be responsible for cleaning.
6 Defendants did not reimburse Plaintiff and Class Members for uniform maintenance.

7 38. Defendants failed to accurately record and pay sick pay in as required by Labor
8 Code §246 to Plaintiff and Class Members by failing to incorporate all remunerations in Plaintiff's
9 and Class Members' regular rate of pay such as the value of meals received.

10 39. Upon information and belief, Defendants knew and or should have known that it is
11 improper to implement policies and commit unlawful acts such as:

12 (a) requiring employees to work four (4) hours or a major fraction thereof without
13 being provided a minimum ten (10) minute rest period and without compensating the employees
14 with one (1) hour of pay at the employees' regular rate of compensation for each workday that a
15 rest period was not provided;

16 (b) failing to pay all wages including overtime wages;

17 (c) failing to provide accurate itemized wage statements;

18 (d) failing to reimburse business expenses; and

19 (e) failing to accurately record and pay-sick pay.

20 40. In addition to the violations above, and on information and belief, Defendants knew
21 they had a duty to compensate Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees for the allegations asserted
22 herein and that Defendants had the financial ability to pay such compensation, but willfully,
23 knowingly, recklessly, and/or intentionally failed to do so.

24 41. Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees they seek to represent are covered by, and
25 Defendants are required to comply with, applicable California Labor Codes, Industrial Welfare
26 Commission Occupational Wage Orders (hereinafter "IWC Wage Orders") and corresponding
27 applicable provisions of California Code of Regulations, Title 8, section 11000 *et seq.*
28

1 **VI. REPRESENTATIVE CLAIMS**

2 **THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT- LABOR CODE §§ 2698 *et seq.***

3 42. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges each and every allegation
4 contained above, as though fully set forth herein.

5 43. On April 2, 2025 Plaintiff complied with notice requirements pursuant to Labor
6 Code section 2699.3. A copy of the letter sent to the LWDA is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**,
7 indicating that the LWDA and Defendants were put on notice of the claims alleged here and that
8 the notice requirement has been satisfied. Sixty five days have passed and the LWDA has not
9 indicated intent to investigate the claims. Therefore, Plaintiff may proceed with this action in a
10 representative capacity. The substance and violations set forth in this Complaint of which the
11 LWDA was provided timely notice, Plaintiff has also sent a copy of this PAGA Representative
12 Action Complaint to the LWDA.

13 44. Plaintiff is an aggrieved employee as defined in Labor Code Section 2699(a).
14 Plaintiff brings this cause of action on behalf of all current and former California Non-Exempt
15 Employees of Defendants.

16 45. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(a) Plaintiff seek to recover civil penalties for
17 which Defendants are liable due to numerous Labor Code violations as set forth in this Complaint,
18 including without limitation Labor Code section 510, 512, 558, 226, 226.7, 226.3, 246, 1174,
19 1174.5, 1175, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2802 and, 2698 *et seq.*, applicable IWC Wage Orders and
20 California Code of Regulations, Title 8, section 11000 *et. seq.*

21 46. At all times relevant, Plaintiff and all other aggrieved employees regularly
22 performed non-exempt work in excess of 50% of the time, and thus, were subject to the meal and
23 rest break requirements of the applicable IWC wage order and the Labor Code.

24 47. As a result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiff and Aggrieved employees are
25 entitled to penalties to the extent they were not paid at the prevailing wage rate for all hours
26 worked.

27 48. For the violations below, Plaintiff and the Representative Aggrieved Employees are
28 entitled to recover Penalties and attorneys' fees and costs sunder Labor Code section 2698, *et. seq.*

FAILURE TO PAY WAGES INCLUDING OVERTIME

49. At all times relevant, the IWC wage orders applicable to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees require employers to pay its employees for each hour worked at least minimum wage. "Hours worked" means the time during which an employee is subject to the control of an employer, and includes all the time the employee is suffered or permitted to work, whether or not required to do so, and in the case of an employee who is required to reside on the employment premises, that time spent carrying out assigned duties shall be counted as hours worked.

50. At all relevant times, Labor Code §1197 provides that the minimum wage for employees fixed by the IWC is the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a lesser wage than the established minimum is unlawful. Further, pursuant to the IWC Wage Order and Labor Code, Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees are to be paid minimum wage for each hour worked, and cannot be averaged At all times relevant, the IWC wage orders applicable to Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees' employment by Defendants provided that employees working for more than eight (8) hours in a day or forty (40) hours in a work week are entitled to overtime compensation at the rate of one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a day or forty (40) hours in a work week. An employee who works more than twelve (12) hours in a day is entitled to overtime compensation at a rate of twice the regular rate of pay.

51. At all relevant times, Labor Code §1197.1 states "[a]ny employer or other persons acting individually as an officer, agent, or employee of another person, who pays or causes to be paid to any employee a wage less than the minimum fixed by an applicable state or local law, or by an order of the commission shall be subject to a civil penalty, restitution of wages, liquidated damages payable to the employee, and any applicable penalties pursuant to Section 203.

52. Labor Code §510 codifies the right to overtime compensation at the rate of one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a day or forty (40) hours in a work week and to overtime compensation at twice the regular rate of pay for hours worked in excess of twelve (12) hours in a day or in excess of eight (8) hours in a day on the

1 seventh day of work in a particular work week.

2 53. At all times relevant, Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees regularly performed non-
3 exempt work and thus were subject to the overtime requirements of the IWC Wage Orders, CCR §
4 11000, et. seq. and the Labor Code.

5 54. At all times relevant, Plaintiff and Class Members were not compensated for all
6 time worked as a result of off-the-clock work imposed resulting in an underpayment of minimum
7 wages. Plaintiff and Class Members also consistently worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a day
8 and/or forty (40) hours in a week and Defendant's failed to accurately calculate overtime pay to
9 Plaintiff and Class Members.

10 55. Accordingly, Defendants owe Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees minimum wages,
11 and have failed to pay Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees the overtime wages owed.

12 **FAILURE TO PROVIDE MEAL PERIODS OR COMPENSATION IN LIEU THEREOF**

13 56. Pursuant to Labor Code §512, no employer shall employ an employee for a work
14 period of more than five (5) hours without providing a meal break of not less than thirty (30)
15 minutes in which the employee is relieved of all of his or her duties. An employer may not
16 employ an employee for a work period of more than ten (10) hours per day without providing the
17 employee with a second meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes, except that if the total
18 hours worked is no more than twelve (12) hours, the second meal period may be waived by mutual
19 consent of the employer and the employee only if the first meal period was not waived.

20 57. Pursuant to the IWC wage orders applicable to Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees'
21 employment by Defendants, in order for an "on duty" meal period to be permissible, the nature of
22 the work of the employee must prevent an employee from being relieved of all duties relating to
23 his or her work for the employer and the employees must consent in writing to the "on duty" meal
24 period. On information and belief, Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees did not consent in writing
25 to an "on duty" meal period. Further, the nature of the work of Plaintiff and Aggrieved
26 Employees was not such that they were prevented from being relieved of all duties. Despite the
27 requirements of the IWC wage orders applicable to Plaintiff's and Aggrieved Employees'
28 employment by Defendants and Labor Code §512 and §226.7, Defendants did not provide

1 Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees with all their statutorily authorized meal periods.

2 58. For the four (4) years preceding the filing of this lawsuit, Defendants failed to
3 provide Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees, timely and uninterrupted meal periods of not less than
4 thirty (30) minutes pursuant to the IWC wage orders applicable to Plaintiff and Aggrieved
5 Employees' employment by Defendants. As a proximate result of the aforementioned violations,
6 Plaintiff and the other Aggrieved Employees have been damaged in an amount according to proof
7 at time of trial.

8 59. By their failure to provide a compliant meal period for each shift worked over five
9 (5) hours and their failure to provide a compliant second meal period for any shift worked over ten
10 (10) hours per day by Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees, and by failing to provide
11 compensation in lieu of such non-provided meal periods, as alleged above, Defendants violated
12 the provisions of Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512 and applicable IWC Wage Orders.

13 60. Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees Plaintiff seeks to represent did not
14 voluntarily or willfully waive meal periods and were regularly required to work shifts without
15 being provided all of their legally required meal periods. Defendants created a working
16 environment in which Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees were not provided all of their meal
17 periods due to shift scheduling and/or work related demands placed upon them by Defendants as
18 well as a lack of sufficient staffing to meet the needs of Defendants' business as discussed above.
19 On information and belief, Defendants' implemented a policy and practice which resulted in
20 systematic and companywide violations of the Labor Code. On information and belief,
21 Defendants' violations have been widespread throughout the liability period and will be evidenced
22 by Defendants' time records for the Aggrieved Employees.

23 **FAILURE TO PROVIDE REST PERIODS OR COMPENSATION IN LIEU THEREOF**

24 61. Pursuant to the IWC wage orders applicable to Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees'
25 employment by Defendants, "Every employer shall authorize and permit all employees to take rest
26 periods, which insofar as practicable shall be in the middle of each work period.... [The]
27 authorized rest period time shall be based on the total hours worked daily at the rate of ten (10)
28 minutes net rest time per four (4) hours worked or major fraction thereof... Authorized rest period

1 time shall be counted as hours worked, for which there shall be no deduction from wages.” Labor
2 Code §226.7(a) prohibits an employer from requiring any employee to work during any rest period
3 mandated by an applicable order of the IWC.

4 62. Defendants were required to authorize and permit employees such as Plaintiff and
5 Aggrieved Employees to take rest periods, based upon the total hours worked at a rate of ten (10)
6 minutes net rest per four (4) hours worked, or major fraction thereof, with no deduction from
7 wages. Despite said requirements of the IWC wage orders applicable to Plaintiff’s and Aggrieved
8 Employees’ employment by Defendants, Defendants failed and refused to authorize and permit
9 Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees, to take ten (10) minute rest periods for every four (4) hours
10 worked, or major fraction thereof.

11 63. On information and belief Defendants created a working environment in which
12 Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees were not provided all of their rest periods due to shift
13 scheduling and/or work related demands placed upon them by Defendants as well as a lack of
14 sufficient staffing to meet the needs of Defendants’ business as discussed above. On information
15 and belief, Defendants implemented a policy and practice which resulted in systematic and
16 companywide violations of the Labor Code. On information and belief, Defendants’ violations
17 have been widespread throughout the liability period.

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

19 64. Section 226(a) of the California Labor Code requires Defendants to itemize in wage
20 statements all deductions from payment of wages and to accurately report total hours worked by
21 Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees including applicable hourly rates and reimbursement expenses
22 among other things. Defendants have knowingly and intentionally failed to comply with Labor
23 Code section 226 and 204 on wage statements that have been provided to Plaintiff and Aggrieved
24 Employees.

25 65. IWC Wage Orders require Defendants to maintain time records showing, among
26 others, when the employee begins and ends each work period, meal periods, split shift intervals
27 and total daily hours worked in an itemized wage statement, and must show all deductions and
28 reimbursements from payment of wages, and accurately report total hours worked by Plaintiff and

1 Aggrieved Employees. On information and belief, Defendants have failed to record all or some of
2 the items delineated in Industrial Wage Orders and Labor Code §226.

3 66. Defendants have failed to accurately record all time worked.

4 67. Defendants have also failed to accurately record the meal and rest period premiums
5 owed and all wages owed per pay period.

6 68. Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees have been injured as they were unable to
7 determine whether they had been paid correctly for all hours worked per pay period among other
8 things.

9 69. Pursuant to Labor Code section 226, Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees are
10 entitled up to a maximum of \$4,000 each for record keeping violations.

11 70. Pursuant to Labor Code section 226.3, any employer who violates subdivision (a)
12 of Section 226 shall be subject to a civil penalty in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250)
13 per employee per violation in an initial citation and one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per employee
14 for each violation in a subsequent citation, for which the employer fails to provide the employee a
15 wage deduction statement or fails to keep the records required in subdivision (a) of Section 226.

16 **FAILURE TO ACCURATELY RECORD AND PAY SICK LEAVE**

17 71. Plaintiff incorporates and re-alleges each and every allegation contained above as
18 though fully set forth herein.

19 72. Labor Code Section 246(i) provides that: “an employer shall provide an employee with
20 written notice that sets forth the amount of paid sick leave available, or paid time off leave an
21 employer provides in lieu of sick leave, for use on either the employee’s itemized wage statement
22 described in Section 226 or in a separate writing provided on the designated pay date with the
23 employee’s payment of wages. If an employer provides unlimited paid sick leave or unlimited paid
24 time off to an employee, the employer may satisfy this section by indicating on the notice or the
25 employee’s itemized wage statement ‘unlimited.’ The penalties described in this article for a violation
26 of this subdivision shall be in lieu of the penalties for a violation of Section 226.”

27 73. Labor Code § 246 provides that the employer shall calculate paid sick leave by
28 using one of two calculations: (1) “Paid sick time for nonexempt employees shall be calculated in

1 the same manner as the regular rate of pay for the workweek in which the employee uses paid sick
2 time, whether or not the employee actually works overtime in that workweek;” or (2) “Paid sick
3 time for nonexempt employees shall be calculated by dividing the employee’s total wages, not
4 including overtime premium pay, by the employee’s total hours worked in the full pay periods of
5 the prior 90 days of employment.”

6 74. Whenever Defendants paid Plaintiff and Class Members sick time pursuant to
7 California Labor Code § 246, Defendants did so at the incorrect rate of pay. Defendants paid
8 Plaintiff and the Class Members at the incorrect rate of pay and/or base hourly rate of pay, as
9 opposed to the regular rate of pay, which would take into account all remunerations, including
10 bonuses, differentials, or by dividing the employees’ total wages, not including overtime premium
11 pay, by the employees’ total hours worked in the full pay periods of the prior 90 days of
12 employment, as required by Labor Code § 246. This resulted in the employees being underpaid for
13 sick time, and resulted in violations of California Labor Code §§ 201, 202, and 203, and other
14 derivative Labor Code violations, because Defendant did not pay, or timely pay, Plaintiff and the
15 unpaid wages for work performed by them during their employment and at the end of their
16 employment.

17 75. As a result of the unlawful acts of Defendant, Plaintiff and Class Members have
18 been deprived of sick pay in amounts to be determined at trial, and are entitled to the recovery of
19 such amounts, plus interest and penalties thereon, attorneys' fees, and costs.

20 **FAILURE TO INDEMNIFY NECESSARY BUSINESS EXPENSES**

21 76. Plaintiff incorporates and re-alleges each and every allegation contained above as
22 though fully set forth herein.

23 77. Labor Code § 2802 requires Defendants to indemnify Plaintiff and Class Members
24 for necessary expenditures incurred in direct consequences of the discharge of his or her duties. As
25 a necessary part of employment, Plaintiff and on information and belief Class Members, were not
26 adequately reimbursed by Defendants for expenses related to all expenses incurred as a result of
27 their personal cellphone usage and uniform maintenance as described above, which was incurred
28 as a direct consequence of the discharge of duties by Plaintiff and Class Members. Despite these

1 realities of the job, Defendants failed to provide reimbursements.

2 78. Labor Code §2804 states in pertinent part: “Any contract or agreement, express or
3 implied, made by any employee to waive the benefits of this article or any part thereof is null and
4 void, and this article shall not deprive any employee or his or her personal representative of any
5 right or remedy to which he is entitled under the laws of this State.”

6 79. As a result of the unlawful acts of Defendants, Plaintiff and the Class Members
7 have been deprived of un-reimbursed expense amounts to be determined at trial, and are entitled to
8 the recovery of such amounts, plus interest and penalties thereon, attorneys’ fees, and costs,
9 pursuant to Labor Code § 2802.

10 **FAILURE TO MAINTAIN ACCURATE RECORDS**

11 80. Additionally, Defendants have no accurate records relating to aggrieved
12 employees’ work periods, meal periods, total daily hours worked, total hours worked per payroll
13 period and applicable pay rates, in violation of applicable Wage Orders. Similarly, Defendants
14 failed to maintain accurate records relating to hours worked daily in violation of Labor Code
15 sections 1174(d), 1174.5.

16 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

17 As a result of Defendants' unlawful conduct and pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(a)
18 Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees are entitled to civil penalties for which Defendants are liable
19 due to numerous Labor Code violations as set forth in this Complaint, including without limitation
20 Labor Code section 510, 512, 558, 226, 226.7, 226.3, 246, 1174, 1174.5, 1175, 1194, 1197,
21 1197.1, 1198, 2802 and, 2698 *et seq.*, applicable IWC Wage Orders and California Code of
22 Regulations, Title 8, section 11000 *et. seq.*

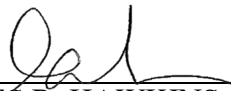
23 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants, as follows:

- 24 1. For penalties according to proof, pursuant to Labor Code §§ 2698 *et seq.*;
- 25 2. For reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs; and
- 26 3. For such other and further relief as the Court deems proper.
- 27
- 28

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

Dated: June 9, 2025

JAMES HAWKINS APLC

By: 
JAMES R. HAWKINS, ESQ.
GREGORY MAURO, ESQ.
MICHAEL CALVO, ESQ.
LAUREN FALK, ESQ.
AVA ISSARY, ESQ.

Attorneys for Plaintiff CARLOS MARTINEZ on
behalf of the general public as private attorney
general

EXHIBIT A

JAMES *JH* HAWKINS

A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION

9880 RESEARCH DRIVE, SUITE 200, IRVINE, CALIFORNIA 92618
TELEPHONE (949) 387-7200; FACSIMILE (949) 387-6676

April 2, 2025

Via LWDA Website

Labor and Workforce Development Agency
Attn: PAGA Administrator
1515 Clay Street, Ste 801
Oakland, CA 94612
<http://www.dir.ca.gov/Private-Attorneys-General-Act>

Via Certified Mail

FINNEY'S USA OPERATIONS LLC
Agent for Service of Process: ERIN HAGGERTY
1325 J STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
Receipt No. 9589 0710 5270 0078 0189 80

Re: NOTICE PURSUANT TO LABOR CODE SECTIONS 2698, *et seq.*

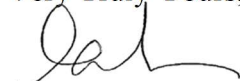
To Whom It May Concern:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that plaintiff CARLOS MARTINEZ individually and on behalf of all similarly situated representative aggrieved employees, gives NOTICE to commence and/or amend a civil action pursuant to California Labor Code Sections 2698, *et seq.* Plaintiff hereby gives written notice by certified mail to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, FINNEY'S USA OPERATIONS LLC, through their Agents for Service of Process.

Plaintiff hereby attaches a copy of the Proposed PAGA Representative Action Complaint to be filed in the Los Angeles County Superior Court, as though fully set forth herewith setting out the specific provisions of the Labor Code Plaintiff alleges have been violated, including the facts and theories. All labor provisions in the Proposed PAGA Representative Action Complaint alleged to have been violated pertain to all entities and individuals named in the Complaints, even if not expressly specified.

Please advise within sixty (60) days of the post mark on this letter if the LWDA intends to investigate these claims. Thank you, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very Truly Yours,



Gregory Mauro

Enclosure: Proposed PAGA Representative Action Complaint