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Electronically FILED by
Superior Court of California,
County of Los Angeles
12/29/2025 4:52 PM
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Executive Officer/Clerk of Court,
By S. Ruiz, Deputy Clerk

Attorneys for Plaintiff JOHNNY RODRIGUEZ,
on behalf of himself and current and former aggrieved employees

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

JOHNNY RODRIGUEZ, on behalf of himself and
current and former aggrieved employees

Plaintiff,

vs.

BAR-S FOODS CO.; and DOES 1 to 100,
inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: **25STCV38186**

PAGA ACTION

**PLAINTIFF JOHNNY
RODRIGUEZ'S COMPLAINT FOR:**

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

COMES NOW Plaintiff JOHNNY RODRIGUEZ ("Plaintiff"), who alleges and complains
against Defendants BAR-S FOODS CO.; 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, himself
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

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

13 **II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

14 2. This Court has jurisdiction over the claims of Plaintiff and all other current and
15 former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees because Plaintiff's lawsuit seeks
16 civil penalties on behalf of herself, all other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
17 non-exempt employees, and the State of California in excess of thirty-five thousand dollars
18 (\$35,000); Defendants employed Plaintiff and all other current and former aggrieved California-
19 based hourly non-exempt employees; and the injuries to Plaintiff and all other current and former
20 aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees occurred in locations throughout
21 California, including but not limited to Los Angeles County, at 450 N. Baldwin Park Blvd., City of
22 industry, CA 91746.

23 **III. PARTIES**

24 1. Plaintiff brings this action as a representative of the Labor and Workforce
25 Development Agency on behalf of himself and other current and former employees subject to
26 violations of the Labor Code. The named Plaintiff and the persons on whose behalf this action is
27 filed include current, former and/or future employees of Defendants who work, worked, or will
28 work for Defendants as direct employees as well as temporary employees employed through temp

1 agencies as hourly non-exempt employees in California. At all times mentioned herein, the currently
2 named Plaintiff is and was domiciled and a resident and citizen of California and was employed by
3 Defendants in an hourly position at Defendants' location in Los Angeles County from in or around
4 January 2019 until on or about March 14, 2025.

5 2. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant BAR-S FOODS
6 CO. is authorized to do business within the State of California and is doing business in the State of
7 California and/or that Defendants DOES 1-50 are, and at all times relevant hereto were persons
8 acting on behalf of Defendant BAR-S FOODS CO. in the establishment of, or ratification of, the
9 aforementioned illegal wage and hour practices or policies. Defendant BAR-S FOODS CO. operates
10 in Los Angeles County and employed Plaintiff and aggrieved employees in Los Angeles County,
11 including but not limited to, at 450 N. Baldwin Park Blvd., City of industry, CA 91746.

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

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

23 5. Plaintiff is unaware of the true names of Defendants DOES 1 through 100. Plaintiff
24 sues said defendants by said fictitious names, and will amend this complaint when the true names
25 and capacities are ascertained or when such facts pertaining to liability are ascertained, or as
26 permitted by law or by the Court. Plaintiff is informed and believes that each of the fictitiously
27 named defendants is in some manner responsible for the events and allegations set forth in this
28 complaint.

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

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

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

**(Against all Defendants by Plaintiff on behalf of Themselves, the State of California, and
Other Current and Former Aggrieved Employees)**

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

8. During Plaintiff's employment and continuing through the present, Plaintiff alleges Defendants violated Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 223, 226, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 1194, 1197, and the applicable Wage Orders.

9. Specifically, Defendants have committed the following violations of California Labor Code:

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

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

12. In this case, Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees worked more minutes per shift than Defendants credited them with having worked. Specifically, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees all wages at the applicable minimum wage for all hours worked due to Defendants' policies, practices, and/or procedures including, but not limited

1 to:

2 (a) Sometimes requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-
3 based hourly non-exempt employees to line up at the parking lot gate to wait to undergo and undergo
4 off-the-clock badge verification and respond questions regarding position and work location.
5 Following verification and inspection, Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-
6 based hourly non-exempt employees were required to park their vehicles and walk for
7 approximately ten to fifteen minutes to the nearest timeclock where they were permitted to clock in
8 prior to being allowed to clock in for the start of their shift; and proceed to do the same process in
9 reverse order to exit the building after clocking out for the end of their shift;

10 (b) Sometimes requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-
11 based hourly non-exempt employees to don boots and safety vests prior to clocking in and wash
12 their hands prior to clocking in for the start of their shift without being paid for that time;

13 (c) Sometimes requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-
14 based hourly non-exempt employees to wash their hands while off-the-clock during meal breaks
15 prior to clocking in to return to work, resulting in shortened and on-duty meal breaks; and

16 (d) Sometimes requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-
17 based hourly non-exempt employees to remain on-duty during their off-the-clock meal breaks due
18 to Defendants' requirement that Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based
19 hourly non-exempt employees keep their cell phones on them and always monitored during their
20 shift including during off-the-clock meal breaks so they can be contacted by Defendants at any time
21 during their shift.

22 13. Therefore, Defendants suffered, permitted, and required Plaintiff and other current
23 and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees to be subject to Defendants'
24 control without paying wages for that time. This resulted in Plaintiff and other current and former
25 aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees working time for which they were not
26 compensated any wages, in violation of Labor Code sections 1194 and 1197 and the applicable
27 Wage Order.

28 14. Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that

1 Employer's conduct above that gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
2 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
3 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

4 15. **Failure to pay wages for overtime hours worked at the overtime rate of pay**
5 **and/or failure to pay overtime wages at the proper rate of pay:** Defendants employed many of
6 their employees, including Plaintiff, as hourly non-exempt employees. In California, an employer
7 is required to pay hourly employees for all "hours worked," which includes all time that an employee
8 is under control of the employer and all time the employee is suffered and permitted to work. This
9 includes the time an employee spends, either directly or indirectly, performing services that inure to
10 the benefit of the employer.'

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

14 Any work in excess of eight (8) hours in one workday, any work in excess of forty (40) hours
15 in any one (1) workweek, and the first eight (8) hours worked on the seventh day of work in
16 any one (1) workweek, shall be compensated at the rate of no less than one-and-one-half
17 (1.5) times the regular rate of pay for an employee. Any work in excess of twelve (12) hours
18 in one (1) day shall be compensated at the rate of no less than twice the regular rate of pay
19 for an employee. In addition, any work in excess of eight (8) hours on any seventh day of a
20 workweek shall be compensated at the rate of no less than twice the regular rate of pay of an
21 employee.

22 Labor Code section 510.

23 17. In this case, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved
24 California-based hourly non-exempt employees overtime wages for all overtime hours worked due
25 to Defendants' policies, practices, and/or procedures including, but not limited to:

26 (a) Sometimes requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-
27 based hourly non-exempt employees to line up at the parking lot gate to wait to undergo and undergo
28 off-the-clock badge verification and respond questions regarding position and work location.
Following verification and inspection, Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-
based hourly non-exempt employees were required to park their vehicles and walk for
approximately ten to fifteen minutes to the nearest timeclock where they were permitted to clock in

1 prior to being allowed to clock in for the start of their shift; and proceed to do the same process in
2 reverse order to exit the building after clocking out for the end of their shift;

3 (b) Sometimes requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-
4 based hourly non-exempt employees to don boots and safety vests prior to clocking in and wash
5 their hands prior to clocking in for the start of their shift without being paid for that time;

6 (c) Sometimes requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-
7 based hourly non-exempt employees to wash their hands while off-the-clock during meal breaks
8 prior to clocking in to return to work, resulting in shortened and on-duty meal breaks; and

9 (d) Sometimes requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-
10 based hourly non-exempt employees to remain on-duty during their off-the-clock meal breaks due
11 to Defendants' requirement that Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based
12 hourly non-exempt employees keep their cell phones on them and always monitored during their
13 shift including during off-the-clock meal breaks so they can be contacted by Defendants at any time
14 during their shift.

15 3. Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that
16 Employer's conduct above that gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
17 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
18 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

19 4. Furthermore, overtime is based upon an employee's regular rate of pay. "The regular
20 rate at which an employee is employed shall be deemed to include all remuneration for employment
21 paid to, or on behalf, of the employee." *See* Division of Labor Standards Enforcement –
22 Enforcement Policies and Interpretations Manual, Section 49.1.2.

23 5. In this case, Plaintiff alleges that when he and other current and former aggrieved
24 California-based hourly non-exempt employees earned overtime wages, Defendants failed to pay
25 them overtime wages at the proper overtime rate of pay due to Defendants' failure to include all
26 remuneration when calculating the overtime rate of pay. Specifically, Defendants maintained a
27 policy, practice, and/or procedure of failing to include all remuneration such as bonus pay, for
28 example, when calculating Plaintiff's and other current and former aggrieved California-based

hourly non-exempt employees' regular rate of pay for the purpose of paying overtime.

18. The foregoing policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in time during each workday that Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees were under the control of Defendants but were not compensated. To the extent that the foregoing uncompensated time occurred when Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees worked more than eight (8) hours in a workday, more than forty (40) hours in a workweek, and/or seven (7) days in a workweek, Defendants failed to pay them at their overtime rate of pay for overtime hours worked, in violation of Labor Code sections 510, 1194 and 1198, and the applicable Wage Order.

19. **Failure to pay wages to hourly non-exempt employees for workdays that Defendants failed to provide legally required and compliant meal periods and/or failure to pay period premium wages:** Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees regularly worked shifts of more than five (5) hours in length and shifts of more than ten (10) hours in length.

20. California law requires an employer to authorize or permit an employee an uninterrupted meal period of no less than thirty (30) minutes in which the employee is relieved of all duties and the employer relinquishes control over the employee's activities prior to the employee's sixth hour of work. Labor Code sections 226.7, 512, and 1198; Wage Order 1 at §11; *Brinker Rest. Corp. v. Super Ct. (Hohnbaum)* (2012) 53 Cal.4th 1004. An employer may not employ an employee for a work period of more than ten (10) hours per day without providing the employee with a second such meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the eleventh hour of work. *Id.* If the employee is not relieved of all duty during a meal period, the meal period shall be considered an "on duty" meal period and counted as time worked. A paid "on duty" meal period is only permitted when: (1) the nature of the work prevents an employee from being relieved of all duty; and (2) the parties have a written agreement agreeing to on-duty meal periods.

21. If an employer fails to provide an employee a meal period in accordance with the law, the employer must pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of pay for each workday that a legally required and compliant meal period was not provided. Labor Code

1 sections 226.7 and 1198; Wage Order 1 at §11.

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

6 (a) Sometimes requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-
7 based hourly non-exempt employees to wash their hands while off-the-clock during meal breaks
8 prior to clocking in to return to work, resulting in shortened and on-duty meal breaks;

9 (b) Sometimes requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-
10 based hourly non-exempt employees to remain on-duty during their off-the-clock meal breaks due
11 to Defendants' requirement that Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based
12 hourly non-exempt employees keep their cell phones on them and always monitored during their
13 shift including during off-the-clock meal breaks so they can be contacted by Defendants at any time
14 during their shift; and

15 (c) Sometimes failing to provide Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved
16 California-based hourly non-exempt employees with a second uninterrupted duty-free meal period
17 of no less than thirty (30) minutes for each workday that Plaintiff and other current and former
18 aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees work shifts over ten (10) hours.

19 23. Additionally, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants maintained a policy, practice, and/or
20 procedure of failing to compensate Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based
21 hourly non-exempt employees one (1) hour of pay at their regular rate of pay for each workday that
22 Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees did
23 not receive legally required and compliant meal periods, in violation of Labor Code section 226.7.

24 24. Finally, on occasions when Defendants paid Plaintiff and other current and former
25 aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees a "premium" wage for late, missed, short,
26 on-premise, on-duty, and/or interrupted meal periods, Defendants failed to pay the one (1) additional
27 hour of pay at Plaintiff's and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-
28 exempt employees' regular rate of compensation. Specifically, Defendants maintained a policy,

1 practice, and/or procedure of failing to include all remuneration such as bonus pay, for example,
2 when calculating Plaintiff's and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-
3 exempt employees' regular rate of pay for the purpose of paying meal period premium wages.

4 25. Defendants' foregoing policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in Plaintiff and
5 other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees not receiving
6 wages to compensate them for workdays during which Defendants did not provide them with meal
7 periods in compliance with California law.

8 26. Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that
9 Employer's conduct above that gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
10 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
11 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

12 27. **Failure to pay wages to hourly non-exempt employees for workdays that**
13 **Defendants failed to provide legally required and compliant rest periods and/or failure to pay**
14 **rest period premium:** Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
15 non-exempt employees regularly worked shifts of more than three-and-a-half (3.5) hours.

16 28. California law requires every employer to authorize and permit an employee a rest
17 period of ten (10) net minutes for every four (4) hours worked or major fraction thereof. Labor Code
18 section 226.7; Wage Order 1 at §12. Under California law, "[e]mployees are entitled to 10 minutes'
19 rest for shifts from three and one-half to six hours in length, 20 minutes for shifts of more than six
20 hours up to 10 hours, 30 minutes for shifts of more than 10 hours up to 14 hours, and so on." *Brinker*
21 *Restaurant Corp. v. Sup. Ct. (Hohnbaum)* (2012) 53 Cal.4th 1004, 1029; Labor Code section 226.7;
22 Wage Order 1 at §12. Rest periods, insofar as practicable, shall be in the middle of each work period.
23 Wage Order 1 at §12. Additionally, the rest period requirement "“obligates employers to permit –
24 and authorizes employees to take – off-duty rest periods.” *Augustus v. ABM Security Services, Inc.*
25 (2016) 2 Cal.5th 257, 269. That is, during rest periods employers must relieve employees of all
26 duties and relinquish control over how employees spend their time. *Id.*

27 29. If the employer fails to authorize or permit a required rest period, the employer must
28 pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of pay for each workday the

1 employer did not authorize or permit a legally required rest period. Labor Code section 226.7; Wage
2 Order 1 at § 12.

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

7 (a) Sometimes failing to provide Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved
8 California-based hourly non-exempt employees with timely, uninterrupted, duty-free rest breaks of
9 net ten (10) minutes for every four (4) hours worked or major fraction thereof; and

10 (b) Sometimes requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-
11 based hourly non-exempt employees to remain on-duty during their rest breaks due to Defendants'
12 requirement that Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-
13 exempt employees keep their cell phones on them and always monitored during their shift including
14 during rest breaks so they can be contacted by Defendants at any time during their shift.

15 31. Additionally, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants maintained a policy, practice, and/or
16 procedure of failing to compensate Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based
17 hourly non-exempt employees with one (1) hour of pay at their regular rate of pay for each workday
18 they did not receive legally required and compliant rest periods, in violation of Labor Code section
19 226.7.

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

28 33. Defendants' foregoing policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in Plaintiff and

1 other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees not receiving
2 wages to compensate them for workdays in which Defendants did not provide them with rest periods
3 in compliance with California law.

4 34. Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that
5 Employer's conduct above that gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
6 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
7 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

8 35. **Failure to provide sick pay wages:** Defendants had a policy and/or procedure where
9 Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees
10 accrued paid sick time.

11 36. Labor Code section 246, subdivision (a), states in relevant part "[a]n employee
12 who...works in California for the same employer for 30 or more days within a year from the
13 commencement of employment is entitled to paid sick days." Additionally, an employee accrues
14 paid sick days at the rate of no-less-than one (1) hour per every thirty (30) hours worked, beginning
15 at the commencement of employment. Labor Code section 246(b).

16 37. Here, Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-
17 exempt employees were employed by Defendants for 30 or more days and were entitled to paid sick
18 days. Defendants, however, lacked a policy, practice, and/or procedure whereby Plaintiffs and other
19 current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees who were employed
20 by Defendants for 30 days or more could accrue paid sick days at the rate of no-less-than one (1)
21 hour per every thirty (30) hours worked, beginning at the commencement of employment as required
22 by Labor Code section 246(b).

23 38. In this case, Plaintiff alleges that when he and other current and former aggrieved
24 California-based hourly non-exempt employees elected to use paid sick time, Defendants failed to
25 pay them sick time wages at the proper sick time rate of pay due to Defendants' failure to include
26 all remuneration when calculating the sick time rate of pay. Specifically, Defendants maintained a
27 policy, practice, and/or procedure of failing to include all remuneration including but not limited to
28 bonus pay, for example, when calculating Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved

1 California-based hourly non-exempt employees' regular rate of pay for the purpose of paying sick
2 time.

3 39. Defendants' foregoing policy, practice, and/or procedure resulted in Defendants
4 failing to provide Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-
5 exempt employees' paid sick days, in violation of Labor Code section 246.

6 40. Plaintiff also believes these failures were malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
7 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
8 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

9 41. **Failure to timely pay earned wages during employment:** In California, wages
10 must be paid at least twice during each calendar month on days designated in advance by the
11 employer as regular paydays, subject to some exceptions. Labor Code section 204(a). Wages earned
12 between the 1st and 15th days, inclusive, of any calendar month must be paid between the 16th and
13 the 26th day of that month and wages earned between the 16th and the last day, inclusive, of any
14 calendar month must be paid between the 1st and 10th day of the following month. *Id.* Other payroll
15 periods such as those that are weekly, biweekly, or semimonthly, must be paid within seven (7)
16 calendar days following the close of the payroll period in which wages were earned. Labor Code
17 section 204(d).

18 42. As a derivative of Plaintiff's claims above, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants failed to
19 timely pay Plaintiff's and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt
20 employees' earned wages (including minimum wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages
21 and/or rest period premium wages), in violation of Labor Code section 204. Defendants'
22 aforementioned policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in their failure to pay Plaintiff's and
23 other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees' their earned
24 wages within the applicable time frames outlined in Labor Code section 204.

25 43. Plaintiff also believes these failures were malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
26 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
27 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

28 44. **Secret payment of lower wages than designated by statute:** Labor Code section

223 provides that, where any statute or contract requires an employer to maintain the designated wage scale, it shall be unlawful to secretly pay a lower wage while purporting to pay the wage designated by statute or contract. By engaging in the unlawful conduct alleged herein, including by failing to: pay overtime wages at the applicable legal overtime rate, meal break premiums and lawful sick pay at the employees' regular rate of pay, as established by Labor Code sections 226.7, 246, 510, 1194 and sections 11 and 12 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders, as incorporated by Labor Code section 1198, the Defendant secretly paid a lower wage than designated by statute while purporting to pay the wages designated by statute, in violation of Labor Code section 223.

45. Plaintiff also believes these failures were malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive. Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

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

47. As a derivative of Plaintiff's allegations above, Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees all wages earned (including minimum wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages, and/or rest period premium wages) rendered Plaintiff's and other current and former aggrieved California-based

1 hourly non-exempt employees' wage statements inaccurate, in violation of Labor Code section
2 226(a)(1, 2, 5 & 9).

3 48. Plaintiff believes these failures were willful and intentional.

4 49. Plaintiff also believes these failures were malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
5 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
6 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

7 50. **Failure to pay employees all wages due at time of termination/resignation:** An
8 employer is required to pay all unpaid wages timely after an employee's employment ends. The
9 wages are due immediately upon termination (Labor Code section 201) or within seventy-two (72)
10 hours of resignation (Labor Code section 202).

11 51. As a derivative of Plaintiff's allegations above, because Defendants failed to pay
12 Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees all
13 their earned wages (including minimum wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages,
14 and/or rest period premium wages), Defendants failed to pay those employees timely after each
15 employee's termination and/or resignation, in violation of Labor Code sections 201, 202, and 203.

16 52. Plaintiff believes these failures were willful and intentional.

17 53. Plaintiff also believes these failures were malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
18 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
19 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

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

24 55. Plaintiff has complied with the procedures for bringing suit specified in Labor Code
25 section 2699.3. On October 21, 2025, Plaintiff filed a PAGA Claim Notice with the LWDA and
26 provided notice to Defendants by certified mail which provided notice of the specific provisions of
27 the Labor Code alleged to have been violated, including the facts and theories to support the
28 violations alleged.

1 56. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, the LWDA must give written notice by
2 certified mail to the parties that it intends to investigate the alleged violations of the Labor Code
3 within 60 days of the date of the complainant's written notice. The LWDA failed to provide the
4 parties notice within 60 days of the date of Plaintiff's PAGA Claim Notice that the LWDA intends
5 to investigate Plaintiff's claims.

6 57. Pursuant to Labor Code sections 2699(a) and (f), Plaintiff is entitled to recover civil
7 penalties for Defendants' violations of Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 223, 226(a), 226.7,
8 510, 512, 1194, During Plaintiff's employment and continuing through the present, preceding
9 Plaintiff sending the initial PAGA Claim Notice to the LWDA to the present, in the following
10 amounts:

11 a. For violations of Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 226(a), and 226.7; one
12 hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial violation and two
13 hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation
14 [penalty amounts established by Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)].

15 b. For violations of Labor Code section 226(a), alternatively, two hundred fifty
16 dollars (\$250) for each employee for each pay period for the initial violation, and for each
17 subsequent violation, one thousand dollars (\$1000) for each underpaid employee for each pay period
18 [penalty amounts established by Labor Code section 226.3].

19 c. For violations of Labor Code section 510 and 512, fifty dollars (\$50) for each
20 employee for each pay period for the initial violation, and for each subsequent violation, one
21 hundred dollars (\$100) for each underpaid employee for each pay period [penalty amounts
22 established by Labor Code section 558].

23 d. For violations of Labor Code section 204, one hundred dollars (\$100) for
24 each failure to pay each employee in any initial violation, and for each subsequent violation, or any
25 willful or intentional violation, two hundred dollars (\$200) for each failure to pay each employee,
26 plus 25 percent of the amount unlawfully withheld [penalty amounts established by Labor Code
27 section 210].

28 e. For violations of Labor Code section 223, one hundred dollars (\$100) for

each failure to pay each employee in any initial violation, and for each subsequent violation, or any willful or intentional violation, two hundred dollars (\$200) for each failure to pay each employee, plus 25 percent of the amount unlawfully withheld [penalty amounts established by Labor Code section 225.5].

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

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF, ON BEHALF OF HIMSELF 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 sections 210, 225.5, 226.3, 558, 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.

Dated: December 29, 2025

Respectfully submitted,
LAVI & EBRAHIMIAN, LLP

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