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SILVINA CRUZ GARCIA

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

SILVINA CRUZ GARCIA, individually and
on behalf of others similarly situated, and as
an aggrieved employee and Private Attorney
General,

Plaintiff,

vs.

SANFORD WINERY COMPANY, a
California limited partnership; and DOES 1
through 50, inclusive,

Defendant.

Case No.: 25CV02924

**FIRST AMENDED CLASS ACTION AND
REPRESENTATIVE ACTION
COMPLAINT**

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

- (1) Violation of Cal. Labor Code §§ 510 and 1198 (Unpaid Overtime)
- (2) Violation of Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512(a) (Unpaid Meal Period Premiums)
- (3) Violation of Cal. Labor Code § 226.7 (Unpaid Rest Period Premiums)
- (4) Violation of Cal. Labor Code §§ 1194, 1197 and 1197.1 (Unpaid Minimum Wages)
- (5) Violation of Cal. Labor Code §§ 201, 202 and 203 (Final Wages Not Timely Paid)
- (6) Violation of Labor Code §§ 204 and 210 (Wages Not Timely Paid During Employment)
- (7) Violation of Cal. Labor Code §§ 2800 and 2802 (Failure to Reimburse Necessary Business Expenses)
- (8) Violation of Cal. Business & Professions Code § 17200, et seq.
- (9) Violation of Cal. Labor Code § 2699 (Private Attorneys General Act)

1 Plaintiff SILVINA CRUZ GARCIA (“Plaintiff”), individually and on behalf of other
2 members of the general public similarly situated, and as Private Attorney General, based upon
3 facts that either have evidentiary support or are likely to have evidentiary support after a
4 reasonable opportunity for further investigation and discovery, alleges as follows:

5 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

6 1. Plaintiff brings this action against Defendant SANFORD WINERY COMPANY
7 and DOES 1 THROUGH 50 (hereinafter also collectively referred to as “Defendant”) for
8 California Labor Code violations, unfair business practices, and civil penalties stemming from
9 Defendant’s failure to pay overtime compensation, failure to provide meal periods, failure to
10 authorize and permit rest periods, failure to pay minimum wage, failure to timely pay wages,
11 failure to provide accurate wage statements, failure to maintain accurate time and payroll records,
12 failure to reimburse necessary business-related expenses.

13 2. Plaintiff’s First through Eighth Causes of Action are brought as a class action on
14 behalf of herself and similarly situated current and former employees of Defendant (hereinafter
15 collectively referred to as the “Class” or “Class Members,” as defined more fully in paragraph
16 13, below) pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 382. The monetary damages
17 and restitution sought by Plaintiff exceeds the minimal jurisdiction limits of the Superior Court
18 and will be established according to proof at trial.

19 3. Plaintiff’s Ninth Cause of Action is brought solely as a representative action, and
20 solely as a Private Attorney General, on behalf of the State of California for all aggrieved
21 employees, including herself and other aggrieved employees of Defendants against whom a
22 violation of the same provision was committed (hereinafter collectively referred to as the
23 “Aggrieved Employees”) pursuant to California Labor Code sections 2698, *et seq*; *Balderas v.*
24 *Fresh Start Harvesting, Inc.*, 101 Cal.App.5th 533 (2024), as modified (April 18, 2024); and
25 *Johnson v. Maxim Healthcare Services, Inc.*, 66 Cal.App.5th 924 (2021). Plaintiff is an aggrieved
26 employee against whom the alleged violations occurred. The civil penalties sought by Plaintiff
27 exceed the minimal jurisdiction limits of the Superior Court and will be established according to
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1 proof at trial.

2 4. The Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to the California Constitution,
3 Article VI, Section 10, which grants the superior court “original jurisdiction in all other causes”
4 except those given by statute to other courts. The statutes under which this action is brought do
5 not specify any other basis for jurisdiction.

6 5. This Court has jurisdiction over Defendant because, upon information and belief,
7 Defendant is a citizen of California, has sufficient minimum contacts in California, or otherwise
8 intentionally avail itself of the California market so as to render the exercise of jurisdiction over
9 it by the California courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

10 6. Venue is proper in this Court because, upon information and belief, Defendant
11 maintains offices, has agents, and/or transacts business in the State of California, County of Santa
12 Barbara.

13 **PARTIES**

14 7. Plaintiff SILVINA CRUZ GARCIA is an individual residing in the County of
15 Santa Barbara, State of California.

16 8. Defendant SANFORD WINERY COMPANY, is and at all times herein
17 mentioned was, a limited partnership organized and existing under the laws of the State of
18 California and registered to do business in the state of California.

19 9. Plaintiff is ignorant of the identities of defendants Does 1 through 50, inclusive,
20 and therefore sues these defendants by such fictitious names. The Doe defendants may be
21 individuals, partnerships, or corporations. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges,
22 that, at all times mentioned herein, each of the Doe defendants was the parent, subsidiary, agent,
23 servant, employee, co-venturer, and/or co-conspirator of each of the other defendants and was at
24 all times mentioned acting within the scope, purpose, consent, knowledge, ratification and
25 authorization of such agency, employment, joint venture and conspiracy. Plaintiff will amend this
26 Complaint to allege their true names and capacities when ascertained. Plaintiff is informed and
27 believes and thereon alleges that each of the fictitiously named Doe defendants is responsible in
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some manner for the occurrences herein alleged, and that Plaintiff's damages as herein alleged were proximately caused by its conduct. SANFORD WINERY COMPANY and Doe Defendants 1 through 50 are collectively referred to herein as "Defendant."

10. Defendant is and at all times herein mentioned was, (a) conducting business in the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, and (b) the employer of Plaintiff consistent with the California Labor Code and Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders ("Wage Orders").

11. Plaintiff further alleges that Defendant, directly or indirectly controlled or affected the working conditions, wages, working hours, and conditions of employment of Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees so as to make each of said Defendant employers and employers jointly liable under the statutory provisions set forth herein.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

12. Plaintiff brings the First through Eighth Causes of Action as a class action on her own behalf and on behalf of all other members of the general public similarly situated, and, thus, seeks class certification under Code of Civil Procedure section 382.

13. The proposed class is defined as follows: All current and former non-exempt employees of any of the Defendants within the State of California at any time commencing four (4) years preceding the filing of Plaintiff's complaint up until the time that notice of the certified class action is provided to the class (hereinafter referred to as the "Class" or "Class Members.>").

14. Plaintiff reserves the right to establish other subclasses as appropriate.

15. The Class is ascertainable and there is a well-defined community of interest in the litigation:

a. Numerosity: The Class Members are so numerous that joinder of all Class Members is impracticable. The membership of the entire Class is unknown to Plaintiff at this time; however, the Class is estimated to be over fifty (50) individuals and the identity of such membership is readily ascertainable by inspection of Defendant's employment records.

b. Typicality: Plaintiff's claims are typical of all other Class Members demonstrated

herein. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the other Class Members with whom she has a well-defined community of interest.

c. Adequacy: Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of each Class Member, with whom she has a well-defined community of interest and typicality of claims, as demonstrated herein. Plaintiff has no interest that is antagonistic to the other Class Members. Plaintiff's attorneys, the proposed class counsel, are versed in the rules governing class action discovery, certification, and settlement. Plaintiff has incurred, and during the pendency of this action will continue to incur, costs and attorneys' fees, that have been, are, and will be necessarily expended for the prosecution of this action for the substantial benefit of each Class Member.

d. Superiority: A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this litigation because individual joinder of all Class Members is impractical.

e. Public Policy Considerations: Certification of this lawsuit as a class action will advance public policy objectives. Employers of this great state violate employment and labor laws every day. Current employees are often afraid to assert their rights out of fear of direct or indirect retaliation. However, class actions provide the Class Members who are not named in the complaint anonymity that allows for the vindication of their rights.

16. There are common questions of law and fact as to the Class that predominate over questions affecting only individual members. The following common questions of law or fact, among others, exist as to the members of the Class:

a. Whether Defendant's failure to pay wages, without abatement, or reduction, in accordance with the California Labor Code was willful;

b. Whether Defendant had a corporate policy and practice of failing to pay Plaintiff and the other Class Members for all hours worked, and missed, short, late or

1 interrupted meal periods and rest breaks in violation of California law;

2 c. Whether Defendant required Plaintiff and the other Class Members to work more
3 than eight (8) hours per day and/or more than forty (40) hours per week and failed
4 to pay the legally required overtime compensation to Plaintiff and the other Class
5 Members;

6 d. Whether Defendant deprived Plaintiff and the other Class Members of meal
7 and/or rest periods or required Plaintiff and the other Class Members to work
8 during meal and/or rest periods without compensation;

9 e. Whether Defendant failed to pay meal period premium wages to Class Members
10 when they were not provided with a legally compliant meal period;

11 f. Whether Defendant failed to pay rest period premium wages to Class Members
12 when they were not authorized and permitted to take legally compliant rest
13 periods;

14 g. Whether Defendant failed to pay minimum wages to Plaintiff and the other Class
15 Members for all hours worked;

16 h. Whether Defendant failed to pay Plaintiff and the other Class Members the
17 required minimum wage pursuant to California law;

18 i. Whether Defendant failed to pay Plaintiff and the other Class Members proper
19 overtime compensation pursuant to California law;

20 j. Whether Defendant failed to pay all wages due to Plaintiff and the other Class
21 Members within the time required upon their discharge or resignation from
22 employment;

23 k. Whether Defendant failed to reimburse Plaintiff and the other Class Members for
24 all necessary business-related expenses and costs in violation of California Labor
25 Code section 2802;

26 l. Whether Defendant failed to timely pay all wages due to Plaintiff and the other
27 Class Members during their employment;
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- 1 m. Whether Defendant complied with wage reporting as required by the California
2 Labor Code, including section 226;
- 3 n. Whether Defendant's conduct was with malice, fraud or oppression;
- 4 o. Whether Defendant's conduct was willful or reckless;
- 5 p. Whether Defendant engaged in unfair business practices in violation of California
6 Business & Professions Code section 17200, *et seq.* based on their improper
7 withholding of compensation and deduction of wages;
- 8 q. The appropriate amount of damages, restitution, and/or monetary penalties
9 resulting from Defendant's violation of California law; and
- 10 r. Whether Plaintiff and the other Class Members are entitled to compensatory
11 damages pursuant to the California Labor Code.

12 **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

13 17. Defendant is a winery that also produces and harvests its own grapes for wine.

14 18. Defendant employed Plaintiff to work as a General Laborer from approximately
15 April 2, 2002, to May 10, 2024.

16 19. At all relevant times set forth herein, Defendant employed Plaintiff, the Class, and
17 the Aggrieved Employees as hourly-paid or non-exempt employees.

18 20. Throughout the time period involved in this case, Defendant had the authority to
19 hire and terminate Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees; to directly or indirectly
20 control work rules, working conditions, wages, working hours, and conditions of employment of
21 Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees; and to hire and terminate the employment of
22 Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees.

23 21. At all times herein mentioned, Defendant was subject to the Labor Code of the
24 State of California and the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Orders.

25 22. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that Defendant engaged in
26 an ongoing and systematic scheme of wage abuse against its hourly-paid or non-exempt
27 employees. As set forth in more detail below, this scheme involved, *inter alia*, regularly requiring
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1 Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees to work off the clock without compensation,
2 thereby failing to pay them for all hours worked, including minimum and overtime wages.
3 Defendant also implemented time rounding practices that resulted in the systematic underpayment
4 of wages to Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees, including minimum and overtime
5 wages. Defendant also implemented policies that prohibited Plaintiff, the Class, and the
6 Aggrieved Employees from accurately recording the actual time worked, resulting in a failure to
7 pay Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees all wages owed. In addition, Defendant
8 routinely failed to permit Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees to take timely and
9 duty-free meal periods and rest periods in violation of California law. Defendant also failed to
10 reimburse Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees for all necessary business-related
11 expenses.

12 23. Throughout the time period involved in this case, Defendant implemented policies
13 and practices which failed to provide Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees with
14 timely and duty-free meal periods. Defendant routinely failed to relieve Plaintiff, the Class, and
15 the Aggrieved Employees of all duties during their meal periods, regularly failed to relinquish
16 control over Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees during their meal periods,
17 regularly failed to permit Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees a reasonable
18 opportunity to take their meal periods, and regularly impeded or discouraged Plaintiff, the Class,
19 and the Aggrieved Employees from taking thirty (30) minute uninterrupted meal breaks no later
20 than the end of their fifth hour of work and/or from taking a second thirty (30) minute
21 uninterrupted meal break no later than their tenth hour of work for shifts lasting more than ten
22 (10) hours. Defendant also failed to maintain accurate records of meal periods taken by Plaintiff,
23 the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees.

24 24. Throughout the time period involved in this case, Defendant did not adequately
25 inform Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees of their right to take meal periods under
26 California law. Moreover, Defendant systematically disregarded its own written policies
27 regarding the provision and timing of meal periods for Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved
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1 Employees. Instead, Defendant's actual policy and practice was to schedule Plaintiff, the Class,
2 and the Aggrieved Employees in a way that prohibited them from taking timely and duty-free
3 meal periods, and to require Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees to work through
4 their meal periods, for which they were not compensated.

5 25. Throughout the time period involved in this case, Defendant failed to pay Plaintiff,
6 the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees premium wages for meal periods that were missed, late,
7 interrupted, or shortened in violation of California law. Defendant knew or should have known
8 that Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees were entitled to receive all meal periods
9 or payment of one additional hour of pay at their regular rate of pay when a meal period was
10 missed, short, late, and/or interrupted. Notwithstanding this knowledge, Defendant routinely
11 failed to provide legally compliant meal periods to Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved
12 Employees, and routinely failed to pay one additional hour of pay to Plaintiff, the Class, and the
13 Aggrieved Employees at their regular rate of pay when a meal period was missed, short, late,
14 and/or interrupted.

15 26. Throughout the time period involved in this case, Defendant implemented policies
16 and practices which prohibited Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees from taking
17 timely and duty-free rest periods. Defendant regularly failed to provide, authorize, and permit
18 Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees to take full, uninterrupted, off-duty rest periods
19 for every shift lasting three and one-half (3.5) to six (6) hours and/or two full, uninterrupted, off-
20 duty rest periods for every shift lasting six (6) to ten (10) hours, and failed to make a good faith
21 effort to authorize, permit, and provide such rest breaks in the middle of each work period.

22 27. Throughout the time period involved in this case, Defendant did not adequately
23 inform Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees of their right to take rest periods under
24 California law. Moreover, Defendant systematically disregarded its own written policies
25 regarding the provision and timing of rest periods for Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved
26 Employees. Instead, Defendant's actual policy and practice was to schedule Plaintiff, the Class,
27 and the Aggrieved Employees in a way that regularly prohibited them from taking timely and
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1 duty free rest periods, and to regularly require Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees
2 to work through their rest periods.

3 28. Throughout the time period involved in this case, Defendant failed to pay Plaintiff,
4 the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees premium wages for rest periods that were missed, late,
5 interrupted, or shortened in violation of California law. Defendant knew or should have known
6 that Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees were entitled to receive all rest periods or
7 payment of one additional hour of pay at their regular rate of pay when a rest period was missed,
8 short, late, and/or interrupted. Notwithstanding this knowledge, Defendant routinely failed to
9 authorize and permit Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees to take duty-free rest
10 periods, and failed to pay one additional hour of pay to Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved
11 Employees at their regular rate of pay when a rest period was missed, short, late and/or
12 interrupted.

13 29. Throughout the time period involved in this case, Defendant regularly required
14 Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees to perform work off the clock. Although
15 Defendant prohibited overtime, Defendant still regularly required that Plaintiff, the Class, and the
16 Aggrieved Employees complete all of their assigned duties. To do so, Plaintiff, the Class, and the
17 Aggrieved Employees were regularly required to perform work off the clock for which they were
18 not compensated.

19 30. Throughout the time period involved in this case, Defendant employed a time
20 rounding policy that was not neutral and designed to consistently round time in Defendant's favor,
21 ensuring that Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees were oftentimes not paid for all
22 time worked.

23 31. Throughout the time period involved in this case, Defendant implemented policies
24 that prohibited Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees from accurately recording the
25 actual time worked, resulting in a failure to pay Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees
26 all wages owed.

27 32. Throughout the time period involved in this case, Plaintiff, the Class, and the
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1 Aggrieved Employees worked more than eight (8) hours in a day, and/or forty (40) hours in a
2 week.

3 33. Throughout the time period involved in this case, Defendant regularly failed to
4 pay all overtime compensation owed to Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees when
5 they worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a single work day and/or forty (40) hours in a single
6 work week, or in excess of twelve (12) hours in a single work day and/or eighty (80) hours in a
7 single work week. Defendant knew or should have known that Plaintiff, the Class, and the
8 Aggrieved Employees were entitled to receive certain wages for overtime compensation and that
9 they were not receiving wages for overtime compensation.

10 34. Throughout the time period involved in this case, Defendant failed to pay overtime
11 to Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees for all overtime hours worked based on
12 regular rates of pay correctly calculated to include all applicable remuneration.

13 35. Throughout the time period involved in this case, Defendant regularly failed to
14 pay Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees at least minimum wages for all hours
15 worked. Defendant knew or should have known that Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved
16 Employees were entitled to receive at least minimum wages for all hours worked and that they
17 were not receiving at least minimum wages for all hours worked. Defendant's failure to pay
18 minimum wages included, *inter alia*, failing to pay Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved
19 Employees at the required minimum wage pursuant to California law, requiring Plaintiff, the
20 Class, and the Aggrieved Employees to perform work off the clock, implementing time rounding
21 policies that resulted in the systematic underpayment of wages to Plaintiff, the Class, and the
22 Aggrieved Employees.

23 36. Throughout the time period involved in this case, Defendant regularly failed to
24 pay Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees all wages owed to them upon discharge or
25 resignation. Defendant knew or should have known that Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved
26 Employees were entitled to receive all wages owed to them upon termination within the time
27 permissible under California Labor Code section 202. Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved
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1 Employees did not receive payment of all final wages owed to them upon discharge or resignation,
2 including overtime compensation and minimum wages within any time permissible under
3 California Labor Code section 202.

4 37. Throughout the time period involved in this case, Defendant regularly failed to
5 pay Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees all wages within any time permissible
6 under California law, including, *inter alia*, California Labor Code section 204. Defendant knew
7 or should have known that Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees were entitled to
8 receive all wages owed to them during their employment. Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved
9 Employees did not receive payment of all wages, including overtime compensation, minimum
10 wages, meal and rest period premiums.

11 38. Throughout the time period involved in this case, Defendant regularly failed to
12 keep complete or accurate payroll records for Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees.
13 Defendant knew or should have known that Defendant was required to keep complete and
14 accurate payroll records for Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees in accordance with
15 California law, but, in fact, did not keep complete and accurate payroll records.

16 39. Throughout the time period involved in this case, Defendant regularly failed to
17 maintain accurate records relating to Plaintiff's and the Class's work periods, meal periods, total
18 daily hours, hours per pay period, and applicable pay rates.

19 40. Throughout the time period involved in this case, Defendant failed to reimburse
20 Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees for all necessary business-related expenses,
21 including but not limited to, gloves, glove boxes, and expenses for the use of a personal cell phone
22 for work-related purposes. Defendant knew or should have known that Defendant was required
23 to reimburse Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees for all necessary business-related
24 expenses and costs, but, in fact, failed to do so in violation of California law.

25 41. Throughout the time period involved in this case, Defendant knew or should have
26 known that it had a duty to compensate Plaintiff, the Class, and the Aggrieved Employees
27 pursuant to California law. Defendant had the financial ability to pay such compensation, but
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1 willfully, knowingly, and intentionally failed to do so, and falsely represented to Plaintiff, the
2 Class, and the Aggrieved Employees that they paid all wages owed to them, all in order to increase
3 Defendant's profits.

4 42. California Labor Code section 218 states that nothing in Article 1 of the Labor
5 Code shall limit the right of any wage claimant to "sue directly ... for any wages or penalty due
6 to him [or her] under this article."

7 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

8 **(Violation of California Labor Code §§ 510 and 1198)**

9 **(Against All Defendants)**

10 43. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein each and
11 every allegation set forth above.

12 44. California Labor Code section 1198 and the applicable Industrial Welfare
13 Commission ("IWC") Wage Order provide that it is unlawful to employ persons without
14 compensating them at a rate of pay either time-and-one-half or two-times that person's regular
15 rate of pay, depending on the number of hours worked by the person on a daily or weekly basis.

16 45. Specifically, the applicable IWC Wage Order provides that Defendant is and was
17 required to pay Plaintiff and the other Class Members employed by Defendant, and working more
18 than eight (8) hours in a day or more than forty (40) hours in a workweek, at the rate of time-and-
19 one-half for all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a day or more than forty (40) hours
20 in a workweek.

21 46. The applicable IWC Wage Order further provides that Defendant is and was
22 required to pay Plaintiff and the Class overtime compensation at a rate of two times their regular
23 rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of twelve (12) hours in a day and for all hours worked
24 in excess of eight (8) hours on the seventh day of work in a workweek.

25 47. California Labor Code section 510 codifies the right to overtime compensation at
26 one-and-one-half times the regular hourly rate for hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a
27 day or forty (40) hours in a week or for the first eight (8) hours worked on the seventh day of
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work, and no overtime compensation at twice the regular hourly rate for hours worked in excess of twelve (12) hours in a day or in excess of eight (8) hours in a day on the seventh day of work.

48. During the relevant time period, Plaintiff and the other Class Members regularly worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a day, and/or in excess of forty (40) hours in a week.

49. During the relevant time period, Defendant intentionally and willfully failed to pay overtime wages owed to Plaintiff and the other Class Members.

50. Defendant's failure to pay Plaintiff and the other Class Members the unpaid balance of overtime compensation, as required by California laws, violates the provisions of California Labor Code sections 510 and 1198, and is therefore unlawful.

51. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 1194, Plaintiff and the other Class Members are entitled to recover unpaid overtime compensation, as well as interest, costs, and attorneys' fees.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512(a))

(Against All Defendants)

52. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein each and every allegation set forth above.

53. At all relevant times, the relevant IWC Order and California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512(a) were applicable to Plaintiff and the other Class Members' employment by Defendant.

54. At all relevant times, California Labor Code section 226.7 provides that no employer shall require an employee to work during any meal or rest period mandated by an applicable order of the California IWC.

55. At all relevant times, the applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor Code section 512(a) provide that an employer may not require, cause or permit an employee to work for a work period of more than five (5) hours per day without providing the employee with a meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes, except that if the total work period per day of the

1 employee is no more than six (6) hours, the meal period may be waived by mutual consent of
2 both the employer and employee.

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

9 57. During the relevant time period, Plaintiff and the other Class Members who were
10 scheduled to work for a period of time longer than six (6) hours, and who did not waive their
11 legally-mandated meal periods by mutual consent, were required to work for periods longer than
12 five (5) hours without an uninterrupted meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes.

13 58. During the relevant time period, Plaintiff and the other Class Members who were
14 scheduled to work for a period of time in excess of ten (10) hours were required to work for
15 periods longer than ten (10) hours without a second uninterrupted meal period of not less than
16 thirty (30) minutes.

17 59. During the relevant time period, Defendant intentionally and willfully required
18 Plaintiff and the other Class Members to miss their meal periods and to take meal periods that
19 were late, shortened, or interrupted, and failed to compensate Plaintiff and the other Class
20 Members the full meal period premium for missed, shortened, late, or interrupted meal periods.

21 60. During the relevant time period, Defendant failed to pay Plaintiff and the other
22 Class Members the full meal period premiums due pursuant to California Labor Code section
23 226.7.

24 61. Defendant's conduct violates the applicable IWC Wage Order and California
25 Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512(a).

26 62. Pursuant to the applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor Code section
27 226.7(b), Plaintiff and the other Class Members are entitled to recover from Defendant one
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1 additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each work day that the
2 meal period was not provided.

3 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

4 **(Violation of California Labor Code § 226.7)**

5 **(Against All Defendants)**

6 63. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein each and
7 every allegation set forth above.

8 64. At all times herein set forth, the applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor
9 Code section 226.7 were applicable to Plaintiff and the other Class Members' employment by
10 Defendant.

11 65. At all relevant times, California Labor Code section 226.7 provides that no
12 employer shall require an employee to work during any rest period mandated by an applicable
13 order of the California IWC.

14 66. At all relevant times, the applicable IWC Wage Order provides that "[e]very
15 employer shall authorize and permit all employees to take rest periods, which insofar as
16 practicable shall be in the middle of each work period" and that the "rest period time shall be
17 based on the total hours worked daily at the rate of ten (10) minutes net rest time per four (4)
18 hours or major fraction thereof unless the total daily work time is less than three and one-half
19 (3.5) hours."

20 67. During the relevant time period, Defendant required Plaintiff and other Class
21 Members to work four (4) or more hours without authorizing or permitting a ten (10) minute rest
22 period per each four (4) hour period worked.

23 68. During the relevant time period, Defendant willfully required Plaintiff and the
24 other Class Members to work during rest periods, failed to allow Plaintiff and the other Class
25 Member to take any rest period and/or failed to authorize and permit Plaintiff and the other Class
26 Members to take uninterrupted, duty-free rest breaks.

27 69. During the relevant time period, Defendant failed to pay Plaintiff and the other
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1 Class Members the full rest period premium due pursuant to California Labor Code section 226.7
2 for work performed during rest periods, and/or for failure to authorize and permit Plaintiff and
3 other Class Members from taking uninterrupted rest periods.

4 70. Defendant's conduct violates applicable IWC Wage Orders and California Labor
5 Code section 226.7.

6 71. Pursuant to the applicable IWC Wage Orders and California Labor Code section
7 226.7(b), Plaintiff and the other Class Members are entitled to recover from Defendant one
8 additional hour of pay at the employees' regular hourly rate of compensation for each work day
9 that the rest period was not provided.

10 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

11 **(Violation of California Labor Code §§ 1194, 1197, and 1197.1)**

12 **(Against All Defendants)**

13 72. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein each and
14 every allegation set forth above.

15 73. At all relevant times, California Labor Code sections 1194, 1197, and 1197.1
16 provide that the minimum wage to be paid to employees and the payment of a lesser wage than
17 the minimum so fixed is unlawful.

18 74. During the relevant time period, Defendant regularly failed to pay minimum wage
19 to Plaintiff and the other Class Members as required pursuant to California Labor Code sections
20 1194, 1197, and 1197.1.

21 75. Defendant's failure to pay Plaintiff and the other Class Members the minimum
22 wage as required violates California Labor Code sections 1194, 1197, and 1197.1. Pursuant to
23 those sections, Plaintiff and the other Class Members are entitled to recover the unpaid balance
24 of their minimum wage compensation as well as interest, costs, and attorneys' fees, and liquidated
25 damages in an amount equal to the wages unlawfully unpaid and interest thereon.

26 76. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 1194.2, Plaintiff and the other Class
27 Members are entitled to recover liquidated damages in an amount equal to the wages unlawfully
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unpaid and interest thereon.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of California Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203)

(Against All Defendants)

77. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein each and every allegation set forth above.

78. At all relevant times herein set forth, 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 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.

79. During the relevant time period, the employment of Plaintiff and many other Class Members with Defendant ended, *i.e.* was terminated by quitting or discharge. Defendant intentionally and willfully failed to pay Plaintiff and other Class Members who are no longer employed by Defendant all of their wages, earned and unpaid, including but not limited to minimum wages, straight time wages, overtime wages, within seventy-two (72) hours of their leaving Defendant's employ.

80. Defendant's failure to pay Plaintiff and other Class Members who are no longer employed by Defendant their wages, earned and unpaid, within seventy-two (72) hours of their leaving Defendant's employ, is in violation of California Labor Code sections 201 and 202.

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

82. Plaintiff and other Class Members who are no longer employed by Defendant are entitled to recover from Defendant the statutory penalty wages for each day they were not paid,

up to a thirty (30) day maximum pursuant to California Labor Code section 203.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of California Labor Code §§ 204 and 210)

(Against All Defendants)

83. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein each and every allegation set forth above

84. At all times herein set forth, California Labor Code section 204 provides that all wages earned by any person in any employment between the 1st and 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 26th day of the month during which the labor was performed.

85. At all times herein set forth, California Labor Code section 204 provides 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.

86. At all times herein set forth, California Labor Code section 204 provides 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.

87. During the relevant time period, Defendant intentionally and willfully failed to pay Plaintiff and other Class Members all wages due to them, within any time period permissible under California Labor Code section 204.

88. Plaintiff and other Class Members are entitled to recover all available remedies for Defendant's violations of California Labor Code section 204, including statutory penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 210(b).

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of California Labor Code §§ 2800 and 2802)

(Against All Defendants)

89. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein each and

1 every allegation set forth above.

2 90. Pursuant to California Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802, an employer must
3 reimburse its employee for all necessary expenditures incurred by the employee in direct
4 consequence of the discharge of his or her job duties or in direct consequence of his or her job
5 duties or in direct consequence of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer.

6 91. Plaintiff and the Class incurred necessary business-related expenses and costs that
7 were not fully reimbursed by Defendant. Defendant's failure to reimburse for all necessary
8 business-related expenses and costs included its failure to reimburse Plaintiff and the Class for
9 costs incurred as a result of, including but not limited to, simple negligence.

10 92. Defendant intentionally and willfully failed to reimburse Plaintiff and the Class
11 for all necessary business-related expenses and costs. Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to recover
12 from Defendant their business-related expenses and costs incurred during the course and scope
13 of their employment, plus interest accrued from the date on which the employee incurred the
14 necessary expenditures at the same rate as judgments in civil actions in the State of California.

15 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

16 **(Violation of Cal. Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*)**

17 **(Against All Defendants)**

18 93. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein each and
19 every allegation set forth above.

20 94. Defendant's conduct, as alleged herein, has been, and continues to be, unfair,
21 unlawful and harmful to Plaintiff and the Class, to the general public, and Defendant's
22 competitors. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks to enforce important rights affecting the public interest
23 within the meaning of Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5.

24 95. Defendant's activities as alleged herein are violations of California law, and
25 constitute unlawful business acts and practices in violation of California Business & Professions
26 Code section 17200, *et seq.*

27 96. A violation of California Business & Professions Code section 17200, *et seq.* may
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1 be predicated on the violation of any state or federal law. In this instant case, Defendant's policies
2 and practices of requiring employees, including Plaintiff and the Class, to work overtime without
3 paying them proper compensation violate California Labor Code sections 510 and 1198.
4 Additionally, Defendant's policies and practices of requiring employees, including Plaintiff and
5 the Class, to work through their meal and rest periods without paying them proper compensation
6 violate California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512(a). Moreover, Defendant's policies and
7 practices of failing to timely pay wages to Plaintiff and the Class violate California Labor Code
8 sections 201, 202, 203 and 204.

9 97. Defendant also violated California Labor Code sections 221, 1194, 1197, 1197.1,
10 510, 1174(d), 2800, 2802.

11 98. As a result of the herein described violations of California law, Defendant
12 unlawfully gained an unfair advantage over other businesses.

13 99. Plaintiff and the Class have been personally injured by Defendant's unlawful
14 business acts and practices as alleged herein, including but not necessarily limited to the loss of
15 money and/or property.

16 100. Pursuant to California Business & Professions Code sections 17200, *et seq.*,
17 Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to restitution of the wages withheld and retained by Defendant
18 during a period that commences four years prior to the filing of this Complaint; an award of
19 attorneys' fees pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5 and other applicable
20 laws; and an award of costs.

21 **NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

22 **(Violation of California Labor Code § 2699, Et Seq.)**

23 **(Against All Defendants)**

24 101. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein each and
25 every allegation set forth above.

26 102. Plaintiff brings her ninth cause of action solely as a representative action pursuant
27 to the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, California Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.*
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1 (“PAGA”), on behalf of the State of California for all aggrieved employees, including herself and
2 other aggrieved employees of Defendants against whom the alleged violations were committed.

3 103. PAGA specifically provides for a private right of action to recover civil penalties
4 for violations of the Labor Code as follows: “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any
5 provision of this code that provides for a civil penalty to be assessed and collected by the Labor
6 and Workforce Development Agency or any of its departments, divisions, commissions, boards,
7 agencies, or employees, for a violation of this code, may, as an alternative, be recovered through
8 a civil action brought by an aggrieved employee on behalf of the employee and other current or
9 former employees against whom a violation of the same provision was committed pursuant to the
10 procedures specified in Section 2699.3.” Cal. Lab. Code § 2699(a).

11 104. Plaintiff was employed by Defendants and the Labor Code violations alleged
12 above were committed against her during her time of employment. Plaintiff is therefore, an
13 “aggrieved employee” under PAGA.

14 105. As set forth in detail above, during all times relevant to this Action, Defendants
15 have routinely subjected Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees to violations of California Labor
16 Codes by:

- 17 a. Failing to pay Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees all earned minimum wage
18 compensation in violation of Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1198 *et seq.*
- 19 b. Failing to pay Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees all earned overtime
20 compensation in violation of Labor Code §§ 204, 510, 1194, and 1198 *et seq.*
- 21 c. Failing to provide legally required meal periods to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved
22 Employees, and failing to pay Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees an additional
23 hour of premium pay for meal period violations in violation of Labor Code §§
24 226.7 and 512.
- 25 d. Failing to provide authorize and permit Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees to
26 take duty-free rest periods, and failing to pay Plaintiff and the Aggrieved
27 Employees an additional hour of premium pay for rest period violations in
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violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512.

e. Failing to timely pay Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees all wages at the end of their employment in violation of Labor Code § 203.

f. Failing to timely pay Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees all wages owed during employment in violation of Labor Code § 204.

g. Failing to furnish Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees with complete, accurate, itemized wage statements in violation of Labor Code § 226.

h. Failing to maintain accurate records relating to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees' work periods, meal periods, total daily hours, hours per pay period, total wages and compensation, and applicable pay rates in violation of Labor Code § 1174(d) and the applicable IWC Wage Order.

i. Failing to reimburse Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for necessary business-related expenses in violation of Labor Code §§ 2800 and 2802.

106. Pursuant to California Labor Code sections 2699 and 2699.5, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the Aggrieved Employees and the State of California, requests and is entitled to recover penalties against Defendants for the Labor Code violations described above, including but not limited to penalties under California Code of Regulations Title 8 section 11140, penalties under California Labor Code sections 2699, 210, 226, 226.3, 558, 1174.5, 1775, and 1197.1, and any and all additional penalties and sums as provided by the California Labor Code and/or other statutes. The exact amount of the applicable penalties, in all, is an amount to be shown according to proof at trial.

107. Plaintiff has exhausted her administrative remedies pursuant to Labor Code § 2699.3. On May 8, 2025, Plaintiff, through her counsel of record, by online filing with the Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and by certified mail to the Defendants, notified Defendants and the LWDA of the specific provisions of the Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders that Defendants have violated, including the facts and theories to support the violations, and of Plaintiff's intent to bring a claim for civil penalties under PAGA. Plaintiff also paid the filing fee

1 required under Labor Code § 2699.3. As of the filing of this Complaint, more than sixty-five (65)
2 days have elapsed since the mailing of Plaintiff's May 8, 2025 notice, and the LWDA has not
3 indicated that it intends to investigate the violations discussed in the notice. Accordingly, Plaintiff
4 may commence a civil action to recover penalties for herself and other Aggrieved Employees
5 pursuant to Labor Code § 2699.3.

6 108. Plaintiff was compelled to retain the services of counsel to file this court action to
7 protect her interests and the Aggrieved Employees, and to assess and collect the civil penalties
8 owed by Defendants. Plaintiff therefore seeks an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs
9 pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1), and any other applicable statute.

10 109. Plaintiff may amend this complaint as a matter of right pursuant to California
11 Labor Code § 2699.3 as this complaint has been filed within sixty days of the time periods
12 specified in Labor Code § 2699.3.

13 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

14 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of all other members of the general
15 public similarly situated, prays for relief and judgment against Defendant, jointly and severally,
16 as follows:

17 **Class Certification**

- 18 1. That this action be certified as a class action;
19 2. That Plaintiff be appointed as the representative of the Class;
20 3. That counsel for Plaintiff be appointed as Class Counsel; and
21 4. That Defendant provide to Class Counsel immediately the names and most
22 current/last known contact information (address, e-mail and telephone numbers) of all class
23 members.

24 **As to the First Cause of Action**

- 25 5. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendant violated California
26 Labor Code sections 510 and 1198 and applicable IWC Wage Orders by willfully failing to pay
27 all overtime wages due to Plaintiff and other Class Members;
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1 6. For general unpaid wages at overtime wage rates and such general and special
2 damages as may be appropriate;

3 7. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid overtime compensation commencing
4 from the date such amounts were due;

5 8. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to
6 California Labor Code section 1194; and

7 9. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

8 **As to the Second Cause of Action**

9 10. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendant violated California
10 Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512 and applicable IWC Wage Orders by willfully failing to
11 provide all meal periods (including second meal periods) to Plaintiff and the Class;

12 11. That the Court make an award to Plaintiff and the Class of one (1) hour of pay at
13 each employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that a meal period was not
14 provided;

15 12. For all actual, consequential, and incidental losses and damages, according to
16 proof;

17 13. For premium wages pursuant to California Labor Code section 226.7;

18 14. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid wages from the date such amounts were
19 due;

20 15. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein; and

21 16. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

22 **As to the Third Cause of Action**

23 17. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendant violated California
24 Labor Code section 226.7 and applicable IWC Wage Orders by willfully failing to provide all rest
25 periods to Plaintiff and the Class;

26 18. That the Court make an award to Plaintiff and the Class of one (1) hour of pay at
27 each employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that a rest period was not
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provided;

19. For all actual, consequential, and incidental losses and damages, according to proof;

20. For premium wages pursuant to California Labor Code section 226.7;

21. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid wages from the date such amounts were due; and

22. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

As to the Fourth Cause of Action

23. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendant violated California Labor Code sections 1194, 1197, and 1197.1 by willfully failing to pay minimum wages to Plaintiff and the Class;

24. For general unpaid wages and such general and special damages as may be appropriate;

25. For statutory wage penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 1197.1 for Plaintiff and the Class in the amount as may be established according to proof at trial;

26. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid compensation from the date such amounts were due;

27. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to California Labor Code section 1194(a);

28. For liquidated damages pursuant to California Labor Code section 1194.2; and

29. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

As to the Fifth Cause of Action

30. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendant violated California Labor Code sections 201, 202, and 203 by willfully failing to pay all compensation owed at the time of termination of the employment of Plaintiff and other Class Members no longer employed by Defendant;

31. For all actual, consequential, and incidental losses and damages, according to

1 proof;

2 32. For statutory wage penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 203 for
3 Plaintiff and other Class Members who have left Defendant's employ;

4 33. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid compensation from the date such amounts
5 were due; and

6 34. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

7 **As to the Sixth Cause of Action**

8 35. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendant violated California
9 Labor Code section 204 by willfully failing to pay all compensation owed at the time required by
10 California Labor Code section 204 to Plaintiff and the Class;

11 36. For statutory penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 210;

12 37. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

13 **As to the Seventh Cause of Action**

14 38. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendant violated California
15 Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802 by willfully failing to reimburse Plaintiff and the Class for
16 all necessary business-related expenses as required by California Labor Code sections 2800 and
17 2802;

18 39. For actual, consequential and incidental losses and damages, according to proof;

19 40. For the imposition of civil penalties and/or statutory penalties;

20 41. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein; and

21 42. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

22 **As to the Eighth Cause of Action**

23 43. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendant violated California
24 Business and Professions Code sections 17200, *et seq.* by failing to provide Plaintiff and the Class
25 all overtime compensation due to them, failing to provide all meal and rest periods to Plaintiff
26 and the Class, failing to pay at least minimum wages to Plaintiff and the Class, failing to pay
27 Plaintiff's and other Class Members' wages timely as required by California Labor Code section
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201, 202 and 204 and by violating California Labor Code sections 1174(d), 2800, and 2802;

44. For restitution of unpaid wages to Plaintiff and the Class and all pre-judgment interest from the day such amounts were due and payable;

45. For the appointment of a receiver to receive, manage and distribute any and all funds disgorged from Defendant and determined to have been wrongfully acquired by Defendant as a result of violation of California Business and Professions Code sections 17200, *et seq.*;

46. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5;

47. For injunctive relief to ensure compliance with this section, pursuant to California Business and Professions Code sections 17200, *et seq.*; and

48. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

As to the Ninth Cause of Action

49. For statutory attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to section 2699(g)(1) of the California Labor Code;

50. For the imposition of civil penalties pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 2699, 210, 558, 226, 226.3, 1174.5, 1197.1, and all other penalties allowed by the California Labor Code and/or other applicable statutes; and

51. For such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: July 14, 2025

PROTECTION LAW GROUP, LLP

By: _____


Carlos Jimenez
Stephanie Papayanis
Kiryl Karpiuk
Attorneys for Plaintiff
SILVINA CRUZ GARCIA

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury as to all causes of action triable by a jury.

Dated: July 14, 2025

PROTECTION LAW GROUP, LLP



By: _____

Carlos Jimenez
Stephanie Papayanis
Kiryl Karpiuk
Attorneys for Plaintiff
SILVINA CRUZ GARCIA