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**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE**

SERGIO BARRANCO, as an individual and
on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

SIGN INDUSTRIES, INC., a California
corporation; and DOES 1 through 100,
inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. CVRI2504063

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

- (1) **FAILURE TO PAY ALL
OVERTIME WAGES (LABOR
CODE §§ 204, 510, 1194 and 1198);**
- (2) **MINIMUM WAGE VIOLATIONS
(LABOR CODE §§ 1182.12, 1194,
1194.2, 1197);**
- (3) **MEAL PERIOD VIOLATIONS
(LABOR CODE §§ 226.7, 512, and
558);**
- (4) **REST PERIOD VIOLATIONS
(LABOR CODE §§ 226.7, 516, and
558);**
- (5) **WAGE STATEMENT VIOLATIONS
(LABOR CODE § 226 *et seq.*);**
- (6) **WAITING TIME PENALTIES
(LABOR CODE §§ 201-203);**
- (7) **FAILURE TO REIMBURSE
EMPLOYEES FOR NECESSARY
BUSINESS EXPENDITURES
(LABOR CODE §§ 2802 and 2804);**
- (8) **UNFAIR COMPETITION (BUS &
PROF CODE § 17200 *et seq.*); and**
- (9) **CIVIL PENALTIES UNDER THE
PRIVATE ATTORNEYS
GENERAL ACT (LABOR CODE §
2698 *et seq.*).**

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
UNLIMITED CIVIL CASE**

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1 Plaintiff Sergio Barranco (“Plaintiff”) hereby brings this First Amended Class Action and
2 Representative Action Complaint (“Complaint”) against Defendant Sign Industries, Inc., a
3 California corporation; and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive (collectively, “Defendants”), and on
4 information and belief alleges as follows:

5 **JURISDICTION**

6 1. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, hereby brings this
7 Complaint for recovery of unpaid wages and penalties under Labor Code §§ 201-204, 226, 226.7,
8 510, 512, 516, 558, 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198, 2698 *et seq.*, 2802, 2804, California
9 Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.*, and Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order
10 No. 1 (“Wage Order 1”), in addition to seeking declaratory relief and restitution. This Complaint
11 is brought pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 382. This Court has jurisdiction over
12 Defendants’ violations of the California Labor Code because the amount in controversy exceeds
13 this Court's jurisdictional minimum.

14 **VENUE**

15 2. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to California Code of Civil
16 Procedure §§ 395(a) and 395.5, as at least some of the acts and omissions complained of herein
17 occurred in Riverside County. Defendants own, maintain offices, transact business, have an agent
18 or agents within Riverside County, and/or otherwise are found within Riverside County, and
19 Defendants are within the jurisdiction of this Court for purposes of service of process.

20 **PARTIES**

21 3. Plaintiff is an individual over the age of eighteen (18). At all relevant times herein,
22 Plaintiff was and currently is, a California resident. Within the statute of limitations periods
23 applicable to each cause of action pled herein, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants as a non-
24 exempt employee. Plaintiff was, and is, a victim of Defendants’ policies and/or practices
25 complained of herein, lost money and/or property, and has been deprived of the rights guaranteed
26 to him by Labor Code §§ 201-204, 226, 226.7, 510, 512, 516, 558, 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1197,
27 1198, 2698 *et seq.*, 2802, 2804, Business and Professions Code Section § 17200 *et seq.*, and Wage
28 Order 1, which sets employment standards for the manufacturing industry.

1 4. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that during the time
2 period relevant to this action, Defendants did (and do) business by operating a company that
3 designs, fabricates, and installs custom architectural signage.

4 5. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that at all times
5 mentioned herein, Defendants were licensed to do business in the State of California and were the
6 employers of Plaintiff and of the members of the Classes (as defined in Paragraph 15).

7 6. Plaintiff does not know the true names, capacities, relationships, and/or the extent
8 of participation of Defendants DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, in the conduct alleged in this
9 Complaint. For that reason, Defendants DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, are sued under such
10 fictitious names. Plaintiff prays for leave to amend this Complaint when their true names and
11 capacities are known. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that each
12 fictitiously named Respondent is and was responsible in some way for the alleged wage-and-hour
13 violations and other wrongful conduct that subjected Plaintiff and the Classes, as defined below,
14 to the illegal employment practices, wrongs and injuries complained of herein. All references in
15 this Complaint to “Defendants” shall be deemed to include all DOE Defendants.

16 7. At all times herein mentioned, each of said Defendants participated in the doing
17 of the acts hereinafter alleged to have been done by the named Defendants; and furthermore, the
18 Defendants, and each of them, were the agents, servants, and employees of each and every one of
19 the other Defendants, as well as the agents of all Defendants, and at all times herein mentioned
20 were acting within the course and scope of said agency and employment. Defendants, and each
21 of them, approved of, condoned, and/or otherwise ratified each and every one of the acts or
22 omissions complained of herein.

23 8. At all times mentioned herein, Defendants, and each of them, were members of
24 and engaged in a joint venture, partnership, and common enterprise, and acted within the course
25 and scope of and in pursuance of said joint venture, partnership, and common enterprise. Further,
26 Plaintiff alleges that all Defendants were joint employers for all purposes of Plaintiff and the
27 Classes (as defined in Paragraph 15).

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GENERAL FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

9. Defendants operate a company that designs, fabricates, and installs custom architectural signage. Defendants employed Plaintiff in the non-exempt job position of “Painter Assistant” (or similarly titled position) from approximately March 2022 until approximately June 2025.

10. During Plaintiff’s employment with Defendants, Defendants utilized a timekeeping system which resulted in Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees not being compensated for all hours actually worked, whether by rounding, time-shaving, or otherwise. Although Defendants required Plaintiff and other non-exempt employee to clock in and out of their work shifts through Defendants’ electronic timekeeping system, which recorded hours worked to the minute, Defendants thereafter rounded and/or shaved down Plaintiff’s and other non-exempt employees’ timekeeping entries in an uneven manner, so that Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees were deprived of all earned minimum and overtime wages. Upon information and belief, Defendants’ timekeeping system regularly, systematically, and impermissibly rounded and/or shaved down the hours worked by Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees resulting in the failure to compensate Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees for all hours worked. As a result, Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees were not compensated for all required minimum and overtime wages.

11. Defendants also failed to provide Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees with all legally compliant meal periods due to Defendants’ meal period policies/practices, which have resulted in late (commencing after the fifth hour of work), short/interrupted (less than 30 minutes), and missed meal periods. Specifically, Plaintiff’s shift would regularly begin around 6:00 a.m., however, Defendants would not provide an opportunity for his meal period until 12:00 p.m., which is after the completion of five hours of work. In addition, Defendants did not require Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees to record their meal periods. Rather, Defendants’ meal period policies/practices automatically deducted 30 minutes from the total hours worked each day, regardless of whether a timely, full 30-minute meal period was provided. Upon information and belief, Defendants’ auto-deduct policies/practices are evident on Plaintiff and other non-

1 exempt employees' records as "LUNCH DEDUCTION -.30." Defendants also failed to provide
2 Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees with second meal periods on shifts over 10.0 hours.
3 On those occasions when Plaintiff was not provided with all legally-required meal periods to
4 which he was entitled, Defendants did not compensate Plaintiff with the required meal period
5 premium for each workday in which he experienced a meal period violation as mandated by Labor
6 Code § 226.7. Upon information and belief, throughout the relevant time period, Defendants
7 maintained no payroll code for paying meal period premiums under Labor Code § 226.7.

8 12. Plaintiff was not authorized and permitted to take all required rest periods due to
9 Defendants' rest period policies/practices, which upon information and belief, fail to authorize
10 and permit an off-duty rest period for every four hours worked, or major fraction thereof.
11 Specifically, Plaintiff regularly worked shifts in excess of eight (8) hours, entitling him to two
12 rest periods. During his employment with Defendants, Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees
13 who worked shifts of at least eight (8) hours were only authorized and permitted to take one
14 combined rest period of 20 minutes, to be taken around 8:35 a.m. As a result, Defendants failed
15 to authorize and permit Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees to take rest periods that fell on
16 either side of their meal period. Instead, Defendants authorized and permitted their employees to
17 take only one 20-minute combined rest period in the morning. Defendants' departure from the
18 preferred schedule was not predicated on facts demonstrating that the preferred schedule would
19 impose a material burden on it, and that the departure was necessary to alleviate such
20 burden. Furthermore, Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees' rest periods were often
21 interrupted with work demands. On those occasions when Plaintiff was not authorized and
22 permitted to take all legally-compliant rest periods to which he was entitled, Defendants failed to
23 compensate Plaintiff with the required rest period premium for each workday in which they
24 experienced a rest period violation as mandated by Labor Code § 226.7. Upon information and
25 belief, Defendants maintained no payroll code for paying rest period premiums under Labor Code
26 § 226.7.

27 13. Defendants also failed to adequately reimburse Plaintiff and other non-exempt
28 employees for all reasonable and necessary work expenditures, including, but not limited to, use

of personal tools such as screwdrivers and razor blades for employment-related tasks. In addition, Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees were required to purchase face masks, in the discharge of their work duties with Defendants. However, Defendants failed to reimburse Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees for these business expenses.

14. As a result of Defendants' failure to compensate Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees for all minimum wages, overtime wages, and all meal and rest period premium wages, Defendants maintained inaccurate payroll records and failed to issue accurate, compliant, itemized wage statements. As a further result of Defendants' failure to compensate Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees for all minimum wages, overtime wages, and all meal and rest period premium wages, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees all wages owed at the time of their separation of employment with Defendants.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

15. Class Definitions: Plaintiff brings this Complaint on behalf of himself and the following Classes pursuant to Section 382 of the Code of Civil Procedure:

- a. The Overtime Class consists of all of Defendants' current and former non-exempt employees in the State of California who worked more than 8.0 hours per day and/or 40.0 hours per week and were subject to Defendants' timekeeping policies and/or practices, during the four years immediately preceding the filing of the lawsuit through the present.
- b. The Minimum Wage Class consists of all of Defendants' current and former non-exempt employees in the State of California who were subject to Defendants' timekeeping policies and/or practices, during the four years immediately preceding the filing of the lawsuit through the present.
- c. The Meal Period Class consists of all of Defendants' current and former non-exempt employees in the State of California who (i) worked at least one shift in excess of 5.0; and/or (ii) worked at least one shift in excess of 10.0 hours, during the four years immediately preceding the filing of the lawsuit through the present.
- d. The Rest Period Class consists of all of Defendants' current and former non-

exempt employees in the State of California who worked at least one shift in excess of 3.5 hours, during the four years immediately preceding the filing of the lawsuit through the present.

e. The Wage Statement Class consists of all of Defendants' current and former non-exempt employees who have received a wage statement from Defendants, during the one year immediately preceding the filing of the lawsuit through the present.

f. The Waiting Time Class consists of all members of the (i) Minimum Wage Class; (ii) Overtime Class; (iii) Meal Period Class; (iv) and/or Rest Period Class who have separated their employment with Defendants, during the three years immediately preceding the filing of the lawsuit through the present.

g. The Employee Expense Class consists of all of Defendants' current and former non-exempt employees who were not adequately reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenditures in connection with their employment with Defendants, during the four years immediately preceding the filing of the lawsuit through the present.

16. **Numerosity/Ascertainability:** The members of the Classes are so numerous that joinder of all members would be unfeasible and not practicable. The membership of the classes and subclasses are unknown to Plaintiff, at this time; however, it is estimated that the Classes number is in excess of 50 individuals as to each class. The identity of such membership is readily ascertainable via inspection of Defendants' employment records.

17. **Common Questions of Law and Fact Predominate/Well Defined Community of Interest:** There are common questions of law and fact as to Plaintiff and all other similarly situated employees, which predominate over questions affecting only individual members including, without limitation, to:

i. Whether Defendants violated the applicable Labor Code provisions, including, but not limited to, sections 510 and 1194 by requiring members of the Overtime Class to perform overtime work and not paying for said work in accordance with the overtime laws of the State of California;

- ii. Whether Defendants paid all minimum wages owed to members of the Minimum Wage Class for all hours worked pursuant to Labor Code sections 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2 and 1197;
- iii. Whether Defendants' timekeeping policies/practices resulted in the failure to properly compensate members of the Overtime Class and Minimum Wage Classes;
- iv. Whether Defendants provided legally compliant meal periods to members of the Meal Period Class pursuant to Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512;
- v. Whether Defendants correctly paid meal period premium payments for non-compliant meal periods pursuant to Labor Code section 226.7;
- vi. Whether Defendants authorized and permitted legally compliant rest periods to members of the Rest Period Class pursuant to Labor Code sections 226.7 and 516;
- vii. Whether Defendants correctly paid rest period premium payments for non-compliant rest periods pursuant to Labor Code section 226.7;
- viii. Whether Defendants furnished legally compliant wage statements to members of the Wage Statement Class pursuant to Labor Code section 226;
- ix. Whether Defendants' policies and/or practices for the timing and amount of payment of final wages to Plaintiff and members of the Waiting Time Class at the time of their separation of employment were lawful; and
- x. Whether Defendants' policies and/or practices regarding reasonable and necessary business expenditures resulted in the failure to properly reimburse members of the Employee Expense Class.

18. **Predominance of Common Questions:** Common questions of law and fact predominate over questions that affect only individual members of the Classes. The common questions of law and fact set forth above are numerous and substantial and stem from Defendants' uniform policies and/or practices applicable to each individual class member including, but not limited to, Defendants' uniform timekeeping policies and/or practices, and meal and rest period policies and/or practices. As such, the common questions predominate over individual questions

concerning each individual class member's showing as to his or her eligibility for recovery or as to the amount of his or her damages.

19. **Typicality:** The claims of Plaintiff are typical of the claims of the Classes because Plaintiff was employed by Defendants as a non-exempt employee in California during the statutes of limitation applicable to each cause of action pled in this Complaint. As alleged herein, Plaintiff, like the members of the Classes, was not properly paid minimum and overtime wages due to Defendants' timekeeping policies/practices, was not provided all required meal periods, was not authorized and permitted to take all required rest periods, did not receive meal and rest period premium wages for missed and/or non-compliant meal and rest periods, was not issued accurate itemized wage statements, was not paid all wages owed at time of separation of employment, and/or was not reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary business expenditures.

20. **Adequacy of Representation:** Plaintiff is fully prepared to take all necessary steps to represent fairly and adequately the interests of the members of the Classes. Moreover, Plaintiff's attorneys are ready, willing, and able to fully and adequately represent the members of the Classes and Plaintiff. Plaintiff's attorneys have prosecuted and defended numerous wage-and-hour class actions in state and federal courts in the past and are committed to vigorously prosecuting this action on behalf of the members of the Classes.

21. **Superiority:** The California Labor Code is broadly remedial in nature and serves an important public interest in establishing minimum working conditions and standards in California. These laws and labor standards protect the average working employee from exploitation by employers who have the responsibility to follow the laws and who may seek to take advantage of superior economic and bargaining power in setting onerous terms and conditions of employment. The nature of this action and the format of laws available to Plaintiff and members of the Classes make the class action format a particularly efficient and appropriate procedure to redress the violations alleged herein. If each employee were required to file an individual lawsuit, Defendants would necessarily gain an unconscionable advantage since they would be able to exploit and overwhelm the limited resources of each individual plaintiff with their vastly superior financial and legal resources. Moreover, requiring each member of the

Classes to pursue an individual remedy would also discourage the assertion of lawful claims by employees who would be disinclined to file an action against their former and/or current employer for real and justifiable fear of retaliation and permanent damages to their careers at subsequent employment. Further, the prosecution of separate actions by the individual class members, even if possible, would create a substantial risk of inconsistent or varying verdicts or adjudications with respect to the individual class members against Defendants herein; and which would establish potentially incompatible standards of conduct for Defendants; and/or legal determinations with respect to individual class members which would, as a practical matter, be dispositive of the interest of the other class members not parties to adjudications or which would substantially impair or impede the ability of the class members to protect their interests. Further, the claims of the individual members of the Classes are not sufficiently large to warrant vigorous individual prosecution considering all of the concomitant costs and expenses attending thereto. As such, the Classes are maintainable as classes under § 382 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

FAILURE TO PAY ALL OVERTIME WAGES

(AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS)

22. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.

23. This cause of action is brought pursuant to Labor Code §§ 204, 510, 1194, and 1198, which provide that non-exempt employees are entitled to all overtime wages and compensation for all overtime hours worked and provide a private right of action for the failure to pay all overtime compensation for overtime work performed.

24. At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to properly compensate non-exempt employees, including Plaintiff and members of the Overtime Class, for all overtime hours worked pursuant to California Labor Code § 1194 and Wage Order 1. Wage Order 1, § 3 requires an employer to pay an employee “one and one-half (1½) times the employee’s regular rate of pay” for work in excess of 8 hours per work day and/or in excess of 40 hours of work in the workweek. Defendants caused Plaintiff to work overtime hours, but did not compensate Plaintiff or members of the Overtime Class with one and one-half times their regular rate of pay

1 for such hours.

2 25. The foregoing policies and practices are unlawful and create an entitlement to
3 recovery by Plaintiff and members of the Overtime Class in a civil action for the unpaid amount
4 of overtime premiums owing, including interest thereon, statutory penalties, attorneys' fees, and
5 costs of suit according to California Labor Code §§ 204, 210, 216, 510, 1194, and 1198; and Code
6 of Civil Procedure § 1021.5.

7 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

8 **MINIMUM WAGE VIOLATIONS**

9 **(AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS)**

10 26. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.

11 27. Wage Order 1, § 4 and California Labor Code §§ 1197 and 1182.12 establish the
12 right of employees to be paid minimum wages for all hours worked, in amounts set by state law.
13 Labor Code §§ 1194(a) and 1194.2(a) provide that an employee who has not been paid the legal
14 minimum wage as required by Labor Code § 1197 may recover the unpaid balance together with
15 attorneys' fees and costs of suit, as well as liquidated damages in an amount equal to the unpaid
16 wages and interest accrued thereon.

17 28. At all relevant times herein, Defendants failed to conform their pay practices to
18 the requirements of the law by failing to pay Plaintiff and members of the Minimum Wage Class
19 for all hours worked including, but not limited to, all hours they were subject to the control of
20 Defendants and/or suffered or permitted to work under the California Labor Code and Wage
21 Order 1.

22 29. California Labor Code § 1198 makes unlawful the employment of an employee
23 under conditions that the IWC prohibits. California Labor Code §§ 1194(a) and 1194.2(a) provide
24 that an employer who has failed to pay its employees the legal minimum wage is liable to pay
25 those employees the unpaid balance of the unpaid wages as well as liquidated damages in an
26 amount equal to the wages due and interest thereon.

27 30. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful conduct as alleged
28 herein, Plaintiff and the Minimum Wage Class have sustained economic damages including, but

not limited to, unpaid wages and lost interest, in an amount to be established at trial, and are entitled to recover economic and statutory damages and penalties and other appropriate relief as a result of Defendants' violations of the California Labor Code and Wage Order 1.

31. The foregoing practices and policies are unlawful and create an entitlement to recovery by Plaintiff and the members of the Minimum Wage Class in a civil action for the unpaid amount of minimum wages owing, including interest thereon, liquidated damages, statutory and civil penalties, attorney's fees, and costs of suit according to California Labor Code §§ 204, 558, 1194, 1197, and 1198, Wage Order 1, and Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

MEAL PERIOD VIOLATIONS

(AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS)

32. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.

33. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants failed in their affirmative obligation to provide all of their non-exempt employees in California, including Plaintiff and members of the Meal Period Class, with all legally compliant meal periods in accordance with the mandates of the California Labor Code and Wage Order 1, § 11. Despite Defendants' violations, Defendants did not pay an additional hour of pay to Plaintiff and members of the Meal Period Class at their respective regular rates of pay, in accordance with California Labor Code §§ 204, 210, 226.7, and 512.

34. As a result, Defendants are responsible for paying premium compensation for meal period violations pursuant to Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512, and Wage Order 1, including interest thereon, statutory penalties, civil penalties, and costs of suit.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

REST PERIOD VIOLATIONS

(AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS)

35. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.

36. Wage Order 1, § 12 and Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 516 establish the right of employees to be provided with a rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for each four (4) hour

1 period worked, or major fraction thereof.

2 37. As alleged herein, Defendants failed to authorize and permit Plaintiff and members
3 of the Rest Period Class to take all required rest periods.

4 38. The foregoing violations create an entitlement to recovery by Plaintiff and
5 members of the Rest Period Class in a civil action for the unpaid amount of rest period premiums
6 owing, including interest thereon, statutory penalties, civil penalties, and costs of suit according
7 to Labor Code §§ 226.7, 516, and Civil Code §§ 3287(b) and 3289.

8 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

9 **WAGE STATEMENT VIOLATIONS**

10 **(AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS)**

11 39. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.

12 40. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants
13 knowingly and intentionally, as a matter of uniform policy and practice, failed to furnish Plaintiff
14 and members of the Wage Statement Class with accurate and complete, itemized wage statements
15 that included, among other requirements, all hours worked, total gross wages earned, all rates of
16 pay and corresponding number of hours worked, total net wages earned, and the correct name of
17 the legal entity that is the employer in violation of Labor Code § 226 *et seq.*

18 41. Defendants' failure to furnish Plaintiff and members of the Wage Statement Class
19 with accurate and complete, itemized wage statements resulted in actual injury, as said failures
20 led to, among other things, the non-payment of minimum and overtime wages and meal and rest
21 period premium wages owed, and deprived them of the information necessary to identify the
22 discrepancies in Defendants' reported data.

23 42. Defendants' failures create an entitlement to recovery by Plaintiff and members of
24 the Wage Statement Class in a civil action for all damages and/or penalties pursuant to Labor
25 Code § 226 *et seq.*, including statutory penalties, civil penalties, reasonable attorneys' fees, and
26 costs of suit according to California Labor Code § 226 *et seq.*

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SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

WAITING TIME PENALTIES

(AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS)

43. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.

44. This cause of action is brought pursuant to Labor Code §§ 201-203, which require an employer to pay all wages immediately at the time of separation of employment in the event the employer discharges the employee, or the employee provides at least 72 hours of notice of their intent to quit. In the event the employee provides less than 72 hours of notice of their intent to quit, said employee's wages become due and payable not later than 72 hours upon said employee's last date of employment.

45. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon allege, that Defendants failed to timely pay Plaintiff and members of the Waiting Time Class all final wages due to them at their separation from employment, including minimum and overtime wages, and meal and rest period premium wages.

46. Further, Plaintiff is informed and believed, and based thereon allege, that as a matter of uniform policy and practice, Defendants continue to fail to pay Plaintiff and members of the Waiting Time Class all earned wages at the end of employment in a timely manner pursuant to the requirements of Labor Code §§ 201-203.

47. Defendants' failure to pay all final wages was willful within the meaning of Labor Code § 203. Defendants' willful failure to timely pay Plaintiff and the members of the Waiting Time Class their earned wages upon separation from employment results in a continued payment of wages up to thirty days from the time the wages were due.

48. Therefore, Plaintiff and members of the Waiting Time Class are entitled to compensation pursuant to Labor Code § 203, plus reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit.

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**FAILURE TO REIMBURSE EMPLOYEES FOR
NECESSARY BUSINESS EXPENDITURES
(AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS)**

50. Based on information and belief, Defendants required Plaintiff and members of Employee Expense Class to use their personal tools and purchase their own supplies but failed to provide adequate reimbursement.

52. At all relevant times herein, Defendants were subject to Labor Code § 2804, which states that, “[a]ny contract or agreement, express or implied, made by any employee to waive the benefits of this article or any part thereof, is null and void, and this article shall not deprive any employee or his personal representative of any right or remedy to which he is entitled under the laws of this State.”

54. Plaintiff and members of the Employee Expense Class are entitled to attorneys' fees and costs of suit pursuant to Labor Code § 2802(c) for bringing this action.

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1 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **UNFAIR COMPETITION**

3 **(AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS)**

4 56. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.

5 57. Defendants have engaged and continue to engage in unfair and/or unlawful
6 business practices in California in violation of Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.*, by:
7 (a) failing to pay Plaintiff and members of the Minimum Wage Class all minimum wages; (b)
8 failing to pay Plaintiff and members of the Overtime Class all overtime wages; (c) failing to
9 provide Plaintiff and members of the Meal Period Class with all meal periods to which they are
10 entitled, and/or failing to pay them meal period premium payments; (d) failing to authorize and
11 permit all required duty-free rest periods to Plaintiff and members of the Rest Period Class, and/or
12 failing to pay them rest period premiums payments; (e) knowingly failing to furnish Plaintiff and
13 the Wage Statement Class with all accurate and complete, itemized wage statements in violation
14 of Labor Code § 226; (f) knowingly failing to pay all wages owed to Plaintiff and members of the
15 Waiting Time Class at the time of their separation of employment; and/or (g) failing to reimburse
16 Plaintiff and the Employee Expense Class for all necessary business expenditures.

17 58. Defendants' utilization of these unfair and/or unlawful business practices deprived
18 Plaintiff and continues to deprive members of the Classes of compensation to which they are
19 legally entitled, constitutes unfair and/or unlawful competition, and provides an unfair advantage
20 over Defendants' competitors who have been and/or are currently employing workers and
21 attempting to do so in honest compliance with applicable wage and hour laws.

22 59. Because Plaintiff is a victim of Defendants' unfair and/or unlawful conduct alleged
23 herein, Plaintiff for himself and on behalf of the members of the Classes, seeks full restitution of
24 monies, as necessary and according to proof, to restore any and all monies withheld, acquired
25 and/or converted by Defendants pursuant to Business and Professions Code §§ 17203 and 17208.

26 60. The acts complained of herein occurred within the last four years immediately
27 preceding the filing of the Plaintiff's Complaint.

28 61. Plaintiff was compelled to retain the services of counsel to file this Complaint to

1 protect his interests and those of the Classes, to obtain restitution and injunctive relief on behalf
2 of Defendants' current non-exempt employees, and to enforce important rights affecting the
3 public interest. Plaintiff has thereby incurred the financial burden of attorneys' fees and costs,
4 which he is entitled to recover under Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5.

5 **NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

6 **PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT**

7 **(AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS)**

8 62. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.

9 63. Defendants have committed several Labor Code violations against Plaintiff,
10 members of the Classes, and other aggrieved employees. Plaintiff, an "aggrieved employee" within
11 the meaning of Labor Code § 2698 *et seq.*, acting on behalf of himself and other aggrieved
12 employees, brings this representative action against Defendants to recover the civil penalties due
13 to Plaintiff, the members of the Classes, other aggrieved employees, and the State of California
14 according to proof pursuant to Labor Code § 558 and § 2699 (a) and (f) including, but not limited
15 to: (1) \$100.00 for each initial violation for each failure to pay each employee and \$200 for each
16 subsequent violation or willful or intentional violation pursuant to Labor Code § 210 for each
17 failure to pay each employee, plus 25% of the amount unlawfully withheld; (2) \$50.00 for each
18 initial violation and \$100 for each subsequent violation pursuant to Labor Code § 558 per
19 employee per pay period; (3) \$100.00 for each initial violation and \$250.00 for each subsequent
20 violation pursuant to Labor Code § 1197.1 per employee per pay period; (4) \$250.00 for each
21 initial violation and \$1,000.00 for each subsequent violation pursuant to Labor Code § 226.3 per
22 employee per pay period; and/or (5) \$100.00 for each initial violation and \$200 for each subsequent
23 violation per employee per pay period for those violations of the Labor Code for which no civil
24 penalty is specifically provided, based on the following Labor Code violations:

25 a. Failing to pay Plaintiff, the Overtime Class, and other aggrieved employees all
26 earned overtime compensation in violation of Labor Code §§ 204, 510, 1194, and
27 1198;

28 b. Failing to pay minimum wages for all hours worked to Plaintiff, the Minimum

Wage Class, and other aggrieved employees in violation of Labor Code §§ 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, and 1197;

c. Failing to provide all legally required meal periods, and failure to pay meal period premium wages, to Plaintiff, the Meal Period Class, and other aggrieved employees at the regular rate of compensation in violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, 558, and 1198;

d. Failing to authorize and permit all legally required rest periods, and failure to pay rest period premium wages, to Plaintiff, the Rest Period Class, and other aggrieved employees at the regular rate of compensation in violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7, 516, 558, and 1198;

e. Failing to furnish Plaintiff, the Wage Statement Class, and other aggrieved employees with complete, accurate, itemized wage statements in violation of Labor Code § 226;

f. Failing to timely pay all final wages and compensation earned by Plaintiff, the Waiting Time Class, and other aggrieved employees at the time of separation in violation of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, and 203;

g. Failing to reimburse Plaintiff, the Employee Expense Class, and other aggrieved employees for all necessary work expenses incurred in violation of Labor Code §§ 2802 and 2804;

h. Failing to pay Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees all earned wages at least twice during each calendar month in violation of Labor Code § 204; and

i. Failing to maintain accurate records on behalf of Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees in violation of Labor Code § 1174 and 1198.

64. On July 16, 2025, Plaintiff notified Defendants via certified mail, and notified the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”) via its website, of Defendants’ violations of the California Labor Code and Plaintiff’s intent to bring a claim for civil penalties under California Labor Code § 2698 *et seq.* with respect to the violations of the California Labor Code identified in Paragraph 63 (a)-(i). Now that sixty-five days have passed from Plaintiff

1 notifying Defendants and the LWDA of these violations, and the LWDA has not provided notice
2 that it intends to investigate the violations, Plaintiff has exhausted his administrative requirements
3 for bringing a claim under the Private Attorneys General Act with respect to these violations.

4 65. Based on the foregoing, Plaintiff seeks to represent himself and all Aggrieved
5 Employees, as defined by Labor Code § 2699(c).

6 66. Plaintiff was compelled to retain the services of counsel to file this court action to
7 protect his interests and the interests of other aggrieved employees, and to assess and collect the
8 civil penalties owed by Defendants. Plaintiff has thereby incurred attorneys' fees and costs, which
9 he is entitled to receive under California Labor Code § 2699(g).

10 **PRAYER**

11 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment for himself and for all others on whose behalf
12 this suit is brought against Defendants, as follows:

- 13 1. For an order certifying the proposed Classes;
- 14 2. For an order appointing Plaintiff as representative of the Classes;
- 15 3. For an order appointing Counsel for Plaintiff as Counsel for the Classes;
- 16 4. Upon the First Cause of Action, for compensatory, consequential, general and
17 special damages according to proof pursuant to Labor Code §§ 204, 510, 1194, and 1198;
- 18 5. Upon the Second Cause of Action, for payment of minimum wages, liquidated
19 damages, and penalties according to proof pursuant to Labor Code §§ 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, and
20 1197;
- 21 6. Upon the Third Cause of Action, for compensatory, consequential, general and
22 special damages according to proof pursuant to Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, and 558;
- 23 7. Upon the Fourth Cause of Action, for compensatory, consequential, general and
24 special damages according to proof pursuant to Labor Code §§ 226.7, 516, and 558;
- 25 8. Upon the Fifth Cause of Action, for statutory penalties pursuant to Labor Code §
26 226 *et. seq.*;
- 27 9. Upon the Sixth Cause of Action, for statutory waiting time penalties pursuant to
28 Labor Code §§ 201- 203;

10. Upon the Seventh Cause of Action, for compensatory, consequential, general, and special damages according to proof pursuant to Labor Code §§ 2802 and 2804;

11. Upon the Eighth Cause of Action, for restitution to Plaintiff and members of the Classes of all money and/or property unlawfully acquired by Defendants by means of any acts or practices declared by this Court to be in violation of Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200, *et seq.*;

12. Upon the Ninth Cause of Action, for civil penalties due to Plaintiff, other aggrieved employees, and the State of California according to proof pursuant to Labor Code §§ 558 and 2699(a) and (f) including, but not limited to: (1) \$100.00 for each initial violation for each failure to pay each employee and \$200 for each subsequent violation or willful or intentional violation pursuant to Labor Code § 210 for each failure to pay each employee, plus 25% of the amount unlawfully withheld; (2) \$50.00 for each initial violation and \$100 for each subsequent violation pursuant to Labor Code § 558 per employee per pay period; (3) \$100.00 for each initial violation and \$250.00 for each subsequent violation pursuant to Labor Code § 1197.1 per employee per pay period; (4) \$250.00 for each initial violation and \$1,000.00 for each subsequent violation pursuant to Labor Code § 226.3 per employee per pay period; and/or (5) \$100.00 for each initial violation and \$200 for each subsequent violation per employee per pay period for those violations of the Labor Code for which no civil penalty is specifically provided, based on the Labor Code violations identified in Paragraph 63 (a)-(i);

13. Prejudgment interest on all due and unpaid wages pursuant to California Labor Code § 218.6 and Civil Code §§ 3287 and 3289;

14. On all causes of action, for attorneys' fees and costs as provided by Labor Code §§ 226, 1194, 2699(g), 2802(c), and Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5; and

15. For such other and further relief, the Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: September 22, 2025

Respectfully submitted,
HAINES LAW GROUP, APC

By:



Paul K. Haines
Attorneys for Plaintiff

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Dated: September 22, 2025

By:



Paul K. Haines
Attorneys for Plaintiff

PROOF OF SERVICE

Sergio Barranco v. Sign Industries, Inc.
Riverside County Superior Court Case No. CVRI2504063

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)

I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action; my business address is [X] 2155 Campus Drive, Suite 180, El Segundo, El Segundo, California 90245.

On October 10, 2025, I served the foregoing document(s) described as:

FIRST AMENDED CLASS AND REPRESENTATIVE ACTION COMPLAINT

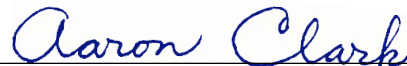
on the interested party(ies) in this action as follows:

David G. Hagopian, Esq.
Email: dhagopian@cdflitigation.com
Garret V. Jensen, Esq.
Email: gjensen@cdflaborlaw.com
18300 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 800
Irvine, CA 92612
Attorneys for Defendant SIGN INDUSTRIES, INC.

[X] (VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL) Pursuant to California Rule of Court 2.251(c)(3), I sent the document(s) to the person(s) at the electronic service address(es) listed from the email address aclark@haineslawgroup.com.

[X] (STATE) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

Executed on October 10, 2025, at El Segundo, California.



Aaron Clark