

John G. Yslas (SBN 187324)
john.yslas@wilshirelawfirm.com
Jeffrey C. Bils (SBN 301629)
jeffrey.bils@wilshirelawfirm.com
Aram Boyadjian (SBN 334009)
aram.boyadjian@wilshirelawfirm.com
Andrew Sandoval (SBN 346996)
andrew.sandoval@wilshirelawfirm.com
WILSHIRE LAW FIRM
660 S. Figueroa St., Sky Lobby
Los Angeles, California 90017
Telephone: (213) 381-9988
Facsimile: (213) 381-9989

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

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

ERIKA RUVALCABA, JESSICA MARTINEZ,
TEAN WILLIAMS, TYRONE BOWERS,
MALIK EWING, ALEJANDRO RAYOS,
JONATHAN MORENO, ANDERSON VALLE,
GUY BJORNSON, IMELDA DOLORES
CUEVAS, DAVID ARAGO, DANA BLACK,
and ANGEL RAMIREZ individually, and on
behalf of the State of California as individuals,

Plaintiffs,

v.

ROSS DRESS FOR LESS, INC., a Virginia
corporation; ROSS STORES, INC., a Delaware
corporation; and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,

Defendants.

ELECTRONICALLY FILED

Superior Court of California,
County of Alameda

10/27/2025 at 06:33:51 PM

By: Andrel Gospel,
Deputy Clerk

Case No.: **25CV151362**

**NON-REPRESENTATIVE INDIVIDUAL
COMPLAINT FOR:**

1. Failure to Pay Minimum and Straight Time Wages (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 204, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, and 1197.1);
2. Failure to Pay Overtime Wages (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194 and 1198);
3. Failure to Provide Meal Periods (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7, 512);
4. Failure to Authorize and Permit Rest Periods (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7);
5. Failure to Timely Pay Final Wages at Termination (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201-203);
6. Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Wage Statements (Cal. Lab. Code § 226);
7. Failure to Indemnify Employees for Expenditures (Cal. Lab. Code § 2802);
8. Unfair Business Practices (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*); and,
9. Civil Penalties Under PAGA (Cal. Lab. Code § 2699, *et seq.*)

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

1 Plaintiffs Erika Ruvalcaba, Jessica Martinez, Tean Williams, Tyrone Bowers, Malik Ewing,
2 Alejandro Rayos, Jonathan Moreno, Anderson Valle, Guy Bjornson, Imelda Dolores Cuevas,
3 David Arago, Dana Black, and Angel Ramirez (“Plaintiffs”), on information and belief each allege
4 individual claims as follows:

5 **INTRODUCTION & PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

6 1. Plaintiffs bring this action against Defendants Ross Dress for Less, Inc. and Ross
7 Stores, Inc., and DOES 1 through 50 (hereinafter collectively referred to as “Defendants”) for
8 California Labor Code violations and unfair business practices stemming from Defendants’ failure
9 to pay for all hours worked (minimum, straight time, and overtime wages), failure to provide meal
10 periods, failure to authorize and permit rest periods, failure to timely pay final wages, failure to
11 furnish accurate wage statements, and failure to indemnify Plaintiffs for employment-related
12 expenditures, and failure to produce requested employment records.

13 2. Plaintiffs individually bring the First through Ninth Causes of Action against
14 Defendants. Plaintiffs were employed by Defendants in California as hourly paid or non-exempt
15 employees during the statute of limitations period applicable to the claims pleaded here.

16 3. Defendants own/owned and operate/operated an industry, business, and
17 establishment within the State of California, including Alameda County. As such and based upon
18 all the facts and circumstances incident to Defendants’ business in California, Defendants are
19 subject to the California Labor Code, Wage Orders issued by the Industrial Welfare Commission
20 (“IWC”), and the California Business & Professions Code.

21 4. Despite these requirements, throughout the statutory period, Defendants maintained
22 a systematic, company-wide pattern and practice of:

- 23 (a) Failing to pay Plaintiffs for all hours worked, including all minimum,
24 straight time, and overtime in compliance with the California Labor Code
25 and IWC Wage Orders;
- 26 (b) Failing to provide Plaintiffs with timely and duty-free meal periods in
27 compliance with the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders, failing
28 to maintain accurate records of all meal periods taken or missed, and failing

1 to pay an additional hour's pay for each workday a meal period violation
2 occurred;

3 (c) Failing to authorize and permit Plaintiffs to take timely and duty-free rest
4 periods in compliance with the California Labor Code and IWC Wage
5 Orders, and failing to pay an additional hour's pay for each workday a rest
6 period violation occurred;

7 (d) Willfully failing to pay Plaintiffs all minimum, straight time, overtime, meal
8 period premium, and rest period premium wages due within the time period
9 specified by California law when employment terminates;

10 (e) Failing to provide Plaintiffs with accurate, itemized wage statements
11 containing all the information required by the California Labor Code and
12 IWC Wage Orders; and,

13 (f) Failing to indemnify Plaintiffs for expenditures incurred in direct discharge
14 of duties of employment.

15 5. On information and belief, Defendants, and each of them were on actual and
16 constructive notice of the improprieties alleged herein and intentionally refused to rectify their
17 unlawful policies. Defendants' violations, as alleged above, during all relevant times herein were
18 willful and deliberate.

19 6. At all relevant times, Defendants were and are legally responsible for all of the
20 unlawful conduct, policies, practices, acts and omissions as described in each and all of the
21 foregoing paragraphs as the employer of Plaintiffs, Defendants are responsible for each of the
22 unlawful acts or omissions complained of herein under the doctrine of "respondeat superior."

23 **THE PARTIES**

24 **A. Plaintiffs**

25 7. Plaintiff Erika Ruvalcaba is a resident of Los Angeles, California who worked for
26 Defendants in Los Angeles County, California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from
27 approximately 2022 to approximately September 2024.
28

1 8. Plaintiff Jessica Martinez is a resident of Riverside, California who worked for
2 Defendants in Riverside County, California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from
3 approximately November 2023 to approximately October 2024.

4 9. Plaintiff Tean Williams is a resident of Los Angeles, California who worked for
5 Defendants in Los Angeles County, California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from
6 approximately November 2023 to approximately September 2024.

7 10. Plaintiff Tyrone Bowers is a resident of Los Angeles, California who worked for
8 Defendants in Los Angeles County, California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from
9 approximately June 2024 to approximately September 2024.

10 11. Plaintiff Malik Ewing is a resident of Stockton, California who worked for
11 Defendants in San Joaquin County, California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from
12 approximately July 2024 to approximately January 2025.

13 12. Plaintiff Alejandro Rayos is a resident of Tracy, California who worked for
14 Defendants in San Joaquin County, California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from
15 approximately October 2021 to approximately March 2025.

16 13. Plaintiff Jonathan Moreno is a resident of Hacienda Heights, California who worked
17 for Defendants in Los Angeles County, California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from
18 approximately November 2019 to approximately April 2025.

19 14. Plaintiff Anderson Valle is a resident of Sunnydale, California who worked for
20 Defendants in Santa Clara County, California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from
21 approximately August 2024 to approximately March 2025.

22 15. Plaintiff Guy Bjornson is a resident of Fullerton, California who worked for
23 Defendants in Orange County, California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from
24 approximately June 2015 to approximately June 2025.

25 16. Plaintiff Imelda Dolores Cuevas is a resident of Pomona, California who worked
26 for Defendants in Los Angeles County, California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from
27 approximately June 2023 to approximately July 2025.
28

1 17. Plaintiff David Arago is a resident of Los Angeles, California who worked for
2 Defendants in Los Angeles County, California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from
3 approximately April 2024 to approximately August 2025.

4 18. Plaintiff Dana Black is a resident of San Jose, California who worked for
5 Defendants in Santa Clara County, California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from
6 approximately March 2008 to approximately July 2025.

7 19. Plaintiff Angel Ramirez is a resident of Downey, California who worked for
8 Defendants in Los Angeles County, California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from
9 approximately May 2022 to approximately July 2025.

10 **B. Defendants**

11 20. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based upon that information and belief
12 allege, that Defendants Ross Dress for Less, Inc. and Ross Stores, Inc. are, and at all times herein
13 mentioned, were:

- 14 (a) Business entities conducting business in numerous counties throughout the
15 State of California, including Alameda County; and,
16 (b) The former employer of Plaintiffs, because Defendants Ross Dress for Less,
17 Inc. and Ross Stores, Inc. suffered and permitted Plaintiffs to work, and/or
18 controlled their wages, hours, or working conditions.

19 21. Plaintiffs do not know the true names or capacities of the persons or entities sued
20 herein as Does 1-50, inclusive, and therefore sue said Defendants by such fictitious names. Each
21 of the Doe Defendants was in some manner legally responsible for the damages suffered by
22 Plaintiffs as alleged herein. Plaintiffs will amend this complaint to set forth the true names and
23 capacities of these Defendants when they have been ascertained, together with appropriate
24 charging allegations, as may be necessary.

25 22. At all times mentioned herein, the Defendants named as Does 1-50, inclusive, and
26 each of them, were residents of, doing business in, availed themselves of the jurisdiction of, and/or
27 injured Plaintiffs in the State of California.

28 23. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that at all relevant times each

1 Defendant, directly or indirectly, or through agents or other persons, employed Plaintiffs and
2 exercised control over their wages, hours, and working conditions. Plaintiffs are informed and
3 believe and thereon allege that, at all relevant times, each Defendant was the principal, agent,
4 partner, joint venturer, officer, director, controlling shareholder, subsidiary, affiliate, parent
5 corporation, successor in interest and/or predecessor in interest of some or all of the other
6 Defendants, and was engaged with some or all of the other Defendants in a joint enterprise for
7 profit, and bore such other relationships to some or all of the other Defendants so as to be liable
8 for their conduct with respect to the matters alleged below. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and
9 thereon allege that each Defendant acted pursuant to and within the scope of the relationships
10 alleged above, that each Defendant knew or should have known about, and authorized, ratified,
11 adopted, approved, controlled, aided and abetted the conduct of all other Defendants and/or all
12 Defendants were joint employers.

13 **ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CAUSES OF ACTION**

14 24. During Plaintiffs' employment, Defendants paid (or purportedly paid) Plaintiffs an
15 hourly wage and classified them as non-exempt from overtime. Defendants typically scheduled
16 Plaintiffs to work at least five days in a workweek and at least eight hours per day, but Plaintiffs
17 also worked more than eight hours in a workday and more than forty (40) hours in a workweek.

18 25. Throughout Plaintiffs' employment, Defendants failed to pay for all hours worked
19 (including minimum, straight time, and overtime wages), failed to provide Plaintiffs with legally
20 compliant meal periods, failed to authorize and permit Plaintiffs to take rest periods, failed to
21 timely pay all final wages to Plaintiffs when Defendants terminated their employment, failed to
22 furnish accurate wage statements to Plaintiffs, and failed to indemnify Plaintiffs for employment
23 related expenditures. As discussed below, Plaintiffs' experience working for Defendants was
24 typical and illustrative.

25 26. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants maintained a pattern and practice of
26 not paying Plaintiffs for all hours worked, including minimum, straight time, and overtime wages.
27 Defendants required Plaintiffs to work "off-the-clock," uncompensated, by, for example, requiring
28 Plaintiffs to perform work during uncompensated meal periods and rest periods. Some of this

1 unpaid work should have been paid at the overtime rate. In failing to pay for all hours worked,
2 Defendants also failed to maintain accurate records of the hours Plaintiffs worked.

3 27. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants failed to provide Plaintiffs with their
4 legally mandated 30-minute, uninterrupted, and duty-free meal period in a manner required by law
5 (and also including but not limited to failing to provide Plaintiffs the opportunity to leave the work
6 premises to take meal periods). Defendants also continued to assert control over Plaintiffs by,
7 among other things, requiring, pressuring, or encouraging them to perform work tasks which could
8 not be completed without working in lieu of taking mandatory meal periods, or by denying
9 Plaintiffs permission to take a meal period under the conditions required by law, and without
10 properly compensating Plaintiffs for meal periods that were not provided as required by law.
11 Defendants also never informed Plaintiffs of their right to, nor permitted them to, at times, take a
12 second meal period when Plaintiffs worked at least ten (10) hours of work in a workday and
13 otherwise unlawfully pressured them to waive such breaks. Accordingly, Defendants' pattern and
14 practice was not to provide meal periods to Plaintiffs in compliance with California law.

15 28. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants have failed to authorize and permit
16 Plaintiffs to take legally compliant rest periods in a manner required by law (and also including
17 but not limited to failing to authorize and permit Plaintiffs the opportunity to leave the work
18 premises to take rest periods). Defendants regularly required Plaintiffs to work in excess of four
19 (4) consecutive hours a day without Defendants authorizing and permitting them to take a 10-
20 minute, uninterrupted, duty-free rest period for every four (4) hours of work (or major fraction
21 thereof), or without compensating Plaintiffs for rest periods that were not authorized or permitted.
22 Instead, Defendants continued to assert control over Plaintiffs by requiring, pressuring, or
23 encouraging them to perform work tasks which could not be completed without working in lieu of
24 taking mandatory rest periods, or by denying Plaintiffs permission to take a rest period.
25 Accordingly, Defendants' pattern and practice was to not authorize and permit Plaintiffs to take
26 rest periods in compliance with California law.

27 29. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants willfully failed and refused to timely
28 pay Plaintiffs all final wages due at their termination of employment. In addition, Plaintiffs' final

1 paychecks did not include payment for all employment-related expenditures, minimum wages,
2 straight time wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages, and rest period premium wages
3 owed to them by Defendants at the conclusion of their employment.

4 30. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants failed to furnish Plaintiffs with
5 accurate, itemized wage statements showing all applicable hourly rates, and all gross and net wages
6 earned (including correct hours worked, correct wages for meal periods that were not provided in
7 accordance with California law, and correct wages for rest periods that were not authorized and
8 permitted to take in accordance with California law). As a result of these violations of California
9 Labor Code § 226(a), Plaintiffs suffered injury because, among other things:

- 10 (a) the violations led them to believe that they were not entitled to be paid
11 minimum, straight time, overtime, meal period premium, and rest period
12 premium wages, even though they were entitled;
- 13 (b) the violations led them to believe that they had been paid the minimum,
14 straight time, overtime, meal period premium, and rest period premium
15 wages, even though they had not been;
- 16 (c) the violations led them to believe they were not entitled to be paid minimum,
17 straight time, overtime, meal period premium, and rest period premium
18 wages at the correct California rate even though they were entitled;
- 19 (d) the violations led them to believe they had been paid minimum, straight time,
20 overtime, meal period premium, and rest period premium wages at the
21 correct California rate even though they had not been;
- 22 (e) the violations hindered them from determining the amounts of minimum,
23 straight time, overtime, meal period premium, and rest period premium
24 wages owed to them;
- 25 (f) in connection with their employment before and during this action, and in
26 connection with prosecuting this action, the violations caused them to have
27 to perform mathematical computations to determine the amounts of wages
28 owed to them, computations they would not have to make if the wage

statements contained the required accurate information;

- (g) by understating the wages truly due to them, the violations caused them to lose entitlement and/or accrual of the full amount of Social Security, disability, unemployment, and other governmental benefits;
- (h) the wage statements inaccurately understated the wages, hours, and wage rates to which Plaintiffs were entitled, and Plaintiffs were paid less than the wages and wage rates to which they were entitled.

Thus, Plaintiffs are owed the amounts provided for in California Labor Code § 226(e).

31. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants have wrongfully required Plaintiffs to pay expenses that they incurred in direct discharge of their duties for Defendants. Plaintiffs regularly paid out-of-pocket for necessary employment-related expenses, including, without limitation, work attires as well as purchase and maintenance of a personal cell-phone for work-related purposes.

32. Plaintiffs incurred substantial expenses as a direct result of performing their job duties for Defendants, but Defendants failed to indemnify Plaintiffs for these employment-related expenses.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(By All Plaintiffs Individually Against All Defendants for Failure to Pay Minimum and Straight Time Wages for All Hours Worked)

33. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein paragraphs 1 through 32 in this Complaint.

34. “Hours worked” is the time during which Plaintiffs are subject to the control of Defendants and includes all the time Plaintiffs are suffered or permitted to work, whether or not required to do so.

35. At all relevant times herein mentioned, Defendants knowingly failed to pay to Plaintiffs compensation for all hours they worked. By their failure to pay compensation for each hour worked as alleged above, Defendants willfully violated the provisions of California Labor Code § 1194, and any additional applicable Wage Orders, which require such compensation to

1 non-exempt employees.

2 36. Accordingly, Plaintiffs are entitled to recover minimum and straight time wages for
3 all non-overtime hours worked for Defendants.

4 37. By and through the conduct described above, Plaintiffs have been deprived of their
5 rights to be paid wages earned by virtue of their employment with Defendants.

6 38. By virtue of the Defendants' unlawful failure to pay additional compensation to
7 Plaintiffs for their non-overtime hours worked without pay, Plaintiffs suffered, and will continue
8 to suffer, damages in amounts which are presently unknown to Plaintiffs and which will be
9 ascertained according to proof at trial.

10 39. By failing to keep adequate time records required by California Labor Code §
11 1174(d), Defendants have made it difficult to calculate the full extent of minimum wage
12 compensation due to Plaintiffs.

13 40. Pursuant to California Labor Code § 1194.2 and 1197.1, Plaintiffs are entitled to
14 recover liquidated damages (double damages) for Defendants' failure to pay minimum wages.

15 41. California Labor Code § 204 requires employers to provide employees with all
16 wages due and payable twice a month. Throughout the statute of limitations period applicable to
17 this cause of action, Plaintiffs were entitled to be paid twice a month at rates required by law,
18 including minimum and straight time wages. However, during all such times, Defendants
19 systematically failed and refused to pay Plaintiffs all such wages due and failed to pay those wages
20 twice a month.

21 42. Plaintiffs are also entitled to seek recovery of all unpaid minimum and straight time
22 wages, interest, and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to California Labor Code §§
23 218.5, 218.6, and 1194(a).

24 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

25 **(By All Plaintiffs Individually Against All Defendants for Failure to Pay Overtime Wages)**

26 43. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege as if fully stated herein paragraphs
27 1 through 32 in this Complaint.

28 44. California Labor Code § 510 provides that employees in California shall not be

1 employed more than eight hours in any workday or forty (40) hours in a workweek unless they
2 receive additional compensation beyond their regular wages in amounts specified by law.

3 45. California Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1198 provide that employees in California shall
4 not be employed more than eight hours in any workday unless they receive additional
5 compensation beyond their regular wages in amounts specified by law. Additionally, California
6 Labor Code § 1198 states that the employment of an employee for longer hours than those fixed
7 by the IWC is unlawful.

8 46. At all times relevant hereto, Plaintiffs have worked more than eight hours in a
9 workday and/or more than forty (40) hours in a workweek, as employees of Defendants.

10 47. At all times relevant hereto, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs overtime
11 compensation for the hours they have worked in excess of the maximum hours permissible by law
12 as required by California Labor Code §§ 510 and 1198.

13 48. By virtue of Defendants' unlawful failure to pay additional premium rate
14 compensation to Plaintiffs for their overtime hours worked (including by failing to include all
15 forms of remuneration in calculating the regular rate of pay for purposes of paying overtime),
16 Plaintiffs have suffered, and will continue to suffer, damages in amounts which are presently
17 unknown to them but which exceed the jurisdictional minimum of this Court and which will be
18 ascertained according to proof at trial.

19 49. By failing to keep adequate time records required by Labor Code § 1174(d),
20 Defendants have made it difficult to calculate the full extent of overtime compensation due to
21 Plaintiffs.

22 50. Plaintiffs also request recovery of overtime compensation according to proof,
23 interest, attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to California Labor Code § 1194(a), as well as the
24 assessment of any statutory penalties against Defendants, in a sum as provided by the California
25 Labor Code and/or other statutes.

26 51. California Labor Code § 204 requires employers to provide employees with all
27 wages due and payable twice a month. The Wage Orders also provide that every employer shall
28 pay to each employee, on the established payday for the period involved, overtime wages for all

overtime hours worked in the payroll period. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiffs with all compensation due, in violation of California Labor Code § 204.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

(By All Plaintiffs Individually Against All Defendants for Failure to Provide Meal Periods)

52. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege as if fully stated herein paragraphs 1 through 32 in this Complaint.

53. Under California law, Defendants have an affirmative obligation to relieve Plaintiffs of all duty in order to take their first daily meal periods no later than the start of Plaintiffs' sixth hour of work in a workday, and to take their second meal periods no later than the start of the tenth hour of work in the workday. California Labor Code § 512, and Section 11 of the applicable Wage Orders require that an employer provide unpaid meal periods of at least thirty (30) minutes for each five-hour period worked. It is a violation of California Labor Code § 226.7 for an employer to require any employee to work during any meal period mandated under any Wage Order.

54. Despite these legal requirements, Defendants, at times, failed to provide Plaintiffs with both meal periods as required by California law. By their failure to permit and authorize Plaintiffs to take all meal periods as alleged above (or due to the fact that Defendants made it impossible or impracticable to take these uninterrupted meal periods and/or failing to pay premium wages at the regular rate of pay), Defendants willfully violated the provisions of California Labor Code § 226.7 and the applicable Wage Orders.

55. Under California law, Plaintiffs are entitled to be paid one hour of additional wages for each workday he or she was not provided with all required meal period(s), plus interest thereon.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(By All Plaintiffs Individually Against All Defendants for Failure to Authorize and Permit Rest Periods)

56. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege as if fully stated herein paragraphs 1 through 32 in this Complaint.

57. Defendants are required by California law to authorize and permit breaks of ten uninterrupted minutes for each four hours of work or major fraction of four hours (i.e. more than

two hours). California Labor Code § 512, the applicable Wage Orders require that the employer permit and authorize all employees to take paid rest periods of ten minutes each for each 4-hour period worked. Thus, for example, if an employee's work time is six hours and ten minutes, the employee is entitled to two rest breaks. Each failure to authorize rest breaks as so required is itself a violation of California's rest break laws. It is a violation of California Labor Code § 226.7 for an employer to require any employee to work during any rest period mandated under any Wage Order.

58. Despite these legal requirements, Defendants failed to authorize Plaintiffs to take rest breaks, regardless of whether Plaintiffs worked more than four (4) hours in a workday. By their failure to permit and authorize Plaintiffs to take rest periods as alleged above (or due to the fact that Defendants made it impossible or impracticable to take these uninterrupted rest periods and/or failing not pay premium payments at the proper regular rate of pay), Defendants willfully violated the provisions of California Labor Code § 226.7 and the applicable Wage Orders.

59. Under California law, Plaintiffs are entitled to be paid one (1) hour of premium wages rate for each workday he or she was not provided with all required rest break(s), plus interest thereon.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(By All Plaintiffs Individually Against All Defendants for Failure to Pay Wages of Discharged Employees – Waiting Time Penalties)

60. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege as if fully stated herein paragraphs 1 through 32 in this Complaint.

61. At all times herein set forth, California Labor Code §§ 201 and 202 provide that if an employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately, and that if an employee voluntarily leaves his or her employment, his or her wages shall become due and payable not later than seventy-two (72) hours thereafter, unless the employee has given seventy-two (72) hours previous notice of his or her intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting.

62. Within the applicable statute of limitations, the employment of Plaintiffs was terminated by quitting or discharge. However, during the relevant time period, Defendants failed,

1 and continue to fail to pay terminated Plaintiffs, without abatement, all wages required to be paid
2 by California Labor Code §§ 201 and 202 either at the time of discharge, or within seventy-two
3 (72) hours of their leaving Defendants' employ.

4 63. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiffs who are no longer employed by Defendants
5 their wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge, or within seventy-two (72) hours of their
6 leaving Defendants' employ, is in violation of California Labor Code §§ 201 and 202.

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

11 65. Plaintiffs are entitled to recover from Defendants their additionally accruing wages
12 for each day they were not paid, at their regular hourly rate of pay, up to thirty (30) days maximum
13 pursuant to California Labor Code § 203.

14 66. Pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 218.5, 218.6 and 1194, Plaintiffs are also
15 entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees, interest, expenses, and costs incurred in this
16 action.

17 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

18 **(By All Plaintiffs Individually Against All Defendants for Failure to Provide and Maintain** 19 **Accurate and Compliant Wage Records)**

20 67. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein paragraphs
21 1 through 32 in this Complaint.

22 68. At all material times set forth herein, California Labor Code § 226(a) provides that
23 every employer shall furnish each of his or her employees an accurate itemized wage statement in
24 writing showing nine pieces of information, including: (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours
25 worked by the employee, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate
26 if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions, provided that all deductions made
27 on written orders of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item, (5) net wages earned,
28 (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee

1 and the last four digits of his or her social security number or an employee identification number
2 other than a social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the
3 employer, and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding
4 number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.

5 69. Defendants have intentionally and willfully failed to provide Plaintiffs with
6 complete and accurate wage statements. The deficiencies include, among other things, the failure
7 to correctly identify the gross wages earned by Plaintiffs, the failure to list the true “total hours
8 worked by the employee,” and the failure to list the true net wages earned.

9 70. As a result of Defendants’ violation of California Labor Code § 226(a), Plaintiffs
10 have suffered injury and damage to their statutorily protected rights.

11 71. Specifically, Plaintiffs have been injured by Defendants’ intentional violation of
12 California Labor Code § 226(a) because they were denied both their legal right to receive, and their
13 protected interest in receiving, accurate, itemized wage statements under California Labor Code §
14 226(a).

15 72. Calculation of the true wage entitlement for Plaintiffs is difficult and time
16 consuming. As a result of this unlawful burden, Plaintiffs were also injured as a result of having to
17 bring this action to attempt to obtain correct wage information following Defendants’ refusal to
18 comply with many of the mandates of California’s Labor Code and related laws and regulations.

19 73. Plaintiffs are entitled to recover from Defendants the greater of their actual damages
20 caused by Defendants’ failure to comply with California Labor Code § 226(a), or an aggregate
21 penalty not exceeding four thousand dollars (\$4,000) per employee.

22 74. Plaintiffs are also entitled to injunctive relief, as well as an award of attorney’s fees
23 and costs to ensure compliance with this section, pursuant to California Labor Code § 226(h).

24 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

25 **(By All Plaintiffs Individually Against All Defendants for Failure to Indemnify** 26 **Employees for Expenditures)**

27 75. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein paragraphs
28 1 through 32 in this Complaint.

1 76. As set forth above, Plaintiffs were required to incur substantial necessary
2 expenditures and losses in direct consequence of the discharge of their duties or of their obedience
3 to directions of Defendants.

4 77. Defendants violated California Labor Code § 2802, by failing to pay and indemnify
5 Plaintiffs for necessary expenditures and losses incurred in direct consequence of the discharge of
6 their duties or of their obedience to directions of Defendants including, without limitation, for
7 uniforms and use of a personal cell phone.

8 78. As a result, Plaintiffs were damaged at least in the amounts of the expenses they
9 paid, or which were deducted by Defendants from their wages.

10 79. Plaintiffs are entitled to reasonable attorney's fees, expenses, and costs of suit
11 pursuant to California Labor Code § 2802(c) and interest pursuant to California Labor Code §
12 2802(b).

13 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

14 **(By All Plaintiffs Individually Against All Defendants for Violation of California Business** 15 **& Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq.)**

16 80. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege as if fully stated herein paragraphs
17 1 through 32 in this Complaint.

18 81. Defendants, and each of them, are "persons" as defined under California Business
19 & Professions Code § 17201.

20 82. Defendants' conduct, as alleged herein, has been, and continues to be, unfair,
21 unlawful, and harmful to Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs seeks to enforce important rights affecting the public
22 interest within the meaning of Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5.

23 83. Defendants' activities, as alleged herein, are violations of California law, and
24 constitute unlawful business acts and practices in violation of California Business & Professions
25 Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

26 84. A violation of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* may be
27 predicated on the violation of any state or federal law. All of the acts described herein as violations
28 of, among other things, the California Labor Code, are unlawful and in violation of public policy;

1 and in addition are immoral, unethical, oppressive, fraudulent and unscrupulous, and thereby
2 constitute unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices in violation of California Business
3 & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

4 **Failure to Pay Minimum and Straight Time Wages**

5 85. Defendants' failure to pay minimum and straight time wages, and other benefits in
6 violation of the California Labor Code constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by
7 California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

8 **Failure to Pay Overtime Wages**

9 Defendants' failure to pay overtime compensation and other benefits in violation of California
10 Labor Code §§ 510, 1194, and 1198 constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by
11 California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

12 **Failure to Provide Meal Periods**

13 86. Defendants' failure to provide meal periods in accordance with California Labor
14 Code §§ 226.7 and 512, and the IWC Wage Orders, as alleged above, constitutes unlawful and/or
15 unfair activity prohibited by California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

16 **Failure to Authorize and Permit Rest Periods**

17 87. Defendants' failure to authorize and permit rest periods in accordance with
18 California Labor Code § 226.7 and the IWC Wage Orders, as alleged above, constitutes unlawful
19 and/or unfair activity prohibited by Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

20 **Failure to Indemnify Business Expenses**

21 88. Defendants' failure to reimburse expenses incurred in accordance with California
22 Labor Code § 2802, as alleged above, constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by
23 California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200 *et seq.*

24 89. By and through their unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices described
25 herein, the Defendants, have obtained valuable property, money and services from Plaintiffs and
26 have deprived Plaintiffs of valuable rights and benefits guaranteed by law, all to their detriment,
27 including, without limitation, by requiring execution of unlawful agreements.

28 90. Plaintiffs suffered monetary injury as a direct result of Defendants' wrongful

1 conduct.

2 91. Plaintiffs are entitled to, and do, seek such relief as may be necessary to disgorge
3 money and/or property which the Defendants have wrongfully acquired, or of which Plaintiffs have
4 been deprived, by means of the above-described unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business
5 practices. Plaintiffs are not obligated to establish individual knowledge of the wrongful practices
6 of Defendants in order to recover restitution.

7 92. Plaintiffs are further entitled to and does seek a declaration that the above-described
8 business practices are unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent, and injunctive relief restraining the
9 Defendants, and each of them, from engaging in any of the above-described unfair, unlawful and/or
10 fraudulent business practices in the future.

11 93. Plaintiffs have no plain, speedy, and/or adequate remedy at law to redress the
12 injuries which Plaintiffs suffered as a consequence of the Defendants' unfair, unlawful and/or
13 fraudulent business practices. As a result of the unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business
14 practices described above, Plaintiffs have suffered and will continue to suffer irreparable harm
15 unless the Defendants, and each of them, are restrained from continuing to engage in said unfair,
16 unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices.

17 94. Plaintiffs also allege that if Defendants are not enjoined from the conduct set forth
18 herein above, they will continue to avoid paying the appropriate taxes, insurance and other
19 withholdings.

20 95. Pursuant to California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, Plaintiffs are
21 entitled to restitution of the wages withheld and retained by Defendants during a period that
22 commences four years and 178 days prior to the filing of this complaint; a permanent injunction
23 requiring Defendants to pay all outstanding wages due to Plaintiffs; an award of attorneys' fees
24 pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5 and other applicable laws; and an award
25 of costs.

26 ///

27 ///

NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(By Plaintiffs Individually Against All Defendants for Non-Representative Individual Civil Penalties Under the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, Cal. Lab. Code § 2698, et seq.)

96. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege as if fully stated herein paragraphs 1 through 32 in this Complaint.

97. At all times herein mentioned, Defendants were subject to the Labor Code of the State of California and the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Orders.

98. California Labor Code § 2699(a) specifically provides for a private right of action to recover penalties for violations of the Labor Code: “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any provision of this code that provides for a civil penalty to be assessed and collected by the Labor and Workforce Development Agency or any of its departments, divisions, commissions, boards, agencies, or employees, for a violation of this code, may, as an alternative, be recovered through a civil action brought by an aggrieved employee on behalf of himself or herself and other current or former employees pursuant to the procedures specified in Section 2699.3.” *Adolph v. Uber Techs., Inc.*, 14 Cal. 5th 1104, 532 P.3d 682 (2023) specifically allows plaintiffs to file a PAGA action individually with individual claims.

99. Plaintiffs have given written notice by online filing pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699.3 to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency and by certified mail to Defendants of the specific provisions of the Labor Code that Defendants have violated against Plaintiffs including the facts and theories to support the violations. Plaintiffs also paid the filing fee.

100. The Labor and Workforce Development Agency has not indicated that it intends to investigate Defendants’ Labor Code violations discussed in the notice. Plaintiffs hereby commence a civil action to recover penalties under Labor Code § 2699 pursuant to § 2699.3 for the violations of the Labor Code described in this Complaint. These penalties include, but are not limited to, penalties under California Labor Code §§ 210, 226.3, 1174.5, 1197.1, and 2699.

101. Based on the conduct described in this Complaint, Plaintiffs are entitled to an award of civil penalties on behalf of themselves individually and the State of California. The exact

1 amount of the applicable penalties, in all, is in an amount to be shown according to proof at trial.
2 These penalties are in addition to all other remedies permitted by law.

3 102. In addition, Plaintiffs seek an award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs pursuant
4 to California Labor Code § 2699(g)(1), which states, "Any employee who prevails in any action
5 shall be entitled to an award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs."

6 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

7 Plaintiffs, individually pray for relief and judgment against Defendants, jointly and
8 severally, as follows:

9 As to the First Cause of Action

10 103. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated California
11 Labor Code §§ 204 and 1194 and applicable IWC Wage Orders by willfully failing to pay all
12 minimum and straight time wages due;

13 104. For unpaid wages as may be appropriate;

14 105. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid compensation commencing from the date
15 such amounts were due;

16 106. For penalties, restitution, and liquidated damages pursuant to California Labor Code
17 § 1197.1;

18 107. For liquidated damages;

19 108. For reasonable attorneys' fees and for costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to
20 California Labor Code § 1194(a); and,

21 109. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

22 As to the Second Cause of Action

23 110. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated California
24 Labor Code §§ 510 and 1198 and applicable IWC Wage Orders by willfully failing to pay all
25 overtime wages due;

26 111. For unpaid wages at overtime wage rates as may be appropriate;

27 112. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid overtime compensation commencing from
28 the date such amounts were due;

1 113. For reasonable attorneys' fees and for costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to
2 California Labor Code § 1194(a); and,

3 114. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

4 As to the Third Cause of Action

5 115. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated California
6 Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512, and the IWC Wage Orders;

7 116. For unpaid meal period premium wages as may be appropriate;

8 117. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid compensation commencing from the date
9 such amounts were due;

10 118. For reasonable attorneys' fees under California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5,
11 and for costs of suit incurred herein; and,

12 119. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

13 As to the Fourth Cause of Action

14 120. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated California
15 Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512, and the IWC Wage Orders;

16 121. For unpaid rest period premium wages as may be appropriate;

17 122. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid compensation commencing from the date
18 such amounts were due;

19 123. For reasonable attorneys' fees under California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5,
20 and for costs of suit incurred herein; and,

21 124. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

22 As to the Fifth Cause of Action

23 125. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendants violated California
24 Labor Code §§ 201, 202, and 203 by willfully failing to pay all compensation owed at the time of
25 termination of the employment;

26 126. For statutory wage penalties pursuant to California Labor Code § 203 for former
27 Plaintiffs who have left Defendants' employ;
28

1 127. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid wages from the date such amounts were
2 due;

3 128. For reasonable attorneys' fees and for costs of suit incurred herein; and,

4 129. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

5 As to the Sixth Cause of Action

6 130. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated the record
7 keeping provisions of California Labor Code § 226(a) and applicable IWC Wage Orders, and
8 willfully failed to provide accurate itemized wage statements thereto;

9 131. For all actual damages, according to proof;

10 132. For statutory penalties pursuant to California Labor Code § 226€;

11 133. For injunctive relief to ensure compliance with this section, pursuant to California
12 Labor Code § 226(h);

13 134. For reasonable attorneys' fees and for costs of suit incurred herein; and,

14 135. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

15 As to the Seventh Cause of Action

16 136. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated California
17 Labor Code § 2802 by willfully failing to indemnify employees for expenditures;

18 137. For unpaid wages or unreimbursed business expenses as may be appropriate;

19 138. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid compensation commencing from the date
20 such amounts were due;

21 139. For reasonable attorneys' fees and for costs of suit incurred herein; and,

22 140. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

23 As to the Eighth Cause of Action

24 141. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated California
25 Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* by failing to pay for all hours worked (minimum,
26 straight time, and overtime wages), failing to provide meal periods, failing to authorize and permit
27 rest periods, and failing to indemnify Plaintiffs for expenditures;

28 142. For restitution of unpaid wages to Plaintiffs and prejudgment interest from the day

1 such amounts were due and payable;

2 143. For the appointment of a receiver to receive, manage and distribute any and all funds
3 disgorged from Defendants and determined to have been wrongfully acquired by Defendants as a
4 result of violations of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200 *et seq.*;

5 144. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to
6 California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5;

7 145. For injunctive relief to ensure compliance with this section, pursuant to California
8 Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*; and,

9 146. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

10 As to the Ninth Cause of Action

11 147. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendants violated the California
12 Labor Code by failing to pay wages for all hours worked (including minimum, straight time, and
13 overtime), failing to provide meal periods and pay the correct amount of meal period premium
14 wages, failing to authorize and permit rest periods and pay the correct amount of rest period
15 premium wages, failing to pay all earned wages twice per month, failing to maintain accurate
16 records of hours worked and meal periods, failing to pay all final wages to terminated Plaintiffs,
17 failing to furnish accurate wage statements, and failing to indemnify Plaintiffs for expenditures;

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

19 149. For all non-representative civil penalties pursuant to California Labor Code §§
20 2699, *et seq.*, and all other applicable Labor Code provisions;

21 150. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to
22 California Labor Code § 2699; and,

23 151. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

24 As to all Causes of Action

25 152. For any additional relief that the Court deems just and proper.

26 ///

27 ///

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 27, 2025

WILSHIRE LAW FIRM

By: 

John G. Yslas
Jeffrey C. Bils
Aram Boyadjian
Andrew Sandoval

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury as to all causes of action triable by jury.

Dated: October 27, 2025

WILSHIRE LAW FIRM

By: 

John G. Yslas
Jeffrey C. Bils
Aram Boyadjian
Andrew Sandoval

Attorneys for Plaintiffs