

BLUMENTHAL NORDREHAUG BHOWMIK DE BLOUW LLP

Norman B. Blumenthal (State Bar #068687)
Kyle R. Nordrehaug (State Bar #205975)
Aparajit Bhowmik (State Bar #248066)
Nicholas J. De Blouw (State Bar #280922)
2255 Calle Clara
La Jolla, CA 92037
Telephone: (858)551-1223
Facsimile: (858) 551-1232
Website: www.bamlawca.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff

**Electronically Filed
by Superior Court of CA,
County of Santa Clara,
on 12/18/2023 12:12 PM
Reviewed By: R. Walker
Case #23CV409729
Envelope: 13891435**

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

TIANA SELL, an individual, on behalf of herself and on
behalf of all persons similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

EBLOCK CORPORATION, a Corporation; and DOES 1
through 50, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 23CV409729

**FIRST AMENDED CONSOLIDATED CLASS AND
REPRESENTATIVE ACTION COMPLAINT FOR:**

1. UNFAIR COMPETITION IN VIOLATION OF CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE §§ 17200, *et seq.*;
2. FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 1194, 1197 & 1197.1;
3. FAILURE TO PAY OVERTIME WAGES IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE § 510;
4. FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED MEAL PERIODS IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 226.7 & 512 AND THE APPLICABLE IWC WAGE ORDER;
5. FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED REST PERIODS IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 226.7 & 512 AND THE APPLICABLE IWC WAGE ORDER;
6. FAILURE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE ITEMIZED STATEMENTS IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE § 226;
7. FAILURE TO REIMBURSE EMPLOYEES FOR REQUIRED EXPENSES IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE § 2802;
8. FAILURE TO PROVIDE WAGES WHEN DUE IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 201, 202 AND 203;
9. FAILURE TO PAY SICK PAY WAGES IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 201-204, 233, 246; *and*
10. CIVIL PENALTIES PURSUANT TO LABOR CODE § 2699, *et seq.* FOR VIOLATIONS OF LABOR CODE §§ 201, 202, 203, 204 *et seq.*, 210, 218, 218.5, 218.6, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 227.3, 510, 512, 558), 1174, 1174.5, 1194, 1194.2, 1195, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2698 *et seq.*, 2800, 2802, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS SECTION 8, TITLE 11040, SUBDIVISION 5(A)-(B), AND THE APPLICABLE WAGE ORDER(S).

DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL

1 Plaintiff Tiana Sell (“PLAINTIFF”), an individual, on behalf of herself and all other similarly
2 situated current and former employees alleges on information and belief, except for her own acts and
3 knowledge which are based on personal knowledge, the following.

4
5 **THE PARTIES**

6 1. Eblock Corporation (“DEFENDANT”) is a corporation that at all relevant times mentioned
7 herein conducted and continues to conduct substantial business in the state of California.

8 2. DEFENDANT is an online car auction company where customers can buy and sell vehicles.

9 3. PLAINTIFF was employed by DEFENDANT in California from June of 2022 to August
10 21, 2022. PLAINTIFF was at all times classified by DEFENDANT as a non-exempt employee, paid on an
11 hourly basis, and entitled to the legally required meal and rest periods and payment of minimum and
12 overtime wages due for all time worked.

13 4. PLAINTIFF brings this Class Action on behalf of herself and a California class, defined as
14 all current and former non-exempt employees of DEFENDANT, who worked in the state of California (the
15 “CALIFORNIA CLASS”) from November 20, 2020 through the date of preliminary approval or January
16 26, 2024, whichever happens first (the “CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD”). The amount in controversy for
17 the aggregate claim of CALIFORNIA CLASS Members is under five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00).

18 5. PLAINTIFF brings this Class Action on behalf of herself and a CALIFORNIA CLASS
19 in order to fully compensate the CALIFORNIA CLASS for their losses incurred during the
20 CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD caused by DEFENDANT’s policy and practice which failed to
21 lawfully compensate these employees. DEFENDANT’s policy and practice alleged herein was an
22 unlawful, unfair and deceptive business practice whereby DEFENDANT retained and continues to
23 retain wages due PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS. PLAINTIFF and
24 the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS seek an injunction enjoining such conduct by
25 DEFENDANT in the future, relief for the named PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
26 CALIFORNIA CLASS who have been economically injured by DEFENDANT’s past and current
27 unlawful conduct, and all other appropriate legal and equitable relief.
28

6. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, subsidiary, partnership, associate or otherwise of defendants DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are presently unknown to PLAINTIFF who therefore sues these Defendants by such fictitious names pursuant to Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 474. PLAINTIFF will seek leave to amend this Complaint to allege the true names and capacities of Does 1 through 50, inclusive, when they are ascertained. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and based upon that information and belief alleges, that the Defendants named in this Complaint, including DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are responsible in some manner for one or more of the events and happenings that proximately caused the injuries and damages hereinafter alleged.

7. The agents, servants and/or employees of the Defendants and each of them acting on behalf of the Defendants acted within the course and scope of his, her or its authority as the agent, servant and/or employee of the Defendants, and personally participated in the conduct alleged herein on behalf of the Defendants with respect to the conduct alleged herein. Consequently, the acts of each Defendant are legally attributable to the other Defendants and all Defendants are jointly and severally liable to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, for the loss sustained as a proximate result of the conduct of the Defendants' agents, servants and/or employees.

THE CONDUCT

8. Pursuant to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, DEFENDANT was required to pay PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all their time worked, meaning the time during which an employee is subject to the control of an employer, including all the time the employee is suffered or permitted to work. DEFENDANT requires PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to work without paying them for all the time they are under DEFENDANT's control. Among other things, DEFENDANT requires PLAINTIFF to work while clocked out during what is supposed to be PLAINTIFF's off-duty meal break. PLAINTIFF was from time to time interrupted by work assignments while clocked out for what should have been PLAINTIFF's off-duty meal break. DEFENDANT, as a matter of established company policy and procedure, administers a uniform practice of rounding the actual time worked and recorded by PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, always to the benefit of DEFENDANT, so that during the course of their employment,

1 PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members are paid less than they would have been paid had
2 they been paid for actual recorded time rather than “rounded” time. Additionally, DEFENDANT
3 engages in the practice of requiring PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to perform work
4 off the clock in that DEFENDANT, as a condition of employment, required these employees to submit
5 to mandatory temperature checks and symptom questionnaires for COVID-19 screening prior to
6 clocking into DEFENDANT’s timekeeping system for the workday. As a result, PLAINTIFF and other
7 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members forfeit minimum wage, overtime wage compensation, and off-duty
8 meal breaks by working without their time being correctly recorded and without compensation at the
9 applicable rates. DEFENDANT’s policy and practice not to pay PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
10 CLASS Members for all time worked, is evidenced by DEFENDANT’s business records.

11 9. State and federal law provides that employees must be paid overtime and meal and rest
12 break premiums at one-and-one-half times their “regular rate of pay.” PLAINTIFF and other
13 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members are compensated at an hourly rate plus incentive pay that is tied to
14 specific elements of an employee’s performance.

15 10. The second component of PLAINTIFF’s and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members’
16 compensation is DEFENDANT’s non-discretionary incentive program that paid PLAINTIFF and other
17 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members incentive wages based on their performance for DEFENDANT. The
18 non-discretionary incentive program provided all employees paid on an hourly basis with incentive
19 compensation when the employees met the various performance goals set by DEFENDANT. However,
20 when calculating the regular rate of pay in order to pay overtime and meal and rest break premiums to
21 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, DEFENDANT failed to include the incentive
22 compensation as part of the employees’ “regular rate of pay” for purposes of calculating overtime pay
23 and meal and rest break premium pay. Management and supervisors described the incentive program to
24 potential and new employees as part of the compensation package. As a matter of law, the incentive
25 compensation received by PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members must be included in
26 the “regular rate of pay.” The failure to do so has resulted in a underpayment of overtime compensation
27 and meal and rest break premiums to PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members by
28 DEFENDANT.

1 11. As a result of their rigorous work schedules, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
2 CLASS Members were from time to time unable to take thirty (30) minute off duty meal breaks and
3 were not fully relieved of duty for their meal periods. PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
4 Members were required from time to time to perform work as ordered by DEFENDANT for more than
5 five (5) hours during some shifts without receiving a meal break. Further, DEFENDANT from time to
6 time failed to provide PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with a second off-duty meal
7 period for some workdays in which these employees were required by DEFENDANT to work ten (10)
8 hours of work. DEFENDANT also engaged in the practice of rounding the meal period times to avoid
9 paying penalties to PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members. PLAINTIFF and other
10 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS therefore forfeit meal breaks without additional compensation
11 and in accordance with DEFENDANT's corporate policy and practice.

12 12. During the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
13 CLASS Members were also required from time to time to work in excess of four (4) hours without
14 being provided ten (10) minute rest periods. Further, these employees were denied their first rest
15 periods of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of at least two (2) to four (4) hours from time
16 to time, a first and second rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of between six
17 (6) and eight (8) hours from time to time, and a first, second and third rest period of at least ten (10)
18 minutes for some shifts worked of ten (10) hours or more from time to time. PLAINTIFF and other
19 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were also not provided with one hour wages in lieu thereof.
20 Additionally, the applicable California Wage Order requires employers to provide employees with off-
21 duty rest periods, which the California Supreme Court defined as time during which an employee is
22 relieved from all work related duties and free from employer control. In so doing, the Court held that
23 the requirement under California law that employers authorize and permit all employees to take rest
24 period means that employers must relieve employees of all duties and relinquish control over how
25 employees spend their time which includes control over the locations where employees may take their
26 rest period. Employers cannot impose controls that prohibit an employee from taking a brief walk - five
27 minutes out, five minutes back. Here, DEFENDANT's policy restricted PLAINTIFF and other
28 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members from unconstrained walks and is unlawful based on DEFENDANT's

1 rule which states PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members cannot leave the work
2 premises during their rest period.

3 13. During the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT failed to accurately record
4 and pay PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for the actual amount of time these
5 employees worked. Pursuant to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, DEFENDANT was
6 required to pay PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all time worked, meaning
7 the time during which an employee was subject to the control of an employer, including all the time the
8 employee was permitted or suffered to permit this work. DEFENDANT required these employees to
9 work off the clock without paying them for all the time they were under DEFENDANT's control. As
10 such, DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
11 CALIFORNIA CLASS were under compensated for all time worked. As a result, PLAINTIFF and
12 other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members forfeited time worked by working without their time being
13 accurately recorded and without compensation at the applicable minimum wage and overtime wage
14 rates. To the extent that the time worked off the clock does not qualify for overtime premium payment,
15 DEFENDANT fails to pay minimum wages for the time worked off-the-clock in violation of Cal. Lab.
16 Code §§ 1194, 1197, and 1197.1.

17 14. From time to time, DEFENDANT also failed to provide PLAINTIFF and the other
18 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with complete and accurate wage statements which failed to
19 show, among other things, the correct gross and net wages earned. Cal. Lab. Code § 226 provides that
20 every employer shall furnish each of his or her employees with an accurate itemized wage statement in
21 writing showing, among other things, gross wages earned and all applicable hourly rates in effect during
22 the pay period and the corresponding amount of time worked at each hourly rate. PLAINTIFF and
23 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were paid on an hourly basis. As such, the wage statements should
24 reflect all applicable hourly rates during the pay period and the total hours worked, and the applicable
25 pay period in which the wages were earned pursuant to California Labor Code Section 226(a). The
26 wage statements DEFENDANT provided to PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
27 failed to identify such information. More specifically, the wage statements failed to identify the accurate
28 total hours worked each pay period. When the hours shown on the wage statements were added up,

1 they did not equal the actual total hours worked during the pay period in violation of Cal. Lab. Code
2 226(a)(2). Aside, from the violations listed above in this paragraph, DEFENDANT failed to issue to
3 PLAINTIFF an itemized wage statement that lists all the requirements under California Labor Code 226
4 *et seq.* As a result, DEFENDANT from time to time provided PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
5 CALIFORNIA CLASS with wage statements which violated Cal. Lab. Code § 226.

6 15. Cal. Lab. Code § 204(d) provides, the requirements of this section shall be deemed
7 satisfied by the payment of wages for weekly, biweekly, or semimonthly payroll if the wages are paid
8 not more than seven (7) calendar days following the close of the payroll period. Cal. Lab. Code § 210
9 provides:

10 [I]n addition to, and entirely independent and apart from, any other penalty provided in this
11 article, every person who fails to pay the wages of each employee as provided in Sections. . . .204. .
12 .shall be subject to a civil penalty as follows: (1) For any initial violation, one hundred dollars (\$100)
13 for each failure to pay each employee; (2) For each subsequent violation, or any willful or intentional
14 violation, two hundred dollars (\$200) for each failure to pay each employee, plus 25 percent of the
15 amount unlawfully withheld.

16
17 16. DEFENDANT from time to time failed to pay PLAINTIFF and members of the
18 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members within seven (7) days of the close of the payroll period
19 in accordance with Cal. Lab. Code § 204(d), including but not limited to for the “Hourly” regular wage
20 payments.

21 17. DEFENDANT underpaid sick pay wages to PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
22 CLASS Members by failing to pay such wages at the regular rate of pay in violation of Cal. Lab. Code
23 Section 246. Specifically, PLAINTIFF and other non-exempt employees earn non-discretionary
24 remuneration. Rather than pay sick pay at the regular rate of pay, DEFENDANT underpaid sick pay to
25 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members at their base rates of pay.

26 18. Cal. Lab. Code Section 246(l)(2) requires that paid sick time for nonexempt
27 employees be calculated by dividing the employee’s total wages, not including overtime premium pay,
28 by the employee’s total hours worked in the full pay periods of the prior 90 days of employment.

1 19. DEFENDANT violated Cal. Lab. Code Section 246 by failing to pay sick pay at the
2 regular rate of pay. PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members routinely earned non-
3 discretionary incentive wages which increased their regular rate of pay. However, when sick pay was
4 paid, it was paid at the base rate of pay for PLAINTIFF and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, as
5 opposed to the correct, higher regular rate of pay, as required under Cal. Lab. Code Section 246.

6 20. As a pattern and practice, DEFENDANT regularly failed to pay PLAINTIFF and other
7 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS their correct wages and accordingly owe waiting time penalties
8 pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code Section 203. Further, PLAINTIFF is informed and believes and based
9 thereon alleges that such failure to pay sick pay at regular rate was willful, such that PLAINTIFF and
10 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS whose employment has separated are entitled to waiting time
11 penalties pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code Sections 201-203.

12 21. Pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code Section 221, "It shall be unlawful for any employer to collect
13 or receive from an employee any part of wages theretofore paid by said employer to said employee."
14 DEFENDANT failed to pay all compensation due to PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR
15 SUB-CLASS Members, made unlawful deductions from compensation payable to PLAINTIFF and
16 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members, failed to disclose all aspects of the deductions from
17 compensation payable to PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members, and thereby
18 failed to pay these employees all wages due at each applicable pay period and upon termination.
19 PLAINTIFF and members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS seek recovery of all illegal
20 deductions from wages according to proof, related penalties, interest, attorney fees and costs.

21 22. DEFENDANT intentionally and knowingly failed to reimburse and indemnify
22 PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for required business expenses incurred by
23 the PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members in direct consequence of discharging their
24 duties on behalf of DEFENDANT. Under California Labor Code Section 2802, employers are required
25 to indemnify employees for all expenses incurred in the course and scope of their employment. Cal.
26 Lab. Code § 2802 expressly states that "an employer shall indemnify his or her employee for all
27 necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of his
28

1 or her duties, or of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer, even though unlawful, unless
2 the employee, at the time of obeying the directions, believed them to be unlawful."

3 23. In the course of their employment PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
4 Members as a business expense, were required by DEFENDANT to use their own personal cellular
5 phones as a result of and in furtherance of their job duties as employees for DEFENDANT but are not
6 reimbursed or indemnified by DEFENDANT for the cost associated with the use of their personal
7 cellular phones for DEFENDANT's benefit. Specifically, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
8 CLASS Members were required by DEFENDANT to use their personal cellular phones. As a result, in
9 the course of their employment with DEFENDANT, PLAINTIFF and other members of the
10 CALIFORNIA CLASS incurred unreimbursed business expenses which included, but were not limited
11 to, costs related to the use of their personal cellular phones all on behalf of and for the benefit of
12 DEFENDANT.

13 24. Specifically as to PLAINTIFF, DEFENDANT failed to provide all the legally required
14 off-duty meal and rest breaks to PLAINTIFF as required by the applicable Wage Order and Labor Code
15 and failed to pay PLAINTIFF all minimum and overtime wages due to PLAINTIFF. DEFENDANT did
16 not have a policy or practice which provided timely off-duty meal and rest breaks to PLAINTIFF and
17 also failed to compensate PLAINTIFF for PLAINTIFF's missed meal and rest breaks. The nature of the
18 work performed by the PLAINTIFF did not prevent PLAINTIFF from being relieved of all of
19 PLAINTIFF's duties for the legally required off-duty meal periods. As a result, DEFENDANT's failure
20 to provide PLAINTIFF with the legally required meal periods is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business
21 records. The amount in controversy for PLAINTIFF individually does not exceed the sum or value of
22 \$75,000.

23 JURISDICTION AND VENUE

24
25
26 25. This Court has jurisdiction over this Action pursuant to California Code of Civil
27 Procedure, Section 410.10 and California Business & Professions Code, Section 17203. This action is
28

1 brought as a Class Action on behalf of PLAINTIFF and similarly situated employees of DEFENDANT
2 pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382.

3 26. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure, Sections
4 395 and 395.5, because PLAINTIFF worked in this County for DEFENDANT and DEFENDANT (i)
5 currently maintains and at all relevant times maintained offices and facilities in this County and/or
6 conducts substantial business in this County, and (ii) committed the wrongful conduct herein alleged in
7 this County against members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

8
9 **THE CALIFORNIA CLASS**

10
11 27. PLAINTIFF brings the First Cause of Action for Unfair, Unlawful and Deceptive
12 Business Practices pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* (the "UCL") as a Class Action,
13 pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382, on behalf of a California class, defined as all current and
14 former non-exempt employees of DEFENDANT, who worked in the state of California (the
15 "CALIFORNIA CLASS") from November 20, 2020 through the date of preliminary approval or
16 January 26, 2024, whichever happens first (the "CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD"). The amount in
17 controversy for the aggregate claim of CALIFORNIA CLASS Members is under five million dollars
18 (\$5,000,000.00).

19 28. To the extent equitable tolling operates to toll claims by the CALIFORNIA CLASS
20 against DEFENDANT, the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.

21 29. DEFENDANT, as a matter of company policy, practice and procedure, and in violation
22 of the applicable Labor Code, Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") Wage Order requirements, and
23 the applicable provisions of California law, intentionally, knowingly, and wilfully, engaged in a practice
24 whereby DEFENDANT failed to record all meal and rest breaks missed by PLAINTIFF and other
25 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, even though DEFENDANT enjoyed the benefit of this work,
26 required employees to perform this work and permits or suffers to permit this work.

27 30. DEFENDANT has the legal burden to establish that each and every CALIFORNIA
28 CLASS Member was paid accurately for all meal and rest breaks missed as required by California

1 laws. The DEFENDANT, however, as a matter of policy and procedure failed to have in place during
2 the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD and still fails to have in place a policy or practice to ensure that
3 each and every CALIFORNIA CLASS Member is paid as required by law. This common business
4 practice is applicable to each and every CALIFORNIA CLASS Member can be adjudicated on a class-
5 wide basis as unlawful, unfair, and/or deceptive under Cal. Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et*
6 *seq.* (the "UCL") as causation, damages, and reliance are not elements of this claim.

7 31. The CALIFORNIA CLASS, is so numerous that joinder of all CALIFORNIA CLASS
8 Members is impracticable.

9 32. DEFENDANT violated the rights of the CALIFORNIA CLASS under California law
10 by:

- 11 (a) Committing an act of unfair competition in violation of , Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code
12 §§ 17200, *et seq.* (the "UCL"), by unlawfully, unfairly and/or deceptively having
13 in place company policies, practices and procedures that failed to record and pay
14 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all time
15 worked, including minimum wages owed and overtime wages owed for work
16 performed by these employees; and,
- 17 (b) Committing an act of unfair competition in violation of the UCL, by failing to
18 provide the PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
19 with the legally required meal and rest periods.

20 33. This Class Action meets the statutory prerequisites for the maintenance of a Class
21 Action as set forth in Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382, in that:

- 22 (a) The persons who comprise the CALIFORNIA CLASS are so numerous that the
23 joinder of all such persons is impracticable and the disposition of their claims as
24 a class will benefit the parties and the Court;
- 25 (b) Nearly all factual, legal, statutory, declaratory and injunctive relief issues that
26 are raised in this Complaint are common to the CALIFORNIA CLASS will
27 apply to every member of the CALIFORNIA CLASS;
28

- 1 (c) The claims of the representative PLAINTIFF are typical of the claims of each
2 member of the CALIFORNIA CLASS. PLAINTIFF, like all the other members
3 of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, was classified as a non-exempt employee paid on
4 an hourly basis who was subjected to the DEFENDANT's deceptive practice
5 and policy which failed to provide the legally required meal and rest periods to
6 the CALIFORNIA CLASS and thereby underpaid compensation to PLAINTIFF
7 and CALIFORNIA CLASS. PLAINTIFF sustained economic injury as a result
8 of DEFENDANT's employment practices. PLAINTIFF and the members of the
9 CALIFORNIA CLASS were and are similarly or identically harmed by the same
10 unlawful, deceptive and unfair misconduct engaged in by DEFENDANT; and,
11 (d) The representative PLAINTIFF will fairly and adequately represent and protect
12 the interest of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, and has retained counsel who are
13 competent and experienced in Class Action litigation. There are no material
14 conflicts between the claims of the representative PLAINTIFF and the members
15 of the CALIFORNIA CLASS that would make class certification inappropriate.
16 Counsel for the CALIFORNIA CLASS will vigorously assert the claims of all
17 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

18 34. In addition to meeting the statutory prerequisites to a Class Action, this action is
19 properly maintained as a Class Action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382, in that:

- 20 (a) Without class certification and determination of declaratory, injunctive,
21 statutory and other legal questions within the class format, prosecution of
22 separate actions by individual members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS will
23 create the risk of:
24 1) Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members
25 of the CALIFORNIA CLASS which would establish incompatible
26 standards of conduct for the parties opposing the CALIFORNIA
27 CLASS; and/or,
28

1 2) Adjudication with respect to individual members of the CALIFORNIA
2 CLASS which would as a practical matter be dispositive of interests of
3 the other members not party to the adjudication or substantially impair
4 or impede their ability to protect their interests.

5 (b) The parties opposing the CALIFORNIA CLASS have acted or refused to act on
6 grounds generally applicable to the CALIFORNIA CLASS, making appropriate
7 class-wide relief with respect to the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a whole in that
8 DEFENDANT failed to pay all wages due to members of the CALIFORNIA
9 CLASS as required by law;

10 1) With respect to the First Cause of Action, the final relief on behalf of the
11 CALIFORNIA CLASS sought does not relate exclusively to restitution
12 because through this claim PLAINTIFF seeks declaratory relief holding
13 that the DEFENDANT's policy and practices constitute unfair
14 competition, along with declaratory relief, injunctive relief, and
15 incidental equitable relief as may be necessary to prevent and remedy
16 the conduct declared to constitute unfair competition;

17 (c) Common questions of law and fact exist as to the members of the
18 CALIFORNIA CLASS, with respect to the practices and violations of California
19 law as listed above, and predominate over any question affecting only individual
20 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, and a Class Action is superior to other
21 available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy,
22 including consideration of:

23 1) The interests of the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in
24 individually controlling the prosecution or defense of separate actions in
25 that the substantial expense of individual actions will be avoided to
26 recover the relatively small amount of economic losses sustained by the
27 individual CALIFORNIA CLASS Members when compared to the
28

substantial expense and burden of individual prosecution of this litigation;

2) Class certification will obviate the need for unduly duplicative litigation that would create the risk of:

A. Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, which would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the DEFENDANT; and/or,

B. Adjudications with respect to individual members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS would as a practical matter be dispositive of the interests of the other members not parties to the adjudication or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests;

3) In the context of wage litigation because a substantial number of individual CALIFORNIA CLASS Members will avoid asserting their legal rights out of fear of retaliation by DEFENDANT, which may adversely affect an individual's job with DEFENDANT or with a subsequent employer, the Class Action is the only means to assert their claims through a representative; and,

4) A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this litigation because class treatment will obviate the need for unduly and unnecessary duplicative litigation that is likely to result in the absence of certification of this action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382.

35. This Court should permit this action to be maintained as a Class Action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382 because:

(a) The questions of law and fact common to the CALIFORNIA CLASS predominate over any question affecting only individual CALIFORNIA CLASS

Members because the DEFENDANT's employment practices are applied with respect to the CALIFORNIA CLASS;

- (b) A Class Action is superior to any other available method for the fair and efficient adjudication of the claims of the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS because in the context of employment litigation a substantial number of individual CALIFORNIA CLASS Members will avoid asserting their rights individually out of fear of retaliation or adverse impact on their employment;
- (c) The members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are so numerous that it is impractical to bring all members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS before the Court;
- (d) PLAINTIFF, and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, will not be able to obtain effective and economic legal redress unless the action is maintained as a Class Action;
- (e) There is a community of interest in obtaining appropriate legal and equitable relief for the acts of unfair competition, statutory violations and other improprieties, and in obtaining adequate compensation for the damages and injuries which DEFENDANT's actions have inflicted upon the CALIFORNIA CLASS;
- (f) There is a community of interest in ensuring that the combined assets of DEFENDANT are sufficient to adequately compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the injuries sustained;
- (g) DEFENDANT has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the CALIFORNIA CLASS, thereby making final class-wide relief appropriate with respect to the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a whole;
- (h) The members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are readily ascertainable from the business records of DEFENDANT; and,
- (i) Class treatment provides manageable judicial treatment calculated to bring a efficient and rapid conclusion to all litigation of all wage and hour related

claims arising out of the conduct of DEFENDANT as to the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

36. DEFENDANT maintains records from which the Court can ascertain and identify by job title each of DEFENDANT's employees who have been intentionally subjected to DEFENDANT's company policy, practices and procedures as herein alleged. PLAINTIFF will seek leave to amend the Complaint to include any additional job titles of similarly situated employees when they have been identified.

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THE CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS

37. PLAINTIFF further brings the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth causes Action on behalf of a California sub-class, defined as all members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS who are or previously were employed by DEFENDANT in California, including any employees staffed with DEFENDANT by a third party, and classified as non exempt employees (the "CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS") at any time during the period three (3) years prior to the filing of the complaint and ending on the date as determined by the Court (the "CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD") pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382. The amount in controversy for the aggregate claim of CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members is under five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00).

38. DEFENDANT, in violation of the applicable Labor Code, Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") Wage Order requirements, and the applicable provisions of California law, intentionally, knowingly, and wilfully, engaged in a practice whereby DEFENDANT failed to correctly calculate compensation for the time worked by PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS and reporting time wages owed to these employees, even though DEFENDANT enjoyed the benefit of this work, required employees to perform this work and permitted or suffered to permit this work. DEFENDANT has denied these CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members wages to which these employees are entitled in order to unfairly cheat the competition and

1 unlawfully profit. To the extent equitable tolling operates to toll claims by the CALIFORNIA LABOR
2 SUB-CLASS against DEFENDANT, the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD should be
3 adjusted accordingly.

4 39. DEFENDANT maintains records from which the Court can ascertain and
5 identify by name and job title, each of DEFENDANT's employees who have been intentionally
6 subjected to DEFENDANT's company policy, practices and procedures as herein alleged. PLAINTIFF
7 will seek leave to amend the complaint to include any additional job titles of similarly situated
8 employees when they have been identified.

9 40. The CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS is so numerous that joinder of all
10 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members is impracticable.

11 41. Common questions of law and fact exist as to members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR
12 SUB-CLASS, including, but not limited, to the following:

- 13 (a) Whether DEFENDANT unlawfully failed to correctly calculate and pay
14 compensation due to members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS for
15 missed meal and rest breaks in violation of the California Labor Code and
16 California regulations and the applicable California Wage Order;
- 17 (b) Whether DEFENDANT failed to provide the PLAINTIFF and the other
18 members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS with accurate itemized
19 wage statements;
- 20 (c) Whether DEFENDANT has engaged in unfair competition by the above-listed
21 conduct;
- 22 (d) The proper measure of damages and penalties owed to the members of the
23 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS; and,
- 24 (e) Whether DEFENDANT's conduct was willful.

25 42. DEFENDANT violated the rights of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS under
26 California law by:

- 27 (a) Violating Cal. Lab. Code § 510, by failing to correctly pay the PLAINTIFF and
28 the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS all wages due for

overtime worked, for which DEFENDANT is liable pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 1194;

- (b) Violating Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194, 1197 & 1197.1 *et seq.*, by failing to accurately pay PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS the correct minimum wage pay for which DEFENDANT is liable pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194 and 1197;
- (c) Violating Cal. Lab. Code § 226, by failing to provide PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS with an accurate itemized statement in writing showing the corresponding correct amount of wages earned by the employee;
- (d) Violating Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 and 512, by failing to provide PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS with all legally required off-duty, uninterrupted thirty (30) minute meal breaks and the legally required off-duty rest breaks;
- (e) Violating Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201, 202 and/or 203, which provides that when an employee is discharged or quits from employment, the employer must pay the employee all wages due without abatement, by failing to tender full payment and/or restitution of wages owed or in the manner required by California law to the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS who have terminated their employment; and,
- (f) Violating Cal. Lab. Code § 2802 by failing to reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS members with necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their job duties.

43. This Class Action meets the statutory prerequisites for the maintenance of a Class Action as set forth in Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382, in that:

- (a) The persons who comprise the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS are so numerous that the joinder of all CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members

1 is impracticable and the disposition of their claims as a class will benefit the
2 parties and the Court;

3 (b) Nearly all factual, legal, statutory, declaratory and injunctive relief issues that
4 are raised in this Complaint are common to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
5 CLASS and will apply to every member of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
6 CLASS;

7 (c) The claims of the representative PLAINTIFF are typical of the claims of each
8 member of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS. PLAINTIFF, like all the
9 other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, was a non-exempt
10 employee paid on an hourly basis who was subjected to the DEFENDANT's
11 practice and policy which failed to pay the correct amount of wages due to the
12 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS. PLAINTIFF sustained economic injury
13 as a result of DEFENDANT's employment practices. PLAINTIFF and the
14 members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS were and are similarly or
15 identically harmed by the same unlawful, deceptive, and unfair misconduct
16 engaged in by DEFENDANT; and,

17 (d) The representative PLAINTIFF will fairly and adequately represent and protect
18 the interest of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, and has retained
19 counsel who are competent and experienced in Class Action litigation. There
20 are no material conflicts between the claims of the representative PLAINTIFF
21 and the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS that would make
22 class certification inappropriate. Counsel for the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
23 CLASS will vigorously assert the claims of all CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
24 CLASS Members.

25 44. In addition to meeting the statutory prerequisites to a Class Action, this action is
26 properly maintained as a Class Action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382, in that:

27 (a) Without class certification and determination of declaratory, injunctive,
28 statutory and other legal questions within the class format, prosecution of

1 separate actions by individual members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
2 CLASS will create the risk of:

3 1) Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members
4 of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS which would establish
5 incompatible standards of conduct for the parties opposing the
6 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS; or,

7 2) Adjudication with respect to individual members of the CALIFORNIA
8 LABOR SUB-CLASS which would as a practical matter be dispositive
9 of interests of the other members not party to the adjudication or
10 substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests.

11 (b) The parties opposing the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS have acted or
12 refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the CALIFORNIA LABOR
13 SUB-CLASS, making appropriate class-wide relief with respect to the
14 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as a whole in that DEFENDANT fails to
15 pay all wages due. Including the correct wages for all time worked by the
16 members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as required by law;

17 (c) Common questions of law and fact predominate as to the members of the
18 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, with respect to the practices and
19 violations of California Law as listed above, and predominate over any question
20 affecting only individual CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members, and a
21 Class Action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient
22 adjudication of the controversy, including consideration of:

23 1) The interests of the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
24 CLASS in individually controlling the prosecution or defense of separate
25 actions in that the substantial expense of individual actions will be
26 avoided to recover the relatively small amount of economic losses
27 sustained by the individual CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS
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Members when compared to the substantial expense and burden of individual prosecution of this litigation;

2) Class certification will obviate the need for unduly duplicative litigation that would create the risk of:

A. Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, which would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the DEFENDANT; and/or,

B. Adjudications with respect to individual members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS would as a practical matter be dispositive of the interests of the other members not parties to the adjudication or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests;

3) In the context of wage litigation because a substantial number of individual CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members will avoid asserting their legal rights out of fear of retaliation by DEFENDANT, which may adversely affect an individual's job with DEFENDANT or with a subsequent employer, the Class Action is the only means to assert their claims through a representative; and,

4) A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this litigation because class treatment will obviate the need for unduly and unnecessary duplicative litigation that is likely to result in the absence of certification of this action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382.

45. This Court should permit this action to be maintained as a Class Action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382 because:

- 1 (a) The questions of law and fact common to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
2 CLASS predominate over any question affecting only individual CALIFORNIA
3 LABOR SUB-CLASS Members;
- 4 (b) A Class Action is superior to any other available method for the fair and
5 efficient adjudication of the claims of the members of the CALIFORNIA
6 LABOR SUB-CLASS because in the context of employment litigation a
7 substantial number of individual CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS
8 Members will avoid asserting their rights individually out of fear of retaliation
9 or adverse impact on their employment;
- 10 (c) The members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS are so numerous that
11 it is impractical to bring all members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
12 CLASS before the Court;
- 13 (d) PLAINTIFF, and the other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members, will
14 not be able to obtain effective and economic legal redress unless the action is
15 maintained as a Class Action;
- 16 (e) There is a community of interest in obtaining appropriate legal and equitable
17 relief for the acts of unfair competition, statutory violations and other
18 improprieties, and in obtaining adequate compensation for the damages and
19 injuries which DEFENDANT's actions have inflicted upon the CALIFORNIA
20 LABOR SUB-CLASS;
- 21 (f) There is a community of interest in ensuring that the combined assets of
22 DEFENDANT are sufficient to adequately compensate the members of the
23 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS for the injuries sustained;
- 24 (g) DEFENDANT has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the
25 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, thereby making final class-wide relief
26 appropriate with respect to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as a
27 whole;
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- 1 (h) The members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS are readily
2 ascertainable from the business records of DEFENDANT. The CALIFORNIA
3 LABOR SUB-CLASS consists of all CALIFORNIA CLASS Members who
4 worked for DEFENDANT in California at any time during the CALIFORNIA
5 LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD; and,
- 6 (i) Class treatment provides manageable judicial treatment calculated to bring a
7 efficient and rapid conclusion to all litigation of all wage and hour related
8 claims arising out of the conduct of DEFENDANT as to the members of the
9 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS.

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14 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

15 **For Unlawful Business Practices**

16 **[Cal. Bus. And Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*]**

17 **(By PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS and Against All Defendants)**

18 46. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and
19 incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this Complaint.

20 47. DEFENDANT is a “person” as that term is defined under Cal. Bus. and Prof. Code §
21 17021.

22 48. California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* (the “UCL”) defines unfair
23 competition as any unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business act or practice. Section 17203 authorizes
24 injunctive, declaratory, and/or other equitable relief with respect to unfair competition as follows:

25 Any person who engages, has engaged, or proposes to engage in unfair competition may
26 be enjoined in any court of competent jurisdiction. The court may make such orders or
27 judgments, including the appointment of a receiver, as may be necessary to prevent the
28 use or employment by any person of any practice which constitutes unfair competition,

1 as defined in this chapter, or as may be necessary to restore to any person in interest any
2 money or property, real or personal, which may have been acquired by means of such
3 unfair competition.

4
5 Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203.
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7 49. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT has engaged and continues to engage in a
8 business practice which violates California law, including but not limited to, the applicable Industrial
9 Wage Order(s), the California Code of Regulations and the California Labor Code including Sections
10 204, 210, 221, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2802 and the Fair Labor Standards Act
11 and federal regulations promulgated thereunder, for which this Court should issue declaratory and other
12 equitable relief pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203 as may be necessary to prevent and remedy
13 the conduct held to constitute unfair competition, including restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.

14 50. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were unlawful and unfair in
15 that these practices violate public policy, were immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous or
16 substantially injurious to employees, and were without valid justification or utility for which this Court
17 should issue equitable and injunctive relief pursuant to Section 17203 of the California Business &
18 Professions Code, including restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.

19 51. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were deceptive and fraudulent
20 in that DEFENDANT's policy and practice failed to provide the legally mandated meal and rest
21 periods, the required amount of compensation for missed meal and rest periods and overtime and
22 minimum wages owed, failed to timely pay wages, and failed to reimburse all necessary business
23 expenses incurred, and failed to provide Fair Labor Standards Act overtime wages due for overtime
24 worked as a result of failing to include non-discretionary incentive compensation into their regular rates
25 of pay for purposes of computing the proper overtime pay due to a business practice that cannot be
26 justified, pursuant to the applicable Cal. Lab. Code, and Industrial Welfare Commission requirements in
27 violation of Cal. Bus. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, and for which this Court should issue injunctive and
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1 equitable relief, pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203, including restitution of wages wrongfully
2 withheld.

3 52. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were also unlawful, unfair and
4 deceptive in that DEFENDANT's employment practices caused PLAINTIFF and the other members of
5 the CALIFORNIA CLASS to be underpaid during their employment with DEFENDANT.

6 53. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were also unlawful, unfair and
7 deceptive in that DEFENDANT's policies, practices and procedures failed to provide all legally
8 required meal breaks to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS as required
9 by Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 and 512.

10 54. Therefore, PLAINTIFF demands on behalf of herself and on behalf of each
11 CALIFORNIA CLASS Member, one (1) hour of pay for each workday in which an off-duty meal
12 period was not timely provided for each five (5) hours of work, and/or one (1) hour of pay for each
13 workday in which a second off-duty meal period was not timely provided for each ten (10) hours of
14 work.

15 55. PLAINTIFF further demands on behalf of herself and each member of the
16 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, one (1) hour of pay for each workday in which an off duty paid
17 rest period was not timely provided as required by law.

18 56. By and through the unlawful and unfair business practices described herein,
19 DEFENDANT has obtained valuable property, money and services from PLAINTIFF and the other
20 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, including earned wages for all time worked, and has deprived
21 them of valuable rights and benefits guaranteed by law and contract, all to the detriment of these
22 employees and to the benefit of DEFENDANT so as to allow DEFENDANT to unfairly compete
23 against competitors who comply with the law.

24 57. All the acts described herein as violations of, among other things, the Industrial Welfare
25 Commission Wage Orders, the California Code of Regulations, and the California Labor Code, were
26 unlawful and in violation of public policy, were immoral, unethical, oppressive and unscrupulous, were
27 deceptive, and thereby constitute unlawful, unfair and deceptive business practices in violation of Cal.
28 Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

1 58. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are entitled to, and
2 do, seek such relief as may be necessary to restore to them the money and property which
3 DEFENDANT has acquired, or of which PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA
4 CLASS have been deprived, by means of the above described unlawful and unfair business practices,
5 including earned but unpaid wages for all time worked.

6 59. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are further entitled to,
7 and do, seek a declaration that the described business practices are unlawful, unfair and deceptive, and
8 that injunctive relief should be issued restraining DEFENDANT from engaging in any unlawful and
9 unfair business practices in the future.

10 60. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS have no plain, speedy
11 and/or adequate remedy at law that will end the unlawful and unfair business practices of
12 DEFENDANT. Further, the practices herein alleged presently continue to occur unabated. As a result
13 of the unlawful and unfair business practices described herein, PLAINTIFF and the other members of
14 the CALIFORNIA CLASS have suffered and will continue to suffer irreparable legal and economic
15 harm unless DEFENDANT is restrained from continuing to engage in these unlawful and unfair
16 business practices.

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20 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

21 **For Failure To Pay Minimum Wages**

22 **[Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194, 1197 and 1197.1]**

23 **(By PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS**

24 **and Against All Defendants)**

25 61. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB- CLASS,
26 reallege and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this
27 Complaint.
28

1 62. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS bring a
2 claim for DEFENDANT's willful and intentional violations of the California Labor Code and the
3 Industrial Welfare Commission requirements for DEFENDANT's failure to accurately calculate and
4 pay minimum wages to PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

5 63. Pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 204, other applicable laws and regulations, and public
6 policy, an employer must timely pay its employees for all hours worked.

7 64. Cal. Lab. Code § 1197 provides the minimum wage for employees fixed by the
8 commission is the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a less wage than the
9 minimum so fixed is unlawful.

10 65. Cal. Lab. Code § 1194 establishes an employee's right to recover unpaid wages,
11 including minimum wage compensation and interest thereon, together with the costs of suit.

12 66. DEFENDANT maintained a wage practice of paying PLAINTIFF and the other
13 members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS without regard to the correct amount of time they
14 work. As set forth herein, DEFENDANT's policy and practice was to unlawfully and intentionally
15 deny timely payment of wages due to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA
16 LABOR SUB-CLASS.

17 67. DEFENDANT's unlawful wage and hour practices manifested, without limitation,
18 applicable to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as a whole, as a result of implementing a policy
19 and practice that denies accurate compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
20 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS in regards to minimum wage pay.

21 68. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, DEFENDANT
22 inaccurately calculated the correct time worked and consequently underpaid the actual time worked by
23 PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS. DEFENDANT acted in
24 an illegal attempt to avoid the payment of all earned wages, and other benefits in violation of the
25 California Labor Code, the Industrial Welfare Commission requirements and other applicable laws and
26 regulations.

1 69. As a direct result of DEFENDANT's unlawful wage practices as alleged herein,
2 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS did not receive the
3 correct minimum wage compensation for their time worked for DEFENDANT.

4 70. During the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT required,
5 permitted or suffered PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members to work without
6 paying them for all the time they were under DEFENDANT's control. During the CALIFORNIA
7 LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR
8 SUB-CLASS were paid less for time worked that they were entitled to, constituting a failure to pay all
9 earned wages.

10 71. By virtue of DEFENDANT's unlawful failure to accurately pay all earned compensation
11 to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS for the true time
12 they worked, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS have
13 suffered and will continue to suffer an economic injury in amounts which are presently unknown to
14 them and which will be ascertained according to proof at trial.

15 72. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other
16 members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS were under compensated for their time worked.
17 DEFENDANT elected, either through intentional malfeasance or gross nonfeasance, to not pay
18 employees for their labor as a matter of company policy, practice and procedure, and DEFENDANT
19 perpetrated this scheme by refusing to pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA
20 LABOR SUB-CLASS the correct minimum wages for their time worked.

21 73. In performing the acts and practices herein alleged in violation of California labor laws,
22 and refusing to compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS for all time
23 worked and provide them with the requisite compensation, DEFENDANT acted and continues to act
24 intentionally, oppressively, and maliciously toward PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
25 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS with a conscious and utter disregard for their legal rights, or the
26 consequences to them, and with the despicable intent of depriving them of their property and legal
27 rights, and otherwise causing them injury in order to increase company profits at the expense of these
28 employees.

1 74. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS
2 therefore request recovery of all unpaid wages, according to proof, interest, statutory costs, as well as
3 the assessment of any statutory penalties against DEFENDANT, in a sum as provided by the California
4 Labor Code and/or other applicable statutes. To the extent minimum wage compensation is determined
5 to be owed to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members who have terminated their
6 employment, DEFENDANT's conduct also violates Labor Code §§ 201 and/or 202, and therefore these
7 individuals are also be entitled to waiting time penalties under Cal. Lab. Code § 203, which penalties
8 are sought herein on behalf of these CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members. DEFENDANT's
9 conduct as alleged herein was willful, intentional and not in good faith. Further, PLAINTIFF and other
10 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members are entitled to seek and recover statutory costs.

11
12 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

13 **For Failure To Pay Overtime Compensation**

14 **[Cal. Lab. Code § 510]**

15 **(By PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS and Against All Defendants)**

16 75. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS,
17 reallege and incorporate by this reference, as though full set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this
18 Complaint.

19 76. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS bring a
20 claim for DEFENDANT's willful and intentional violations of the California Labor Code and the
21 Industrial Welfare Commission requirements for DEFENDANT's failure to pay these employees for all
22 overtime worked, including, work performed in excess of eight (8) hours in a workday, and/or twelve
23 (12) hours in a workday, and/or forty (40) hours in any workweek.

24 77. Pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 204, other applicable laws and regulations, and
25 public policy, an employer must timely pay its employees for all hours worked.

26 78. Cal. Lab. Code § 510 further provides that employees in California shall not be
27 employed more than eight (8) hours per workday and more than forty (40) hours per workweek unless
28 they receive additional compensation beyond their regular wages in amounts specified by law.

1 79. Cal. Lab. Code § 1194 establishes an employee's right to recover unpaid wages,
2 including minimum wage and overtime compensation and interest thereon, together with the costs of
3 suit. Cal. Lab. Code § 1198 further states that the employment of an employee for longer hours than
4 those fixed by the Industrial Welfare Commission is unlawful.

5 80. During the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and
6 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members were required, permitted or suffered by DEFENDANT
7 to work for DEFENDANT and were not paid for all the time they worked, including overtime work.

8 81. DEFENDANT's unlawful wage and hour practices manifested, without limitation,
9 applicable to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as a whole, as a result of implementing a policy
10 and practice that failed to accurately record overtime worked by PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
11 LABOR SUB-CLASS Members and denied accurate compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other
12 members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS for overtime worked, including, the overtime
13 work performed in excess of eight (8) hours in a workday, and/or twelve (12) hours in a workday,
14 and/or forty (40) hours in any workweek.

15 82. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, DEFENDANT
16 inaccurately recorded overtime worked and consequently underpaid the overtime worked by
17 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR-SUB CLASS Members. DEFENDANT acted in an
18 illegal attempt to avoid the payment of all earned wages, and other benefits in violation of the
19 California Labor Code, the Industrial Welfare Commission requirements and other applicable laws and
20 regulations. As a direct result of DEFENDANT's unlawful wage practices as alleged herein, the
21 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS did not receive full
22 compensation for overtime worked.

23 83. Cal. Lab. Code § 515 sets out various categories of employees who are exempt
24 from the overtime requirements of the law. None of these exemptions are applicable to the PLAINTIFF
25 and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS. Further, PLAINTIFF and the other
26 members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS were not subject to a valid collective bargaining
27 agreement that would preclude the causes of action contained herein this Complaint. Rather,
28 PLAINTIFF brings this Action on behalf of herself and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS based

1 on DEFENDANT's violations of non-negotiable, non-waiveable rights provided by the State of
2 California.

3 84. During the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the other
4 members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS have been paid less for overtime worked that
5 they are entitled to, constituting a failure to pay all earned wages..

6 85. DEFENDANT failed to accurately pay the PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
7 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS overtime wages for the time they worked which was in excess of
8 the maximum hours permissible by law as required by Cal. Lab. Code §§ 510, 1194 & 1198, even
9 though PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS were required
10 to work, and did in fact work, overtime as to which DEFENDANT failed to accurately record and pay
11 as evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records and witnessed by employees.

12 86. By virtue of DEFENDANT's unlawful failure to accurately pay all earned compensation
13 to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS for the true amount
14 of time they worked, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS
15 have suffered and will continue to suffer an economic injury in amounts which are presently unknown
16 to them and which will be ascertained according to proof at trial.

17 87. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other members of
18 the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS were under compensated for all overtime worked.
19 DEFENDANT elected, either through intentional malfeasance or gross nonfeasance, to not pay
20 employees for their labor as a matter of company policy, practice and procedure, and DEFENDANT
21 perpetrated this scheme by refusing to pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA
22 LABOR SUB-CLASS for overtime worked.

23 88. In performing the acts and practices herein alleged in violation of California labor laws,
24 and refusing to compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS for all overtime
25 worked and provide them with the requisite overtime compensation, DEFENDANT acted and continues
26 to act intentionally, oppressively, and maliciously toward PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
27 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS with a conscious of and utter disregard for their legal rights, or
28 the consequences to them, and with the despicable intent of depriving them of their property and legal

1 rights, and otherwise causing them injury in order to increase company profits at the expense of these
2 employees.

3 89. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS
4 therefore request recovery of all overtime wages, according to proof, interest, statutory costs, as well as
5 the assessment of any statutory penalties against DEFENDANT, in a sum as provided by the California
6 Labor Code and/or other applicable statutes. To the extent minimum and/or overtime compensation is
7 determined to be owed to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members who have terminated
8 their employment, DEFENDANT's conduct also violates Labor Code §§ 201 and/or 202, and therefore
9 these individuals are also be entitled to waiting time penalties under Cal. Lab. Code § 203, which
10 penalties are sought herein on behalf of these CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members.
11 DEFENDANT's conduct as alleged herein was willful, intentional and not in good faith. Further,
12 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members are entitled to seek and recover
13 statutory costs.

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1 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **For Failure to Provide Required Meal Periods**

3 **[Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 & 512]**

4 **(By PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS and Against All Defendants)**

5 90. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS,
6 reallege and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this
7 Complaint.

8 91. During the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT from time to time failed to
9 provide all the legally required off-duty meal breaks to PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA
10 LABOR SUB-CLASS Members as required by the applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. The nature
11 of the work performed by PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS MEMBERS did not
12 prevent these employees from being relieved of all of their duties for the legally required off-duty meal
13 periods. As a result of their rigorous work schedules, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR
14 SUB-CLASS Members were from time to time not fully relieved of duty by DEFENDANT for their
15 meal periods. Additionally, DEFENDANT's failure to provide PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA
16 LABOR SUB-CLASS Members with legally required meal breaks prior to their fifth (5th) hour of work
17 is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records from time to time. Further, DEFENDANT failed to
18 provide PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with a second off-duty meal period in some
19 workdays in which these employees were required by DEFENDANT to work ten (10) hours of work
20 from time to time. As a result, PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
21 CLASS therefore forfeited meal breaks without additional compensation and in accordance with
22 DEFENDANT's strict corporate policy and practice.

23 92. DEFENDANT further violates California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and the applicable IWC
24 Wage Order by failing to compensate PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members
25 who were not provided a meal period, in accordance with the applicable Wage Order, one additional
26 hour of compensation at each employee's regular rate of pay for each workday that a meal period was
27 not provided.
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93. As a proximate result of the aforementioned violations, PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members have been damaged in an amount according to proof at trial, and seek all wages earned and due, interest, penalties, expenses and costs of suit.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

For Failure to Provide Required Rest Periods

[Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 & 512]

(By PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS and Against All Defendants)

94. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, reallege and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this Complaint.

95. PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members were from time to time required to work in excess of four (4) hours without being provided ten (10) minute rest periods. Further, these employees from time to time were denied their first rest periods of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of at least two (2) to four (4) hours, a first and second rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of between six (6) and eight (8) hours, and a first, second and third rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of ten (10) hours or more from time to time. PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members were also not provided with one hour wages in lieu thereof. As a result of their rigorous work schedules, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members were periodically denied their proper rest periods by DEFENDANT and DEFENDANT's managers.

96. DEFENDANT further violated California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and the applicable IWC Wage Order by failing to compensate PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members who were not provided a rest period, in accordance with the applicable Wage Order, one additional hour of compensation at each employee's regular rate of pay for each workday that rest period was not provided.

97. As a proximate result of the aforementioned violations, PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members have been damaged in an amount according to proof at trial, and seek all wages earned and due, interest, penalties, expenses and costs of suit.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

For Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Statements

[Cal. Lab. Code § 226]

(By PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS and Against All Defendants)

98. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, reallege and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this Complaint.

99. Cal. Labor Code § 226 provides that an employer must furnish employees with an “accurate itemized” statement in writing showing:

- (1) gross wages earned,
- (2) total hours worked by the employee, except for any employee whose compensation is solely based on a salary and who is exempt from payment of overtime under subdivision (a) of Section 515 or any applicable order of the Industrial Welfare Commission,
- (3) the number of piecerate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis,
- (4) all deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item,
- (5) net wages earned,
- (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid,
- (7) the name of the employee and his or her social security number, except that by January 1, 2008, only the last four digits of his or her social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security number may be shown on the itemized statement,
- (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and
- (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.

1 100. From time to time, DEFENDANT also failed to provide PLAINTIFF and the other
2 members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS with complete and accurate wage statements
3 which failed to show, among other things, the correct gross and net wages earned. Cal. Lab. Code §
4 226 provides that every employer shall furnish each of his or her employees with an accurate itemized
5 wage statement in writing showing, among other things, gross wages earned and all applicable hourly
6 rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding amount of time worked at each hourly rate.
7 PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members were paid on an hourly basis. As
8 such, the wage statements should reflect all applicable hourly rates during the pay period and the total
9 hours worked, and the applicable pay period in which the wages were earned pursuant to California
10 Labor Code Section 226(a). The wage statements DEFENDANT provided to PLAINTIFF and other
11 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members failed to identify such information. More specifically,
12 the wage statements failed to identify the accurate total hours worked each pay period. When the hours
13 shown on the wage statements were added up, they did not equal the actual total hours worked during
14 the pay period in violation of Cal. Lab. Code 226(a)(2). Aside, from the violations listed above in this
15 paragraph, DEFENDANT failed to issue to PLAINTIFF an itemized wage statement that lists all the
16 requirements under California Labor Code 226 *et seq.* As a result, DEFENDANT from time to time
17 provided PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS with wage
18 statements which violated Cal. Lab. Code § 226.

19
20 101. DEFENDANT knowingly and intentionally failed to comply with Cal. Lab. Code § 226,
21 causing injury and damages to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
22 CLASS. These damages include, but are not limited to, costs expended calculating the correct wages
23 for all missed meal and rest breaks and the amount of employment taxes which were not properly paid
24 to state and federal tax authorities. These damages are difficult to estimate. Therefore, PLAINTIFF
25 and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS may elect to recover liquidated
26 damages of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the initial pay period in which the violation occurred, and one
27 hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each violation in a subsequent pay period pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code §
28 226, in an amount according to proof at the time of trial (but in no event more than four thousand

1 dollars (\$4,000.00) for PLAINTIFF and each respective member of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
2 CLASS herein).

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9 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

10 **For Failure to Reimburse Employees for Required Expenses**

11 **[Cal. Lab. Code § 2802]**

12 **(By PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS and Against All Defendants)**

13 102. PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS members reallege and
14 incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this Complaint.

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16 103. Cal. Lab. Code § 2802 provides, in relevant part, that:

17 An employer shall indemnify his or her employee for all necessary expenditures or
18 losses incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of his or her
19 duties, or of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer, even though
20 unlawful, unless the employee, at the time of obeying the directions, believed them to be
21 unlawful.

22 104. At all relevant times herein, DEFENDANT violated Cal. Lab. Code § 2802, by failing
23 to indemnify and reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS members for
24 required expenses incurred in the discharge of their job duties for DEFENDANT's benefit.
25 DEFENDANT failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS members
26 for expenses which included, but were not limited to, costs related to using their personal cellular
27 phones on behalf of and for the benefit of DEFENDANT. Specifically, PLAINTIFF and other
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1 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members were required by DEFENDANT to use their personal
2 cellular phones and home offices in order to perform work related job tasks. DEFENDANT's policy
3 and practice was to not reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS members
4 for expenses resulting from using their personal cellular phones and home offices for DEFENDANT
5 within the course and scope of their employment for DEFENDANT. These expenses were necessary to
6 complete their principal job duties. DEFENDANT is estopped by DEFENDANT's conduct to assert
7 any waiver of this expectation. Although these expenses were necessary expenses incurred by
8 PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS members, DEFENDANT failed to
9 indemnify and reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS members for these
10 expenses as an employer is required to do under the laws and regulations of California.

11 105. PLAINTIFF therefore demands reimbursement for expenditures or losses incurred by
12 herself and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS members in the discharge of their job duties for
13 DEFENDANT, or their obedience to the directions of DEFENDANT, with interest at the statutory rate
14 and costs under Cal. Lab. Code § 2802.

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17 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

18 **For Failure to Pay Wages When Due**

19 **[Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201, 202, 203]**

20 **(By PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS**

21 **and Against All Defendants)**

22 106. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS,
23 reallege and incorporate by reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this
24 Complaint.

25 107. Cal. Lab. Code § 200 provides, in relevant part, that:

26 As used in this article:

27 (a) "Wages" includes all amounts for labor performed by employees of every
28 description, whether the amount is fixed or ascertained by the standard of time,

1 task, piece, Commission basis, or other method of calculation.

2 (b) "Labor" includes labor, work, or service whether rendered or performed under
3 contract, subcontract, partnership, station plan, or other agreement if the labor to be
4 paid for is performed personally by the person demanding payment.

5
6 108. Cal. Lab. Code § 201 provides, in relevant part, "that If an employer discharges an
7 employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately."

8 109. Cal. Lab. Code § 202 provides, in relevant part, that:

9 If an employee not having a written contract for a definite period quits his or her
10 employment, his or her wages shall become due and payable not later than 72 hours
11 thereafter, unless the employee has given 72 hours previous notice of his or her
12 intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the
13 time of quitting. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an employee who
14 quits without providing a 72-hour notice shall be entitled to receive payment by
15 mail if he or she so requests and designates a mailing address. The date of the
16 mailing shall constitute the date of payment for purposes of the requirement to
17 provide payment within 72 hours of the notice of quitting.

18
19 110. There was no definite term in PLAINTIFF's or any CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
20 CLASS Members' employment contract.

21 111. Cal. Lab. Code § 203 provides, in relevant part, that:

22 If an employer willfully fails to pay, without abatement or reduction, in accordance
23 with Sections 201, 201.5, 202, and 205.5, any wages of an employee who is
24 discharged or who quits, the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty
25 from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or until an action therefor is
26 commenced; but the wages shall not continue for more than 30 days.

1 112. The employment of PLAINTIFF and many CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS
2 Members has terminated and DEFENDANT has not tendered payment of all wages owed as required by
3 law.

4 113. Therefore, as provided by Cal Lab. Code § 203, on behalf of herself and the
5 members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS whose employment has terminated and who have
6 not been fully paid their wages due to them, PLAINTIFF demands thirty days of pay as penalty for not
7 paying all wages due at time of termination for all employees who terminated employment during the
8 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD and demands an accounting and payment of all wages
9 due, plus interest and statutory costs as allowed by law.

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13 **NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

14 **For Failure to Pay Sick Pay Wages**

15 **[Cal. Lab. Code §§201-204, 233, 246]**

16 **(By PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS**

17 **and Against All Defendants)**

18 114. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
19 CLASS, reallege and incorporate by reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of
20 this Complaint.

21 115. Cal Lab. Code § 233 provides that an employer must permit an employee to
22 use accrued sick leave in accordance with Cal Lab. Code § 246.5 at the employee's then current rate of
23 entitlement. Cal Lab. Code § 246 provides that an employee is entitled to sick pay wages for use of
24 accrued sick leave pursuant to Cal Lab. Code § 246.5. Specifically, once accrued sick leave is used as
25 paid sick time, an employee has a vested right to sick pay wages, which an employer must calculate and
26 compensate based on one of two calculations: (i) "Paid sick time for nonexempt employees shall be
27 calculated in the same manner as the regular rate of pay for the workweek in which the employee uses
28 paid sick time, whether or not the employee actually works overtime in that workweek," or (ii) "Paid

1 sick time for nonexempt employees shall be calculated by dividing the employee's total wages, not
2 including overtime premium pay, by the employee's total hours worked in the full pay periods of the
3 prior 90 days of employment." Under Cal Lab. Code §§ 218 and 233, employees may sue to recover
4 underpaid sick pay wages as damages.

5 116. As a matter of policy and practice, DEFENDANT pays sick pay wages to
6 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS at the incorrect rate of
7 pay. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR-SUB-CLASS regularly use
8 accrued sick leave in the workweeks in which they also earn non-hourly remuneration. As a matter of
9 policy and practice, DEFENDANT pays sick pay wages to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
10 CALIFORNIA LABOR-SUB-CLASS at the base hourly pay, as opposed to the regular rate of pay,
11 which would consider all non-hourly remuneration in addition to base hourly wages, or the rate
12 resulting from dividing the employee's total wages, not including overtime premium pay, by the
13 employee's total hours worked in the full pay periods of the prior 90 days of employment. As a result,
14 DEFENDANT underpaid sick pay wages to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA
15 LABOR-SUB-CLASS.

16 117. Cal. Lab. Code § 204 provides that wages generally are due and payable twice
17 during each calendar month and are to be paid no later than the payday for the next regular payroll
18 period. Consistent with Cal. Lab. Code § 204, Cal. Lab. Code § 246 specifically requires that, upon use
19 of accrued sick leave, vested sick pay wages are due and to be paid no later than the payday for the next
20 regular payroll period after accrued sick leave is used as paid sick time. Similarly, Cal. Lab. Code §
21 201 provides that if an employer discharges an employee, wages earned and unpaid at the time of
22 discharge are due and payable immediately. Cal. Lab. Code § 202 provides that an employee is entitled
23 to receive all unpaid wages no later than 72 hours after an employee quits his or her employment, unless
24 the employee has given 72-hour notice of his or her intention to quit, in which case the employee is
25 entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting. The Labor Code penalizes untimely payments. For
26 example, Cal. Lab. Code § 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to pay wages owed in
27 accordance with Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201-202, then the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty
28 from the due date, and at the same rate until paid, but the wages shall not continue for more than thirty

1 (30) days. Likewise, Cal. Lab. Code § 210 provides penalties for violations of Cal. Lab. Code § 204 and
2 untimely payments during employment. Under Cal. Lab. Code §§ 203, 210 and 218, employees may
3 sue to recover applicable penalties.

4 118. As alleged herein and as a matter of policy and practice, DEFENDANT
5 routinely underpays sick pay wages and thus did not timely pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of
6 the CALIFORNIA LABOR-SUB-CLASS all owing and underpaid sick pay wages. As a result,
7 DEFENDANT violates Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201-204, 210, 233, and 246, among other Labor Code
8 provisions. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes that DEFENDANT was advised by skilled lawyers
9 and knew, or should have known, of the mandates of the Labor Code as it relates to PLAINTIFF's
10 allegations, especially since the California Supreme Court has explained that "[c]ourts have recognized
11 that 'wages' also include those benefits to which an employee is entitled as a part of his or her
12 compensation, including money, room, board, clothing, vacation pay, and sick pay." *Murphy v. Kenneth*
13 *Cole Prods., Inc.*, 40 Cal. 4th 1094, 1103 (2007)(emphasis added). Because DEFENDANT willfully
14 fails to timely pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR-SUB-CLASS all
15 sick pay wages due, DEFENDANT is subject to applicable penalties.

16 119. Such a pattern, practice, and uniform administration of corporate policy is
17 unlawful and entitles PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR-SUB-CLASS
18 to underpaid sick pay wages, including interest thereon, applicable penalties, attorney's fees, and costs
19 of suit.

20 21 **TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

22 **For Violation of the Private Attorneys General Act**

23 **[Cal. Lab. Code §§ 2698, *et seq.*]**

24 **(By PLAINTIFF and Against All Defendants)**

25 120. PLAINTIFF realleges and incorporates by this reference, as though fully set
26 forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this Complaint.

27 121. PAGA is a mechanism by which the State of California itself can enforce state
28 labor laws through the employee suing under the PAGA who do so as the proxy or agent of

1 the state's labor law enforcement agencies. An action to recover civil penalties under
2 PAGA is fundamentally a law enforcement action designed to protect the public and not to
3 benefit private parties. The purpose of the PAGA is not to recover damages or restitution,
4 but to create a means of "deputizing" citizens as private attorneys general to enforce the
5 Labor Code. In enacting PAGA, the California Legislature specified that "it was ... in the
6 public interest to allow aggrieved employees, acting as private attorneys general to recover
7 civil penalties for Labor Code violations ..." Stats. 2003, ch. 906, § 1. Accordingly, PAGA
8 claims cannot be subject to arbitration.

9 122. PLAINTIFF, and such persons that may be added from time to time who
10 satisfy the requirements and exhaust the administrative procedures under the Private
11 Attorney General Act, brings this Representative Action on behalf of the State of California
12 with respect to herself and all current and former non-exempt employees who worked for
13 DEFENDANT in the State of California ("AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES") who worked at
14 any time from November 21, 2021 through the date of preliminary approval of the
15 settlement or January 26, 2024 (the "PAGA PERIOD").

16 123. On November 15, 2022, PLAINTIFF gave written notice by electronic mail to
17 the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (the "Agency") and by certified mail to the
18 employer of the specific provisions of this code alleged to have been violated as required by
19 Labor Code § 2699.3. The statutory waiting period for PLAINTIFF to add these allegations
20 to the Complaint has expired. As a result, pursuant to Section 2699.3, PLAINTIFF may now
21 commence a representative civil action under PAGA pursuant to Section 2699 as the proxy
22 of the State of California with respect to all AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES as herein defined.

23 124. The policies, acts and practices heretofore described were and are an unlawful
24 business act or practice because DEFENDANT (a) failed to provide PLAINTIFF and the
25 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES accurate itemized wage statements, (b) failed to properly
26 record and provide legally required meal and rest periods, (c) failed to pay minimum wages,
27 (d) failed to pay overtime wages and sick pay wages, (e) failed to reimburse employees for
28 required expenses, and (f) failed to provide wages when due, all in violation of the

1 applicable Labor Code sections listed in Labor Code §§ §§ 201, 202, 203, 204 *et seq.*, 210,
2 218, 218.5, 218.6, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 227.3, 510, 512, 558), 1174, 1174.5, 1194,
3 1194.2, 1195, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2698 *et seq.*, 2800, 2802, California Code of
4 Regulations, Title 8, Section 11040, Subdivision 5(A)-(B), and the applicable Wage
5 Order(s), and thereby gives rise to civil penalties as a result of such conduct.¹ PLAINTIFF
6 hereby seeks recovery of only civil penalties as prescribed by the Labor Code Private
7 Attorney General Act of 2004 as the representative of the State of California for the illegal
8 conduct perpetrated on PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES.

9 125. All of the conduct and violations alleged herein occurred during the PAGA
10 PERIOD. To the extent that any of the conduct and violations alleged herein did not affect
11 PLAINTIFF during the PAGA PERIOD, PLAINTIFF seeks penalties for those violations
12 that affected the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES pursuant to *Carrington v. Starbucks Corp.* 30
13 Cal.App.5th 504 (2018).

14 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

15 WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF prays for judgment against each Defendant, jointly and severally, as
16 follows:

17 1. On behalf of the CALIFORNIA CLASS:

- 18 A) That the Court certify the First Cause of Action asserted by the CALIFORNIA CLASS as
19 a class action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382;
20 B) An order temporarily, preliminarily and permanently enjoining and restraining
21 DEFENDANT from engaging in similar unlawful conduct as set forth herein;
22 C) An order requiring DEFENDANT to pay all wages and all sums unlawfully withheld from
23 compensation due to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS;
24 and,

27 ¹Plaintiff specifically excludes and/or does not allege any claims under California Labor
28 Code §558(a)(3).

1 D) Restitutionary disgorgement of DEFENDANT's ill-gotten gains into a fluid fund for
2 restitution of the sums incidental to DEFENDANT's violations due to PLAINTIFF and to
3 the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

4 2. On behalf of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS:

5 A) That the Court certify the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth
6 Causes of Action asserted by the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as a class action
7 pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382;

8 B) Compensatory damages, according to proof at trial, including compensatory damages for
9 minimum and overtime compensation due PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
10 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, during the applicable CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
11 CLASS PERIOD plus interest thereon at the statutory rate;

12 C) The greater of all actual damages or fifty dollars (\$50) for the initial pay period in which
13 a violation occurs and one hundred dollars (\$100) per each member of the CALIFORNIA
14 LABOR SUB-CLASS for each violation in a subsequent pay period, not exceeding an
15 aggregate penalty of four thousand dollars (\$4,000), and an award of costs for violation of
16 Cal. Lab. Code § 226;

17 D) Meal and rest period compensation pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7, 512 and the
18 applicable IWC Wage Order;

19 E) For liquidated damages pursuant to California Labor Code Sections 1194.2 and 1197;

20 F) The amount of the expenses PLAINTIFF and each member of the CALIFORNIA LABOR
21 SUBCLASS incurred in the course of their job duties, plus interest, and costs of suit.; and,

22 G) The wages of all terminated employees in the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as a
23 penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or until an action therefore is
24 commenced, in accordance with Cal. Lab. Code § 203.

25 3. On behalf of the State of California and with respect to all AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES:

26 A) Recover of vicil penalties as prescribed by the Labor Code Private Attorney General Act
27 of 2004, and
28

1 B) An award of Attorney's fees and costs of suit, as allowable under the law, including but
2 not limited to, pursuant to Labor Code § 2699.

3 4. On all claims:

4 A) An award of interest, including prejudgment interest at the legal rate;

5 B) Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable; and,

6 C) An award of penalties, attorneys' fees and cost of suit, as allowable under the law,
7 including, but not limited to, pursuant to Labor Code §221, §226, §1194, and/or §2802.

8
9 Dated: December 18, 2023 BLUMENTHAL NORDREHAUG BHOWMIK DE BLOUW LLP

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By: /s/ Nicholas J. De Blouw

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Norman B. Blumenthal

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Kyle R. Nordrehaug

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Nicholas J. De Blouw

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Attorneys for Plaintiff

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DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL

PLAINTIFF demands a jury trial on issues triable to a jury.

Dated: December 18, 2023 BLUMENTHAL NORDREHAUG BHOWMIK DE BLOUW LLP

By: /s/ Nicholas J. De Blouw

Norman B. Blumenthal

Kyle R. Nordrehaug

Nicholas J. De Blouw

Attorneys for Plaintiff