

Justin Lo (SBN: 280102)
justin@caworklawyer.com
WORK LAWYERS PC
22939 Hawthorne Blvd., #300
Torrance, CA 90505
Tel: (310) 248-2944
Fax: (424) 355-8535

Electronically FILED by
Superior Court of California,
County of Los Angeles
1/20/2026 12:00 AM
David W. Slayton,
Executive Officer/Clerk of Court,
By S. Cwikla, Deputy Clerk

Attorneys for Plaintiff JOSEMARIA CABRERA, an individual and on behalf of all others similarly situated

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

JOSEMARIA CABRERA, an individual and
on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

SOUTH BAY AUTO GROUP LLC, a
California Limited Liability Company; and
DOES 1- 50, Inclusive,

Defendants,

Case No. **26STCV01834**

**CLASS ACTION AND PAGA
COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES AND
PENALTIES**

- (1) Failure to Pay Minimum Wages (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194, 1197, 1197.1)**
- (2) Failure to Pay Overtime Wages (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 510, 1198)**
- (3) Failure to Provide Meal Periods (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7, 512)**
- (4) Failure to Provide Rest Periods (Cal. Lab. Code § 226.7)**
- (5) Failure to Pay Wages Upon Discharge of Employment/Waiting Time Penalties (Cal. Lab. Code § 201-203)**
- (6) Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Wage Statements (Cal. Lab. Code § 226(a) et seq.)**
- (7) Failure to Keep Requisite Payroll Records (Cal. Lab. Code § 1174(d))**
- (8) Failure to Reimburse Business Expenses (Cal. Lab. Code § 2802)**
- (9) Failure to Pay Sick Pay (Cal. Lab. Code § 246)**
- (10) Unfair Business Competition (Bus. &**

PARTIES

4. On or about July 2024, Plaintiff began working for Defendants as a non-exempt employee as an auto parts driver. On or about September 26, 2025, Plaintiff's employment ended. Plaintiff was and is the victim of the policies, practices, and customs of Defendants complained of in this action in ways that have deprived Plaintiff of the rights guaranteed by California Labor Code.

5. Defendant SOUTH BAY AUTO GROUP LLC (hereinafter "SOUTH BAY"), at all times mentioned herein, was and is, upon information and belief, a California Limited Liability Corporation, and at all times herein mentioned, an employer whose employees are engaged throughout the State of California, including the County of Los Angeles.

6. At all relevant times mentioned herein, Defendants were the "employer" of Plaintiff within the meaning of all applicable California laws and statutes.

7. At all times relevant times mentioned herein, Defendants SOUTH BAY AUTO GROUP LLC and DOES 1 through 50, and each of them were the agents, partners, joint venturers, joint employers, representatives, servants, employees, successors-in-interest, co-conspirators and/or assigns, each of the other, and at all times relevant hereto were acting within the course and scope of their authority as such agents, partners, joint venturers, joint employers, representatives, servants, employees, successors, co-conspirators and/or assigns, and all acts or omissions alleged herein were duly committed with the ratification, knowledge, permission, encouragement, authorization and/or consent of each defendant designated as a DOE herein.

8. The true names and capacities, whether corporate, associate, individual or otherwise, of defendants DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are unknown to Plaintiff who sues said defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based on that information and belief alleges, that each of the defendants designated as a DOE is legally responsible for the events and happenings referred to in this Complaint, and unlawfully caused the injuries and damages to Plaintiff and the other class members as alleged in this Complaint. Plaintiff will seek leave of court to amend this Complaint to show the true names and capacities when the same have been ascertained.

1 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

2 9. Plaintiff brings this action on his own behalf and on behalf of all other members of
3 the general public similarly situated, and, thus, seeks class certification under California Code of
4 Civil Procedure section 382. Plaintiff reserves the right to establish additional subclasses if
5 appropriate.

6 10. The proposed Class is defined as follows: All current and former non-exempt
7 employees who worked for any of the Defendants within the State of California at any time during
8 the period from four years preceding the filing of this Complaint to final judgment.

9 11. In addition, Plaintiff will seek to certify the following subclasses:

- 10 a. All of Defendants' current and former non-exempt California employees who
11 worked more than 3.5 hours in a shift at any time from four years prior to the
12 filing of this complaint to the present ("REST BREAK SUB-CLASS");
- 13 b. All of Defendants' current and former non-exempt California employees who
14 worked more than 5 hours in a shift at any time from four years prior to the
15 filing of this complaint to the present ("MEAL BREAK SUB-CLASS");
- 16 c. All of Defendants' current and former non-exempt California employees who
17 worked more than 8 hours in a shift at any time from four years prior to the
18 filing of this complaint to the present ("OVERTIME SUB-CLASS");
- 19 d. All of Defendants' current and former non-exempt California employees who
20 were not paid for all business-related expenses at any time from four years prior
21 to the filing of this complaint to the present ("REIMBURSEMENT SUB-
22 CLASS");
- 23 e. All of Defendants' current and former non-exempt California employees who
24 earned any non-discretionary pay, including without limitation, shift
25 differentials and bonuses covering the same time period in which the employee
26 was paid overtime from four years prior to the filing of this complaint through
27 the present ("OVERTIME REGULAR RATE SUB-CLASS");
- 28

- 1 f. All of Defendants' current and former non-exempt California employees who
2 earned any non-discretionary pay, including without limitation, shift
3 differentials and bonuses covering the same time period in which the employee
4 was also paid sick pay wages at any time from four years prior to the filing of
5 this complaint to the present ("SICK PAY REGULAR RATE SUB-CLASS");
- 6 g. All of Defendants' current and former non-exempt California employees who
7 earned any non-discretionary pay, including without limitation, shift
8 differentials and bonuses covering the same time period in which the employee
9 was also paid meal and rest break premium wages at any time from four years
10 prior to the filing of this complaint to the present ("MEAL AND REST BREAK
11 PREMIUM REGULAR RATE SUB-CLASS")

12 12. **Numerosity and Ascertainability:** The members of the Class are so numerous
13 that joinder of all members would be impractical, if not impossible. The identity of the members
14 of the Class is readily ascertainable by review of Defendants records, including payroll records.
15 Plaintiff alleges that Defendants: (a) failed to provide accurate, itemized wage statements in
16 violation of Labor Code § 226; (b) failed to pay overtime for all hours worked in violation of
17 Labor Code §§ 510, 558, 1194, and 1197.1; (c) failed to pay minimum wages for all hours worked
18 in violation of Labor Code §§ 558, 1194, 1197, and 1197.1; (d) failed to provide off-duty meal
19 and rest breaks in violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512; (e) failed to pay all earned wages to
20 employees in violation of Labor Code §§ 510, 558, 1174, 1194, 1198, 1199, and the applicable
21 IWC Wage Orders; (f) failed to reimburse business expenses in violation of Labor Code § 2802;
22 (g) failed to pay sick pay in violation of Labor Code § 246; and (h) engaged in Unfair Business
23 Practices in violation of the UCL, the California Labor Code, including without limitation,
24 California Labor Code §§ 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, and the applicable IWC
25 Wage Orders.

26 13. **Adequacy of Representation:** The named Plaintiff is fully prepared to take all
27 necessary steps to represent fairly and adequately the interests of the class defined above.
28 Plaintiff's attorneys are ready, willing and able to fully and adequately represent the class and the

1 individual Plaintiff. Plaintiff's attorneys have prosecuted and settled wage-and-hour class actions
2 in the past and currently have a number of wage-and-hour class actions pending in California
3 courts.

4 14. Defendants uniformly administered a corporate policy, practice that (a) failed to
5 pay all wages for all hours worked; (b) failed to provide accurate itemized wage statements in
6 violation of Labor Code § 226; (c) failed to pay overtime and sick pay based on the correct regular
7 rate; (d) failed to provide duty-free meal and rest breaks; (e) failed to pay meal and rest break
8 premium wages based on the correct regular rate; (f) failed to pay all wages due upon separation
9 of employment; (g) failed to pay sick pay and (h) engaged in Unfair Business Practices in
10 violation of the UCL, the California Labor Code, including without limitation, California Labor
11 Code §§ 201-204, 233, 226, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 558, 1194, 2802, and the applicable IWC Wage
12 Orders.

13 15. **Common Question of Law and Fact:** There are predominant common questions
14 of law and fact and a community of interest amongst Plaintiff and the claims of the Class
15 concerning Defendants: (a) failing to provide accurate, itemized wage statements in violation of
16 Labor Code § 226; (b) failing to pay overtime for all hours worked in violation of Labor Code §§
17 510, 558, 1194, and 1197.1; (c) failing to pay minimum wages for all hours worked, in violation
18 of Labor Code §§ 558, 1194, 1197, and 1197.1; (d) failing to provide off-duty meal and rest
19 breaks in violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512; (e) failing to pay all earned wages to
20 employees in violation of Labor Code §§ 510, 558, 1174, 1194, 1198, 1199, and the applicable
21 IWC Wage Orders; (f) failing to reimburse business expenses in violation of Labor Code § 2802;
22 (g) failed to pay sick pay in violation of Labor Code § 246; and (h) engaging in Unfair Business
23 Practices in violation of the UCL, the California Labor Code, including without limitation,
24 California Labor Code §§ 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, and the applicable IWC
25 Wage Orders.

26 16. **Typicality:** Plaintiffs claims are typical of all other class members' as
27 demonstrated herein. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the other class
28 members with whom she has a well-defined community of interest.

1 17. The California Labor Code and upon which Plaintiff bases these claims is broadly
2 remedial in nature. These laws and labor standards serve an important public interest in
3 establishing minimum working conditions and standards in California. These laws and labor
4 standards protect the average working employee from exploitation by employers who may seek to
5 take advantage of superior economic and bargaining power in setting onerous terms and conditions
6 of employment.

7 18. The nature of this action and the format of laws available to Plaintiff and members
8 of the Class identified herein make the class action format a particularly efficient and appropriate
9 procedure to redress the wrongs alleged herein. If each employee were required to file an
10 individual lawsuit, the corporate Defendants would necessarily gain an unconscionable advantage
11 since it would be able to exploit and overwhelm the limited resources of each individual Plaintiff
12 with Defendants' vastly superior financial and legal resources. Requiring each Class member to
13 pursue an individual remedy would also discourage the assertion of lawful claims by employees
14 who would be disinclined to file an action against their former and/or current employer for real
15 and justifiable fear of retaliation and permanent damage to their careers at subsequent
16 employment.

17 19. The prosecution of separate actions by the individual class members, even if
18 possible, would create a substantial risk of (a) inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect
19 to individual Class members against the Defendants and which would establish potentially
20 incompatible standards of conduct for the Defendants, and/or (b) adjudications with respect to
21 individual Class members which would, as a practical matter, be dispositive of the interest of the
22 other Class members not parties to the adjudications or which would substantially impair or
23 impede the ability of the Class members to protect their interests. Further, the claims of the
24 individual members of the Class are not sufficiently large to warrant vigorous individual
25 prosecution considering all of the concomitant costs and expenses.

26 20. Such a pattern, practice and uniform administration of corporate policy regarding
27 illegal employee compensation described herein is unlawful and creates an entitlement to
28 recovery by the Plaintiff and the Class identified herein, in a civil action, for unpaid overtime,

unpaid minimum wages, including interest thereon, unpaid meal and rest period premium pay, paid sick pay, applicable penalties, reasonable attorneys' fees, and costs of suit according to the mandate of California Labor Code §§ 201-203, 218.5, 226, 226.7, 510, 512, 1174, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, and 2802, the applicable IWC Wage Orders and Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5.

21. Proof of a common business practice or factual pattern, which the named Plaintiff experienced and is representative of, will establish the right of each of the members of the Class to recovery on the causes of action alleged herein.

22. The Class is commonly entitled to a specific fund with respect to the compensation illegally and unfairly retained by Defendants. The Class is commonly entitled to restitution of those funds being improperly withheld by Defendants. This action is brought for the benefit of the entire class and will result in the creation of a common fund.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

23. At all relevant times set forth herein, Defendants employed Plaintiff and other persons as non-exempt employees within the State of California, County of Los Angeles.

24. Defendants, jointly and severally, employed Plaintiff as a non-exempt employee, from approximately July 24 to approximately September 26, 2025, in the State of California, County of Los Angeles.

25. Defendants hired Plaintiff and the other class members and classified them as non-exempt employees and failed to compensate them for all hours worked and missed, late, and interrupted meal periods and/or rest breaks.

26. Defendants had the authority to hire and terminate Plaintiff and the other class members, to set work rules and conditions governing Plaintiffs and the other class members' employment, and to supervise their daily employment activities.

27. Defendants exercised sufficient authority over the terms and conditions of Plaintiffs and the other class members' employment for them to be joint employers of Plaintiff and the other class members.

28. Defendants directly hired and paid wages and benefits to Plaintiff and the other class members.

1 29. Plaintiff and the other class members worked over eight (8) hours in a day, and/or
2 forty (40) hours in a week during their employment with Defendants.

3 30. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants
4 engaged in a pattern and practice of wage abuse against their non-exempt employees within the
5 State of California. This pattern and practice involved failing to pay them for all regular and/or
6 overtime wages earned and for missed meal periods and rest breaks and sick pay wages at the
7 regular rate of pay and providing them accurate wage statements in violation of California law.

8 31. Plaintiff was required to provide his manager with a security code sent to his
9 personal cellphone each time the manager clocked him in or out for a meal break. Plaintiff was
10 also required to download an app called TraxDrive onto his personal cell phone to enable GPS
11 tracking of his assigned daily routes for delivering auto parts. Plaintiff was issued several black,
12 three-button polo shirts with employer's logo and were required to maintain the employer's
13 uniform at his own time and expense, without receiving any reimbursement.

14 32. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants knew
15 or should have known that Plaintiff and the other class members were entitled to receive all wages
16 owed to them upon discharge or resignation, including overtime and minimum wages and meal
17 and rest period premiums, and they did not, in fact, receive all such wages owed to them at the
18 time of their discharge or resignation.

19 33. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants knew
20 or should have known that Plaintiff and the other class members were entitled to receive all wages
21 owed to them during their employment. Plaintiff and the other class members did not receive
22 payment of all wages, including overtime and minimum wages and meal and rest period
23 premiums, within any time permissible under California Labor Code section 204.

24 34. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants
25 knew or should have known that Plaintiff and the other class members were entitled to receive
26 complete and accurate wage statements in accordance with California law, but, in fact, they did
27 not receive complete and accurate wage statements from Defendants. The deficiencies included,
28

1 inter alia, the failure to include the total number of hours worked by Plaintiff and the other class
2 members.

3 35. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants knew
4 or should have known that Defendants were required to keep complete and accurate payroll
5 records for Plaintiff and the other class members in accordance with California law, but, in fact,
6 did not keep complete and accurate payroll records.

7 36. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants knew
8 or should have known that Plaintiff and the other class members were entitled to reimbursement
9 for necessary business-related expenses. Specifically, Plaintiff was required to download an
10 application called TraxDrive on his personal cellular telephone to access an employer designated
11 driving route, delivery locations and to access his daily assigned routes. Additionally, Plaintiff
12 was also required to send text messages using his personnel telephone, including photographs, to
13 his manager if a delivery issue occurred.

14 37. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to pay overtime wages to
15 Plaintiff and the other class members for all overtime hours worked. Plaintiff and the other class
16 members were required to work more than eight (8) hours per day and/or forty (40) hours per
17 week without overtime compensation for all overtime hours worked.

18 38. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to provide all requisite
19 uninterrupted meal and rest periods to Plaintiff and the other class members.

20 39. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and the other
21 class members at least minimum wages for all hours worked.

22 40. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and the other
23 class members all wages owed to them upon discharge or resignation.

24 41. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and the other
25 class members all wages within any time permissible under California law, including, inter alia,
26 California Labor Code section 204.

27 42. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to provide complete or accurate
28 wage statements to Plaintiff and the other class members.

1 43. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to keep complete or accurate
2 payroll records for Plaintiff and the other class members.

3 44. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to reimburse Plaintiff and the
4 other class members for all necessary business-related expenses and costs.

5 45. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and the other class
6 members sick pay.

7 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

8 **FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES**

9 **(Cal. Labor Code §§ 1194, 1197, 1197.1)**

10 **(Against all Defendants, and DOES 1 through 50)**

11 46. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs as
12 though fully set forth herein.

13 47. At all relevant times, California Labor Code sections 1194, 1197, and 1197.1
14 provide for the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a lesser wage than
15 the minimum wage so fixed is unlawful.

16 48. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to pay minimum wage to
17 Plaintiff and the other class members as required, pursuant to California Labor Code sections
18 1194, 1197, and 1197.1.

19 49. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff and the other class members the minimum
20 wage as required violates California Labor Code sections 1194, 1197, and 1197.1. Pursuant to
21 those sections Plaintiff and the other class members are entitled to recover the unpaid balance of
22 their minimum wage compensation as well as interest, costs, and attorney's fees, and liquidated
23 damages in an amount equal to the wages unlawfully unpaid and interest thereon.

24 50. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 1197.1, Plaintiff and the other class
25 members are entitled to recover a penalty of \$100.00 for the initial failure to timely pay each
26 employee minimum wages, and \$250.00 for each subsequent failure to pay each employee
27 minimum wages.

28 51. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 1194.2, Plaintiff and the other class

1 members are entitled to recover liquidated damages in an amount equal to the wages unlawfully
2 unpaid and interest thereon.

3 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

4 **FAILURE TO PAY OVERTIME WAGES**

5 **(Violation of California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512(a))**

6 **(Against all Defendants and DOES 1 through 50)**

7 52. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs as
8 though fully set forth herein.

9 53. California Labor Code section 1198 and the applicable Industrial Welfare
10 Commission ("IWC") Wage Order provide that it is unlawful to employ persons without
11 compensating them at a rate of pay either time-and-one-half or two-times that person's regular
12 rate of pay, depending on the number of hours worked by the person on a daily or weekly basis.

13 54. Specifically, the applicable IWC Wage Order provides that Defendants are and
14 were required to pay Plaintiff and the other class members employed by Defendants, and working
15 more than eight (8) hours in a day or more than forty (40) hours in a workweek, at the rate of
16 time-and-one-half for all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a day or more than forty
17 (40) hours in a workweek.

18 55. The applicable IWC Wage Order further provides that Defendants are and were
19 required to pay Plaintiff and the other class members overtime compensation at a rate of two
20 times their regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of twelve (12) hours in a day.

21 56. California Labor Code section 510 codifies the right to overtime compensation at
22 one-and-one-half times the regular hourly rate for hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a
23 day or forty (40) hours in a week or for the first eight (8) hours worked on the seventh day of
24 work, and to overtime compensation at twice the regular hourly rate for hours worked in excess
25 of twelve (12) hours in a day or in excess of eight (8) hours in a day on the seventh day of work.

26 57. During the relevant time period, Plaintiff and the other class members worked in
27 excess of eight (8) hours in a day, and/or in excess of forty (40) hours in a week.
28

1 58. During the relevant time period, Defendants intentionally and willfully failed to
2 pay overtime wages owed to Plaintiff and the other class members.

3 59. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff and the other class members the unpaid balance
4 of overtime compensation, as required by California laws, violates the provisions of California
5 Labor Code sections 510 and 1198, and is therefore unlawful.

6 60. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 1194, Plaintiff and the other class
7 members are entitled to recover unpaid overtime compensation, as well as interest, costs, and
8 attorneys' fees.

9 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

10 **FAILURE TO PROVIDE MEAL PERIODS**

11 **(Violation of California Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512)**

12 **(Against All Defendants and DOES 1 through 50)**

13 61. At all relevant times, the IWC Order and California Labor Code sections 226.7
14 and 512(a) were applicable to Plaintiffs and the other class members' employment by Defendants.

15 62. At all relevant times, California Labor Code section 226.7 provides that no
16 employer shall require an employee to work during any meal or rest period mandated by an
17 applicable order of the California IWC. At all relevant times, the applicable IWC Wage Order
18 and California Lab or Code section 512(a) provide that an employer may not require, cause or
19 permit an employee to work for a work period of more than five (5) hours per day without
20 providing the employee with a meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes, except that if the
21 total work period per day of the employee is no more than six (6) hours, the meal period may be
22 waived by mutual consent of both the employer and employee.

23 63. At all relevant times, the applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor Code
24 section 512(a) further provide that an employer may not require, cause or permit an employee to
25 work for a work period of more than ten (10) hours per day without providing the employee with
26 a second uninterrupted meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes, except that if the total
27 hours worked is no more than twelve (12) hours, the second meal period may be waived by mutual
28 consent of the employer and the employee only if the first meal period was not waived.

1 64. During the relevant time period, Plaintiff and the other class members who were
2 scheduled to work for a period of time no longer than six (6) hours, and who did not waive their
3 legally-mandated meal periods by mutual consent, were required to work for periods longer than
4 five (5) hours without an uninterrupted meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes and/ or
5 rest period.

6 65. During the relevant time period, Plaintiff and the other class members who were
7 scheduled to work for a period of time in excess of six (6) hours were required to work for periods
8 longer than five (5) hours without an uninterrupted meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes
9 and/or rest period. During the relevant time period, Defendants intentionally and willfully
10 required Plaintiff and the other class members to work during meal periods and failed to
11 compensate Plaintiff and the other class members the full meal period premium for work
12 performed during meal periods.

13 66. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and the other
14 class members the full meal period premium due pursuant to California Labor Code section 226.7.

15 67. Defendants' conduct violates applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor
16 Code sections 226.7 and 512(a). Pursuant to applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor
17 Code section 226.7(c), Plaintiff and the other class members are entitled to recover from
18 Defendants one additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each
19 work day that the meal or rest period is not provided.

20 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

21 **FAILURE TO PROVIDE REST PERIODS**

22 **(Violation of Cal. Lab. Code § 226.7)**

23 **(Against All Defendants and DOES 1 through 50)**

24 68. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs as
25 though fully set forth herein.

26 69. At all times herein set forth, the applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor
27 Code section 226. 7 were applicable to Plaintiff's and the other class members' employment by
28 Defendants.

1 70. At all relevant times, California Labor Code section 226.7 provides that no
2 employer shall require an employee to work during any rest period mandated by an applicable
3 order of the California IWC.

4 71. At all relevant times, the applicable IWC Wage Order provides that "[e]very
5 employer shall authorize and permit all employees to take rest periods, which insofar as
6 practicable shall be in the middle of each work period" and that the "rest period time shall be
7 based on the total hours worked daily at the rate of ten (10) minutes net rest time per four (4)
8 hours or major fraction thereof unless the total daily work time is less than three and one-half (3
9 ½) hours.

10 72. During the relevant time period, Defendants required Plaintiff and other class
11 members to work four (4) or more hours without authorizing or permitting a ten (10) minute rest
12 period per each four (4) hour period worked.

13 73. During the relevant time period, Defendants willfully required Plaintiff and the
14 other class members to work during rest periods and failed to pay Plaintiff and the other class
15 members the full rest period premium for work performed during rest periods.

16 74. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and the other
17 class members the full rest period premium due pursuant to California Labor Code section 226.7

18 75. Defendants' conduct violates applicable IWC Wage Orders and California Labor
19 Code section 226.7. Pursuant to the applicable IWC Wage Orders and California Labor Code
20 section 226.7(c), Plaintiff and the other class members are entitled to recover from Defendants
21 one additional hour of pay at the employees' regular hourly rate of compensation for each work
22 day that the rest period was not provided.

23 ///

24 ///

25 ///

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

**FAILURE TO PAY WAGES UPON DISCHARGE OF EMPLOYMENT / WAITING
TIME PENALTIES**

(Violation of California Labor Code §§ 201-203)

(Against All Defendants and DOES 1 through 50)

76. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

77. At all relevant times herein set forth, California Labor Code sections 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 if an employee quits 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' 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.

78. During the relevant time period, Defendants intentionally and willfully failed to pay Plaintiff and the other class members who are no longer employed by Defendants their wages, earned and unpaid, within seventy-two (72) hours of their leaving Defendants' employment. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff and the other class members who are no longer employed by Defendants' their wages, earned and unpaid, within seventy-two (72) hours of their leaving Defendants' employ, is in violation of California Labor Code sections 201 and 202. California Labor Code section 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to pay wages owed, in accordance with sections 201 and 202, then the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or until an action is commenced; but the wages shall not continue for more than thirty (30) days.

79. Plaintiff and the other class members are entitled to recover from Defendants the statutory penalty wages for each day they were not paid, up to a thirty (30) day maximum pursuant to California Labor Code section 203.

///

///

(Against All Defendants, and DOES 1 through 50)

84. More specifically, Plaintiff and the other class members have been injured by Defendants' intentional and willful violation of California Labor Code section 226(a) because

1 they were denied both their legal right to receive, and their protected interest in receiving, accurate
2 and itemized wage statements pursuant to California Labor Code section 226(a).

3 85. Plaintiff and the other class members are entitled to recover from Defendants the
4 greater of their actual damages caused by Defendants' failure to comply with California Labor
5 Code section 226(a), or an aggregate penalty not exceeding four thousand dollars per employee.

6 86. Plaintiff and the other class members are also entitled to injunctive relief to ensure
7 compliance with this section, pursuant to California Labor Code section 226(h).

8 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

9 **FAILURE TO KEEP REQUISITE PAYROLL RECORDS**

10 **(Violation of California Labor Code § 1174(d))**

11 **(Against all Defendants and DOES 1 through 50)**

12 87. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs as though
13 fully set forth herein.

14 88. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 1174(d), an employer shall keep, at a central
15 location in the state or at the plants or establishments at which employees are employed, payroll
16 records showing the hours worked daily by and the wages paid to, and the number of piece-rate
17 units earned by and any applicable piece rate paid to, employees employed at the respective plants
18 or establishments. These records shall be kept in accordance with rules established for this purpose
19 by the commission, but in any case shall be kept on file for not less than two years.

20 89. Defendants have intentionally and willfully failed to keep accurate and complete
21 payroll records showing the hours worked daily and the wages paid, to Plaintiff and the other class
22 members.

23 90. As a result of Defendants' violation of California Labor Code section 1174(d), Plaintiff
24 and the other class members have suffered injury and damage to their statutorily protected rights.

25 91. More specifically, Plaintiff and the other class members have been injured by
26 Defendants' intentional and willful violation of California Labor Code section 1174(d) because
27 they were denied both their legal right and protected interest, in having available, accurate and
28 complete payroll records pursuant to California Labor Code section 1174(d).

1 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **FAILURE TO REIMBURSE BUSINESS EXPENSES**

3 **(Violation of California Labor Code §§ 2800 and 2802)**

4 **(Against All Defendants and DOES 1 through 50)**

5 92. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs as
6 though fully set forth herein.

7 93. Pursuant to California Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802, an employer must
8 reimburse its employee for all necessary expenditures incurred by the employee in direct
9 consequence of the discharge of his or her job duties or in direct consequence of his or her
10 obedience to the directions of the employer.

11 94. Plaintiff and the other class members incurred necessary business-related
12 expenses and costs that were not fully reimbursed by Defendants.

13 95. Defendants have intentionally and willfully failed to reimburse Plaintiff and the
14 other class members for all necessary business-related expenses and costs.

15 96. Plaintiff and the other class members are entitled to recover from Defendants their
16 business-related expenses and costs incurred during the course and scope of their employment,
17 plus interest accrued from the date on which the employee incurred the necessary expenditures at
18 the same rate as judgments in civil actions in the State of California.

19 **NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

20 **FAILURE TO PAY SICK PAY**

21 **(Violation of Labor Code §§ 201-203, 233 & 246)**

22 **(Against All Defendants and DOES 1 through 50)**

23 97. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs as though
24 fully set forth herein.

25 98. Labor Code § 233 provides that an employer must permit an employee to use accrued
26 sick leave in accordance with Labor Code § 246.5 at the employee's then current rate of
27 entitlement. Labor Code § 246 provides that an employee is entitled to sick pay wages for use of
28 accrued sick leave. An employer must calculate paid sick leave by using one of two calculations:

1 (i) “Paid sick time for nonexempt employees shall be calculated in the same manner as the regular
2 rate of pay for the workweek in which the employee uses paid sick time, whether or not the
3 employee actually works overtime in that workweek,” or (ii) “Paid sick time for nonexempt
4 employees shall be calculated by dividing the employee’s total wages, not including overtime
5 premium pay, by the employee’s total hours worked in the full pay periods of the prior 90 days
6 of employment.”

7 99. Moreover, Labor Code § 204 generally provides that wages are due and payable twice
8 during each calendar month, on days designated in advance by the employer as the regular
9 paydays. Consistent with Labor Code § 204, Labor Code § 246 also provides that an employer
10 shall provide payment for sick leave taken by an employee no later than the payday for the next
11 regular payroll period after the sick leave was taken. Labor Code § 201 provides if an employer
12 discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable
13 immediately. Labor Code § 202 provides that an employee is entitled to receive all unpaid wages
14 no later than 72 hours after an employee quits his or her employment, unless the employee has
15 given seventy-two (72) hours previous notice of his or her intention to quit, in which case the
16 employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting. Labor Code § 203 provides that if
17 an employer willfully fails to pay wages owed in accordance with Labor Code §§ 201 and 202,
18 then the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date, and at the same rate
19 until paid, but the wages shall not continue for more than thirty (30) days.

20 100. Based on Defendants’ failure to pay all sick pay to Plaintiff and Class Members,
21 and as a matter of policy and practice, Defendants failed to timely pay Plaintiff and Class
22 Members all due wages or timely pay all due wages upon separation of employment. On
23 information and belief, Defendants were advised by skilled lawyers and knew, or should have
24 known, of the mandates of the Labor Code as it relates to Plaintiff’s allegations. Defendants thus
25 violated Sections 201-204 by not timely paying all due wages and not timely paying all due wages
26 upon the separation of employment.

27 101. As a pattern and practice, Defendants regularly and willfully failed to pay Plaintiff
28 and other members of the Class their correct wages and accordingly owe damages, restitution,

1 and applicable penalties, including waiting time penalties

2 102. As a policy and practice, Defendants unlawfully failed to pay sick pay at the
3 regular rate of pay. Plaintiff and Class Members routinely earned non-discretionary remuneration,
4 which increased their regular rate of pay. However, when sick pay was paid, it was paid at the
5 base rate of pay for Plaintiff and Class Members, as opposed to the correct, higher regular rate of
6 pay.

7
8 **TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

9 **UNFAIR BUSINESS COMPETITION**

10 **(Violation of Business & Professions Code § 17200, et seq.)**

11 **(Against All Defendants and DOES 1 through 50)**

12 103. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs as
13 though fully set for herein.

14 104. Defendants, and each of them, have engaged and continue to engage in unfair and
15 unlawful business practices in California by practicing, employing and utilizing the employment
16 practices outlined above, include, to wit, by: (a) failing to pay overtime for all hours worked, in
17 violation of Labor Code §§ 510, 558, 1194, and 1197.1; (b) failing to pay minimum wages for all
18 hours worked in violation of Labor Code §§ 558, 1194, 1197, and 1197.1; (c) failing to provide
19 off-duty meal and rest breaks in violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512; (d) failing to reimburse
20 business expenses in violation of Labor Code § 2802; and (e) engaging in Unfair Business
21 Practices in violation of the UCL, all in violation of the California Labor Code and applicable
22 IWC Wage Orders.

23 105. Defendants' utilization of such unfair and unlawful business practices constitutes
24 unfair, unlawful competition and provides an unfair advantage over Defendants' competitors.

25 106. Plaintiff seeks, individually and on behalf of other members of the Class similarly
26 situated, full restitution of monies, as necessary and according to proof, to restore any and all
27 monies withheld, acquired and/or converted by the Defendants by means of the unfair practices
28 complained of herein.

1 107. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that at all times
2 herein mentioned Defendants have engaged in unlawful, deceptive and unfair business practices,
3 as proscribed by California Business and Professions Code § 17200, et seq., including those set
4 forth herein above thereby depriving Plaintiff and other members of the Class the minimum
5 working condition standards and conditions due to them under the California laws and the
6 applicable IWC Wage Orders as specifically described therein.

7
8 **ELEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

9 **PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT**

10 **(Violation of Cal. Lab. Code § 2699, et seq.)**

11 **(Against All Defendants and DOES 1 through 50)**

12 108. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs as
13 though fully set forth herein.

14 109. Plaintiff brings this cause of action as proxies for the State of California and in this
15 capacity, seek penalties on behalf of all Aggrieved Employees for Defendant's violations of Labor
16 Code §§201-204, 226, 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 1174, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, for (a) failing to
17 pay minimum, regular and/or overtime for all hours worked, including without limitation, time
18 that class members spent to check whether their scheduled shifts were modified or cancelled in
19 violation of Labor Code §§ 510, 558, 1194, and 1197.1; (b) failing to pay minimum, regular
20 and/or overtime wages for all hours worked, including without limitation, time that class members
21 spent maintaining and cleaning uniforms in violation of Labor Code §§ 558, 1194, 1197, and
22 1197.1; (c) failing to provide off-duty meal and rest breaks in violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7
23 and 512; (d) failing to pay proper reporting time wages in violation of Labor Code §§ 201-204,
24 510, 558, 1174, 1194, 1198, and 1199 and the applicable Wage Order; (e) failing to reimburse
25 business expenses in violation of Labor Code § 2802.

26 110. On or about October 8, 2025, Plaintiff sent written notice to the California Labor
27 & Workforce Development Agency (the "LWDA") and Defendants via certified mail of
28 Defendants' violations of Labor Code §§201-204, 226, 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 1174, 1194, 1197,

1 1197.1, 1198 and 2802 pursuant to the PAGA.

2 111. As of the date of this filing, the LWDA has not provided written notice regarding
3 whether it intends to investigate the Labor Code violations set forth in Plaintiff's written notices.
4 Therefore, Plaintiff may seek any and all applicable penalties under PAGA.

5 112. As such, pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(a), Plaintiff seeks recovery of any and all
6 applicable civil penalties for Defendants' violation of Labor Code §§201-204, 226, 226.7, 510,
7 512, 558, 1174, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198 and 2802 for the time periods described above, as
8 proxies for the State of California and on behalf of other Aggrieved Employees.

9 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

10 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment as an individual and on behalf of all others
11 that this suit is brought against Defendants, jointly and severally, as follows:

- 12 1. For an order certifying the proposed Class;
- 13 2. For an order appointing Plaintiff as the representatives of the Class as described
14 herein;
- 15 3. For an order appointing counsel for Plaintiff as Class counsel;
- 16 4. Upon the First Cause of Action, for all unpaid minimum and regular wages and
17 penalties pursuant to statute as set forth in California Labor Code §§ 218.5, 1194, 1197, 1197.1
18 and 1194.2, and for attorney's fees and costs;
- 19 5. For compensatory damages in the amount of unpaid minimum, regular, and
20 overtime wages for work performed by Class members from at least four (4) years prior to the
21 filing of this action, and for attorney's fees and costs; according to proof;
- 22 6. For liquidated damages in an amount equal to the unpaid minimum wage and
23 interest thereon, from at least four (4) years prior to the filing of this action, and for attorney's
24 fees and costs, according to proof;
- 25 7. Upon the Second Cause of Action, for all unpaid overtime wages and penalties
26 pursuant to statute as set forth in California Labor Code § 510 and 1198, and for attorney's fees
27 and costs;

28 ///

1 8. Upon the Third Cause of Action, for damages and/or penalties including meal
2 period premiums pursuant to California Labor Code § 226.7 and 512, and for attorney's fees and
3 costs, according to proof;

4 9. Upon the Fourth Cause of Action, for damages and/or penalties including rest
5 period premiums pursuant to California Labor Code § 226.7 and the applicable IWOs, and for
6 attorney's fees and costs, according to proof;

7 10. Upon the Fifth Cause of Action for damages and/or penalties, waiting time
8 penalties pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 201, 202 and 203, according to proof;

9 11. Upon the Sixth Cause of Action, for all penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 226(a),
10 and for attorney's fees and costs;

11 12. Upon the Seventh Cause of Action, for penalties pursuant to California Labor
12 Code § 1174.5, and for attorney's fees and costs, according to proof;

13 13. Upon the Eighth Cause of Action, for damages and/or penalties, and for attorney's
14 fees and costs, according to proof;

15 14. Upon the Ninth Cause of Action, for all penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 246,
16 and for attorney's fees and costs, according to proof;

17 15. Upon the Tenth Cause of Action, for restitution to Plaintiff and other similarly
18 affected members of the general public of all funds unlawfully acquired by Defendants by any
19 acts or practices declared by this Court to be in violation of Business and Professions Code §
20 17200, *et seq.*, for the time periods described above and for attorney's fees and costs, according
21 to proof;

22 16. Upon the Eleventh Cause of Action, for civil penalties, costs and attorneys' fees
23 pursuant to Labor Code §§ 226.3 and the California Private Attorney's General Act, Labor Code
24 2699, *et seq.*;

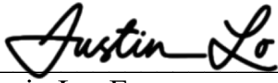
25 17. For restitution and/or damages for all amounts unlawfully withheld from the wages
26 from all class members in violation of California Labor Code § 204, according to proof;

27 18. On all causes of action, for attorneys' fees and costs as provided by California
28 Labor Code §§ 218.5, 226, 510, 558, 1194, 1197.1, and Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5;

- 1 19. For other wages and penalties under California Labor Code, according to proof;
2 20. For all general, special, consequential, and incidental damages, according to proof;
3 21. For prejudgment interests;
4 22. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

5
6 Dated: January 19, 2026

WORK LAWYERS PC

7
8 By: 
9 Justin Lo, Esq.
10 Attorney for Plaintiff, class members and
11 aggrieved employees
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28