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situated*

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

LUIS FERNANDO RODRIGUEZ MEJIA,
individually, and on behalf of all others
similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

ACE COMMERCIAL PLASTERING, INC., a
California corporation; and DOES 1 through
10, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. CV-25-010147

*Assigned for all purposes to:
Hon. John D. Freeland, Dept. 23*

**CLASS ACTION & PAGA
REPRESENTATIVE ACTION**

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff Luis Fernando Rodriguez Mejia (“Plaintiff”), on information and belief, alleges:

I. INTRODUCTION & PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. Plaintiff brings this action against Defendants Ace Commercial Plastering, Inc. and DOES 1 through 10 (collectively, “Defendants”) for California Labor Code violations and unfair business practices stemming from Defendants’ failure to pay for all hours worked (minimum, straight time, and overtime wages), failure to provide meal periods, failure to authorize and permit rest periods, failure to timely pay final wages, failure to furnish accurate wage statements, failure to indemnify employees for expenditures, and failure to produce requested employment records.

2. Plaintiff brings the First through Eighth Causes of Action individually and as a class action on behalf of Plaintiff and certain current and former employees of Defendants (collectively, the “Class” or “Class Members,” and defined more fully below). The Class consists of Plaintiff and all other persons who have been employed by any Defendant in California as hourly-paid or non-exempt employees during the applicable statute of limitations period.

3. Plaintiff brings the Ninth Cause of Action individually and on behalf of all persons who worked for Defendants in California as hourly paid or non-exempt employees during the statute of limitations period applicable to the claim pleaded herein (the “Aggrieved Employees”).

4. Defendants own and operate an industry, business, and establishment within the State of California, including Stanislaus County. As such and based upon all the facts and circumstances incident to Defendants’ business in California, Defendants are subject to the California Labor Code, Wage Orders issued by the Industrial Welfare Commission (IWC), and the California Business and Professions Code.

5. Despite these requirements, throughout the statutory period, Defendants have, at times:

(a) Failed to pay employees for all hours worked, including all minimum, straight time, and overtime wages in compliance with the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders;

(b) Failed to provide employees with timely and duty-free meal periods in compliance with the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders, failed to maintain accurate

1 records of all meal periods taken or missed, and failed to pay an additional hour's pay for each
2 workday a meal period violation occurred;

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

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

9 (e) Failed to provide employees with accurate, itemized wage statements
10 containing all the information required by the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders;

11 (f) Failed to indemnify employees for expenditures incurred in direct discharge
12 of duties of employment; and

13 (g) Failed to timely produce requested employment records to employees as
14 required by the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders.

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

19 7. At all relevant times, Defendants were and are legally responsible for all the
20 unlawful conduct, policies, acts and omissions as described in each and all the foregoing
21 paragraphs as the employers of Plaintiff, the Class, and Aggrieved Employees. Further, Defendants
22 are responsible for each of the unlawful acts or omissions complained of herein under the doctrine
23 of respondeat superior.

24 **II. THE PARTIES**

25 **A. Plaintiff**

26 8. Plaintiff is a resident of Stockton, California who worked for Defendants in
27 Stanislaus County, California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from approximately 2023
28 to approximately July 23, 2025.

9. Plaintiff reserves the right to seek leave to amend this complaint to add new plaintiffs, if necessary, to establish suitable representative(s) pursuant to *La Sala v. American Savings and Loan Association* (1971) 5 Cal.3d 864, 872, and other applicable law.

B. Defendants

10. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based upon that information and belief alleges, that Defendant is, and at all times herein mentioned, was:

(a) A business entity conducting business in numerous counties throughout the State of California, including Stanislaus County; and,

(b) The former employer of Plaintiff, and the current and/or former employer of the putative Class and Aggrieved Employees because Defendant suffered and permitted Plaintiff, the Class, and Aggrieved Employees to work; and/or exercised control over their wages, hours, or working conditions; and/or engaged Plaintiff, the Class, and Aggrieved Employees, thereby creating a common law employment relationship.

11. Plaintiff does not know the true names or capacities of the persons or entities sued herein as DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, and therefore sues said Defendants by such fictitious names. Each of the Doe Defendants was in some manner legally responsible for the damages suffered by Plaintiff, the Class, and Aggrieved Employees as alleged herein. Plaintiff will amend this complaint to set forth the true names and capacities of these Defendants when they have been ascertained, together with appropriate charging allegations, as may be necessary.

12. At all times mentioned herein, the Defendants named as DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, and each of them, were residents of, doing business in, availed themselves of the jurisdiction of, and/or injured a significant number of the Plaintiff, the Class, and Aggrieved Employees in the State of California.

13. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that at all relevant times each Defendant, directly or indirectly, or through agents or other persons, employed Plaintiff and the other employees described in the class definitions below, and exercised control over their wages, hours, and working conditions. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that, at all relevant times, each Defendant was the principal, agent, partner, joint venturer, joint employer,

officer, director, controlling shareholder, subsidiary, affiliate, parent corporation, successor in interest and/or predecessor in interest of some or all of the other Defendants, and was engaged with some or all of the other Defendants in a joint enterprise for profit, and bore such other relationships to some or all of the other Defendants so as to be liable for their conduct with respect to the matters alleged below. Plaintiff is informed and believe and thereon allege that each Defendant acted pursuant to and within the scope of the relationships alleged above, that each Defendant knew or should have known about, and authorized, ratified, adopted, approved, controlled, aided, and abetted the conduct of all other Defendants.

III. JURISDICTION & VENUE

14. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 410.10.

15. The Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because the claims of Plaintiff, the Class, and Aggrieved Employees arise out of Defendants' business activities conducted in the State of California.

16. At all times mentioned herein, Defendants, inclusive, and each of them, were residents of, doing business in, availed themselves of the jurisdiction of, and/or injured Plaintiff, the Class, and Aggrieved Employees in the State of California.

17. Venue is appropriate in Stanislaus County, California because many of the acts and omissions that give rise to the claims for relief alleged in this action took place in Stanislaus County.

IV. ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CAUSES OF ACTION

18. Plaintiff worked for Defendants in Stanislaus County, California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from approximately 2023 to approximately July 23, 2025. During Plaintiff's employment for Defendants, Defendants paid Plaintiff an hourly wage and classified Plaintiff as non-exempt from overtime. Defendants repeatedly and frequently scheduled Plaintiff to work at least five days in a workweek and at least eight hours per day, but Plaintiff also worked more than eight hours in a workday and more than 40 hours in a workweek.

1 19. Throughout Plaintiff's employment, Defendants, at times, failed to pay Plaintiff for
2 all hours worked (including minimum, straight time, and overtime wages), failed to provide
3 Plaintiff with legally compliant meal periods, failed to authorize and permit Plaintiff to take rest
4 periods, failed to timely pay all final wages to Plaintiff when Defendants terminated Plaintiff's
5 employment, failed to furnish accurate wage statements to Plaintiff, failed to indemnify Plaintiff
6 for expenditures, and failed to produce requested employment records.

7 20. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants, at times, failed to pay Plaintiff, the
8 Class, and Aggrieved Employees for all hours worked, including minimum, straight time, and
9 overtime wages. Defendants would, at times, manufacture time keeping records to falsely show
10 that Plaintiff, the Class, and Aggrieved Employees took meal periods when in fact they worked
11 "off-the-clock," uncompensated. The effect is that Plaintiff, the Class, and Aggrieved Employees
12 worked through meal periods "off-the-clock," and continued to work after they had clocked out
13 for the workday. Defendants paid Plaintiff, the Class, and Aggrieved Employees less than all their
14 work time. Some of this unpaid work should have been paid at the overtime rate. In failing to pay
15 for all hours worked, Defendants also failed to maintain accurate records of the hours Plaintiff, the
16 Class, and Aggrieved Employees worked.

17 21. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants wrongfully failed to provide Plaintiff,
18 the Class, and Aggrieved Employees with legally compliant meal periods. Defendants required
19 Plaintiff, the Class, and Aggrieved Employees to work in excess of five consecutive hours a day
20 without providing a 30-minute, uninterrupted, and duty-free meal period for every five hours of
21 work, or without compensating Plaintiff, the Class, and Aggrieved Employees for all missed meal
22 periods that were not provided by the end of the fifth hour of work or tenth hour of work. Instead,
23 Defendants continued to assert control over Plaintiff, the Class, and Aggrieved Employees by
24 requiring, pressuring, or encouraging them to perform work tasks which could not be completed
25 without working in lieu of taking mandatory meal periods, or by denying Plaintiff, the Class, and
26 Aggrieved Employees permission to take a meal period. Defendants also failed, at times, to permit
27 Plaintiff, the Class, and Aggrieved Employees to take a second meal period when they worked at
28 least 10 hours of work in a workday. As described above, Defendants would manufacture time

1 keeping records to falsely show that Plaintiff, the Class, and Aggrieved Employees took meal
2 periods by the fifth hour of work or took meal periods when in fact they worked “off-the-clock”,
3 uncompensated. Accordingly, Defendants failed to provide meal periods to Plaintiff, the Class, and
4 Aggrieved Employees in compliance with California law.

5 22. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants have, at times, wrongfully failed to
6 authorize and permit Plaintiff, the Class, and Aggrieved Employees to take legally compliant rest
7 periods. Defendants required Plaintiff, the Class, and Aggrieved Employees to work in excess of
8 four consecutive hours a day without Defendants authorizing and permitting them to take a 10-
9 minute, uninterrupted, duty-free rest period for every four hours of work (or major fraction of four
10 hours), or without compensating Plaintiff, the Class, and Aggrieved Employees for rest periods
11 that were not authorized or permitted. Instead, Defendants continued to assert control over
12 Plaintiff, the Class, and Aggrieved Employees by requiring, pressuring, or encouraging them to
13 perform work tasks which could not be completed without working in lieu of taking mandatory
14 rest periods, or by denying Plaintiff, the Class, and Aggrieved Employees permission to take a rest
15 period. Accordingly, Defendants failed to authorize and permit Plaintiff, the Class, and Aggrieved
16 Employees to take rest periods in compliance with California law.

17 23. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants, at times, willfully failed and refused
18 to timely pay Plaintiff, the Class, and Aggrieved Employees all final wages due at their termination
19 of employment. In addition, Plaintiff’s final paycheck did not include payment for all expenditures,
20 minimum wage, straight time wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages, and rest period
21 premium wages owed to Plaintiff by Defendants at the conclusion of Plaintiff’s employment. On
22 information and belief, Defendants’ failure to timely pay Plaintiff’s final wages when Plaintiff’s
23 employment terminated was not a single, isolated incident, but was instead consistent with
24 Defendants’ practices that applied, at times, to Plaintiff, the Class, and Aggrieved Employees.

25 24. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants failed, at times, to furnish Plaintiff, the
26 Class, and Aggrieved Employees with accurate, itemized wage statements showing all applicable
27 hourly rates, and all gross and net wages earned (including correct hours worked, correct wages
28 for meal periods that were not provided in accordance with California law, and correct wages for

1 rest periods that were not authorized and permitted to take in accordance with California law). As
2 a result of these violations of California Labor Code section 226, subdivision (a), the Plaintiff, the
3 Class, and Aggrieved Employees suffered injury because, among other things:

4 (a) the violations led them to believe that they were not entitled to be paid
5 minimum wage, straight time wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages, and rest period
6 premium wages, even though they were entitled;

7 (b) the violations led them to believe that they had been paid the minimum wage,
8 straight time wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages, and rest period premium wages,
9 even though they had not been;

10 (c) the violations led them to believe they were not entitled to be paid minimum
11 wage, straight time wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages, and rest period premium
12 wages at the correct California rate even though they were entitled;

13 (d) the violations led them to believe they had been paid minimum wage,
14 straight time wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages, and rest period premium wages
15 at the correct California rate even though they had not been;

16 (e) the violations hindered them from determining the amounts of minimum
17 wage, straight time wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages, and rest period premium
18 wages owed to them;

19 (f) in connection with their employment before and during this action, and in
20 connection with prosecuting this action, the violations caused them to have to perform
21 mathematical computations to determine the amounts of wages owed to them, computations they
22 would not have to make if the wage statements contained the required accurate information;

23 (g) by understating the wages truly due to them, the violations caused them to
24 lose entitlement and/or accrual of the full amount of Social Security, disability, unemployment,
25 and other governmental benefits;

26 (h) the wage statements inaccurately understated the wages, hours, and wage
27 rates to which Plaintiff, the Class, and Aggrieved Employees were entitled, and Plaintiff, the Class,
28

1 and Aggrieved Employees were paid less than the wages and wage rates to which they were
2 entitled.

3 Thus, Plaintiff, the Class, and Aggrieved Employees are owed the amounts provided for in
4 California Labor Code section 226, subdivision (e).

5 25. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants have wrongfully required Plaintiff, the
6 Class, and Aggrieved Employees to pay expenses that they incurred in direct discharge of their
7 duties for Defendants. Plaintiff and the Class paid out-of-pocket for necessary employment-related
8 expenses.

9 26. Plaintiff, the Class, and Aggrieved Employees incurred substantial expenses as a
10 direct result of performing their job duties for Defendants, but Defendants failed to indemnify
11 Plaintiff, the Class, and Aggrieved Employees for these employment-related expenses.

12 **V. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

13 27. Plaintiff brings certain claims individually, as well as on behalf of each and all other
14 persons similarly situated, and thus, seek class certification under California Code of Civil
15 Procedure section 382.

16 28. All claims alleged herein arise under California law for which Plaintiff seeks relief
17 authorized by California law.

18 29. The proposed Class consists of and is defined as:

19 All persons who worked for any Defendant in California as an
20 hourly-paid or non-exempt employee at any time during the
21 period beginning four years before the filing of the initial
22 complaint in this action and ending when notice to the Class is
23 sent.

23 30. At all material times, Plaintiff was a member of the Class.

24 31. Plaintiff undertakes this concerted activity to improve the wages and working
25 conditions of all Class Members.

26 32. There is a well-defined community of interest in the litigation and the Class is
27 readily ascertainable:
28

1 (a) Numerosity: The members of the Class (and each subclass, if any) are so
2 numerous that joinder of all members would be unfeasible and impractical. The membership of the
3 entire Class is unknown to Plaintiff at this time; however, the Class is estimated to be greater than
4 40 individuals and the identity of such membership is readily ascertainable by inspection of
5 Defendants' records.

6 (b) Typicality: Plaintiff is qualified to, and will, fairly and adequately protect
7 the interests of each Class Member with whom there is a shared, well-defined community of
8 interest, and Plaintiff's claims (or defenses, if any) are typical of all Class Members' claims as
9 demonstrated herein.

10 (c) Adequacy: Plaintiff is qualified to, and will, fairly and adequately protect
11 the interests of each Class Member with whom there is a shared, well-defined community of
12 interest and typicality of claims, as demonstrated herein. Plaintiff has no conflicts with or interests
13 antagonistic to any Class Member. Plaintiff's attorneys, the proposed class counsel, are versed in
14 the rules governing class action discovery, certification, and settlement. Plaintiff has incurred, and
15 throughout the duration of this action, will continue to incur costs and attorneys' fees that have
16 been, are, and will be necessarily expended for the prosecution of this action for the substantial
17 benefit of each class member.

18 (d) Superiority: A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair
19 and efficient adjudication of the controversy, including consideration of:

- 20 (1) The interests of the members of the Class in individually controlling
21 the prosecution or defense of separate actions;
22 (2) The extent and nature of any litigation concerning the controversy
23 already commenced by or against members of the Class;
24 (3) The desirability or undesirability of concentrating the litigation of the
25 claims in the particular forum; and,
26 (4) The difficulties likely to be encountered in the management of a class
27 action.
28

1 (e) Public Policy Considerations: The public policy of the State of California is
2 to resolve the California Labor Code claims of many employees through a class action. Indeed,
3 current employees are often afraid to assert their rights out of fear of direct or indirect retaliation.
4 Former employees are also fearful of bringing actions because they believe their former employers
5 might damage their future endeavors through negative references and/or other means. Class actions
6 provide the class members who are not named in the complaint with a type of anonymity that
7 allows for the vindication of their rights at the same time as their privacy is protected.

8 33. There are common questions of law and fact as to the Class (and each subclass, if
9 any) that predominate over questions affecting only individual members, including without
10 limitation, whether, as alleged herein, Defendants have:

11 (a) Failed to pay Class Members for all hours worked, including minimum,
12 straight time, and overtime wages;

13 (b) Failed to provide meal periods and pay meal period premium wages to Class
14 Members;

15 (c) Failed to authorize and permit rest periods and pay rest period premium
16 wages to Class Members;

17 (d) Failed to provide Class Members with timely final wages;

18 (e) Failed to provide Class Members with accurate wage statements;

19 (f) Failed to indemnify Class Members for expenditures;

20 (g) Failed to produce requested employment records; and

21 (h) Violated California Business and Professions Code section 17200, *et seq.*
22 because of their illegal conduct as described above.

23 34. This Court should permit this action to be maintained as a class action pursuant to
24 California Code of Civil Procedure section 382 because:

25 (a) The questions of law and fact common to the Class predominate over any
26 question affecting only individual Class Members;

27 (b) A class action is superior to any other available method for the fair and
28 efficient adjudication of the claims of the Class Members;

1 (c) The members of the Class are so numerous that it is impractical to bring all
2 members of the class before the Court;

3 (d) Plaintiff, and the other members of the Class, will not be able to obtain
4 effective and economic legal redress unless the action is maintained as a class action;

5 (e) There is a community of interest in obtaining appropriate legal and equitable
6 relief for the statutory violations, and in obtaining adequate compensation for the damages and
7 injuries for which Defendants are responsible in an amount sufficient to adequately compensate
8 the members of the Class for the injuries sustained;

9 (f) Without class certification, the prosecution of separate actions by individual
10 members of the Class would create a risk of:

11 (1) Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual
12 members of the Class which would establish incompatible standards
13 of conduct for Defendants; and/or,

14 (2) Adjudications with respect to the individual members which would,
15 as a practical matter, be dispositive of the interests of other members
16 not parties to the adjudications, or would substantially impair or
17 impede their ability to protect their interests, including but not
18 limited to the potential for exhausting the funds available from those
19 parties who are, or may be, responsible Defendants; and,

20 (g) Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to
21 the Class, thereby making final injunctive relief appropriate with respect to the class as a whole.

22 35. Plaintiff contemplates the eventual issuance of notice to the proposed members of
23 the Class that would set forth the subject and nature of the instant action. Defendants' own business
24 records may be utilized for assistance in the preparation and issuance of the contemplated notices.
25 To the extent that any further notices may be required, Plaintiff contemplates the use of additional
26 techniques and forms commonly used in class actions, such as published notice, email notice,
27 website notice, first-class mail, or combinations thereof, or by other methods suitable to the Class
28 and deemed necessary and/or appropriate by the Court.

1 **VI. CAUSES OF ACTION¹**

2 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

3 **(Failure to Pay Minimum and Straight Time Wages for All Hours Worked)**

4 36. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein paragraphs
5 1 through 35 in this Complaint.

6 37. “Hours worked” is the time during which an employee is subject to the control of
7 an employer and includes all the time the employee is suffered or permitted to work, whether or
8 not required to do so.

9 38. At all relevant times herein mentioned, Defendants, at times, knowingly failed to
10 pay Plaintiff and the Class compensation for all hours they worked. By their failure to pay
11 compensation for each hour worked as alleged above, Defendants willfully violated the provisions
12 of California Labor Code section 1194, and any additional applicable Wage Orders, which require
13 such compensation to non-exempt employees.

14 39. Accordingly, Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to recover minimum and straight
15 time wages for all non-overtime hours worked for Defendants.

16 40. By and through the conduct described above, Plaintiff and the Class have been
17 deprived of their rights to be paid wages earned by virtue of their employment with Defendants.

18 41. By virtue of the Defendants’ unlawful failure to pay additional compensation to
19 Plaintiff and the Class for their non-overtime hours worked without pay, Plaintiff and the Class
20 suffered, and will continue to suffer, damages in amounts which are presently unknown to Plaintiff
21 and the Class, and which will be ascertained according to proof at trial.

22 42. By failing to keep adequate time records required by California Labor Code section
23 1174, subdivision (d), Defendants have made it difficult to calculate the full extent of minimum
24 wage compensation due Plaintiff and the Class.

25
26
27
28 ¹ Unless otherwise stated, Plaintiff asserts all causes of action against all Defendants.

44. California Labor Code section 204 requires employers to provide employees with all wages due and payable twice a month. Throughout the statute of limitations period applicable to this cause of action, Plaintiff and the Class were entitled to be paid twice a month at rates required by law, including minimum and straight time wages. However, Defendants failed and refused to pay Plaintiff and the Class all such wages due and failed to pay those wages twice a month.

45. Plaintiff and the Class are also entitled to seek recovery of all unpaid minimum and straight time wages, interest, and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to California Labor Code sections 218.5, 218.6, and 1194, subdivision (a).

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(Failure to Pay Overtime Wages)

46. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein paragraphs 1 through 45 in this Complaint.

47. California Labor Code section 510 provides that employees in California shall not be employed more than eight hours in any workday or 40 hours in a workweek unless they receive additional compensation beyond their regular wages in amounts specified by law.

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

49. At all times relevant hereto, Plaintiff and the Class have, at times, worked more than eight hours in a workday and/or more than 40 hours in a workweek, as employees of Defendants.

1 50. At all times relevant hereto, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and the Class
2 overtime compensation for the hours they have worked in excess of the maximum hours
3 permissible by law as required by California Labor Code sections 510 and 1198.

4 51. By virtue of Defendants' unlawful failure to pay additional premium rate
5 compensation to Plaintiff and the Class for their overtime hours worked, Plaintiff and the Class
6 have suffered, and will continue to suffer, damages in amounts which are presently unknown to
7 them, but which exceed the jurisdictional minimum of this Court and which will be ascertained
8 according to proof at trial.

9 52. By failing to keep adequate time records required by Labor Code section 1174
10 subdivision (d), Defendants have made it difficult to calculate the full extent of overtime
11 compensation due to Plaintiff and the Class.

12 53. Plaintiff and the Class also request recovery of overtime compensation according to
13 proof, interest, attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to California Labor Code section 1194,
14 subdivision (a), as well as the assessment of any statutory penalties against Defendants, in a sum
15 as provided by the California Labor Code and/or other statutes.

16 54. California Labor Code section 204 requires employers to provide employees with
17 all wages due and payable twice a month. The Wage Orders also provide that every employer shall
18 pay to each employee, on the established payday for the period involved, overtime wages for all
19 overtime hours worked in the payroll period. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff and the Class
20 with all compensation due, in violation of California Labor Code section 204.

21 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

22 **(Failure to Provide Meal Periods)**

23 55. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein paragraphs
24 1 through 54 in this Complaint.

25 56. Under California law, Defendants have an affirmative obligation to relieve the
26 Plaintiff and the Class of all duty in order to take their first daily meal periods no later than at the
27 end of Plaintiff and the Class's fifth hour of work in a workday, and to take their second meal
28 periods no later than at the end of the tenth hour of work in the workday. California Labor Code

1 section 512, and Section 11 of the applicable Wage Orders require that an employer provide unpaid
2 meal periods of at least 30 minutes for each five-hour period worked. It is a violation of California
3 Labor Code section 226.7 for an employer to require any employee to work during any meal period
4 mandated under any Wage Order.

5 57. Despite these legal requirements, Defendants, at times, failed to provide Plaintiff
6 and the Class with both meal periods as required by California law. By their failure to permit and
7 authorize Plaintiff and the Class to take all meal periods as alleged above (or due to the fact that
8 Defendants, at times, made it impossible or impracticable to take these uninterrupted meal periods),
9 Defendants willfully violated the provisions of California Labor Code section 226.7 and the
10 applicable Wage Orders.

11 58. Under California law, Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to be paid one hour of
12 additional wages for each workday they were not provided with all required meal period(s), plus
13 interest thereon.

14 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

15 **(Failure to Authorize and Permit Rest Periods)**

16 59. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein paragraphs
17 1 through 58 in this Complaint.

18 60. Defendants are required by California law to authorize and permit breaks of ten
19 uninterrupted minutes for each four hours of work or major fraction of four hours (i.e. more than
20 two hours). California Labor Code section 512, the applicable Wage Orders require that the
21 employer permit and authorize all employees to take paid rest periods of ten minutes each for each
22 four-hour period worked. Thus, for example, if an employee's work time is six hours and ten
23 minutes, the employee is entitled to two rest breaks. Each failure to authorize rest breaks as so
24 required is itself a violation of California's rest break laws. It is a violation of California Labor
25 Code section 226.7 for an employer to require any employee to work during any rest period
26 mandated under any Wage Order.

27 61. Despite these legal requirements, Defendants at times failed to authorize Plaintiff
28 and the Class to take rest breaks, regardless of whether employees worked more than four hours in

1 a workday. By their failure to permit and authorize Plaintiff and the Class to take rest periods as
2 alleged above (or due to the fact that Defendants, at times, made it impossible or impracticable to
3 take these uninterrupted rest periods), Defendants willfully violated the provisions of California
4 Labor Code section 226.7 and the applicable Wage Orders.

5 62. Under California law, Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to be paid one hour of
6 premium wages rate for each workday they were not provided with all required rest break(s), plus
7 interest thereon.

8 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

9 **(Failure to Pay Wages of Discharged Employees – Waiting Time Penalties)**

10 63. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein paragraphs
11 1 through 62 in this Complaint.

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

18 65. Within the applicable statute of limitations, the employment of many other members
19 of the Class ended, *i.e.*, was terminated by quitting or discharge, and the employment of others will
20 be. However, during the relevant time period, Defendants, at times, failed, and continue to fail, to
21 pay terminated Class Members, without abatement, all wages required to be paid by California
22 Labor Code sections 201 and 202 either at the time of discharge, or within 72 hours of their leaving
23 Defendants' employ. Plaintiff does not allege that all of the Class Members were so harmed.

24 66. Defendants' failure to pay Class members who are no longer employed by
25 Defendants their wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge, or within 72 hours of their
26 leaving Defendants' employ, is in violation of California Labor Code sections 201 and 202.

27 67. California Labor Code section 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to pay
28 wages owed, in accordance with sections 201 and 202, then the wages of the employee shall

continue as a penalty wage from the due date, and at the same rate until paid or until an action is commenced; but the wages shall not continue for more than 30 days.

68. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 203, the Class is entitled to recover from Defendants their additionally accruing wages for each day they were not paid, at their regular hourly rate of pay, up to 30 days maximum.

69. Pursuant to California Labor Code sections 218.5, 218.6 and 1194, the Class is also entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees, interest, expenses, and costs incurred in this action.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Failure to Provide and Maintain Accurate and Compliant Wage Records)

70. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein paragraphs 1 through 69 in this Complaint.

71. At all material times set forth herein, California Labor Code section 226, subdivision (a) provides that every employer shall furnish each of his or her employees an accurate itemized wage statement in writing showing nine pieces of information, including: (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the employee, (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 period for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee and the last four digits of his or her social security number or an employee identification number other than a 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.

72. Defendants have, at times, intentionally and willfully failed to provide employees with complete and accurate wage statements. The deficiencies include, among other things, the failure to correctly identify the gross wages earned by Plaintiff and the Class, the failure to list the true "total hours worked by the employee," and the failure to list the true net wages earned. Plaintiff does not allege that all of the Class Members were so harmed.

73. As a result of Defendants' violation of California Labor Code section 226, subdivision (a), Plaintiff and the Class have suffered injury and damage to their statutorily protected rights.

74. Specifically, Plaintiff and the Class have been injured by Defendants' intentional violation of California Labor Code subdivision 226, subdivision (a) because Plaintiff and the Class were denied both their legal right to receive, and their protected interest in receiving, accurate, itemized wage statements under California Labor Code subdivision 226, subdivision (a).

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

76. Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to recover from Defendants the greater of their actual damages caused by Defendants' failure to comply with California Labor Code section 226, subdivision (a), or an aggregate penalty not exceeding \$4,000 per employee.

77. Plaintiff and the Class are also entitled to injunctive relief, as well as an award of attorney's fees and costs to ensure compliance with this section, pursuant to California Labor Code section 226, subdivision (h).

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Failure to Indemnify Employees for Expenditures)

78. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein paragraphs 1 through 77 in this Complaint.

79. As set forth above, Plaintiff and the Class were required to incur substantial necessary expenditures and losses in direct consequence of the discharge of their duties or of their obedience to directions of Defendants.

80. Defendants violated California Labor Code section 2802, by failing to pay and indemnify Plaintiff and the Class for necessary expenditures and losses incurred in direct consequence of the discharge of their duties or of their obedience to directions of Defendants.

1 81. As a result, Plaintiff and the Class were damaged at least in the amounts of the
2 expenses they paid, or which were deducted by Defendants from their wages.

3 82. Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to reasonable attorney's fees, expenses, and costs
4 of suit pursuant to California Labor Code section 2802, subdivision (c) and interest pursuant to
5 California Labor Code section 2802, subdivision (b).

6 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

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

8 83. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein paragraphs
9 1 through 82 in this Complaint.

10 84. Defendants, and each of them, are "persons" as defined under California Business
11 and Professions Code section 17201.

12 85. Defendants' conduct, as alleged herein, has been, and continues to be, unfair,
13 unlawful, and harmful to Plaintiff, other Class members, and to the general public. Plaintiff seeks
14 to enforce important rights affecting the public interest within the meaning of Code of Civil
15 Procedure section 1021.5.

16 86. Defendants' activities, as alleged herein, are violations of California law, and
17 constitute unlawful business acts and practices in violation of California Business and Professions
18 Code sections 17200, *et seq.*

19 87. A violation of California Business and Professions Code sections 17200, *et seq.* may
20 be predicated on the violation of any state or federal law. All the acts described herein as violations
21 of, among other things, the California Labor Code, are unlawful and in violation of public policy;
22 and in addition are immoral, unethical, oppressive, fraudulent and unscrupulous, and thereby
23 constitute unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices in violation of California Business
24 and Professions Code sections 17200, *et seq.*

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

26 88. Defendants' failure to pay minimum and straight time wages, and other benefits in
27 violation of the California Labor Code constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by
28 California Business and Professions Code sections 17200, *et seq.*

Failure to Pay Overtime Wages

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

Failure to Provide Meal Periods

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

Failure to Authorize and Permit Rest Periods

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

Failure to Indemnify Business Expenses

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

93. By and through their unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices described herein, Defendants, have obtained valuable property, money and services from Plaintiff, and all persons similarly situated, and have deprived Plaintiff, and all persons similarly situated, of valuable rights and benefits guaranteed by law, all to their detriment.

94. Plaintiff and the Class Members suffered monetary injury as a direct result of Defendants' wrongful conduct.

95. Plaintiff, individually, and on behalf of members of the putative Class, are entitled to, and do, seek such relief as may be necessary to disgorge money and/or property which the Defendants have wrongfully acquired, or of which Plaintiff and the Class have been deprived, by means of the above-described unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices. Plaintiff and

1 the Class are not obligated to establish individual knowledge of the wrongful practices of
2 Defendants in order to recover restitution.

3 96. Plaintiff, individually, and on behalf of members of the putative class, are further
4 entitled to, and do, seek a declaration that the above-described business practices are unfair,
5 unlawful and/or fraudulent, and injunctive relief restraining the Defendants, and each of them,
6 from engaging in any of the above-described unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices
7 in the future.

8 97. Plaintiff, individually, and on behalf of members of the putative class, have no plain,
9 speedy, and/or adequate remedy at law to redress the injuries which the Class Members suffered
10 as a consequence of the Defendants' unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices. As a
11 result of the unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices described above, Plaintiff,
12 individually, and on behalf of members of the putative Class, have suffered and will continue to
13 suffer irreparable harm unless the Defendants are restrained from continuing to engage in said
14 unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices.

15 98. Plaintiff also allege that if Defendants are not enjoined from the conduct set forth
16 herein above, they will continue to avoid paying the appropriate taxes, insurance and other
17 withholdings.

18 99. Pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section 17200, *et seq.*,
19 Plaintiff and putative Class Members are entitled to restitution of the wages withheld and retained
20 by Defendants during a period that commences four years prior to the filing of this complaint; a
21 permanent injunction requiring Defendants to pay all outstanding wages due to Plaintiff and Class
22 Members; an award of attorneys' fees pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section
23 1021.5 and other applicable laws; and an award of costs.

24 **NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

25 **(Civil Penalties under the California Private Attorneys General Act of 2004,**
26 **Cal. Lab. Code, §§ 2698, *et seq.*)**

27 100. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein paragraphs
28 1 through 99 in this Complaint.

1 101. At all times herein mentioned, Defendants were subject to the California Labor
2 Code and the applicable IWC Wage Orders.

3 102. California Labor Code section 2699, subdivision (a) specifically provides for a
4 private right of action to recover penalties for violations of the California Labor Code:
5 “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any provision of this code that provides for a civil
6 penalty to be assessed and collected by the Labor and Workforce Development Agency or any of
7 its departments, divisions, commissions, boards, agencies, or employees, for a violation of this
8 code, may as an alternative, be recovered through a civil action brought by an aggrieved employee
9 on behalf of himself or herself and other current or former employees pursuant to the procedures
10 specified in Section 2699.3.”

11 103. Plaintiff has exhausted his administrative remedies pursuant to California Labor
12 Code section 2699.3. On or about October 3, 2025, Plaintiff gave written notice by online filing to
13 the Labor and Workforce Development Agency and by certified mail to Defendants of the specific
14 provisions of the California Labor Code that Defendants have violated against Plaintiff and current
15 and former Aggrieved Employees, including the facts and theories to support the violations. (Ex.
16 1.) Plaintiff also paid the filing fee that same day. Plaintiff’s PAGA case number is
17 LWDA-CM-1129547-25.

18 104. More than 65 days has elapsed since Plaintiff provided notice, but the Labor and
19 Workforce Development Agency has not indicated that it intends to investigate Defendants’ Labor
20 Code violations discussed in the notices. Accordingly, Plaintiff may commence a civil action to
21 recover penalties under California Labor Code section 2699 pursuant to section 2699.3 for the
22 violations of the Labor Code described in this Complaint. Thus, pursuant to California Labor Code
23 section 2699, subdivision (a), Plaintiff, for himself and all current and former Aggrieved
24 Employees, seeks recovery of any and all applicable civil penalties for Defendants’ violation of
25 California Labor Code, including but not limited to, California Labor Code sections 226, 226.3,
26 226.7, 558, 1197.1, 2699, 2800, and 2802.

27 105. In addition, Plaintiff seeks penalties for Defendants’ violation of California Labor
28 Code section 1174, subdivision (d). Pursuant to California Labor Code section 1174.5, any person,

1 including any entity, employing labor who willfully fails to maintain accurate and complete records
2 required by California Labor Code section 1174 is subject to a penalty under section 1174.5.
3 Pursuant to the applicable IWC Order section 7, subdivision (A)(3), every employer shall keep
4 time records showing when the employee begins and ends each work period. Meal periods, and
5 total hours worked daily shall also be recorded. Additionally, pursuant to the applicable IWC Order
6 section 7, subdivision (A)(5), every employer shall keep total hours worked in the payroll period
7 and applicable rates of pay.

8 106. During the time period of employment for Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees,
9 Defendants failed to maintain records pursuant to the California Labor Code and IWC Orders by
10 failing to maintain accurate records showing meal periods, and accurate records showing when
11 employees begin and end each work period. Defendants' failure to provide and maintain records
12 required by the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders deprived Plaintiff and the Aggrieved
13 Employees the ability to know, understand and question the accuracy and frequency of meal
14 periods, and the accuracy of their hours worked stated in Defendants' records. Therefore, Plaintiff
15 and the Aggrieved Employees had no way to dispute the resulting failure to pay wages, all of which
16 resulted in an unjustified economic enrichment to Defendants. As a direct result, Plaintiff and the
17 Aggrieved Employees have suffered and continue to suffer, substantial losses related to the use
18 and enjoyment of such wages, lost interest on such wages and expenses and attorney's fees in
19 seeking to compel Defendants to fully perform their obligation under state law, all to their
20 respective damage in amounts according to proof at trial. Because of Defendants' knowing failure
21 to comply with the California Labor Code and applicable IWC Wage Orders, Plaintiff and the
22 Aggrieved Employees have also suffered an injury in that they were prevented from knowing,
23 understanding, and disputing the wage payments paid to them.

24 107. Based on the conduct described in this Complaint, Plaintiff is entitled to an award
25 of civil penalties on behalf of the State of California and similarly Aggrieved Employees of
26 Defendants. The exact amount of the applicable penalties, in all, is in an amount to be shown
27 according to proof at trial. These penalties are in addition to all other remedies permitted by law.
28

108. In addition, Plaintiff seeks an award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699, subdivision (g)(1) which states, "Any employee who prevails in any action shall be entitled to an award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs."

VII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Plaintiff, individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated only with respect to the class claims, prays for relief and judgment against Defendants, jointly and severally, as follows:

Class Certification

1. That this action be certified as a class action with respect to the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Causes of Action;
2. That Plaintiff be appointed as the representative of the Class; and,
3. That counsel for Plaintiff be appointed as Class Counsel.

As to the First Cause of Action

4. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated California Labor Code section 204 and 1194 and applicable IWC Wage Orders by willfully failing to pay all minimum and straight time wages due;
5. For unpaid wages as may be appropriate;
6. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid compensation commencing from the date such amounts were due;
7. For penalties, restitution, and liquidated damages pursuant to California Labor Code section 1197.1;
8. For liquidated damages;
9. For reasonable attorneys' fees and for costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to California Labor Code section 1194, subdivision (a); and,
10. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

As to the Second Cause of Action

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

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

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

14. For reasonable attorneys' fees and for costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to California Labor Code section 1194, subdivision (a); and,

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

As to the Third Cause of Action

16. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512, and the IWC Wage Orders;

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

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

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

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

As to the Fourth Cause of Action

21. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512, and the IWC Wage Orders;

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

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

24. For reasonable attorneys' fees under California Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5, and for costs of suit incurred herein; and,

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

As to the Fifth Cause of Action

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

27. For statutory wage penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 203 for former employees who have left Defendants' employ;

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

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

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

As to the Sixth Cause of Action

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

32. For all actual damages, according to proof;

33. For statutory penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 226, subdivision (e);

34. For injunctive relief to ensure compliance with this section, pursuant to California Labor Code section 226, subdivision (h);

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

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

As to the Seventh Cause of Action

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

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

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

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

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

As to the Eighth Cause of Action

42. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated California Business and Professions Code section 17200, *et seq.* by failing to pay for all hours worked

(minimum, straight time, and overtime wages), failing to provide meal periods, and failing to authorize and permit rest periods;

43. For restitution of unpaid wages to Plaintiff and all Class Members and prejudgment interest from the day such amounts were due and payable;

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

45. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5;

46. For injunctive relief to ensure compliance with this section, pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section 17200, *et seq.*; and,

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

As to the Ninth Cause of Action

48. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated the California Labor Code by failing to pay wages for all hours worked (including minimum, straight time, and overtime wages), failing to provide meal periods, failing to authorize and permit rest periods, failing to furnish accurate wage statements, and failing to indemnify employees for expenditures;

49. For all civil penalties pursuant to California Labor Code sections 2699, *et seq.*, and all other applicable Labor Code provisions;

50. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699; and,

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

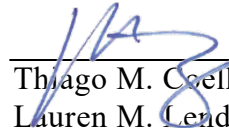
As to all Causes of Action

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

Dated: December 9, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

WILSHIRE LAW FIRM, PLC


Thiago M. Coelho
Lauren M. Lendzion
Jesenia A. Martinez
Jesse S. Chen

*Attorneys for Plaintiff and all others similarly
situated*

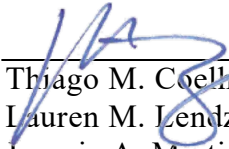
DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury as to all causes of action triable by jury.

Dated: December 9, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

WILSHIRE LAW FIRM, PLC


Thiago M. Coelho
Lauren M. Lendzion
Jesenia A. Martinez
Jesse S. Chen

*Attorneys for Plaintiff and all others similarly
situated*

EXHIBIT 1

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October 3, 2025

LWDA
Attn. PAGA Administrator
1515 Clay Street, Suite 801
Oakland, CA 94612
(Via Online Submission)

Ace Commercial Plastering, Inc.
1320 Rockefeller Drive
Ceres, California 95307
***(Via U.S. Certified Mail,
Return Receipt Requested)***
9489-0090-0027-6638-7683-87

Ace Commercial Plastering, Inc.
c/o Agent for Service of Process
Ralph F. Filippini
1320 Rockefeller Drive
Ceres, California 95307
***(Via U.S. Certified Mail,
Return Receipt Requested)***
9489-0090-0027-6638-7683-63

**Re: *Luis Fernando Rodriguez Mejia v. Ace Commercial Plastering, Inc.*
 Notice of California Labor Code Violations and PAGA Penalties**

To Whom It May Concern:

Please be advised that my office has been retained by Luis Fernando Rodriguez Mejia to pursue a representative action under the California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (PAGA), California Labor Code¹ section 2699, *et seq.* against Mr. Rodriguez Mejia's former employer, Ace Commercial Plastering, Inc. ("Ace" or "Employer"). The purpose of this letter is to comply with PAGA and set forth the facts and theories of Labor Code violations which Mr. Rodriguez Mejia alleges Ace engaged in with respect to Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and potentially all Ace's current and former employees.

Mr. Rodriguez Mejia wishes to pursue this action on behalf of Ace's current and former employees, on behalf of the State of California, as well as on behalf of all other persons who worked for Ace in California as non-exempt or hourly-paid employees at any time within the applicable statutory period collectively referred to as, "Aggrieved Employees").

Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, suffered the Labor Code violations described below.

¹ Unless otherwise stated, all references to "Labor Code" are meant to reference the California Labor Code.

Mr. Rodriguez Mejia's Employment with Ace

Ace is a business that provides plastering services to commercial properties. Ace owns and operates a business within the State of California. Therefore, and based on all the facts and circumstances incident to Ace's business in California, Ace is subject to the Labor Code, the Industrial Wage Commission's (IWC) Wage Orders, and the California Business and Professions Code.

Mr. Rodriguez Mejia is a resident of Stockton, California who worked for Ace in Stanislaus County, California, as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from approximately 2023 to July 23, 2025. Mr. Rodriguez Mejia worked as part of the plastering crew, watering the cement and plastering walls.

During Mr. Rodriguez Mejia employment with Ace, Ace paid Mr. Rodriguez Mejia an hourly wage and classified Mr. Rodriguez Mejia as non-exempt from overtime. Mr. Rodriguez Mejia's work schedule varied but Ace typically scheduled Mr. Rodriguez Mejia to work at least 3 days in a workweek and at least 8 hours per day but Mr. Rodriguez Mejia also worked more than 8] hours in a workday and more than 40 hours in a workweek.

In performing Mr. Rodriguez Mejia's duties, Mr. Rodriguez Mejia was regularly required to work through breaks. Due to understaffing and high workloads, Mr. Rodriguez Mejia was also frequently deprived of an opportunity to take legally compliant meal and rest breaks because the few meal and rest breaks Mr. Rodriguez Mejia took were often cut short or interrupted.

Ace did not provide Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees with the meal and rest break premiums as required by the Labor Code, and Mr. Rodriguez Mejia does not recall ever receiving any meal and rest break premiums. Additionally, Mr. Rodriguez Mejia necessarily incurred business-related expenses, including but not limited to using his personal cell phone and vehicle, but Ace did not reimburse such business expenses. These are just non-exhaustive examples of the facts and theories Mr. Rodriguez Mejia asserts, which are later described in more detail.

Throughout Mr. Rodriguez Mejia's employment, Ace did not (1) pay for all hours worked (including minimum, straight time, and overtime wages); (2) provide Mr. Rodriguez Mejia with legally compliant meal periods; (3) authorize and permit Mr. Rodriguez Mejia to take rest periods; (4) timely pay all final wages to Mr. Rodriguez Mejia when Ace terminated Mr. Rodriguez Mejia's employment; (5) furnish accurate wage statements to Mr. Rodriguez Mejia; and (6) indemnify Mr. Rodriguez Mejia for business expenditures. As will be further discussed, Mr. Rodriguez Mejia's experience working for Ace was typical and illustrative.

Failure to Pay for All Hours Worked, Including Minimum, Straight, and Overtime Wages

Under California law, an employer must pay for all hours worked by an employee. "Hours worked" is the time during which an employee is subject to the control of the employer and including the time the employee is suffered or permitted to work, whether required to do so.

In addition, Labor Code section 510 provides that employees in California shall not be employed for more than 8 hours on any workday or 40 hours in a workweek unless they receive additional compensation plus their regular wages in amounts specified by law.

Labor Code sections 1194 and 1198 also provide that employees in California shall not be employed more than 8 hours in any workday or 40 hours in a workweek unless they receive the additional compensation as required

by law. Further, Section 1198 declares unlawful the employment of an employee for hours longer than those fixed by the IWC.

Throughout the statutory period, Ace did not pay Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, for all hours worked, including minimum, straight time, and overtime wages. At times, Ace required Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, to work “off-the-clock,” uncompensated by, for example, requiring Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees to perform work during uncompensated meal and rest breaks, and requiring Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees to perform work before clocking in or after clocking out. As one example, Ace required Mr. Rodriguez Mejia work in lieu of taking a meal break. Some of this unpaid work should have been paid at the overtime rate. California Labor Code section 510 requires that employers compensate employees 1.5 times their regular rate of pay when employees work over 8 hours per day, 40 hours per week, or when employees work up to 8 hours on any seventh day of a workweek. Ace failed to properly calculate Mr. Rodriguez Mejia’s regular rate of pay when paying overtime, by failing to include all compensation in Mr. Rodriguez Mejia’s overtime calculations, including hours worked off-the-clock. In failing to pay for all hours worked, [Defendant Short Name] also did not maintain accurate records of the hours Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and the Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, worked.

As a result, Ace is liable to Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and the Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, for the civil penalties provided for in Labor Code sections 210, 1197.1, and 2699, subdivision (f)(2) for failing to pay for all hours worked, including minimum, straight time, and overtime wages.

Failure to Provide Meal Breaks

Under California law, employers have an affirmative obligation to relieve employees of all duty in order to take their first 30-minute, duty-free meal break no later than the start of sixth hour of work in a workday, and to allow employees to take their second 30-minute, duty-free meal period no later than the start of the eleventh hour of work in the workday. Further, employees are entitled to be paid 1 hour of additional wages for each workday they were not provided with all required meal breaks. Despite these legal requirements, Ace at times wrongfully failed to provide Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, with their legally mandated 30-minute, uninterrupted, and duty-free meal break in a manner required by law (and also including but not limited to failing at times to provide Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, the opportunity to leave the work premises to take meal breaks). For example, Mr. Rodriguez Mejia was frequently deprived of an opportunity to take legally compliant meal breaks, including because the very few meal breaks Mr. Rodriguez Mejia could take were often cut short or interrupted. Ace required Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and others to continue working in lieu of taking a meal period.

Ace also continued to assert control over Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, by, among other things, requiring, pressuring, or encouraging them to perform work tasks which could not be completed without working in lieu of taking mandatory meal breaks, or by denying Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, permission to take a meal break under the conditions required by law, and without properly compensating Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, for meal breaks that were not provided as required by law. Ace also did not inform Mr. Rodriguez Mejia of Mr. Rodriguez Mejia’s right to, nor permitted Mr. Rodriguez Mejia to take, all of Mr. Rodriguez Mejia’s second meal breaks when Mr. Rodriguez Mejia worked at least 10 hours of work in a workday and otherwise unlawfully pressured Mr. Rodriguez Mejia to waive such breaks. Accordingly, Ace at times failed to provide meal breaks to Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, in compliance with California law.

Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and the Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, are thus entitled to be paid 1 hour of additional wages for each workday they were not provided with all required meal breaks. Ace, however, at times failed to pay Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, the additional wages to which they were entitled for meal breaks that were not provided. Mr. Rodriguez Mejia does not recall ever receiving any meal and rest break premiums.

Thus, Ace is liable to Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, for the civil penalties provided for in Labor Code sections 210 and 2699, subdivision (f)(2) for failing to provide meal breaks and pay meal period premium wages.

Failure to Authorize and Permit Rest Breaks

Per California law, employers are required to authorize and permit breaks of 10 uninterrupted minutes for each 4 hours of work or major fraction of 4 hours (*i.e.*, more than 2 hours). Thus, for example, if an employee's work time is 6 hours and 10 minutes, the employee is entitled to 2 rest breaks. Each failure to authorize rest breaks as required is itself a violation of California's rest break laws.

Throughout the statutory period, Ace at times has wrongfully failed to authorize and permit Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, to take legally compliant rest breaks in a manner required by law (and also including but not limited to failing, at times, to authorize and permit Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, the opportunity to leave the work premises to take rest breaks). Ace at times required Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, to work in excess of 4 consecutive hours a day without Ace's authorizing and permitting Mr. Rodriguez Mejia to take a 10-minute, uninterrupted, duty-free rest period for every 4 hours of work (or major fraction of 4 hours), or without compensating Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, for rest breaks that were not authorized or permitted.

Instead, Ace at times continued to assert control over Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, by requiring, pressuring, or encouraging them to perform work tasks which could not be completed without working in lieu of taking mandatory rest breaks, or at times by denying Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, permission to take a rest break. For example, at times, it was impossible for Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and others to take rest breaks due to being understaffed and needing to meet the assigned work schedule. Ace required Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and others to work through rest breaks before the sun would dry the cement to keep a tight schedule.

Accordingly, Ace at times failed to authorize and permit Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, to take rest breaks in compliance with California law. Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, are thus entitled to be paid 1 hour of additional wages for each workday they were not authorized and permitted to take all required rest breaks. Ace, however, at times failed to pay Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, the additional wages to which they were entitled for rest breaks that they were not authorized and permitted to take.

As a result, Ace is liable to Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, for the civil penalties provided for in Labor Code sections 210 and 2699, subdivision (f)(2) for failing to authorize and permit rest periods and pay rest period premium wages.

Failure to Pay All Earned Wages Twice Per Month

Based on Ace's failure at times to pay Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, for all wages as discussed above, Ace also violated Labor Code section 204.

Section 204 requires employers to pay employees all earned wages twice per month. Throughout the applicable statute of limitations period, employees were entitled to be paid twice a month at their regular rates, including all meal and rest break premium wages owed and wages owed for overtime hours worked. However, at times, Ace failed and refused to pay Mr. Rodriguez Mejia all wages due, and failed to pay those wages twice a month, in that Mr. Rodriguez Mejia was not paid all wages for all meal periods not provided by Ace, all wages for all rest periods not authorized and permitted by Ace, and all wages for all hours worked. As a result, Ace owes Mr. Rodriguez Mejia the legally required wages for unpaid wages, and Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, suffered damages in those amounts.

Moreover, Ace is liable to Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, for the civil penalties provided for in Labor Code section 210 for failing to pay all earned wages twice per month.

Failure to Maintain Accurate Records of Hours Worked and Meal Breaks

Mr. Rodriguez Mejia seeks penalties under Labor Code section 1174, subdivision (d). Per Labor Code section 1174.5, any person, including any entity, employing labor who willfully fails to maintain accurate and complete records required by section 1174 is subject to a penalty under section 1174.5. Under the applicable IWC Order section 7(A)(3), every employer shall keep time records showing when the employee begins and ends each work period. Meal breaks and total hours worked daily shall also be recorded.

Ace, however, at times failed to maintain accurate records of hours worked and all meal breaks taken or missed by Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them.

Ace's failure to provide and maintain records required by the Labor Code and the applicable IWC Wage Orders deprived Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, the ability to know, understand and question the accuracy and frequency of meal breaks, and the accuracy of their hours worked stated in Ace's records. Therefore, Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, had no way to dispute the resulting failure to pay wages, all of which resulted in an unjustified economic enrichment to Ace. As a direct result, Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, have suffered and continue to suffer, substantial losses related to the use and enjoyment of such wages, lost interest on such wages and expenses and attorneys' fees in seeking to compel Ace to fully perform their obligation under state law, all to their respective damage in amounts according to proof at trial. As a result of Ace's knowing failure, at times, to comply with the Labor Code and applicable IWC Wage Orders, Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, have also suffered an injury in that they were prevented from knowing, understanding, and disputing the wage payments paid to them.

Failure to Timely Pay All Wages at Termination

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 that if an employee voluntarily leaves their employment, their wages shall become due and payable not later than 72 hours thereafter, unless the employee has given 72 hours' previous notice of their intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to their wages at the time of quitting. Direct deposits of wages to an employee's bank, saving and loan, or

credit union account that were previously authorized by the employee are immediately terminated when an employee quits or is discharged, and the payment of wages upon termination of employment in the manner described above shall apply unless the employee has voluntarily authorized that deposit and provided that the employer complies with the provisions of Labor Code section 213, subdivision (d) relating to the payment of wages upon termination or quitting of employment.

Within the applicable statute of limitations, the employment of Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and many other Aggrieved Employees ended, *i.e.*, was terminated by quitting or being discharged, and the employment of others will be terminated. However, during the relevant time period, Ace at times failed, and continue at times to fail, to pay Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and terminated Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, without abatement, all wages required to be paid by Labor Code sections 201 and 202 either at the time of discharge, or within 72 hours of their leaving Ace's employment. These include wages for unpaid work time (including minimum, straight time, and overtime wages), missed meal break premium wages, and missed rest break premium wages. Ace also violated, and continue to violate, Labor Code section 213, subdivision (d) by paying final wages (if any are paid at all) via direct deposit without the employee's voluntary authorization. Mr. Rodriguez Mejia recalls that Mr. Rodriguez Mejia did not receive final wages at the time of discharge, nor within 72 hours of leaving Ace's employment.

Ace's conduct violates Labor Code sections 201 and 202. 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 wage from the due date, and at the same rate until paid or until an action is commenced; but the wages shall not continue for more than 30 days.

Accordingly, Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, are entitled to recover from Ace their additionally accruing wages for each day they were not paid, at their regular hourly rate of pay, up to 30 days maximum pursuant to Labor Code section 203.

Moreover, Ace is liable to Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, for the civil penalties provided for in Labor Code section 2699, subdivision (f)(2) for failing to timely pay all wages at termination, and for unlawfully making any such payment (if any) via direct deposit without the employee's voluntary authorization.

Failure to Furnish Accurate Wage Statements

Labor Code section 226, subdivision (a) provides that every employer shall, semimonthly or at the time of each payment of wages, furnish each of its employees an accurate itemized wage statement in writing showing 9 pieces of information, including: (1) gross wages earned; (2) total hours worked by the employee; (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 period for which the employee is paid; (7) the name of the employee and the last four digits of their Social Security number or an employee identification number other than a 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. An employee is presumed to suffer an injury if this information is missing. (Cal. Lab. Code, § 226, subd. (e)(2)(B)(iii).)

The statute further provides: "An employee suffering injury as a result of a knowing and intentional failure by an employer to comply with subdivision (a) is entitled to recover the greater of all actual damages or fifty

dollars (\$50) for the initial pay period in which a violation occurs and one hundred dollars (\$100) per employee for each violation in a subsequent pay period, not to exceed an aggregate penalty of four thousand dollars (\$4,000), and is entitled to an award of costs and reasonable attorney's fees." (Cal. Lab. Code, § 226, subd. (e)(1).)

Throughout the statutory period, Ace at times failed, and continues at times to fail, to timely furnish [Plaintiff] and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, with accurate, itemized wage statements showing all applicable hourly rates, and all gross and net wages earned (including correct hours worked, correct wages for meal breaks that were not provided in accordance with California law, and correct wages for rest breaks that were not authorized and permitted to take in accordance with California law).

Because Ace at times violated Labor Code section 226, Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, suffered injury and damage to their statutorily protected rights. Accordingly, Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and similarly Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, are entitled to recover from Ace the greater of their actual damages caused by Ace's failure to comply with Labor Code section 226, subdivision (a), or an aggregate penalty not exceeding \$4,000 per employee. Moreover, Ace is liable to Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, for the civil penalties provided for in Labor Code section 226.3 for failing to timely furnish accurate itemized wage statements.

Recordkeeping Requirement Violations

Labor Code section 1174 requires employers to keep "accurate and complete" payroll records showing, among other things, the hours worked daily by employees. For all applicable IWC Wage Orders, section 7 similarly requires employers to keep accurate time records reflecting the times during which all owed meal breaks were provided each day.

Based on information and belief, Ace at times failed, and continue at times to fail, to keep accurate and complete payroll records as required by law, including but not limited to the following records: total daily hours worked, applicable rates of pay, time records showing when Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and other Aggrieved Employees began and ended each work period, time records of meal breaks, and accurate itemized wage statements.

Based on information and belief, Ace at times failed and continues at times to fail to keep accurate and complete records showing total hours worked by Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, by virtue of Ace's time rounding and/or auto deduction policies and practices and/or other off-the-clock work policies and practices. Ace failed at times and continue at times to fail to keep accurate and complete records showing total hours worked by virtue of Ace's failure to relieve Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, of all duties and Ace's control for unpaid meal periods, resulting in unpaid hours worked.

Based on information and belief, Ace further failed at times, and continue at times to fail, to record the true start and end times of Mr. Rodriguez Mejia's and Aggrieved Employees' meal periods, or some of them.

Based on further information and belief, Ace further failed at times and continue at times to fail, to record the true start and end times of Mr. Rodriguez Mejia's and Aggrieved Employees' work shifts, or some of them.

Additionally, Ace at times failed, and continue at times to fail, to keep accurate records and issue accurate wage statements by not documenting accrued sick time for Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees,

or some of them. Ace's failure to keep "accurate and complete" payroll records for Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, violates Labor Code sections 1174, 1198, 1199, and all applicable IWC Wage Orders, section 7. These violations subject Ace to civil penalties under Labor Code sections 558.1, 226.6, 1174.5 and 2699. Each violation of each Labor Code section and Wage Order provision, for each Aggrieved Employee (or some of them), results in a separate civil penalty.²

Failure to Indemnify Necessary Expenditures

Labor Code section 2802, subdivision (a) provides that employers shall indemnify their employees for all necessary business expenditures or losses that have been incurred by the employees in direct discharge of their duties. Throughout the applicable statute of limitations period, Ace at times wrongfully required Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, to pay expenses they incurred in direct discharge of their duties for Ace including but not limited to using his personal cell phone and vehicle. Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, at times paid out-of-pocket for necessary employment-related expenses. Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, incurred substantial expenses as a direct result of performing their job duties for Ace but Ace failed to indemnify Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, for these employment-related expenses.

As a result, Ace is liable to Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, for the civil penalties provided for in Labor Code section 2802 and 2699, subdivision (f)(2) for failing to indemnify Mr. Rodriguez Mejia and Aggrieved Employees, or some of them, for necessary business expenditures.

Action for PAGA Civil Penalties

In light of the above, Mr. Rodriguez Mejia alleges that Ace violated the following provisions of the Labor Code with respect to the Aggrieved Employees, or some of them:

1. Labor Code sections 204, 510, 1194, 1197, and 1198 by failing at times to pay for all hours worked, including minimum wages, straight time wages, and overtime wages;
2. Labor Code section 226.7 and applicable IWC Wage Orders by failing at times to provide meal breaks;
3. Labor Code section 226.7 and applicable IWC Wage Orders by failing at times to authorize and permit rest breaks;
4. Labor Code section 204 by failing at times to pay all earned wages twice per month;
5. Labor Code section 1174.5 and applicable IWC Wage Orders by failing at times to maintain accurate records of hours worked and meal breaks taken or missed;
6. Labor Code sections 201 to 203 by willfully failing at times to pay all wages owed at termination;
7. Labor Code section 226 by failing at times to provide accurate itemized wage statements;
8. Labor Code section 1174 by failing at times to keep accurate and complete payroll records; and
9. Labor Code section 2802 by failing at times to indemnify for necessary expenditures;

² See Labor Code § 2699, subdivision (f)(2) (establishing that the civil penalty is "for each aggrieved employee per pay period").

Therefore, on behalf of potentially Aggrieved Employees, Mr. Rodriguez Mejia seeks applicable penalties related to the violations alleged above per PAGA. These include, but are not limited to, penalties under Labor Code sections 210, 226.3, 1174.5, 1197.1, and 2699.

Mr. Rodriguez Mejia has placed Ace on notice by mailing a certified copy of this correspondence, as indicated on the first page. Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Jesenia A. Martinez
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