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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF ORANGE

MATTHEW WEBB, on behalf of the State of
California, as a private attorney general,

Plaintiff,

vs.

PJ BROADWAY INC., a California
Corporation; PJ CLEVELAND LLC, a
California Limited Liability Company; and
DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 30-2023-01337244-CU-OE-CXC

Assigned for All Purposes Judge William Claster

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,
218, 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 Matthew Webb (“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 his own acts and knowledge which are based on personal
5 knowledge, the following:

6 INTRODUCTION

7 1. PLAINTIFF brings this action against Defendants PJ Broadway Inc. and PJ
8 Cleveland LLC (referred to as “DEFENDANT”) seeking only to recover PAGA civil penalties
9 for himself, and on behalf of all current and former aggrieved employees that worked for
10 DEFENDANT. PLAINTIFF does not seek to recover anything other than penalties as
11 permitted by California Labor Code § 2699. To the extent that statutory violations are
12 mentioned for wage violations, PLAINTIFF does not seek underlying general and/or special
13 damages for those violations, but simply the civil penalties permitted by California Labor Code
14 § 2699.

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

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

23 THE PARTIES

24 4. PJ Broadway Inc. is a California corporation that at all relevant times mentioned
25 herein conducted and continues to conduct substantial business in the state of California.

26 5. PJ Cleveland LLC is a California limited liability company that at all relevant
27 times mentioned herein conducted and continues to conduct substantial business in the state of
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1 California.

2 6. PLAINTIFF alleges there has existed a unity of interest between PJ Broadway
3 Inc. and PJ Cleveland LLC as evidenced by pay stubs, tax documents, California Secretary of
4 State registered business information, and the entities PLAINTIFF worked for, such that any
5 individuality and separateness between the entities has ceased and both defendants are referred
6 to herein as ("DEFENDANT").

7 7. DEFENDANT owns and operates Papa John's restaurants in California.

8 8. PLAINTIFF has been employed by DEFENDANT in California since August of
9 2018 and has been at all times classified by DEFENDANT as a non-exempt employee, paid on
10 an hourly basis, and entitled to the legally required meal and rest periods and payment of
11 minimum and overtime wages due for all time worked.

12 7. PLAINTIFF, and such persons that may be added from time to time who satisfy
13 the requirements and exhaust the administrative procedures under the Private Attorney General
14 Act, brings this Representative Action on behalf of the State of California with respect to
15 himself and all individuals who are or previously were employed by PJ Broadway Inc. and/or
16 PJ Cleveland LLC in California, including any employees staffed with PJ Broadway Inc. and/or
17 PJ Cleveland LLC by a third party, and classified as non-exempt employees ("AGGRIEVED
18 EMPLOYEES") during the time period of January 25, 2022 until a date as determined by the
19 Court (the "PAGA PERIOD").

20 9. PLAINTIFF, on behalf of himself and all AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES
21 presently or formerly employed by DEFENDANT during the PAGA PERIOD, brings this
22 representative action pursuant to Labor Code § 2699, *et seq.* seeking fixed civil penalties for
23 DEFENDANT's violation of California Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204 *et seq.*, 210, 218,
24 221, 226(a), 226.7, 227.3, 246 *et seq.*, 510, 512, 558(a)(1)(2), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198,
25 2802, California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 11040, Subdivision 5(A)-(B),
26 California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 1 1070(14) (Failure to Provide Seating), and the
27
28

1 applicable Wage Order(s). Based upon the foregoing, PLAINTIFF and all AGGRIEVED
2 EMPLOYEES are aggrieved employees within the meaning of Labor Code § 2699, *et seq.*

3 10. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, subsidiary,
4 partnership, associate or otherwise of defendants DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are
5 presently unknown to PLAINTIFF who therefore sues these Defendants by such fictitious
6 names pursuant to Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 474. PLAINTIFF will seek leave to amend this
7 Complaint to allege the true names and capacities of Does 1 through 50, inclusive, when
8 they are ascertained. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and based upon that information
9 and belief alleges, that the Defendants named in this Complaint, including DOES 1 through
10 50, inclusive, are responsible in some manner for one or more of the events and happenings
11 that proximately caused the injuries and damages hereinafter alleged.

12 11. The agents, servants and/or employees of the Defendants and each of them
13 acting on behalf of the Defendants acted within the course and scope of his, her or its
14 authority as the agent, servant and/or employee of the Defendants, and personally
15 participated in the conduct alleged herein on behalf of the Defendants with respect to the
16 conduct alleged herein. Consequently, the acts of each Defendant are legally attributable to
17 the other Defendants and all Defendants are jointly and severally liable to PLAINTIFF and
18 all the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES, for the loss sustained as a proximate result of the
19 conduct of the Defendants' agents, servants and/or employees.

20 21 THE CONDUCT

22 12. Pursuant to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, DEFENDANT
23 was required to pay PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for all their time
24 worked, meaning the time during which an employee is subject to the control of an
25 employer, including all the time the employee is suffered or permitted to work.
26 DEFENDANT requires PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES to work without
27 paying them for all the time they are under DEFENDANT's control. Among other things,
28 DEFENDANT requires PLAINTIFF to work while clocked out during what is supposed to

1 be PLAINTIFF's off-duty meal break. PLAINTIFF was from time to time interrupted by
2 work assignments while clocked out for what should have been PLAINTIFF's off-duty meal
3 break. DEFENDANT, as a matter of established company policy and procedure,
4 administers a uniform practice of rounding the actual time worked and recorded by
5 PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES, always to the benefit of DEFENDANT,
6 so that during the course of their employment, PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED
7 EMPLOYEES are paid less than they would have been paid had they been paid for actual
8 recorded time rather than "rounded" time. Additionally, DEFENDANT engages in the
9 practice of requiring PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES to perform work off
10 the clock in that DEFENDANT, as a condition of employment, required these employees to
11 submit to mandatory temperature checks and symptom questionnaires for COVID-19
12 screening prior to clocking into DEFENDANT's timekeeping system for the workday. As a
13 result, PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES forfeit minimum wage, overtime
14 wage compensation, and off-duty meal breaks by working without their time being correctly
15 recorded and without compensation at the applicable rates. DEFENDANT's policy and
16 practice not to pay PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for all time worked, is
17 evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records.

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

22 14. The second component of PLAINTIFF's and the AGGRIEVED
23 EMPLOYEES' compensation is DEFENDANT's non-discretionary incentive program that
24 paid PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES incentive wages based on their
25 performance for DEFENDANT. The non-discretionary incentive program provided all
26 employees paid on an hourly basis with incentive compensation when the employees met the
27 various performance goals set by DEFENDANT. However, when calculating the regular
28 rate of pay in order to pay overtime and meal and rest break premiums to PLAINTIFF and

1 the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES, DEFENDANT failed to include the incentive
2 compensation as part of the employees' "regular rate of pay" for purposes of calculating
3 overtime pay and meal and rest break premium pay. Management and supervisors described
4 the incentive program to potential and new employees as part of the compensation package.
5 As a matter of law, the incentive compensation received by PLAINTIFF and the
6 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES must be included in the "regular rate of pay." The failure to
7 do so has resulted in a underpayment of overtime compensation and meal and rest break
8 premiums to PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES by DEFENDANT.

9 15. As a result of their rigorous work schedules, PLAINTIFF and the
10 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were from time to time unable to take thirty (30) minute off
11 duty meal breaks and were not fully relieved of duty for their meal periods. PLAINTIFF
12 and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were required from time to time to perform work as
13 ordered by DEFENDANT for more than five (5) hours during some shifts without receiving
14 a meal break. Further, DEFENDANT from time to time failed to provide PLAINTIFF and
15 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES with a second off-duty meal period for some workdays in
16 which these employees were required by DEFENDANT to work ten (10) hours of work.
17 DEFENDANT also engaged in the practice of rounding the meal period times to avoid
18 paying penalties to PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES. PLAINTIFF and the
19 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES therefore forfeit meal breaks without additional compensation
20 and in accordance with DEFENDANT's corporate policy and practice.

21 16. During the PAGA PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED
22 EMPLOYEES were also required from time to time to work in excess of four (4) hours
23 without being provided ten (10) minute rest periods. Further, these employees were denied
24 their first rest periods of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of at least two (2)
25 to four (4) hours from time to time, a first and second rest period of at least ten (10) minutes
26 for some shifts worked of between six (6) and eight (8) hours from time to time, and a first,
27 second and third rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of ten (10)
28 hours or more from time to time. PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were

1 also not provided with one hour wages in lieu thereof. Additionally, the applicable
2 California Wage Order requires employers to provide employees with off-duty rest periods,
3 which the California Supreme Court defined as time during which an employee is relieved
4 from all work related duties and free from employer control. In so doing, the Court held that
5 the requirement under California law that employers authorize and permit all employees to
6 take rest period means that employers must relieve employees of all duties and relinquish
7 control over how employees spend their time which includes control over the locations
8 where employees may take their rest period. Employers cannot impose controls that prohibit
9 an employee from taking a brief walk - five minutes out, five minutes back. Here,
10 DEFENDANT's policy restricted PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES from
11 unconstrained walks and is unlawful based on DEFENDANT's rule which states
12 PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES cannot leave the work premises during
13 their rest period.

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

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

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

24 in [I]n addition to, and entirely independent and apart from, any other penalty provided
25 this article, every person who fails to pay the wages of each employee as provided in
26 Sections. . . 204. . . shall be subject to a civil penalty as follows: (1) For any initial
27 violation, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each failure to pay each employee; (2) For
28 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.

1 20. DEFENDANT from time to time failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the
2 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES within seven (7) days of the close of the payroll period in
3 accordance with Cal. Lab. Code § 204(d).

4 21. DEFENDANT underpaid sick pay wages to PLAINTIFF and the
5 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES by failing to pay such wages at the regular rate of pay in
6 violation of Cal. Lab. Code Section 246. Specifically, PLAINTIFF and other non-exempt
7 employees earn non-discretionary remuneration, including, but not limited to, incentives,
8 shift differential pay, and bonuses. Rather than pay sick pay at the regular rate of pay,
9 DEFENDANT underpays sick pay to PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES at
10 their base rates of pay.

11 22. Cal. Lab. Code Section 246(1)(2) requires that paid sick time for nonexempt
12 employees be calculated by dividing the employee's total wages, not including overtime
13 premium pay, by the employee's total hours worked in the full pay periods of the prior 90
14 days of employment.

15 23. DEFENDANT violated Cal. Lab. Code Section 246 by failing to pay sick pay
16 at the regular rate of pay. PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES routinely
17 earned non-discretionary incentive wages which increased their regular rate of pay.
18 However, when sick pay was paid, it was paid at the base rate of pay for PLAINTIFF and
19 the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES, as opposed to the correct, higher regular rate of pay, as
20 required under Cal. Lab. Code Section 246.

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

27 25. Pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code Section 221, "It shall be unlawful for any employer
28 to collect or receive from an employee any part of wages theretofore paid by said employer

1 to said employee.” DEFENDANT failed to pay all compensation due to PLAINTIFF and
2 the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES, made unlawful deductions from compensation payable to
3 PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES, failed to disclose all aspects of the
4 deductions from compensation payable to PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED
5 EMPLOYEES, and thereby failed to pay these employees all wages due at each applicable
6 pay period and upon termination.

7 26. DEFENDANT intentionally and knowingly failed to reimburse and indemnify
8 PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for required business expenses incurred
9 by the PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES in direct consequence of
10 discharging their duties on behalf of DEFENDANT. Under California Labor Code Section
11 2802, employers are required to indemnify employees for all expenses incurred in the course
12 and scope of their employment. Cal. Lab. Code § 2802 expressly states that "an employer
13 shall indemnify his or her employee for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the
14 employee in direct consequence of the discharge of his or her duties, or of his or her
15 obedience to the directions of the employer, even though unlawful, unless the employee, at
16 the time of obeying the directions, believed them to be unlawful."

17 27. In the course of their employment PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED
18 EMPLOYEES as a business expense, were required by DEFENDANT to use their own
19 personal cellular phones as a result of and in furtherance of their job duties as employees for
20 DEFENDANT but are not reimbursed or indemnified by DEFENDANT for the cost
21 associated with the use of their personal cellular phones for DEFENDANT’s benefit.
22 Specifically, PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were required by
23 DEFENDANT to use their personal cellular phones. As a result, in the course of their
24 employment with DEFENDANT, PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES
25 incurred unreimbursed business expenses which included, but were not limited to, costs
26 related to the use of their personal cellular phones all on behalf of and for the benefit of
27 DEFENDANT.

1 28. In violation of the applicable sections of the California Labor Code and the
2 requirements of the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") Wage Order,
3 DEFENDANT as a matter of company policy, practice and procedure, intentionally,
4 knowingly and systematically failed to provide PLAINTIFF and the other AGGRIEVED
5 EMPLOYEES suitable seating when the nature of these employees' work reasonably
6 permitted sitting.

7 29. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and other
8 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were entitled to suitable seating and/or were entitled to sit
9 when it did not interfere with the performance of their duties, and that DEFENDANT did
10 not provide suitable seating and/or did not allow them to sit when it did not interfere with
11 the performance of their duties.

12 30. By reason of this conduct applicable to PLAINTIFF and all AGGRIEVED
13 EMPLOYEES, DEFENDANT violated California Labor Code Section 1198 and Wage
14 Order 4-2001, Section 14 by failing to provide suitable seats. PLAINTIFF seeks penalties
15 on behalf of PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES as provided herein.
16 Providing suitable seating is the DEFENDANT's burden. As a result of DEFENDANT's
17 intentional disregard of the obligation to meet this burden, DEFENDANT violated the
18 California Labor Code and regulations promulgated thereunder as herein alleged.

19 31. The employment of some AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES has terminated and
20 DEFENDANT has not tendered payment of all wages owed as required by law.
21 Additionally, at all times during the term of PLAINTIFF's employment with DEFENDANT,
22 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES earned and accrued vested vacation and holiday time on the
23 date of their termination pursuant to DEFENDANT's uniform vacation policies and
24 applicable California law. The amount of vacation pay PLAINTIFF and the other
25 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES earned and accumulated is evidenced by DEFENDANT's
26 business records. Additionally, DEFENDANT also underpaid accrued vested vacation
27 wages to the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES by failing to pay such wages at the regular rate of
28 pay and more specifically the final rate of pay that included all non-discretionary incentive

1 compensation. Rather than pay vacation wages at the regular rate of pay, DEFENDANT
2 underpaid vacation wages the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES at their base rates of pay,
3 instead of including all of the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES' non-discretionary incentive
4 compensation into the vacation wage payment calculations. DEFENDANT failed to specify
5 in DEFENDANT's written vacation policy the rate at which PLAINTIFF and other
6 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES would be paid vacation upon leaving employment with
7 DEFENDANT. As a result of DEFENDANT's unlawful practice, policy and procedure to
8 deny paying the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES all of their vested vacation and holiday time,
9 DEFENDANT failed to pay the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES all vested vacation time as
10 wages due upon employment termination, in violation of the California Labor Code,
11 Sections 201, 202, 203 and 227.3. Similarly, DEFENDANT underpaid waiting time
12 penalties to the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES at their base rates of pay, instead of including
13 all of the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES' non-discretionary compensation into the waiting
14 time penalty calculations. This failure by DEFENDANT is believed to be the result of
15 DEFENDANT's unlawful, unfair and deceptive refusal to provide compensation for earned,
16 accrued and vested vacation and holiday time, as well as the corresponding waiting time
17 penalties that were paid. DEFENDANT perpetrated this unlawful, unfair and deceptive
18 practice to the detriment of the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES. DEFENDANT's uniform
19 practice and policy of failing to pay the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for all vested vacation
20 and holiday time accumulated at employment termination violated and continues to violate
21 Section 227.3 of the California Labor Code.

22 32. All of the conduct and violations alleged herein occurred during the PAGA
23 PERIOD. To the extent that any of the conduct and violations alleged herein did not affect
24 PLAINTIFF during the PAGA PERIOD, PLAINTIFF seeks penalties for those violations
25 that affected the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES pursuant to *Carrington v. Starbucks Corp.*
26 2018 AJDAR 12157 (Certified for Publication 12/19/18).

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1 with respect to himself and all individuals who are or previously were employed by PJ
2 Broadway Inc. and/or PJ Cleveland LLC in California, including any employees staffed with
3 PJ Broadway Inc. and/or PJ Cleveland LLC by a third party, and classified as non-exempt
4 employees ("AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES") during the time period of January 25, 2022
5 until a date as determined by the Court (the "PAGA PERIOD").

6 38. On January 25 2023, PLAINTIFF gave written notice by electronic mail to the
7 Labor and Workforce Development Agency (the "Agency") and by certified mail to the
8 employer of the specific provisions of this code alleged to have been violated as required by
9 Labor Code § 2699.3. See Exhibit #1, attached hereto and incorporated by this reference
10 herein (*PAGA Notice only without draft complaint*). The statutory waiting period for
11 PLAINTIFF to add these allegations to the Complaint has expired. As a result, pursuant to
12 Section 2699.3, PLAINTIFF may now commence a representative civil action under PAGA
13 pursuant to Section 2699 as the proxy of the State of California with respect to all
14 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES as herein defined.

15 39. The policies, acts and practices heretofore described were and are an unlawful
16 business act or practice because DEFENDANT (a) failed to provide PLAINTIFF and the
17 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES accurate itemized wage statements, (b) failed to properly
18 record and provide legally required meal and rest periods, (c) failed to pay minimum wages,
19 (d) failed to pay overtime wages and sick pay wages, (e) failed to reimburse employees for
20 required expenses, and (f) failed to provide suitable seating, all in violation of the applicable
21 Labor Code sections listed in Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204 *et seq.*, 210, 218, 221, 226(a),
22 226.7, 227.3, 246 *et seq.*, 510, 512, 558(a)(1)(2), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2802, California Code
23 of Regulations, Title 8, Section 11040, Subdivision 5(A)-(B), California Code of Regulations, Title
24 8, Section 1 1070(14) (Failure to Provide Seating), and the applicable Wage Order(s), and
25 thereby gives rise to civil penalties as a result of such conduct.¹ PLAINTIFF hereby seeks
26

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

1 recovery of only civil penalties as prescribed by the Labor Code Private Attorney General
2 Act of 2004 as the representative of the State of California for the illegal conduct
3 perpetrated on PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES.

4
5 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

6 WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF prays for judgment against each Defendant, jointly and
7 severally, as follows:

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

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

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

14 Dated: July 20, 2023 BLUMENTHAL NORDREHAUG BHOWMIK DE BLOUW
15 LLP

16
17 By: /s/ Nicholas De Blouw
18 Norman B. Blumenthal
19 Kyle R. Nordrehaug
20 Nicholas J. De Blouw
21 *Attorneys for Plaintiff*
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EXHIBIT 1

BLUMENTHAL NORDREHAUG BHOWMIK DE BLOUW LLP

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1004

January 25, 2023

CA2864

VIA ONLINE FILING TO LWDA AND CERTIFIED MAIL TO DEFENDANT

Labor and Workforce Development Agency
Online Filing

PJ Cleveland LLC
Certified Mail #70222410000247761144
AHMAD REZA MALEKZADEH
500 E. CARSON PLAZA DR, STE 202
CARSON, CA 90746

Re: Notice Of Violations Of California Labor Code Sections §§ 201, 202, 203, 204 *et seq.*, 210, 218, 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 PJ Broadway Inc. and/or PJ Cleveland LLC in California, including any employees staffed with PJ Broadway Inc. and/or PJ Cleveland LLC by a third party, and classified as non-exempt employees during the time period of January 25, 2022 until a date as determined by the Court. Our offices represent Plaintiff Matthew Webb (“Plaintiff”) and other Aggrieved Employees in a lawsuit against PJ Broadway Inc. and/or PJ Cleveland LLC (“Defendant”). Plaintiff has been employed by Defendant in California as a non-exempt employee since August of 2018 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 paying for meal and rest break premiums at the correct regular rate), 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. 5th 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) *et seq.* Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees are 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 provides to Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees fails to identify such information. More specifically, the wage statements fails to identify the accurate total hours worked each pay period. When the hours shown on the wage statements are added up, they do not equal the actual total hours worked during the pay period in violation of Cal. Lab. Code 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, 218, 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.

BLUMENTHAL NORDREHAUG BHOWMIK DE BLOUW LLP

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1004

January 25, 2023
CA2864

VIA ONLINE FILING TO LWDA AND CERTIFIED MAIL TO DEFENDANT

Labor and Workforce Development Agency
Online Filing

PJ Broadway Inc.
Certified Mail #70222410000247761137
Dennis Shen
12 Strawberry Farm Road
Irvine, CA 92612

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Respectfully,

/s/ Nicholas J. De Blouw

Nicholas J. De Blouw, Esq.