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**Electronically FILED by  
Superior Court of California,  
County of Los Angeles  
5/15/2023 11:57 AM  
David W. Slayton,  
Executive Officer/Clerk of Court,  
By M. Ceballos, Deputy Clerk**

7 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

8 **IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

9  
10 TAYLOR NAVARETTE, on behalf of the State  
of California, as a private attorney general,

11  
12 Plaintiff,

13 vs.

14 PRELL RESTAURANT GROUP, LLC, a  
California Limited Liability Corporation; and  
15 DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,

16 Defendants.

Case No. 23NWCV01515

**REPRESENTATIVE ACTION  
COMPLAINT FOR:**

1. Civil Penalties Pursuant to Labor Code § 2699, *et seq.* for violations of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204 *et seq.*, 210, 221, 226(a), 226.7, 227.3, 246 *et seq.*, 510, 512, 558(a)(1)(2), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2802, California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 11040, Subdivision 5(A)-(B), California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 11070(14) (Failure to Provide Seating), and the applicable Wage Order(s).

1 Plaintiff Taylor Navarette (“PLAINTIFF”), on behalf of the people of the State of  
2 California and as an “aggrieved employee” acting as a private attorney general under the Labor  
3 Code Private Attorney General Act of 2004, § 2699, *et seq.* (“PAGA”) only, alleges on  
4 information and belief, except for her own acts and knowledge which are based on personal  
5 knowledge, the following:

### 6 INTRODUCTION

7 1. PLAINTIFF brings this action against Defendant Prell Restaurant Group, LLC  
8 (referred to as “DEFENDANT”) seeking only to recover PAGA civil penalties for herself, and  
9 on behalf of all current and former aggrieved employees that worked for DEFENDANT.  
10 PLAINTIFF does not seek to recover anything other than penalties as permitted by  
11 California Labor Code § 2699. To the extent that statutory violations are mentioned for wage  
12 violations, PLAINTIFF does not seek underlying general and/or special damages for those  
13 violations, but simply the civil penalties permitted by California Labor Code § 2699.

14 2. California has enacted the PAGA to permit an individual to bring an action on  
15 behalf of herself and on behalf of others for PAGA penalties *only*, which is the precise and sole  
16 nature of this action.

17 3. Accordingly, PLAINTIFF seeks to obtain all applicable relief for  
18 DEFENDANT’s violations under PAGA and solely for the relief as permitted by PAGA – that  
19 is, penalties and any other relief the Court deems proper pursuant to the PAGA. Nothing in this  
20 complaint should be construed as attempting to obtain any relief that would not be available in  
21 a PAGA-only action.

### 22 THE PARTIES

23 4. Prell Restaurant Group, LLC (“DEFENDANT”) is a California limited liability  
24 corporation that at all relevant times mentioned herein conducted and continues to conduct  
25 substantial business in the state of California.

26 5. DEFENDANT owns and operates Dunkin Donut restaurants in California.

27 6. PLAINTIFF was employed by DEFENDANT in California from August of 2021  
28

1 to September of 2022 and was at all times classified by DEFENDANT as a non-exempt  
2 employee, paid on an hourly basis, and entitled to the legally required meal and rest periods and  
3 payment of minimum and overtime wages due for all time worked.

4 7. PLAINTIFF, and such persons that may be added from time to time who satisfy  
5 the requirements and exhaust the administrative procedures under the Private Attorney General  
6 Act, brings this Representative Action on behalf of the State of California with respect to herself  
7 and all individuals who are or previously were employed by DEFENDANT in California,  
8 including any employees staffed with DEFENDANT by a third party, and classified as non-  
9 exempt employees ("AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES") during the time period of December 16,  
10 2021 until a date as determined by the Court (the "PAGA PERIOD").

11 8. PLAINTIFF, on behalf of herself and all AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES  
12 presently or formerly employed by DEFENDANT during the PAGA PERIOD, brings this  
13 representative action pursuant to Labor Code § 2699, *et seq.* seeking fixed civil penalties for  
14 DEFENDANT's violation of California Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204 *et seq.*, 210, 221,  
15 226(a), 226.7, 227.3, 246 *et seq.*, 510, 512, 558(a)(1)(2), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2802,  
16 California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 11040, Subdivision 5(A)-(B), California  
17 Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 11070(14) (Failure to Provide Seating), and the  
18 applicable Wage Order(s). Based upon the foregoing, PLAINTIFF and all AGGRIEVED  
19 EMPLOYEES are aggrieved employees within the meaning of Labor Code § 2699, *et seq.*

20 9. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, subsidiary,  
21 partnership, associate or otherwise of defendants DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are  
22 presently unknown to PLAINTIFF who therefore sues these Defendants by such fictitious  
23 names pursuant to Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 474. PLAINTIFF will seek leave to amend this  
24 Complaint to allege the true names and capacities of Does 1 through 50, inclusive, when  
25 they are ascertained. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and based upon that information  
26 and belief alleges, that the Defendants named in this Complaint, including DOES 1 through  
27 50, inclusive, are responsible in some manner for one or more of the events and happenings  
28 that proximately caused the injuries and damages hereinafter alleged.

10. 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 all the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES, for the loss sustained as a proximate result of the conduct of the Defendants' agents, servants and/or employees.

## THE CONDUCT

11. Pursuant to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, DEFENDANT was required to pay PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES 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 the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES 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 the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES, always to the benefit of DEFENDANT, so that during the course of their employment, PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES are paid less than they would have been paid had they been paid for actual recorded time rather than "rounded" time. Additionally, DEFENDANT engages in the practice of requiring PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES to perform work off the clock in that DEFENDANT, as a condition of employment, required these employees to submit to mandatory temperature checks and symptom questionnaires for COVID-19

1 screening prior to clocking into DEFENDANT's timekeeping system for the workday. As a  
2 result, PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES forfeit minimum wage, overtime  
3 wage compensation, and off-duty meal breaks by working without their time being correctly  
4 recorded and without compensation at the applicable rates. DEFENDANT's policy and  
5 practice not to pay PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for all time worked, is  
6 evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records.

7 12. State law provides that employees must be paid overtime and meal and rest  
8 break premiums at one-and-one-half times their "regular rate of pay." PLAINTIFF and the  
9 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES are compensated at an hourly rate plus incentive pay that is  
10 tied to specific elements of an employee's performance.

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

26 14. As a result of their rigorous work schedules, PLAINTIFF and the  
27 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were from time to time unable to take thirty (30) minute off  
28 duty meal breaks and were not fully relieved of duty for their meal periods. PLAINTIFF

1 and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were required from time to time to perform work as  
2 ordered by DEFENDANT for more than five (5) hours during some shifts without receiving  
3 a meal break. Further, DEFENDANT from time to time fails to provide PLAINTIFF and  
4 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES with a second off-duty meal period for some workdays in  
5 which these employees were required by DEFENDANT to work ten (10) hours of work.  
6 DEFENDANT also engaged in the practice of rounding the meal period times to avoid  
7 paying penalties to PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES. PLAINTIFF and the  
8 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES therefore forfeit meal breaks without additional compensation  
9 and in accordance with DEFENDANT's corporate policy and practice.

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

1 PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES cannot leave the work premises during  
2 their rest period.

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

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

1 identify such information. More specifically, the wage statements failed to identify the  
2 accurate total hours worked each pay period. When the hours shown on the wage statements  
3 were added up, they did not equal the actual total hours worked during the pay period in  
4 violation of Cal. Lab. Code 226(a)(2). Aside, from the violations listed above in this  
5 paragraph, DEFENDANT fails to issue to PLAINTIFF an itemized wage statement that lists  
6 all the requirements under California Labor Code 226 *et seq.* As a result, DEFENDANT  
7 from time to time provided PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES with wage  
8 statements which violated Cal. Lab. Code § 226.

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

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

17 19. DEFENDANT from time to time fails to pay PLAINTIFF and the  
18 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES within seven (7) days of the close of the payroll period in  
19 accordance with Cal. Lab. Code § 204(d), including but not limited to for the “Hourly”  
20 regular wage payments.

21 20. DEFENDANT underpaid sick pay wages to PLAINTIFF and the  
22 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES by failing to pay such wages at the regular rate of pay in  
23 violation of Cal. Lab. Code Section 246. Specifically, PLAINTIFF and other non-exempt  
24 employees earn non-discretionary remuneration, including, but not limited to, incentives,  
25 shift differential pay, and bonuses. Rather than pay sick pay at the regular rate of pay,  
26 DEFENDANT underpays sick pay to PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES at  
27 their base rates of pay.

28 21. Cal. Lab. Code Section 246(1)(2) requires that paid sick time for nonexempt

1 employees be calculated by dividing the employee's total wages, not including overtime  
2 premium pay, by the employee's total hours worked in the full pay periods of the prior 90  
3 days of employment.

4 22. DEFENDANT violated Cal. Lab. Code Section 246 by failing to pay sick pay  
5 at the regular rate of pay. PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES routinely  
6 earned non-discretionary incentive wages which increased their regular rate of pay.  
7 However, when sick pay was paid, it was paid at the base rate of pay for PLAINTIFF and  
8 the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES, as opposed to the correct, higher regular rate of pay, as  
9 required under Cal. Lab. Code Section 246.

10 23. As a pattern and practice, DEFENDANT regularly failed to pay PLAINTIFF  
11 and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES their correct wages and accordingly owe waiting time  
12 penalties pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code Section 203. Further, PLAINTIFF is informed and  
13 believes and based thereon alleges that such failure to pay sick pay at regular rate was  
14 willful, such that the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES whose employment has separated are  
15 entitled to waiting time penalties pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code Sections 201-203.

16 24. Pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code Section 221, "It shall be unlawful for any employer  
17 to collect or receive from an employee any part of wages theretofore paid by said employer  
18 to said employee." DEFENDANT fails to pay all compensation due to PLAINTIFF and the  
19 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES, made unlawful deductions from compensation payable to  
20 PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES, fails to disclose all aspects of the  
21 deductions from compensation payable to PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED  
22 EMPLOYEES, and thereby fails to pay these employees all wages due at each applicable  
23 pay period and upon termination.

24 25. DEFENDANT intentionally and knowingly fails to reimburse and indemnify  
25 PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for required business expenses incurred  
26 by the PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES in direct consequence of  
27 discharging their duties on behalf of DEFENDANT. Under California Labor Code Section  
28 2802, employers are required to indemnify employees for all expenses incurred in the course

1 and scope of their employment. Cal. Lab. Code § 2802 expressly states that "an employer  
2 shall indemnify his or her employee for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the  
3 employee in direct consequence of the discharge of his or her duties, or of his or her  
4 obedience to the directions of the employer, even though unlawful, unless the employee, at  
5 the time of obeying the directions, believed them to be unlawful."

6       26. In the course of their employment PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED  
7 EMPLOYEES as a business expense, were required by DEFENDANT to use their own  
8 personal cellular phones as a result of and in furtherance of their job duties as employees for  
9 DEFENDANT but are not reimbursed or indemnified by DEFENDANT for the cost  
10 associated with the use of their personal cellular phones for DEFENDANT's benefit.  
11 Specifically, PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were required by  
12 DEFENDANT to use their personal cellular phones. As a result, in the course of their  
13 employment with DEFENDANT, PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES  
14 incurred unreimbursed business expenses which included, but were not limited to, costs  
15 related to the use of their personal cellular phones all on behalf of and for the benefit of  
16 DEFENDANT.

17       27. In violation of the applicable sections of the California Labor Code and the  
18 requirements of the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") Wage Order,  
19 DEFENDANT as a matter of company policy, practice and procedure, intentionally,  
20 knowingly and systematically failed to provide PLAINTIFF and the other AGGRIEVED  
21 EMPLOYEES suitable seating when the nature of these employees' work reasonably  
22 permitted sitting.

23       28. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and other  
24 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were entitled to suitable seating and/or were entitled to sit  
25 when it did not interfere with the performance of their duties, and that DEFENDANT did  
26 not provide suitable seating and/or did not allow them to sit when it did not interfere with  
27 the performance of their duties.  
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1           29. By reason of this conduct applicable to PLAINTIFF and all AGGRIEVED  
2 EMPLOYEES, DEFENDANT violated California Labor Code Section 1198 and Wage  
3 Order 4-2001, Section 14 by failing to provide suitable seats. PLAINTIFF seeks penalties  
4 on behalf of PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES as provided herein.  
5 Providing suitable seating is the DEFENDANT's burden. As a result of DEFENDANT's  
6 intentional disregard of the obligation to meet this burden, DEFENDANT violated the  
7 California Labor Code and regulations promulgated thereunder as herein alleged.

8           30. The employment of PLAINTIFF and some AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES has  
9 terminated and DEFENDANT has not tendered payment of all wages owed as required by  
10 law. Additionally, at all times during the term of PLAINTIFF's employment with  
11 DEFENDANT, PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES earned and accrued vested  
12 vacation and holiday time on the date of their termination pursuant to DEFENDANT's  
13 uniform vacation policies and applicable California law. The amount of vacation pay  
14 PLAINTIFF and the other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES earned and accumulated is  
15 evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records. Additionally, DEFENDANT also underpaid  
16 accrued vested vacation wages to PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES by  
17 failing to pay such wages at the regular rate of pay and more specifically the final rate of pay  
18 that included all non-discretionary incentive compensation. Rather than pay vacation wages  
19 at the regular rate of pay, DEFENDANT underpaid vacation wages to PLAINTIFF and other  
20 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES at their base rates of pay, instead of including all of  
21 PLAINTIFF's and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES' non-discretionary incentive compensation  
22 into the vacation wage payment calculations. DEFENDANT failed to specify in  
23 DEFENDANT's written vacation policy the rate at which PLAINTIFF and other  
24 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES would be paid vacation upon leaving employment with  
25 DEFENDANT. As a result of DEFENDANT's unlawful practice, policy and procedure to  
26 deny paying the PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES all of their vested vacation  
27 and holiday time, DEFENDANT failed to pay the PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED  
28 EMPLOYEES all vested vacation time as wages due upon employment termination, in

1 violation of the California Labor Code, Sections 201, 202, 203 and 227.3. Similarly,  
2 DEFENDANT underpaid waiting time penalties to PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED  
3 EMPLOYEES at their base rates of pay, instead of including all of PLAINTIFF's' and  
4 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES' non-discretionary compensation into the waiting time penalty  
5 calculations. This failure by DEFENDANT is believed to be the result of DEFENDANT's  
6 unlawful, unfair and deceptive refusal to provide compensation for earned, accrued and  
7 vested vacation and holiday time, as well as the corresponding waiting time penalties that  
8 were paid. DEFENDANT perpetrated this unlawful, unfair and deceptive practice to the  
9 detriment of PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES. DEFENDANT's uniform  
10 practice and policy of failing to pay the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for all vested vacation  
11 and holiday time accumulated at employment termination violated and continues to violate  
12 Section 227.3 of the California Labor Code.

13 31. All of the conduct and violations alleged herein occurred during the PAGA  
14 PERIOD. To the extent that any of the conduct and violations alleged herein did not affect  
15 PLAINTIFF during the PAGA PERIOD, PLAINTIFF seeks penalties for those violations  
16 that affected the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES pursuant to *Carrington v. Starbucks Corp.*  
17 2018 AJDAR 12157 (Certified for Publication 12/19/18).

#### 18 19 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

20 32. This Court has jurisdiction over this Action pursuant to California Code of  
21 Civil Procedure, Section 410.10.

22 33. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure,  
23 Sections 395 and 395.5, because PLAINTIFF worked in this County for DEFENDANT and  
24 DEFENDANT (i) currently maintains and at all relevant times maintained offices and  
25 facilities in this County and/or conducts substantial business in this County, and (ii)  
26 committed the wrongful conduct herein alleged in this County against PLAINTIFF and other  
27 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES.  
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1 herein (*PAGA Notices only without draft complaint*). The statutory waiting period for  
2 PLAINTIFF to add these allegations to the Complaint has expired. As a result, pursuant to  
3 Section 2699.3, PLAINTIFF may now commence a representative civil action under PAGA  
4 pursuant to Section 2699 as the proxy of the State of California with respect to all  
5 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES as herein defined.

6 38. The policies, acts and practices heretofore described were and are an unlawful  
7 business act or practice because DEFENDANT (a) failed to provide PLAINTIFF and the  
8 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES accurate itemized wage statements, (b) failed to properly  
9 record and provide legally required meal and rest periods, (c) failed to pay minimum wages,  
10 (d) failed to pay overtime wages and sick pay wages, (e) failed to reimburse employees for  
11 required expenses, (f) failed to provide wages when due, and (g) failed to provide suitable  
12 seating, all in violation of the applicable Labor Code sections listed in Labor Code §§ 201,  
13 202, 203, 204 *et seq.*, 210, 221, 226(a), 226.7, 227.3, 246 *et seq.*, 510, 512, 558(a)(1)(2),  
14 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2802, California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 11040,  
15 Subdivision 5(A)-(B), California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 1 1070(14) (Failure  
16 to Provide Seating), and the applicable Wage Order(s), and thereby gives rise to civil  
17 penalties as a result of such conduct.<sup>1</sup> PLAINTIFF hereby seeks recovery of only civil  
18 penalties as prescribed by the Labor Code Private Attorney General Act of 2004 as the  
19 representative of the State of California for the illegal conduct perpetrated on PLAINTIFF  
20 and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES.

21  
22 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

23 WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF prays for judgment against each Defendant, jointly and  
24 severally, as follows:  
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27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 <sup>1</sup>Plaintiff specifically excludes and/or does not allege any claims under California Labor  
Code §558(a)(3).

1           1.       On behalf of the State of California and with respect to all AGGRIEVED  
2                   EMPLOYEES:

3                   A)       Recovery of civil penalties as prescribed by the Labor Code Private  
4           Attorneys General Act of 2004; and,

5                   B)       An award of attorneys' fees and cost of suit, as allowable under the  
6           law, including, but not limited to, pursuant to Labor Code §2699.

7           Dated: May 11, 2023       BLUMENTHAL NORDREHAUG BHOWMIK DE BLOUW  
8                                           LLP

9  
10                                           By:       /s/ Nicholas De Blouw  
11                                                       \_\_\_\_\_  
12                                                       Norman B. Blumenthal  
13                                                       Nicholas J. De Blouw  
14                                                       *Attorneys for Plaintiff*

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# EXHIBIT 1

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WRITERS EXT:  
1004

December 16, 2022  
CA2783

## VIA ONLINE FILING TO LWDA AND CERTIFIED MAIL TO DEFENDANT

Labor and Workforce Development Agency  
Online Filing

Prell Restaurant Group, LLC  
Certified Mail #70222410000247761779  
JACOB SONENSHINE  
1675 SCENIC AVE, SUITE 150  
COSTA MESA, CA 92626

Re: Notice Of Violations Of California Labor Code Sections §§ 201, 202, 203, 204 *et seq.*, 210, 221, 226(a), 226.7, 227.3, 246 *et seq.*, 510, 512, 558(a)(1)(2), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2802, California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 11040, Subdivision 5(A)-(B), California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 1 1070(14) (Failure to Provide Seating), Violation of Applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order(s), and Pursuant To California Labor Code Section 2699.5.

Dear Sir/Madam:

“Aggrieved Employees” refers to all individuals who are or previously were employed by Prell Restaurant Group, LLC in California, including any employees staffed with Prell Restaurant Group, LLC by a third party, and classified as non-exempt employees during the time period of December 16, 2021 until a date as determined by the Court. Our offices represent Plaintiff Taylor Navarette (“Plaintiff”) and other Aggrieved Employees in a lawsuit against Prell Restaurant Group, LLC (“Defendant”). Plaintiff was employed by Defendant in California as a non-exempt employee from August of 2021 to September of 2022 and entitled to the legally required meal and rest breaks and payment for all time worked under Defendant’s control. Defendant, however, unlawfully failed to record and pay Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees for, including but not limited to, all of their time worked, including minimum and overtime wages, for all of their missed meal and rest breaks, and for all of their time spent working off the clock. Moreover, when Defendant required Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees to report for work, but “furnished less than half said employee’s usual or scheduled day’s work,” Defendant violated Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8 § 11040, subd. 5(A) by failing to pay Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees for at least two (2) hours’ worth of work at their regular rate of pay. In addition, when Defendant required Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees to respond to and engage in additional work, this resulted in a second reporting for work in a single workday, and Defendant failed to pay these employees reporting time pay as required by Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8, § 11040, subd. 5(B). Further, Defendant failed to advise Plaintiff and the other Aggrieved Employees of their right to take separately and hourly paid duty-free ten (10) minute rest periods. *See Vaquero v. Stoneledge Furniture, LLC*, 9 Cal. App. 5<sup>th</sup> 98, 110 (2017). Additionally,

pursuant to Labor Code § 204 *et seq.*, Defendant failed to timely provide Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees with their wages. Plaintiff further contends that Defendant failed to provide accurate wage statements to Plaintiff, and other Aggrieved Employees, in violation of California Labor Code section 226(a). Specifically, Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees were paid on an hourly basis. As such, the wage statements should reflect all applicable hourly rates during the pay period and the total hours worked, and the applicable pay period in which the wages were earned pursuant to California Labor Code Section 226(a). The wage statements Defendant provided to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees failed to identify such information. More specifically, the wage statements failed to identify the accurate total hours worked each pay period in violation of Cal. Lab. Code Section 226(a)(2). Additionally, Plaintiff contends that Defendant failed to comply with Industrial Wage Order 7(A)(3) in that Defendant failed to keep time records showing when Plaintiff began and ended each shift and meal period. Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees perform tasks that reasonably permit sitting, and a seat would not interfere with their performance of any of their tasks that may require them to stand. Defendant failed to provide Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees with suitable seats. Said conduct, in addition to the foregoing, as well as the conduct alleged in the incorporated Complaint, violates Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204 *et seq.*, 210, 221, 226(a), 226.7, 227.3, 246, 510, 512, 558(a)(1)(2), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2802, California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 11040, Subdivision 5(A)-(B), California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 1 1070(14) (Failure to Provide Seating), Violation of the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order(s), and is therefore actionable under California Labor Code section 2699.3.

A true and correct copy of the Complaint by Plaintiff against Defendant, which (i) identifies the alleged violations, (ii) details the facts and theories which support the alleged violations, (iii) details the specific work performed by Plaintiff, (iii) sets forth the people/entities, dates, classifications, violations, events, and actions which are at issue to the extent known to Plaintiff, and (iv) sets forth the illegal practices used by Defendant, is attached hereto. This information provides notice to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency of the facts and theories supporting the alleged violations for the agency's reference. Plaintiff therefore incorporates the allegations of the attached Complaint into this letter as if fully set forth herein. If the agency needs any further information, please do not hesitate to ask.

This notice is provided to enable Plaintiff to proceed with the Complaint against Defendant as authorized by California Labor Code section 2699, *et seq.* The lawsuit consists of other Aggrieved Employees. As counsel, our intention is to vigorously prosecute the claims as alleged in the Complaint, and to procure civil penalties as provided by the Private Attorney General Statue of 2004 on behalf of Plaintiff and all Aggrieved Employees.

Your earliest response to this notice is appreciated. If you have any questions of concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above number and address.

Respectfully,

/s/ Nicholas J. De Blouw

Nicholas J. De Blouw, Esq.