

Haig B. Kazandjian, Esq. Bar No. 278622
haig@hbklawyers.com
Cathy Gonzalez, Esq. Bar No.: 310625
cathy@hbklawyers.com
Michael A. Ariavand, Esq. Bar No.: 336500
michaela@hbklawyers.com
HAIG B. KAZANDJIAN LAWYERS, APC
801 North Brand Boulevard, Suite 1015
Glendale, California 91203
Telephone: 1-818-696-2306
Facsimile: 1-818-696-2307

Electronically FILED by
Superior Court of California,
County of Los Angeles
3/06/2026 10:31 AM
David W. Slayton,
Executive Officer/Clerk of Court,
By Y. Ayala, Deputy Clerk

Attorneys for Plaintiff MICHAEL CORTEZ
individually and on behalf of all other Aggrieved Employees

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

MICHAEL CORTEZ, individually and on
behalf of all other Aggrieved Employees;

Plaintiff,

v.

WEDBUSH SECURITIES INC.; and DOES
1 through 50, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. **26STCV07354**

**COMPLAINT FOR ENFORCEMENT
UNDER THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS
GENERAL ACT, CALIFORNIA LABOR
CODE § 2698, ET SEQ.**

Violation of California Labor Code § 2698, et
seq. (California Labor Code Private Attorneys
General Act of 2004)

Plaintiff MICHAEL CORTEZ (hereinafter referred to as “REPRESENTATIVE
PLAINTIFF”) alleges as follows:

PARTIES

1. REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF is an individual who resides in California and
was employed by WEDBUSH SECURITIES INC., on or about July 21, 2021 and worked for
DEFENDANTS until on or about September 19, 2025.

2. REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF is unaware of the true names and capacities,
whether corporate, individual, or otherwise, of DEFENDANTS named as DOES 1 through 50,
inclusive. Pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 474, REPRESENTATIVE

1 PLAINTIFF will seek leave of court to amend this complaint to state said DEFENDANTS' true
2 names and capacities when the same have been ascertained. REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF
3 is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that said fictitiously-named
4 DEFENDANTS are responsible in some manner for the injuries and damages to
5 REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and the other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES as further
6 alleged herein.

7 3. The AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES worked for all of the DEFENDANTS or for
8 any of the DEFENDANTS as non-exempt, hourly-paid employees. Nothing in this Complaint
9 should be interpreted as limiting the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES to non-exempt, hourly-paid
10 employees who worked for all DEFENDANTS only.

11 4. The definition of "employer" for purposes of the California Labor Code includes
12 irregular working arrangements, and was specifically drafted in order to prevent evasion and
13 subterfuge of California's labor laws. To that end, REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF is
14 informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that DEFENDANTS, including any as of now
15 unknown entities, must be classified as joint-employers for purposes of liability for civil
16 penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA"). As such, DEFENDANTS are each
17 liable for civil penalties for violation of the California Labor Code as to REPRESENTATIVE
18 PLAINTIFF and the other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES.

19 5. The term "DEFENDANTS" used throughout this Complaint includes all named
20 DEFENDANTS whether corporate, individual, or otherwise, and all unnamed DEFENDANTS
21 whether corporate, individual, or otherwise, that are now unknown but are referred to throughout
22 this Complaint as DOES 1 through 50, inclusive.

23 6. This is only a Private Attorney General Action Complaint, pursuant to California
24 Labor Code section 2699 et seq., on behalf of REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and all other
25 persons similarly situated who worked for DEFENDANTS in their California locations as non-
26 exempt, hourly employees (herein collectively identified as "AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES")
27 for:
28

- i. failure to provide employment records in violation of Labor Code sections 226, 432, and 1198.5;
- ii. failure to pay overtime and double time in violation of Labor Code sections 510 and the applicable Wage Orders;
- iii. failure to provide rest and meal periods in violation of Labor Code sections 226.7, 512(a), and the applicable Wage Orders;
- iv. failure to pay minimum wage in violation of Labor Code sections 1182.12, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, and the applicable Wage Orders;
- v. failure to keep accurate payroll records and provide itemized wage statements in violation of Labor Code sections 226(a), 1174(d), 1198, and the applicable Wage Orders;
- vi. failure to pay reporting time wages in violation of applicable Wage Orders;
- vii. failure to pay split shift wages in violation of applicable Wage Orders;
- viii. failure to pay all wages earned on time in violation of Labor Code section 204;
- ix. failure to pay all wages earned upon discharge or resignation in violation of Labor Code sections 201, 202, and 203;
- x. failure to reimburse necessary, business-related expenses in violation of Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802;
- xi. failure to provide notice of paid sick time and accrual in violation of Labor Code section 246;
- xii. employers, and individuals acting on behalf of employers, violating or causing to be violated a section of the Labor Code or any Wage Order in violation of Labor Code section 558(a).

VENUE AND JURISDICTION

7. Venue as to each Defendant is proper in this judicial district pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure sections 393 and 395.5, in that DEFENDANTS conduct business within

1 the County of Los Angeles, and each Defendant is within the jurisdiction of this Court for service
2 of process. REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF’S injuries were incurred within the County of Los
3 Angeles, the actions giving rise to REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF’S Complaint arose within
4 the County of Los Angeles, and DEFENDANTS are located in the County of Los Angeles.

5 8. Under the plain meaning of the relevant venue statutes, DEFENDANTS’
6 “liability” (§ 395.5), and “some part of the cause” (§ 393), arose in Los Angeles County because
7 Labor Code violations allegedly occurred there. (See *Black Diamond Asphalt, Inc. v. Superior*
8 *Court* (2003) 109 Cal.App.4th 166, 172, 134 Cal.Rptr.2d 510 [under § 395.5, liability arises
9 where a breach of legal rights occurs]; *Dow AgroSciences LLC v. Superior Court, supra*, 16
10 Cal.App.5th at pp. 1074-1077, 224 Cal.Rptr.3d 761 [under § 393, subd. (a), in an action against
11 a corporation for breach of statutory duty to warn residents about toxic fumigant, the cause
12 “arose” where the residents were exposed to the fumigants].) See *Crestwood Behavioral Health,*
13 *Inc. v. Superior Court of Alameda County* (2021) 60 Cal.App.5th 1069 [275 Cal.Rptr.3d 316,
14 60 Cal.App.5th 1069].

15 9. REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and based thereon
16 alleges, that no federal question is raised and that the Class Action Fairness Act (“CAFA”), 28
17 U.S.C. Section 1332(d) does not apply, or in the alternative that exceptions for local cases or
18 controversies under the CAFA do apply and prohibit removal of the action to federal Court.

19 10. REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and based thereon
20 alleges, that based on the total number of pay periods REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF
21 worked, REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF’s individual claims do not rise to the necessary
22 amount in controversy so as to implicate traditional jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. 1332(a) or
23 jurisdiction under the CAFA.

24 11. Further, as a representative action under the PAGA, the matter is not subject to
25 removal under 28 U.S.C. Sections 1332(a)-(d). PAGA civil penalty actions are not subject to
26 federal jurisdiction.

27 12. This Court has jurisdiction over REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF’S claims for
28 civil penalties under the PAGA, California Labor Code sections 2698 et seq.

SCOPE

13. The “AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES” are DEFENDANTS’ current and former hourly-paid, non-exempt employees, who either were or are employed in the State of California from December 29, 2024, through the date of judgment in this action.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

14. REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF was hired by DEFENDANTS with the job title of Analyst on or about July 21, 2021. DEFENDANTS operate as a financial services firm providing brokerage, investment banking, research, and asset management services. REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF worked for DEFENDANTS up until on or about September 19, 2025.

15. REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF filed a PAGA Notice on December 29, 2025, by serving a PAGA Notice to all named DEFENDANTS and to the LWDA in compliance with Labor Code section 2699.3. As of March 5, 2026, 65 Days after REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF’s PAGA Notice, REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF has not received correspondence from the LWDA regarding its intent to investigate REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF’s claims.

FAILURE TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT RECORDS

16. California Labor Code Section 226 provides, “An employer who receives a written or oral request to inspect or copy records pursuant to subdivision (b) pertaining to a current or former employee [records of hours worked and wages paid]...shall comply with the request as soon as practicable, but no later than 21 calendar days from the date of the request.”

17. California Labor Code Section 432 provides, “If an employee signs any instrument relating to the obtaining or holding of employment, he shall be given a copy of the instrument upon request.”

18. California Labor Code Section 1198.5 provides that every employee shall be permitted to inspect and obtain a copy of their personnel records upon request.

19. In accordance with the process set out in Labor Code Section 226, REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF requested, in writing by letter via certified first-class mail to

1 DEFENDANTS and regular first-class mail to DEFENDANTS, that DEFENDANTS provide
2 REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF with wage and payroll history, all documents signed by
3 REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF pursuant to Labor Code Section 432, and a copy of
4 REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF's personnel records pursuant to Labor Code Section 1198.5.

5 20. The time periods provided to DEFENDANTS by Labor Code Sections 226, 432,
6 1198.5 and any other relevant statutes have elapsed since DEFENDANTS received
7 REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF's correspondence requesting documents pursuant to Labor
8 Code Sections 226, 432, and 1198.5, and a copy of REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF's
9 personnel records pursuant to Labor Code Section 1198.5. However, DEFENDANTS failed to
10 provide REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF with all of the employment documents to which he
11 is entitled, including, but not limited to, copies of all timekeeping records.

12 21. REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and based thereon
13 alleges, that DEFENDANTS failed to provide records in compliance with Labor Code Sections
14 226, 432, and 1198.5 to other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES in response to their requests.

15 OVERTIME / DOUBLE TIME

16 22. California Labor Code sections 510 and the applicable Wage Orders require
17 employers to pay employees working more than eight (8) hours in a day or more than 40 hours
18 in a week at the rate of at least time-and-one-half (1.5) times their regular rate of pay
19 ("overtime") for time such worked, and two (2) times their regular rate of pay ("double time")
20 for such hours worked in excess of 12 hours in a day. "Regular rate" includes all remuneration,
21 including non-discretionary bonuses and incentives.

22 23. During the relevant time period, REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other
23 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES regularly worked in excess of eight (8), and in excess of 12, hours
24 in a workday and/or 40 hours in a workweek.

25 24. DEFENDANTS routinely required REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and the
26 other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES to perform work tasks before and/or after their scheduled
27 shifts, and/or during off-the-clock meal breaks, and/or during rest breaks. As a consequence,
28

DEFENDANTS willfully failed to pay REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and the other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES all of the wages to which they were entitled.

MEAL / REST BREAKS

25. California Labor Code sections 226.7, 512(a), and the applicable Wage Orders require employers to pay employees one (1) additional hour of pay at the employees' regular rate for each work day that a legally compliant meal and/or rest break was not provided. Employers cannot require, cause, or permit an employee to work more than five (5) hours per day without providing an uninterrupted meal break. If an employee works over ten (10) hours in a workday, employers are required to either provide a second, uninterrupted 30-minute meal break or pay employees an additional one (1) hour of pay at the employees' regular rate. If the employer fails to properly record a valid meal period, it is presumed that no meal period was provided. Furthermore, no employer shall require an employee to work during any rest period. Rest periods requirements are based on the total hours worked; employees are legally entitled to ten (10) minutes per four (4) hours, or major fraction thereof, that employee worked.

26. DEFENDANTS failed to provide REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES with the required rest and meal break periods. REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were routinely required to work through these periods instead, because of understaffing, inadequate coverage, unreasonably high workload and expectations, and/or other actions, inactions, or decisions made by and within the sole control and discretion of DEFENDANTS.

27. REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES worked shifts in excess of five (5) hours without a meal break, and worked shifts of ten (10) hours or more without a second meal break, due to understaffing, inadequate coverage, unreasonably high workload and expectations, and/or other actions, inactions, or decisions made by and within the sole control and discretion of DEFENDANTS.

28. REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that any purported appearance of meal and rest break compliance is because DEFENDANTS systematically and routinely clocked out for and/or otherwise altered the

1 timekeeping records of REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED
2 EMPLOYEES in an attempt to hide the aforementioned infractions. DEFENDANTS,
3 knowingly and contrary to law and public policy, employed a tactic of clocking-out employees
4 for rest and/or meal periods that were never taken and/or were legally non-compliant, and/or
5 otherwise falsified or altered timekeeping records.

6 29. DEFENDANTS knew, or should have known, that their behavior caused
7 REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES to work through the
8 above-described meal and/or rest periods. As a company-wide policy, DEFENDANTS still
9 chose not to pay meal and rest period premiums required by law.

10 **MINIMUM WAGE**

11 30. California Labor Code sections 1182.12, 1194, 1197, and 1197.1 require
12 employers to pay the minimum wage as set by the IWC. California Labor Code section 1182.12,
13 as amended by Senate Bill 3, Chapter 4, Section 3, defines the minimum wage for any employer
14 regardless of size, as; From January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024, \$16.00 per hour; From
15 January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025, \$16.50 per hour; and From January 1, 2026, to the
16 present, \$16.90 per hour.

17 31. The minimum wage standard applies to each hour employees worked for which
18 they were not paid. Therefore, an employer's failure to pay for any particular hour worked by
19 an employee is unlawful even if averaging an employee's total pay over all hours worked, paid
20 or not, results in an average hourly wage above minimum wage.

21 32. As alleged throughout this Complaint, due to the company-wide failures of
22 DEFENDANTS, REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES
23 were forced to work off-the-clock before and/or after their scheduled work shifts, and/or during
24 rest breaks, and/or during meal breaks. DEFENDANTS failed to pay REPRESENTATIVE
25 PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES minimum wage for this time and/or
26 falsified timekeeping records to hide this fact.

27 ///

28 ///

ACCURATE/ITEMIZED WAGE STATEMENTS

34. California Labor Code section 1174(d) requires employers to keep payroll records showing hours worked, and wages paid to and/or number of piece-rate units earned, for all employees. California Labor Code section 1174.5 subjects employers to a \$500 penalty for failing to maintain same.

36. DEFENDANTS knowingly provided employees with records that do not meet the statutory requirements of truth and accuracy, because DEFENDANTS failed to truthfully and accurately document, among other things, employees off-the-clock work. As a result, DEFENDANTS failed to accurately list the correct amount of gross and/or net wages earned by REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and the other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES.

1 easily access wage statements and get hard copies at no expense to the employee, and/or failure
2 to state all hours worked as a result of off-the-clock work.

3 38. DEFENDANTS willfully failed to maintain accurate payroll records for
4 REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES as a result of
5 DEFENDANTS' failure to accurately record employees' rest breaks, and/or meal breaks, and/or
6 off-the-clock work. DEFENDANTS' failure makes it impossible for REPRESENTATIVE
7 PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES to accurately determine the extent of their
8 underpayment, thereby causing further injuries to each of them.

9 **REPORTING TIME**

10 39. Applicable Wage Orders provide that for each workday when an employee is
11 required to and does in fact report to work, but is either not put to work or is furnished less than
12 half of said employee's usual scheduled day's work, that employee should be paid for no less
13 than half, and in no event less than two (2) hours, of the employees' regular rate of pay.

14 40. REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were
15 frequently told by DEFENDANTS to report to work and were either not put to work or were
16 furnished less than half of said employee's usual scheduled day's work. DEFENDANTS
17 routinely failed to pay the required reporting time wages to REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF
18 and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for each of these instances.

19 **SPLIT SHIFTS**

20 41. Applicable Wage Orders provide that when an employee works a "split shift", one
21 (1) hour's pay at the State or local minimum wage (whichever is greater) must be paid in addition
22 to the minimum wage for that workday. A "split shift" is defined as a work schedule which is
23 interrupted by non-paid, non-working periods established by the employer, other than bona fide
24 rest or meal periods.

25 42. DEFENDANTS routinely scheduled REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other
26 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for multiple different shifts throughout the same workday,
27 separated by periods other than bona fide rest or meal breaks. DEFENDANTS failed to pay
28 REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES one (1) hour's pay

1 at the applicable minimum wage, which resulted in REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other
2 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES being paid less than the applicable minimum wage for that day.
3 As a further consequence, DEFENDANTS also failed to separately list “split shift” payments
4 on REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES wage statements.

5 **ALL WAGES PAID ON TIME**

6 43. California Labor Code section 204 requires that all wages earned, other than those
7 due upon termination, be paid on time as defined by the statute.

8 44. As a result of the numerous company-wide failures of DEFENDANTS as
9 described throughout this Complaint, DEFENDANTS failed to pay REPRESENTATIVE
10 PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES all wages due to them, including, but not
11 limited to minimum wages, overtime wages, double time wages, split shift pay and/or reporting
12 time pay, within the statutorily required time period.

13 **ALL WAGES PAID ON DISCHARGE / TERMINATION**

14 45. California Labor Code sections 201, 202, and 203 provide that employees who are
15 terminated are due all wages earned immediately. Employees who resign their employment
16 without giving 72-hours’ notice are due all wages earned within 72 hours of their resignation.
17 Employees who resign their employment giving 72-hours’ notice are entitled to all wages earned
18 at the time their resignation becomes effective.

19 46. DEFENDANTS terminated their employment relationship with
20 REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF on September 19, 2025. Accordingly, REPRESENTATIVE
21 PLAINTIFF was due all wages earned immediately.

22 47. When REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF finally received REPRESENTATIVE
23 PLAINTIFF’s final paycheck, that final paycheck was legally deficient in that it did not account
24 for all wages earned despite DEFENDANTS knowing that such wages were due to
25 REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF. Due to the company-wide failures of DEFENDANTS as
26 described throughout this Complaint, DEFENDANTS similarly failed to pay other
27 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES timely wages upon their discharge or resignation.

28 ///

1 **FAILURE TO REIMBURSE**

2 48. California Labor Code Sections 2800 and 2802 require that an employer
3 indemnify employees for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employee in direct
4 consequence of the discharge of their duties.

5 49. REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were
6 directed and expected to incur personal expenses on behalf of DEFENDANTS while performing
7 their job duties. Such personal expenses include, but are not limited to, use of personal cell
8 phone, travel expenses, and parking expenses. REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and the other
9 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES would not have been able to successfully accomplish their job
10 duties absent incurring these personal expenses. DEFENDANTS failed to indemnify
11 REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for all necessary
12 expenditures or losses accordingly.

13 **NOTICE OF PAID SICK TIME AND ACCRUAL**

14 50. California Labor Code section 246 provides that an employee who works for the
15 same employer for more than 30 days is entitled to paid sick days. Paid sick leave is to accrue
16 at a rate not less than one (1) hour per every 30 hours worked, such accrual beginning at the
17 commencement of employment. Employers must provide employees with written notice setting
18 the amount of sick leave available (or paid time off in lieu thereof) for use on either itemized
19 wage statements (as described in Labor Code section 226) or in a separate writing accompanying
20 such wage statements.

21 51. REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF was hired by DEFENDANTS on or about July
22 21, 2021 and worked for DEFENDANTS until on or about September 19, 2025.
23 REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES worked for
24 DEFENDANTS for more than 30 days, triggering the protections of Labor Code section 246 as
25 described above. Nevertheless, DEFENDANTS failed to furnish to REPRESENTATIVE
26 PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES, either on itemized wage statements or in
27 a separate writing accompanying such wage statements, the amount of sick leave available to
28 REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES.

52. As such, DEFENDANTS unlawfully retained and continue to retain paid sick leave that should have been paid to REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES but for DEFENDANTS' failure to properly institute and/or adhere to a legally compliant paid sick leave program. REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that these practices were experienced and continue to be experienced by the other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES.

CIVIL PENALTIES AND INDIVIDUAL LIABILITY

53. California Labor Code section 558(a) provides that any employer, including individuals acting on behalf of employers, that violates, or causes to be violated, a section of the Labor Code or any applicable Wage Orders are subject to the following penalties:

54. \$50 for any initial violation for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the employee was underpaid in addition to an amount sufficient to recover unpaid wages;

55. \$100 for each subsequent violation for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the employee was underpaid in addition to an amount to recover unpaid wages;

56. Labor Code section 558.1 permits joint and several liability as to both an individual and employer for violations of Labor Code sections 203, 226, 226.7, 1194, and 2802. Labor Code section 558(c) provides that the penalties in this section are in addition to any other civil penalty.

57. DEFENDANTS are employers, and violated REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES' rights by violating, or causing to be violated, various sections of this code as described throughout this Complaint.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE § 2698, *ET SEQ.*)

(By REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF Against DEFENDANTS)

58. REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF incorporates by reference the allegations contained in each of the preceding paragraphs and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

///

59. PAGA expressly establishes that any provisions of the California Labor Code which provides for a civil penalty to be assessed and collected by the LWDA, or any of its departments, divisions, commissions, boards, agencies or employees for a violation of the California Labor Code, may be recovered through a civil action brought by an aggrieved employee on behalf of himself or herself, and other current or former employees.

60. Whenever the LWDA, or any of its departments, divisions, commissions, boards, agencies, or employees has discretion to assess a civil penalty, a court in a civil action is authorized to exercise the same discretion, subject to the same limitations and conditions, to assess a civil penalty.

61. REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and the other hourly-paid or non-exempt employees, are "AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES" within the meaning of California Labor Code section 2699(c) as they are all current or former employees of DEFENDANTS, and one or more of the alleged violations was committed against them.

Failure to Provide Employment Records

62. DEFENDANTS' failure to provide REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES with employment records constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity and is prohibited by California Labor Code sections 226, 432, and 1198.5.

Failure to Pay Overtime / Double Time

63. DEFENDANTS' failure to pay legally required overtime and double time wages to REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES is in violation of the Wage Orders and constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by California Labor Code sections 510 and 1198.

Failure to Provide Meal and Rest Periods

64. DEFENDANTS' failure to provide legally required meal and rest periods to REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by California Labor Code sections 226.7, 512(a), and the applicable Wage Orders.

///

Failure to Pay Minimum Wages

65. DEFENDANTS' failure to pay legally required minimum wages to REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by California Labor Code sections 1182.12, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, and the applicable Wage Orders.

Failure to Keep Accurate and Provide Itemized Wage Statements

66. DEFENDANTS' failure to keep accurate and provide itemized wage statements to REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by California Labor Code sections 226(a), 1174(d), and 1198.

Failure to Pay Reporting Time

67. DEFENDANTS' failure to pay REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES who were required to and did in fact report to work, but who were then furnished less than half of such employees' usual scheduled day's work, with at least half, and in no event less than two (2) hours, of the employees' regular rate of pay constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by applicable Wage Orders.

Failure to Pay "Split Shift" Premiums

68. DEFENDANTS' failure to pay REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES one (1) hour's pay at the minimum wage in addition to the wages for that workday for any workday in which REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were scheduled for and required to work a "split shift" constitutes unlawful or unfair activity prohibited by applicable Wage Orders.

Failure to Timely Pay Wages During Employment

69. DEFENDANTS' failure to timely pay wages to REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES during their employment constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by California Labor Code section 204.

///

///

Failure to Timely Pay Wages Upon Termination

70. DEFENDANTS' failure to timely pay wages to REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES upon termination constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by California Labor Code sections 201, 202, and 203.

Failure to Reimburse Necessary Business-Related Expenses and Costs

71. DEFENDANTS' failure to reimburse REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for necessary business-related expenses and costs constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by California Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802.

Failure to Provide Notice of Paid Sick Time and Accrual

72. DEFENDANTS' failure to provide REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES who work for DEFENDANTS for more than 30 days with written notice setting the amount of sick leave available (or paid time off in lieu thereof) for use in their itemized wage statements or in a separate writing accompanying such statements constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by California Labor Code section 246.

Civil Penalties

73. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699, REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF, individually, and on behalf of all AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES, requests and is entitled to recover penalties from DEFENDANTS and each of them, for violations of the Labor Code as more fully described herein according to proof, interest, attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to California Labor Code section 218.5, including but not limited to:

74. Penalties under California Labor Code section 2699 in the amount of a hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial violation, and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation;

///

///

///

1 75. Penalties under California Code of Regulations Title 8 section 11010, et seq. in
2 the amount of fifty dollars (\$50) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial
3 violation, and one hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each
4 subsequent violation;

5 76. Penalties under California Labor Code section 210 in addition to, and entirely
6 independent and apart from, any other penalties provided in the California Labor Code in the
7 amount of a hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial
8 violation, and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each
9 subsequent violation; and

10 77. Any and all additional penalties and sums as provided by the California Labor
11 Code and/or other statutes, including, but not limited to, penalties pursuant to California Labor
12 Code 558(a).

13 78. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699(i), as amended by Assembly Bill
14 2288 (Stats. 2024, ch. 44), civil penalties recovered shall be distributed as follows: sixty-five
15 percent (65%) to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency for the enforcement of labor
16 laws and education of employers and employees about their rights and responsibilities, and
17 thirty-five percent (35%) to the aggrieved employees.

18 79. Further, REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF is entitled to seek and recover
19 reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to California Labor Code sections 210, 218.5 and
20 2699 and any other applicable statute.

21 80. THEREFORE, REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF and the individuals he seeks to
22 represent request relief as described below:

23 ///

24 ///

25 ///

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

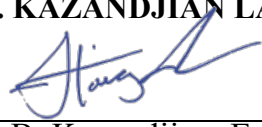
PRAYER

THEREFORE, REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF prays for judgment against DEFENDANTS, and Does 1 through 50, and each of them, as follows:

1. Statutory attorneys' fees and costs under PAGA and California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1021.5;
2. Statutory penalties under PAGA;
3. Costs of suit; and
4. Such further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: March 6, 2026

HAIG B. KAZANDJIAN LAWYERS, APC

By: 

Haig B. Kazandjian, Esq.,
Cathy Gonzalez, Esq.
Michael Ariavand, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiff