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Attorneys for Plaintiff MELISSA CONWAY,
on behalf of herself and current and former aggrieved employees

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES-CENTRAL DISTRICT**

MELISSA CONWAY, on behalf of herself and
current and former aggrieved employees

Plaintiff,

vs.

SHAKEY'S USA, INC.; and DOES 1 to 100,
inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: **23STCV12144**

PAGA ACTION

**PLAINTIFF MELISSA CONWAY'S
COMPLAINT FOR:**

- CIVIL PENALTIES PURSUANT
TO THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS
GENERAL ACT OF 2004
("PAGA"), LABOR CODE
SECTIONS 2698, ET SEQ.**

COMES NOW Plaintiff MELISSA CONWAY ("Plaintiff"), who alleges and complains
against Defendants SHAKEY'S USA, INC.; and DOES 1 to 100, inclusive (collectively
"Defendants") as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This is a Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, Labor Code §§ 2698, *et seq.*
("PAGA") representative action brought by Plaintiff on behalf of the State of California, herself
and other current and former aggrieved employees of Defendants who worked as hourly non-
exempt employees in California during the relevant time period seeking civil penalties associated
with Defendants' violation of the Labor Code based on Defendants' failure to pay wages for all
hours worked at minimum wage and all overtime hours worked at the overtime rate of pay; failure

1 to authorize or permit all legally required and/or compliant meal periods or pay meal period
2 premium wages; failure to authorize or permit all legally required and/or compliant rest periods or
3 pay rest period premium wages; failure to pay wages for accrued paid sick time at the regular rate
4 of pay; statutory penalties for failure to provide accurate wage statements; statutory waiting time
5 penalties in the form of continuation wages for failure to timely pay employees all wages due upon
6 separation of employment. Plaintiff seeks on a representative basis, following notice to the Labor
7 and Workforce Development Agency, civil penalties, reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to Labor
8 Code section 2699(g)(1) and costs brought on behalf of Plaintiff, the State of California, and
9 others aggrieved.

10 **II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

11 2. This Court has jurisdiction over the claims of Plaintiff and all other current and
12 former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees because Plaintiff's lawsuit seeks
13 civil penalties on behalf of herself, all other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
14 non-exempt employees, and the State of California in excess of twenty-five thousand dollars
15 (\$25,000); Defendants employed Plaintiff and all other current and former aggrieved California-
16 based hourly non-exempt employees; and the injuries to Plaintiff and all other current and former
17 aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees occurred in locations throughout
18 California, including but not limited to Los Angeles County, at 935 W. Arbor Vitae Street,
19 Inglewood, CA 90301.

20 3. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Judicial Council of California enacted
21 Emergency Rule 9 to the California Rules of Court, which provided that, notwithstanding any
22 other law, the statutes of limitations and repose for civil causes of action that exceed 180 days are
23 tolled from April 6, 2020, until October 1, 2020.

24 **III. PARTIES**

25 4. Plaintiff brings this action as a representative of the Labor and Workforce
26 Development Agency on behalf of herself and other current and former employees subject to
27 violations of the Labor Code. The named Plaintiff and the persons on whose behalf this action is
28 filed include current, former and/or future employees of Defendants who work, worked, or will

1 work for Defendants as direct employees as well as temporary employees employed through temp
2 agencies as hourly non-exempt employees in California. At all times mentioned herein, the
3 currently named Plaintiff is and was domiciled and a resident and citizen of California and was
4 employed by Defendants in an hourly position at Defendants' location in Los Angeles from
5 approximately April 2017 until on or about October 1, 2022.

6 5. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant SHAKEY'S
7 USA, INC. is authorized to do business within the State of California and is doing business in the
8 State of California and/or that Defendants DOES 1-50 are, and at all times relevant hereto were
9 persons acting on behalf of Defendant SHAKEY'S USA, INC. in the establishment of, or
10 ratification of, the aforementioned illegal wage and hour practices or policies. Defendant
11 SHAKEY'S USA, INC. operates in Los Angeles County and employed Plaintiff and aggrieved
12 employees in Los Angeles County, including but not limited to, at 935 W. Arbor Vitae Street,
13 Inglewood, CA 90301.

14 6. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants DOES 1
15 through 50 are corporations or are other business entities or organizations of a nature unknown to
16 Plaintiff that employed Plaintiff and aggrieved California non-exempt employees, permitted
17 Plaintiff and aggrieved employees to work, and exercised control over the wages, hours and
18 working conditions of employment of Plaintiff and aggrieved employees.

19 7. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants DOES 51
20 through 100 are individuals unknown to Plaintiff. Each of the individual defendants is sued
21 individually and in his or her capacity as an agent, shareholder, owner, representative, manager,
22 supervisor, independent contractor and/or employee of each defendant who violated or caused to
23 be violated the minimum wage and overtime provisions of the Labor Code and/or any provision of
24 the Industrial Welfare Commission's wage orders regulating hours and days of work.

25 8. Plaintiff is unaware of the true names of Defendants DOES 1 through 100. Plaintiff
26 sues said defendants by said fictitious names and will amend this complaint when the true names
27 and capacities are ascertained or when such facts pertaining to liability are ascertained, or as
28 permitted by law or by the Court. Plaintiff is informed and believes that each of the fictitiously

1 named defendants is in some manner responsible for the events and allegations set forth in this
2 complaint.

3 9. Plaintiff makes the allegations in this complaint without any admission that, as to
4 any particular allegation, Plaintiff bears the burden of pleading, proving, or persuading and
5 Plaintiff reserves all of Plaintiff's right to plead in the alternative.

6 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

7 **CIVIL PENALTIES AND WAGES PURSUANT TO THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS**

8 **GENERAL ACT OF 2004, LABOR CODE SECTIONS 2698, ET SEQ.**

9 **(Against all Defendants by Plaintiff)**

10 10. Plaintiff incorporates all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

11 11. During the period beginning one (1) year preceding Plaintiff sending the initial
12 PAGA Claim Notice to the LWDA to the present, Defendants violated Labor Code sections 201,
13 202, 203, 204, 226, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 1194, 1197, and the applicable Wage Orders.

14 12. Specifically, Defendants have committed the following violations of California
15 Labor Code:

16 13. **Failure to pay wages for all hours worked at the legal minimum wage:**
17 Defendants employed many of their employees, including Plaintiff, as hourly non-exempt
18 employees. In California, an employer is required to pay hourly employees for all “hours worked,”
19 which includes all time that an employee is under control of the employer and all time the
20 employee is suffered and permitted to work. This includes the time an employee spends, either
21 directly or indirectly, performing services which inure to the benefit of the employer.

22 14. Labor Code sections 1194 and 1197 require an employer to compensate employees
23 for all “hours worked” at least at a minimum wage rate of pay as established by the IWC and the
24 Wage Orders.

25 15. In this case, Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based
26 hourly non-exempt employees worked more minutes per shift than Defendants credited them with
27 having worked. Specifically, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and other current and former
28 aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees all wages at the applicable minimum

1 wage for all hours worked due to Defendants' policies, practices, and/or procedures including, but
2 not limited to:

3 (a) Requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
4 non-exempt employees to perform off-the-clock store opening and closing procedures including,
5 but not limited to, unlocking and/or locking Defendants' stores and disarming and/or arming
6 Defendants' stores' alarm systems.

7 16. Therefore, Defendants suffered, permitted, and required Plaintiff and other current
8 and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees to be subject to Defendants'
9 control without paying wages for that time. This resulted in Plaintiff and other current and former
10 aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees working time for which they were not
11 compensated any wages, in violation of Labor Code sections 1194 and 1197 and the applicable
12 Wage Order.

13 17. **Failure to pay wages for overtime hours worked at the overtime rate of pay:**
14 Defendants employed many of their employees, including Plaintiff, as hourly non-exempt
15 employees. In California, an employer is required to pay hourly employees for all "hours worked,"
16 which includes all time that an employee is under control of the employer and all time the
17 employee is suffered and permitted to work. This includes the time an employee spends, either
18 directly or indirectly, performing services that inure to the benefit of the employer.'

19 18. Labor Code sections 510 and 1194 require an employer to compensate employees a
20 higher rate of pay for hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a workday, in excess of forty
21 (40) hours in a workweek, and on any seventh consecutive day of work in a workweek:

22 Any work in excess of eight (8) hours in one workday, any work in excess of forty (40)
23 hours in any one (1) workweek, and the first eight (8) hours worked on the seventh day of
24 work in any one (1) workweek, shall be compensated at the rate of no less than one-and-
25 one-half (1.5) times the regular rate of pay for an employee. Any work in excess of twelve
26 (12) hours in one (1) day shall be compensated at the rate of no less than twice the regular
27 rate of pay for an employee. In addition, any work in excess of eight (8) hours on any
28 seventh day of a workweek shall be compensated at the rate of no less than twice the
regular rate of pay of an employee.

27 Labor Code section 510.

28 19. In this case, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and other current and former

1 aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees overtime wages for all overtime hours
2 worked due to Defendants' policies, practices, and/or procedures including, but not limited to:

3 (a) Requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
4 non-exempt employees to perform off-the-clock store opening and closing procedures including,
5 but not limited to, unlocking and/or locking Defendants' stores and disarming and/or arming
6 Defendants' stores' alarm systems.

7 20. Overtime is based upon an employee's regular rate of pay. "The regular rate at
8 which an employee is employed shall be deemed to include all remuneration for employment paid
9 to, or on behalf, of the employee." See Division of Labor Standards Enforcement – Enforcement
10 Policies and Interpretations Manual, Section 49.1.2.

11 21. In this case, Plaintiff alleges that when she and other current and former aggrieved
12 California-based hourly non-exempt employees overtime wages, Defendants failed to pay them
13 overtime wages at the proper overtime rate of pay due to Defendants' failure to include all
14 remuneration when calculating the overtime rate of pay. Specifically, Defendants maintained a
15 policy, practice, and/or procedure of failing to include all remuneration such as "monthly bonus,"
16 for example, when calculating Plaintiff alleges that when she and other current and former
17 aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees' regular rate of pay for the purpose of
18 calculating overtimes wages.

19 22. The foregoing policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in time during each
20 workday that Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt
21 employees were under the control of Defendants but were not compensated. To the extent that the
22 foregoing uncompensated time occurred when Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved
23 California-based hourly non-exempt employees worked more than eight (8) hours in a workday,
24 more than forty (40) hours in a workweek, and/or seven (7) days in a workweek, Defendants failed
25 to pay them at their overtime rate of pay for overtime hours worked, in violation of Labor Code
26 sections 510 and 1194 and the applicable Wage Order.

27 23. **Failure to pay wages to hourly non-exempt employees for workdays that**
28 **Defendants failed to provide legally required and compliant meal periods:** Plaintiff and other

1 current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees regularly worked
2 shifts of more than five (5) hours in length and shifts of more than ten (10) hours in length.

3 24. California law requires an employer to authorize or permit an employee an
4 uninterrupted meal period of no less than thirty (30) minutes in which the employee is relieved of
5 all duties and the employer relinquishes control over the employee's activities prior to the
6 employee's sixth hour of work. Labor Code sections 226.7, 512; Wage Order 5 at §11; *Brinker*
7 *Rest. Corp. v. Super Ct. (Hohnbaum)* (2012) 53 Cal.4th 1004. An employer may not employ an
8 employee for a work period of more than ten (10) hours per day without providing the employee
9 with a second such meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the eleventh
10 hour of work. *Id.* If the employee is not relieved of all duty during a meal period, the meal period
11 shall be considered an "on duty" meal period and counted as time worked. A paid "on duty" meal
12 period is only permitted when: (1) the nature of the work prevents an employee from being
13 relieved of all duty; and (2) the parties have a written agreement agreeing to on-duty meal periods.

14 25. If an employer fails to provide an employee a meal period in accordance with the
15 law, the employer must pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of pay
16 for each workday that a legally required and compliant meal period was not provided. Labor Code
17 section 226.7; Wage Order 5 at §11.

18 In this case, Defendants failed to authorize or permit legally required and compliant meal periods
19 to Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees
20 due to Defendants' policies, practices, and/or procedures, including but not limited to:

21 (a) Failing to provide Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved
22 California-based hourly non-exempt employees a second uninterrupted duty-free meal period of
23 no less than thirty (30) minutes for each workday that Plaintiff and other current and former
24 aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees work shifts over ten (10) hours.

25 26. Additionally, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants maintained a policy, practice, and/or
26 procedure of failing to compensate Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-
27 based hourly non-exempt employees one (1) hour of pay at their regular rate of pay for each
28 workday that Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt

1 employees did not receive legally required and compliant meal periods, in violation of Labor Code
2 section 226.7.

3 27. Finally, on occasions when Defendants paid Plaintiff and other current and former
4 aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees a “premium” wage for late, missed,
5 short, on-premise, on-duty, and/or interrupted meal periods, Defendants failed to pay the one (1)
6 additional hour of pay at Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
7 non-exempt employees regular rate of compensation. Specifically, Defendants maintained a
8 policy, practice, and/or procedure of failing to include all remuneration such as “monthly bonus,”
9 for example, when calculating Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based
10 hourly non-exempt employees’ regular rate of compensation for purposes of calculating and
11 paying meal period premium wages..

12 28. Defendants’ foregoing policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in Plaintiff
13 and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees not
14 receiving wages to compensate them for workdays during which Defendants did not provide them
15 with meal periods in compliance with California law.

16 29. **Failure to pay wages to hourly non-exempt employees for workdays that**
17 **Defendants failed to provide legally required and compliant rest periods:** Plaintiff and other
18 current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees regularly worked
19 shifts of more than three-and-a-half (3.5) hours.

20 30. California law requires every employer to authorize and permit an employee a rest
21 period of ten (10) net minutes for every four (4) hours worked or major fraction thereof. Labor
22 Code section 226.7; Wage Order 5 at §12. Under California law, “[e]mployees are entitled to 10
23 minutes’ rest for shifts from three and one-half to six hours in length, 20 minutes for shifts of more
24 than six hours up to 10 hours, 30 minutes for shifts of more than 10 hours up to 14 hours, and so
25 on.” *Brinker Restaurant Corp. v. Sup. Ct. (Hohnbaum)* (2012) 53 Cal.4th 1004, 1029; Labor Code
26 section 226.7; Wage Order 5 at §12. Rest periods, insofar as practicable, shall be in the middle of
27 each work period. Wage Order 5 at §12. Additionally, the rest period requirement “obligates
28 employers to permit – and authorizes employees to take – off-duty rest periods.” *Augustus v. ABM*

1 *Security Services, Inc.*, (2016) 5 Cal.5th 257, 269. That is, during rest periods employers must
2 relieve employees of all duties and relinquish control over how employees spend their time. *Id.*

3 31. If the employer fails to authorize or permit a required rest period, the employer
4 must pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of pay for each workday
5 the employer did not authorize or permit a legally required rest period. Labor Code section 226.7;
6 Wage Order 5 at § 12.

7 32. In this case, Defendants failed to authorize or permit all legally required and
8 compliant rest periods to Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
9 non-exempt employees due to Defendants' policies, practices, and/or procedures including, but not
10 limited to:

11 (a) Failing to provide Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based
12 hourly non-exempt employees timely, uninterrupted, duty-free, net 10-minute rest breaks every
13 four (4) hours worked or major fraction thereof.

14 33. Additionally, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants maintained a policy, practice, and/or
15 procedure of failing to compensate Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-
16 based hourly non-exempt employees with one (1) hour of pay at their regular rate of pay for each
17 workday they did not receive legally required and compliant rest periods, in violation of Labor
18 Code section 226.7.

19 34. Finally, on occasions when Defendants did pay Plaintiff and other current and
20 former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees a "premium" wage for late,
21 missed, short, on-premise, on-duty, and/or interrupted rest periods, Defendants failed to pay the
22 one (1) additional hour of pay at Plaintiff's and similarly situated employees' regular rate of
23 compensation. Specifically, Defendants maintained a policy, practice, and/or procedure of failing
24 to include all remuneration such as "monthly bonus," for example, when calculating Plaintiff and
25 other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees regular rate of
26 compensation for purposes of calculating and paying rest period premium wages.

27 35. Defendants' foregoing policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in Plaintiff
28 and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees not

1 receiving wages to compensate them for workdays in which Defendants did not provide them with
2 rest periods in compliance with California law.

3 **36. Failure to pay wages for accrued paid sick days at the regular rate of pay:**
4 Defendants had a policy and/or procedure where Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved
5 California-based hourly non-exempt employees accrued paid sick time.

6 37. Labor Code section 246, subdivision (a), states in relevant part “[a]n employee
7 who...works in California for the same employer for 30 or more days within a year from the
8 commencement of employment is entitled to paid sick days.” Additionally, an employee accrues
9 paid sick days at the rate of no-less-than one (1) hour per every thirty (30) hours worked,
10 beginning at the commencement of employment. Labor Code section 246(b).

11 38. Here, Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-
12 exempt employees were employed by Defendants for 30 or more days and were entitled to paid
13 sick days. Also, Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-
14 exempt employees began accruing paid sick days since the beginning of each of their respective
15 employment with Defendants.

16 39. Labor Code section 246, subdivision (l), provides that an employer shall calculate
17 the paid sick time for non-exempt employees in the same manner as the regular rate of pay for the
18 workweek in which the employee elected to use paid sick time. “The regular rate at which an
19 employee is employed shall be deemed to include all remuneration for employment paid to, or on
20 behalf, of the employee.” See Division of Labor Standards Enforcement – Enforcement Policies
21 and Interpretations Manual, Section 49.1.2.

22 40. In this case, Plaintiff alleges that when she and other current and former aggrieved
23 California-based hourly non-exempt employees elected to use paid sick time, Defendants failed to
24 pay them sick time wages at the proper sick time rate of pay due to Defendants’ failure to include
25 all remuneration when calculating the sick time rate of pay. Specifically, Defendants maintained a
26 policy, practice, and/or procedure of failing to include all remuneration such as, for example,
27 “monthly bonus,” when calculating Plaintiff’s and other current and former aggrieved California-
28 based hourly non-exempt employees’ regular rate of pay for the purpose of calculating and paying

1 sick time.

2 **41. Failure to provide complete and accurate wage statements:** Labor Code section
3 226, subdivision (a). Labor Code section 226(a) provides, *inter alia*, that, upon paying an
4 employee his or her wages, the employer must “furnish each of his or her employees ... an
5 itemized statement in writing showing (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the
6 employee, except for any employee whose compensation is solely based on a salary and who is
7 exempt from payment of overtime under subdivision (a) of Section 515 or any applicable order of
8 the Industrial Welfare Commission, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable
9 piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions, provided, that all
10 deductions made on written orders of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item, (5)
11 net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the pay period for which the employee is paid, (7) the
12 name of the employee and his or her social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal
13 entity that is the employer, and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and
14 the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.”

15 **42.** As a derivative of Plaintiff’s allegations above, Defendants’ failure to pay Plaintiff
16 and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees all wages
17 earned (including minimum wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages, and/or rest
18 period premium wages) rendered Plaintiff’s and other current and former aggrieved California-
19 based hourly non-exempt employees’ wage statements inaccurate, in violation of Labor Code
20 section 226.

21 **43. Failure to pay employees all wages due at time of termination/resignation:** An
22 employer is required to pay all unpaid wages timely after an employee’s employment ends. The
23 wages are due immediately upon termination (Labor Code section 201) or within seventy-two (72)
24 hours of resignation (Labor Code section 202).

25 **44.** As a derivative of Plaintiff’s allegations above, because Defendants failed to pay
26 Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees
27 all their earned wages (including minimum wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages,
28 and/or rest period premium wages), Defendants failed to pay those employees timely after each

1 employee's termination and/or resignation, in violation of Labor Code sections 201, 202, and 203.

2 45. Defendants' violations of Wage Order 5 constituted violations of Labor Code
3 section 1198, which prohibits employment under conditions of labor that violate the Wage Orders.

4 46. Labor Code sections 2699, subdivisions (a) and (g) authorize an aggrieved
5 employee, on behalf of himself or herself and other current or former employees, to bring a civil
6 action to recover civil penalties against all Defendants pursuant to the procedures specified in
7 Labor Code section 2699.3.

8 47. Plaintiff has complied with the procedures for bringing suit specified in Labor
9 Code section 2699.3. On March 23, 2023, Plaintiff filed a PAGA Claim Notice with the LWDA
10 and provided notice to Defendants by certified mail which provided notice of the specific
11 provisions of the Labor Code alleged to have been violated, including the facts and theories to
12 support the violations alleged.

13 48. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, the LWDA must give written notice by
14 certified mail to the parties that it intends to investigate the alleged violations of the Labor Code
15 within 60 days of the date of the complainant's written notice. The LWDA failed to provide the
16 parties notice within 60 days of the date of Plaintiff's PAGA Claim Notice that the LWDA intends
17 to investigate Plaintiff's claims.

18 49. Pursuant to Labor Code sections 2699(a) and (f), Plaintiff is entitled to recover civil
19 penalties for Defendants' violations of Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 226, 226.7, 246,
20 510, 512, 1194, and 1197, beginning one (1) year preceding Plaintiff sending the initial PAGA
21 Claim Notice to the LWDA to the present, in the following amounts:

22 a. For violations of Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 226, 226.7, 246,
23 510, 512, 1194, and 1197; one hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period
24 for the initial violation and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay
25 period for each subsequent violation [penalty amounts established by Labor Code section
26 2699(f)(2)].

27 b. For violations of Labor Code section 226, two hundred fifty dollars (\$250)
28 for each employee for each pay period for the initial violation, and for each subsequent violation,

one thousand dollars (\$1000) for each underpaid employee for each pay period [penalty amounts established by Labor Code section 226.3].

c. For violations of Labor Code section 510, fifty dollars (\$50) for each employee for each pay period for the initial violation, and for each subsequent violation, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each underpaid employee for each pay period [penalty amounts established by Labor Code section 558] and any unpaid wages.

d. For violations of Labor Code section 1194 and 1197, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each underpaid employee for each pay period for the initial violation, and for each subsequent violation, two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each underpaid employee for each pay period [penalty amounts established by Labor Code section 1197.1] and any unpaid wages.

50. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(g), Plaintiff is entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs in connection with her claims for civil penalties.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF, ON BEHALF OF HERSELF AND ON OTHER AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES, PRAYS AS FOLLOWS:

ON THE FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION:

1. That Defendants be found to have violated the provisions of the Labor Code and the IWC Wages Orders as to the Plaintiff and aggrieved employees.

2. For any and all legally applicable penalties during the relevant statute of limitations subject to any permissible tolling, including but not limited to those recoverable under the California Labor Code, including but not limited to section 2699(f);

3. For attorneys' fees and costs of suit, including but not limited to those recoverable under California Labor Code section 2699(g); and

4. For such and other further relief, in law and/or equity, as the Court deems just or appropriate

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1 Dated: May 30, 2023

Respectfully submitted,
LAVI & EBRAHIMIAN, LLP



By:

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Melissa A. Huether, Esq.
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aggrieved employees

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