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8 on behalf of the State of California,
9 and others similarly situated and aggrieved

10 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
11 **COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE**

12 LESLIE TORRES, on behalf of the State of
13 California, and others similarly situated and
aggrieved,

14 Plaintiff,

15 v.
16

17 DMSD FOODS, INC., a California
18 Corporation; and DOES 1-100, inclusive,

19 Defendants.

Case No.: **CVRI 2304413**

**PLAINTIFF'S REPRESENTATIVE
COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATION OF
THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS
GENERAL ACT, CAL. LABOR CODE
SECTIONS 2698, et seq.**

1 Plaintiff, LESLIE TORRES (“PLAINTIFF”), an individual on behalf of PLAINTIFF, the
2 State of California, and all other Aggrieved Employees (as defined below), hereby files this
3 Complaint against Defendants DMSD FOODS, INC., a California Corporation; and DOES 1-100,
4 inclusive, (collectively referred to herein as “DEFENDANTS”). PLAINTIFF is informed and
5 believes and thereon alleges as follows:

6 **INTRODUCTION**

7 1. This is a representative action filed by PLAINTIFF on behalf of PLAINTIFF, all
8 Aggrieved Employees and the State of California against DEFENDANTS, pursuant to California’s
9 Private Attorney General Act, Labor Code section 2698 *et. seq.* (“PAGA”), to recover civil penalties
10 (75% payable to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency and 25% payable to Aggrieved
11 Employees) for DEFENDANTS’ violations of the California Labor Code as alleged below.

12 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

13 2. This Court has jurisdiction over PLAINTIFF’s claims for penalties pursuant to
14 California statutes, including but not limited to the PAGA, and decisional law and regulations.

15 3. Venue is proper in this judicial district and the County of Riverside pursuant to
16 California Code of Civil Procedure section 395.5 because DEFENDANTS transact business within
17 this judicial district and conduct alleged by PLAINTIFF herein occurred in this this judicial district.
18 *See also Crestwood Behavioral Health, Inc. v. Superior Court* (2021) 60 Cal.App.5th 1069 (venue
19 in a PAGA action is proper in any county where the defendants committed Labor Code violations
20 against some of its employees).

21 **THE PARTIES**

22 4. PLAINTIFF is, and at all relevant times, was an individual domiciled in the State of
23 California and a citizen of the State of California.

24 5. PLAINTIFF is a former employee of DEFENDANTS. PLAINTIFF worked for
25 DEFENDANTS as a non-exempt employee with a job title of chef lead and/or a similar title from
26 in or around October 2018 through in or around December 2022. PLAINTIFF worked for
27 DEFENDANTS at DEFENDANTS’ restaurant locations including but not limited to
28 DEFENDANTS’ fast-food restaurant in Wildomar, California.

6. Defendant DMSD FOODS, INC., is a California Corporation that, at all relevant times, was authorized to do business within the State of California and is doing business in the State of California.

7. DEFENDANTS own, operate, manage and/or staff its employees to work at fast food restaurants including but not limited to restaurants operating under the name “Jack in the Box” in California, including but not limited to locations in Wildomar, California. DEFENDANTS, through its various locations serves the fast-food restaurant industry.

8. The true names and capacities of the DOE Defendants sued herein as DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, are currently unknown to PLAINTIFF, who therefore sues each such Defendant by said fictitious names. Each of the Defendants designated herein as a DOE is legally responsible for the unlawful acts alleged herein. PLAINTIFF will seek leave of Court to amend this Complaint to reflect the true names and capacities of the Doe Defendants when such identities become known.

9. PLAINTIFF is further informed and believes 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 in this complaint. PLAINTIFF is further informed and believes and thereon alleges that each Defendant acted pursuant to and within the scope of the relationships alleged above, and that at all relevant times, each Defendant knew or should have known about, authorized, ratified, adopted, approved, controlled, aided and abetted the conduct of all other Defendants.

JOINT LIABILITY

10. Under California law, the definition of the terms “to employ” are broadly construed under the applicable IWC Wage Order(s) to have three alternative definitions, including: (1) to exercise control over the wages, hours or working conditions; (2) to suffer or permit to work; or (3) to engage, thereby creating a common law employment relationship. See, *Martinez v. Combs*, 49

1 Cal.4th 35, 64 (2010). One reason that the IWC defined “employer” in terms of exercising control
2 was to reach situations in which multiple entities control different aspects of the employment
3 relationship. Supervision of the work, in the specific sense of exercising control over how services
4 are properly performed, is properly viewed as one of the “working conditions” mentioned in the
5 wage order. *Id.* at 76. A joint employer relationship exists, for example, when one entity (such as a
6 temporary employment agency) hires and pays a worker, and the other entity supervises the work.
7 *Id.* Moreover, the California Court of Appeal recently broadened the test for joint employment in
8 California, applying a less stringent standard to what constitutes sufficient control by a business
9 over its vendor’s employees’ wages and working conditions to render that business liable as a joint
10 employer. See, *Medina v. Equilon Enterprises, LLC*, 68 Cal. App. 5th 868 (2021); “[i]f the putative
11 joint employer instead exercises enough control over the intermediary entity to *indirectly* dictate the
12 wages, hours, or working conditions of the employee, that is a sufficient showing of joint
13 employment,” *Id.* at 875 [emphasis added].

14 11. During PLAINTIFF’s employment by DEFENDANTS, PLAINTIFF and other
15 Aggrieved Employees (defined below) were jointly employed by DEFENDANTS for purposes of
16 the Wage Orders, under the alternative definitions of “to employ” adopted by the California
17 Supreme Court in *Martinez*, supra. As discussed below, these DEFENDANTS (1) exercised control
18 over wages, hours and working conditions of PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved Employees; (2) suffered
19 or permitted PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved Employees to work for them; and (3) engaged PLAINTIFF
20 and Aggrieved Employees to work for them.

21 12. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that at all relevant times
22 DEFENDANTS operated as a single integrated enterprise with common ownership and centralized
23 human resources. As a result, DEFENDANTS utilized the same unlawful policies and practices
24 across all of their locations/facilities and subjected all of the Aggrieved Employees to these same
25 policies and practices regardless of the location(s) where they worked. Among other things,
26 PLAINTIFF is informed and believes that: (1) there is common ownership in, and financial control,
27 in DEFENDANTS’ companies, (2) DEFENDANTS utilize common management, who have control
28 over the day-to-day operations and employment matters, including the power to hire and fire, set

1 schedules, issue employee policies, and determine rates of compensation across its locations in
2 California; (3) DEFENDANTS utilize the same policies and procedures for all California
3 employees, including issuing the same employee handbooks and other form agreements; (4)
4 DEFENDANTS use at least some of the same Human Resources personnel and attorneys to oversee
5 employment matters; and, (6) DEFENDANTS share employees.

6 13. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that at all times relevant
7 to this Complaint, DEFENDANTS were the joint employers of PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved
8 Employees upon whose behalf PLAINTIFF brings these allegations and cause of action, in that
9 DEFENDANTS, exercised sufficient control over PLAINTIFF and the Aggrieved Employees'
10 wages, hours and working conditions, and/or suffered or permitted them to work so as to be
11 considered the joint employers of PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved Employees.

12 14. Upon information and belief, PLAINTIFF alleges that DEFENDANTS created a
13 uniform set of policies, practices and/or procedures concerning, inter alia, hourly and overtime pay,
14 time-keeping practices, meal and rest periods, reimbursement of business expenses and other
15 working conditions that were distributed to, and/or applied to PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved
16 Employees, and further that DEFENDANTS uniformly compensated and controlled the wages of
17 PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees in a uniform manner. DEFENDANTS collectively
18 represented to PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees that each was an "at-will" employee of
19 DEFENDANTS, and that DEFENDANTS collectively retained the right to terminate PLAINTIFF's
20 and other Aggrieved Employees' employment with or without cause. Upon information and belief,
21 DEFENDANTS further collectively represented to PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved Employees in
22 writing the details of their compensation, and the manner in which they were to take meal and rest
23 periods, the procedures required by DEFENDANTS collectively for recordation of hours worked
24 and the policies applicable to PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved Employees by which DEFENDANTS
25 collectively would evaluate their wage rates.

26 15. Thus, DEFENDANTS collectively exercised the right to control the wages, hours
27 and working conditions of PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved Employees. As such, DEFENDANTS
28 collectively held the right to control virtually every aspect of PLAINTIFF's and the Aggrieved

1 Employees' employment, including the instrumentality that resulted in the illegal conduct for which
2 PLAINTIFF seeks relief in this Complaint.

3 16. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes that DEFENDANTS exercised the same
4 control over, applied the same policies and practices, and engaged in the same acts and omissions
5 with regard to the other Aggrieved Employees.

6 17. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes and hereon alleges that DEEFENDANTS must
7 be classified as joint employers of PLAINTIFF for purposes of liability for civil penalties under
8 PAGA, as the aforementioned entities engaged, suffered and permitted PLAINTIFF to perform
9 services from which they benefited, and furthermore that the aforementioned entities had the right
10 to exercise control over the wages, hours and/or working conditions of PLAINTIFF at all relevant
11 times herein, so as to be considered the joint employers of PLAINTIFF.

12 18. By reason of their status as joint employers of PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved
13 Employees, DEFENDANTS are each liable for civil penalties for violations of the California Labor
14 Code and applicable Wage Orders as to all Aggrieved Employees.

15 **PAGA ALLEGATIONS**

16 19. PLAINTIFF brings this action under the PAGA, as a representative action on behalf
17 of the State of California and all Aggrieved Employees, regarding violations of the California Labor
18 Code as set forth herein as to all Aggrieved Employees. Said "Aggrieved Employees" include:

19 All current and former non-exempt employees that worked either
20 directly or via a staffing agency for DEFENDANTS at any location
21 in California at any time from one year plus 65 days from the filing
22 of the initial Complaint through the present ("PAGA Period").

23 20. PLAINTIFF is an "aggrieved employee," as that term is defined under Labor Code
24 section 2699(c), as PLAINTIFF was employed by DEFENDANTS during the applicable statutory
25 limitations period and suffered one or more of the Labor Code violations set forth herein.
26 Accordingly, PLAINTIFF seeks to recover on behalf of the State of California, and all Aggrieved
27 Employees, the civil penalties provided by PAGA, plus reasonable attorney's fees and costs.
28 PLAINTIFF has standing to bring a PAGA cause of action on behalf of the State and all Aggrieved

1 Employees, as PLAINTIFF was jointly employed by DEFENDANTS and is thereby affected by
2 one or more of the alleged violations. *See Huff v. Securitas Security Services USA, Inc.* (2018) 23
3 Cal.App.5th 745, 757. A PAGA plaintiff has authority to seek penalties for all known violations
4 committed by the employer – regardless of whether Plaintiff experienced all violations personally.
5 *Id.* at 760-761.

6 **COMPLIANCE WITH PAGA’S NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

7 21. PLAINTIFF, on June 16, 2023, through counsel, gave written notice by online filing
8 with the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”) informing it that
9 DEFENDANTS failed to comply with California’s labor laws with regard to the allegations alleged
10 in this Complaint (“PAGA Notice”).

11 22. The PAGA Notice outlined PLAINTIFF’s claims for violations of the California
12 Labor Code and the applicable wage orders on behalf of the State of California and all Aggrieved
13 Employees.

14 23. PLAINTIFF seeks to recover the PAGA civil penalties through a representative
15 action permitted by PAGA and the California Supreme Court in *Arias v. Superior Court* (2009) 46
16 Cal.4th 969. Therefore, class certification of the PAGA claims is not required.

17 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

18 24. During the relevant period, PLAINTIFF, and each of the Aggrieved Employees
19 worked for DEFENDANTS in the State of California. At all times referenced herein,
20 DEFENDANTS exercised control over PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved Employees, and suffered and/or
21 permitted them to work.

22 25. PLAINTIFF is a former employee of DEFENDANTS. PLAINTIFF worked for
23 DEFENDANTS as a non-exempt employee with a job title of chef lead and/or a similar title from
24 in or around October 2018 through in or around December 2022. PLAINTIFF worked for
25 DEFENDANTS at DEFENDANTS’ restaurant locations including but not limited to
26 DEFENDANTS’ fast-food restaurant in Wildomar, California. PLAINTIFF regularly worked at
27 least eight (8) hours per day, at least at least five (5) days per week.

28 26. At all relevant times, PLAINTIFF was a non-exempt employee that was paid on an

1 hourly basis for time counted by DEFENDANTS as hours worked.

2 27. **Unpaid Minimum and Overtime Wages.** DEFENDANTS failed to compensate
3 PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved Employees for all hours worked, resulting in the underpayment of
4 minimum and overtime wages. DEFENDANTS failed to compensate PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved
5 Employees for all hours worked by virtue of, DEFENDANTS' automatic deduction and time
6 rounding policies, and failure to relieve employees of all duties/employer control during unpaid
7 meal periods or otherwise unlawful practices for missed or improper meal periods, as explained
8 below.

9 28. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS implemented a policy and/or
10 practice of rounding meal period start and end times and/or automatically deducting at least thirty
11 minutes per shift for meal periods, despite having actual and/or constructive knowledge that
12 PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees were subject to DEFENDANTS' control during
13 purported meal periods and/or were otherwise not afforded lawful meal periods, depriving
14 PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved Employees of all wages owed.

15 29. Based on information and belief, Aggrieved Employees were not paid for all hours
16 worked due to DEFENDANTS' policy and/or practice of paying according to scheduled hours
17 worked instead of actual time worked, time rounding policies and practices, and/or mandated off-
18 the clock work policies and/or practices. For example, PLAINTIFF was not paid for all hours
19 worked as a result of DEFENDANTS' policy and/or practice of manipulating time records. Based
20 on information and belief, at times, DEFENDANTS altered and/or rounded PLAINTIFF's time
21 records to reflect a timely meal period and/or a complete 30-minute meal period, thereby depriving
22 PLAINTIFF of all wages owed for all hours worked. Moreover, based on information and belief,
23 DEFENDANTS had a policy and/or practice of altering and/or rounding time records so as to avoid
24 paying overtime and/or reduce the amount of owed overtime.

25 30. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS required Aggrieved Employees to
26 perform pre-shift and post shift off-the-clock work. For example, prior to her scheduled shift time
27 and prior to clocking into work, PLAINTIFF frequently received text messages from
28 DEFENDANTS requesting that PLAINTIFF pick up food supplies (such as buns, meat, and/or

1 produce) from other fast food locations owned and/or operated by DEFENDANTS and deliver it to
2 PLAINTIFF"s assigned restaurant location. PLAINTIFF was not compensated for the time spent
3 responding to DEFENDANTS' communications, time spent traveling to and from DEFENDANTS'
4 locations and/or time spent picking up such food supplies.

5 31. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS required Aggrieved Employees to
6 complete off-the-clock work when required to unlock the restaurant's doors and/or disable the
7 restaurant's alarm before clocking-in to work which resulted in at least a few minutes of off-the-
8 clock work. Similarly, when closing the restaurant doors, Aggrieved Employees were required to
9 first clock-out then enable the alarm, and then lock all doors. This amounted at least an additional
10 few minutes of post-shift off-the-clock work.

11 32. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS required Aggrieved Employees to
12 perform off-the-clock work. For example, PLAINTIFF was required to complete additional work
13 tasks after clocking out of work, including but not limited to taking out the restaurant's trash and/or
14 completing other assigned tasks, which resulted in uncompensated work.

15 33. Moreover, based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS failed to pay Aggrieved
16 Employees split shift premium wages when they worked split shifts during the relevant period. For
17 example, based on information and belief, at times, DEFENDANTS required Aggrieved Employees
18 to work two separate shifts in the same day. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS failed
19 to pay Aggrieved Employees split shift compensation whenever PLAINTIFF's and/or other
20 Aggrieved Employees' work schedules were interrupted by non-paid non-working periods
21 established by DEFENDANTS, which resulted in a violation of the applicable Wage Order (See
22 section 4 of all applicable Wage orders, "When an employee works a split shift, one (1) hour's pay
23 at the minimum wage shall be paid in addition to the minimum wage for that workday...). See, also,
24 Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 8, § 11050 (when an employee works a split shift, one (1) hour's pay at the
25 minimum wage shall be paid in addition to the minimum wage for that workday, except when the
26 employee resides at the place of employment). DEFENDANTS also failed to separately itemize
27 these split shift premium wages on Aggrieved Employees' wage statements, in violation of Labor
28 Code sections 510, 1194 and all applicable IWC Wage Orders. See,

1 https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/split_shift.htm. (The employer must itemize the premium payment on
2 the pay stub provided to the employee, and it should be shown as a separate category such as “Split
3 Shift Premium” and should not be lumped into another category such as wages, bonus, etc.
4 DEFENDANTS failed to separately account for the split shift premiums earned by Aggrieved
5 Employees on their wage statements.

6 34. Additionally, PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees were required to perform
7 other off-the-clock work for which they were not compensated. For example, based on information
8 and belief, at times, DEFENDANTS’ biometric/electronic employee time-keeping system
9 malfunctioned such that Aggrieved Employees were required to either reinitiate and/or otherwise
10 troubleshoot the system prior to being able to clock in and/or were unable to clock in at all for the
11 start of their shifts and/or clock back in from meal periods, resulting in off-the-clock work and the
12 underpayment of wages owed to Aggrieved Employees. Based on information and belief,
13 Aggrieved Employees experienced the same issues when clocking out for shifts and/or back in for
14 meal periods. This time spent under DEFENDANTS’ control was not recorded and not
15 compensated and resulted in unpaid minimum wages owed to Aggrieved Employees.

16 35. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS did not compensate Aggrieved
17 Employees for time spent donning and doffing personal protective equipment and/or uniforms (e.g.,
18 rubber gloves, hairnets, aprons) during meal periods, before the start of a scheduled shift, and/or
19 after completing a scheduled shift, resulting in the underpayment of wages owed to Aggrieved
20 Employees.

21 36. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS failed to pay Aggrieved
22 Employees for time they were required to spend completing orientation, policy questionnaires,
23 and/or time spent completing the onboarding process including but not limited to reviewing various
24 documents and policies provided by DEFEDANTS. Based on information and belief, this work time
25 was completed off-the-clock and was not compensated.

26 37. Based in information and belief, DEFENDANTS implemented a time-rounding
27 system that as applied systematically deprived PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees of
28 compensable time because the time-rounding system implemented by DEFENDANTS would

1 almost always, if not always, result in understating actual compensable work time.

2 38. DEFENDANTS' failure to pay for all time worked by virtue of its time rounding,
3 auto-deduction policies and practices for unlawful meal periods, failure to provide lawful meal
4 periods, and/or other off-the-clock work practices and policies, resulted in the underpayment of
5 minimum wages owed to PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved Employees as well as unpaid overtime wages
6 for those Aggrieved Employees who worked more than eight (8) hours in a day and/or more than
7 forty (40) hours in a week. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS had a policy and/or
8 practice of altering and/or rounding time records so as to avoid paying overtime and/or reduce the
9 amount of owed overtime.

10 39. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS had actual and/or constructive
11 knowledge that its time rounding policies/practices, auto-deduction policies and practices, failure to
12 provide lawful meal periods (as described below) and/or other off-the-clock work resulted in the
13 underpayment of minimum wages and overtime wages owed to Aggrieved Employees, in violation
14 of California's minimum and overtime wage laws.

15 40. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS failed and continue to fail to pay
16 Aggrieved Employees two times their regular rate of pay for time worked beyond twelve (12) hours
17 per workday and for time worked beyond eight (8) hours on the seventh consecutive day of work in
18 a work week, in violation of California's overtime laws.

19 41. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS failed to incorporate all non-
20 discretionary remuneration, including but not limited to, shift differential pay, bonus pay/incentive
21 pay, multiple base rates of pay and/or other non-discretionary pay into the regular rate of pay used
22 to calculate the owed overtime rate(s), resulting in the miscalculation and underpayment of overtime
23 wages owed to PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees.

24 42. **Meal Period Violations.** PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees consistently
25 worked shifts of at least five and one-half hours or more, entitling them to at least one meal period.
26 However, PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees would not receive legally compliant thirty
27 (30) minute first and second meal periods. Based on information and belief, Aggrieved Employees
28 were consistently unable to take timely, off duty, thirty-minute, uninterrupted meal periods, often

1 being forced to take late meal periods, interrupted meal periods, and/or work through part or all their
2 meal periods due to understaffing, the nature and constraints of their job duties and/or commentary
3 from supervisors pressuring them to take non-compliant meal periods or skip meal periods
4 completely. For example, based on information and belief, PLAINTIFF was forced to take late meal
5 periods in order to complete assigned job duties. Based on information and belief, PLAINTIFF was
6 at times, interrupted during purported meal periods and/or had meal periods cut short and/or
7 restricted to DEFENDANTS' premises due to the need to continue assigned job duties. Moreover,
8 PLAINTIFF was frequently denied a meal period due to understaffing.

9 43. Based on information and belief, other Aggrieved Employees were consistently
10 suffered and permitted to take meal periods past the fifth hour of work and/or had their meal periods
11 interrupted, cut short, and/or otherwise on duty due to commentary from supervisors, understaffing,
12 the nature and constraints of their job duties, and/or the need to meet DEFENDANTS' goals and
13 expectations.

14 44. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS implemented policies and/or
15 practices that failed to relieve Aggrieved Employees of all duties and DEFENDANTS' control
16 during unpaid meal periods.

17 45. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS required Aggrieved Employees to
18 complete off-the-clock work prior to their scheduled shift time which DEFENDANTS failed to take
19 into account when scheduling meal periods for Aggrieved Employees. Based on information and
20 belief, meal periods were late, in part due to unaccounted pre-shift off-the-clock work.

21 46. Based on information and belief, despite DEFENDANTS' failure to provide lawful
22 meal periods, DEFENDANTS implemented a policy and/or practice of rounding the start and end
23 times of PLAINTIFF's and other Aggrieved Employees' meal periods and/or automatically
24 deducting at least thirty minutes per shift for missed, on-duty, and/or otherwise unlawful meal
25 periods despite having actual and/or constructive knowledge that PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved
26 Employees did not receive lawful meal periods.

27 47. Moreover, based on information and belief, Aggrieved Employees who worked shifts
28 of more than ten hours did not receive a second legally compliant thirty (30) minute meal period.

1 For example, when PLAINTIFF worked more than ten hours in a shift, PLAINTIFF was not
2 provided with a second meal period.

3 48. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS failed to instruct PLAINTIFF and
4 other Aggrieved Employees as to the timing and duty-free nature of meal periods. Based on further
5 information and belief, DEFENDANTS did not have a compliant written meal period policy, nor
6 did DEFENDANTS have any sort of compliant policy in practice.

7 49. Moreover, based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS failed to keep accurate
8 records of the true start and end times of PLAINTIFF's and Aggrieved Employees' meal periods.
9 Based on information and belief, to the extent meal periods were recorded, DEFENDANTS illegally
10 rounded the start and end times of purported meal periods resulting in PLAINTIFF and other
11 Aggrieved Employees not being paid for all time worked as well as late and/or shortened meal
12 periods. *See Donohue v. AMN Services, LLC* (2021) 11 Cal.5th 58.

13 50. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS had actual and/or constructive
14 knowledge that its policies and practices resulted in the denial of timely uninterrupted meal periods
15 that were free of DEFENDANTS' control owed to PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees, in
16 violation of California's meal period laws.

17 51. DEFENDANTS failed to pay PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees, an
18 additional hour of wages at their respective regular rates of compensation for each workday a lawful
19 meal period was not provided. DEFENDANTS either failed to pay a meal period premium at all for
20 each workday a lawful meal period was not provided and/or failed to pay the proper meal period
21 premium for failure to incorporate all non-discretionary remuneration, including but not limited to,
22 bonuses, shift differential pay and/or other non-discretionary compensation into the regular rate or
23 compensation for purposes of calculating the owed meal period premium.

24 52. **Rest Period Violations.** DEFENDANTS did not properly authorize and provide
25 PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees with legally compliant rest periods at a rate of every
26 four (4) hours worked or major fraction thereof, that insofar as practicable, are provided in the
27 middle of the work period, as required by law.

28 53. PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees were not adequately informed,

1 authorized, instructed about, nor permitted an opportunity to take proper rest periods per California
2 law. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS had no policy in place nor instruction as to
3 the taking or timing of duty-free rest periods.

4 54. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS did not have a have a compliant
5 written rest period policy, nor did DEFENDANTS have any sort of compliant rest period policy in
6 practice. For example, based on information and belief, PLAINTIFF was at times, unable to take
7 compliant rest periods due to PLAINTIFF's need to complete assigned job duties and/or was unable
8 to take a net ten-minute rest period in a suitable rest area and/or had purported rest periods restricted
9 to DEFENDANTS' premises. PLAINTIFF was regularly denied the opportunity to take a single
10 complaint rest period.

11 55. Based on information and belief, any purported rest periods were interrupted, cut
12 short, on duty, restricted to premises, and/or late due to understaffing, the nature and constraints of
13 their job duties, and/or commentary from supervisors pressuring them to skip rest periods
14 completely and/or take non-compliant rest periods.

15 56. Moreover, based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS failed to provide any
16 form of a third rest period on shifts lasting longer than ten hours.

17 57. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS implemented policies and/or
18 practices that failed to relieve PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees of all duties and
19 DEFENDANTS' control during rest periods.

20 58. Based on information and belief, Aggrieved Employees were pressured to complete
21 their work duties according to a designated schedule such that rest periods were only taken once
22 tasks were completed, and/or as time permitted.

23 59. Furthermore, DEFENDANTS failed to pay a rest period premium for each day in
24 which PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees experienced a missed/unlawful rest period in
25 violation of California law. DEFENDANTS either failed to pay a rest period premium at all for each
26 workday a proper rest period was not provided and/or failed to pay the proper rest period premium
27 for failure to incorporate all non-discretionary remuneration, including but not limited to, bonuses,
28 shift differential pay, and/or other non-discretionary compensation into the regular rate of

1 compensation for purposes of calculating the owed rest period premium.

2 **60. Failure to Provide Suitable Resting Facilities.** Per section 13 of all applicable IWC
3 Wage Orders, including but not limited to Wage Order 4, employees shall be provided with suitable
4 resting facilities. Section 13(B) of the Wage Orders provides: “Suitable resting facilities shall be
5 provided in an area separate from the toilet rooms and shall be available to employees during work
6 hours.”

7 **61. DEFENDANTS’ locations/facilities** are generally similar in layout and design, and
8 there was, and continues to be, space that allows for a resting facility that employees may use to
9 cease work and recover during meal or rest periods. DEFENDANTS could have provided Aggrieved
10 Employees with a resting facility within DEFENDANTS’ facilities/locations with reasonable or no
11 modification, but instead denied and continues to deny, employees with suitable areas to rest (e.g. a
12 breakroom). As a result, Aggrieved Employees were forced to adjust to areas not conducive to
13 resting, including but not limited to leaning up against the wall, or search for facilities outside of
14 DEFENDANTS’ premises which are not designated or reserved for their rest, such as their personal
15 vehicles.

16 **62. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS did not provide Aggrieved**
17 Employees with suitable resting facilities during their hours of work, particularly during meal and/or
18 rest periods.

19 **63. DEFENDANTS’ failure to provide suitable resting facilities to Aggrieved**
20 Employees violated and continue to violate the applicable Wage Order, section 13(B) and the
21 California Labor Code, including but not limited to section 1198.

22 **64. Inaccurate Wage Statements.** During the relevant period, DEFENDANTS failed to
23 provide PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees with accurate wage statements that complied
24 with Labor Code section 226. As DEFENDANTS failed to provide PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved
25 Employees with meal and rest periods that complied with Labor section 226.7, the wage statements
26 DEFENDANTS issued to PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved Employees failed and continue to fail to
27 correctly set forth the gross wages earned, the total hours worked, the net wages earned, and all
28 applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours

1 worked at each hourly rate by the employee.

2 65. DEFENDANTS issued wage statements to PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved
3 Employees that also failed to indicate the earned gross and net wages earned during the pay period,
4 the correct applicable rates of pay for all hours worked, and the total hours worked by PLAINTIFF
5 and Aggrieved Employees (by virtue of rounded time entries, automatic deduction for meal
6 periods/failure to relieve Aggrieved Employees of all duties and employer control during unpaid
7 meal periods, payment according to scheduled hours worked rather than actual hours worked, and/or
8 other off-the-clock work policies and practices described above) which results in a violation of
9 Labor Code section 226(a).

10 66. Based on information and belief, wage statements issued by DEFENDANTS failed
11 to list all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of
12 hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee, in violation of, including but not limited to, Labor
13 Code section 226(a)(9).

14 67. Moreover, based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS issued wage statements
15 to PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved Employees that further violate Labor Code section 226(a), by among
16 other things, failing to list the correct name and/or address of the legal entity that is the employer,
17 in violation of Labor Code section 226(a)(8).

18 68. Based on information and belief, wage statements issued by DEFENDANTS failed
19 to list the inclusive dates of the pay period for which the Aggrieved Employee is being paid.

20 69. As such, DEFENDANTS' issued wage statements to Aggrieved Employees that did
21 not include all of the statutorily required information, including but not limited to, the correct name
22 and/or address of the legal entity that is the employer.

23 70. Based on further information and belief, DEFENDANTS issued wage statements to
24 Aggrieved Employees that failed to list the accurate total hours worked whenever shift differential
25 wages were paid in violation of Labor Code section 226.

26 71. As a result, DEFENDANTS issued wage statements to PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved
27 Employees that were not accurate and did not include all of the statutorily required information. As
28 such, DEFENDANTS violated Labor Code section 226.

1 72. **Unlawful Deductions.** Labor Code section 221 prohibits an employer from
2 “collect[ing] or receiv[ing] from an employee any part of wages theretofore paid by said employer
3 to said employee.” Based on information and belief DEFENDANTS made unlawful deductions
4 from Aggrieved Employees paychecks during the relevant period.

5 73. PLAINTIFF alleges on information and belief that DEFENDANTS made unlawful
6 deductions from Aggrieved Employees’ paychecks during the relevant period, including, but not
7 limited to, the cost of transactional fees incurred by virtue of their paychecks being placed on a pay
8 card, which had transactional fees whenever it was used.

9 74. The foregoing violates, including but not limited to, Labor Code Section 221, which
10 subjects Employer to civil penalties under Labor Code Section 2699.

11 75. **Failure to Produce Employment Records.** Based on information and belief,
12 DEFENDANTS have a uniform policy and practice of failing to produce or make available a current
13 or former employee’s time, pay, and/or personnel records when requested pursuant to Labor Code
14 sections 226, 1198.5, 432, and/or the applicable Wage Order. Based on information and belief,
15 DEFENDANTS failed and continues to fail to timely produce complete payroll and personnel
16 records when requested by other Aggrieved Employees. Based on information and belief,
17 DEFENDANTS failed and continue to fail to timely produce complete time, pay, and personnel
18 records when requested by other Aggrieved Employees.

19 76. **Inaccurate Records.** Based on the above-described unlawful policies and practices,
20 DEFENDANTS failed and continue to fail, to keep accurate and complete payroll records as
21 required by Labor Code sections 1174, 1198, 1199, and section 7 of all applicable Wage Orders.
22 DEFENDANTS failed, and continue to fail, to keep accurate and complete payroll records as
23 required by law, including but not limited to the following records: total daily hours worked,
24 applicable rates of pay, time records showing when PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees
25 began and ended each work period, time records of meal periods, and accurate itemized wage
26 statements.

27 77. DEFENDANTS have failed and continue to fail to keep accurate and complete
28 records showing total hours worked by virtue of DEFENDANTS’ time rounding, automatic meal

1 period deductions, failure to relieve PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved Employees of all duties and
2 employer control during unpaid meal periods, failure to record the true start and end times of meal
3 periods, shift start times and shift end times, and other off-the-clock work policies and practices
4 described herein.

5 78. **Unreimbursed Business Expenses.** Based on information and belief,
6 DEFENDANTS required PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees to incur business expenses
7 as a direct consequence of the performance of their job duties without providing reimbursement, in
8 violation of Labor Code section 2802. Based on information and belief, PLAINTIFF and other
9 Aggrieved Employees were improperly required to provide and maintain work tools that are
10 supposed to be the responsibility of the employer.

11 79. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS shifted the costs of doing business
12 onto Aggrieved Employees by requiring them to pay for business expenses. For example, based on
13 information and belief DEFENDANTS required Aggrieved Employees to pay for business expenses
14 including but not limited to including but not limited to, uniforms/work clothing/work shoes,
15 personal protective/safety gear and/or the use of Aggrieved Employees' personal mobile phones and
16 data usage for work related purposes including but not limited to receiving and responding to work
17 related messages and/or phone calls. For example, PLAINTIFF received work related
18 communications to her personal cell phone, but was not provided with any reimbursement.

19 80. Moreover, PLAINTIFF was required to purchase her own non-slip shoes, apron,
20 and/or uniform/work clothing without reimbursement from DEFENDANTS.

21 81. Moreover, DEFENDANTS failed to reimburse Aggrieved Employees for costs
22 associated with using a personal vehicle for work related purposes. For example, PLAINTIFF was
23 required to use her personal vehicle to travel from one of DEFENDANTS' facilities/restaurants to
24 a second of DEFENDANTS' facilities/restaurants for work-related purposes without reimbursing
25 PLAINTIFF for the expenses incurred in connection with DEFENDANTS' business use of their
26 personal vehicles. Based on information and belief, other Aggrieved Employees also incurred
27 vehicle-related business expenses that were not reimbursed by DEFENDANTS.

28 82. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS regularly failed to reimburse and

1 indemnify Aggrieved Employees for business expenses. Pursuant to California Labor Code section
2 2802, PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved Employees were entitled to be reimbursed for all reasonable
3 expenses associated with carrying out DEFENDANTS' orders and/or carrying out the duties
4 assigned by DEFENDANTS.

5 83. DEFENDANTS' failure to provide Aggrieved Employees with full reimbursement
6 for all reasonable expenses associated with carrying out their duties required that Aggrieved
7 Employees subsidize and/or carry the burden of business expenses in violation of Labor Code section
8 2802.

9 84. **Sick Leave Violations.** Throughout the relevant time period, DEFENDANTS failed
10 to provide proper paid sick leave to PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees. DEFENDANTS
11 either failed to provide paid sick leave at all or improperly calculated the sick leave accrual and the
12 sick leave rate of pay owed to PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees by failing to base the
13 accrued sick leave hours on the correct number of hours worked (as a result of the
14 rounding/automatic deduction policies and practices for meal periods and/or shift start and end
15 times/other required off-the-clock work including but not limited to unpaid meal periods) and by
16 failing to incorporate multiple rates of pay and/or all non-discretionary remuneration, including but
17 not limited to, non-discretionary bonuses, shift differential pay, and/or other non-discretionary
18 compensation into the sick leave pay rate calculation.

19 85. Upon information and belief, DEFENDANTS further failed to place PLAINTIFF
20 and Aggrieved Employees on notice of their paid sick leave rights – or thereby putting their
21 entitlement to sick leave in a Labor Code section 2810.5 notice. Based on information and belief,
22 DEFENDANTS failed to provide notice of the correct sick leave amount balance available to
23 PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees on their wage statements or other written statement.
24 Moreover, based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS failed to maintain accurate records of
25 used sick leave and the balance of paid sick leave.

26 86. Based on information and belief, throughout the relevant time period,
27 DEFENDANTS failed to provide notice of the balance of sick leave pay left for PLAINTIFF and
28 all Aggrieved Employees, thus affecting their intelligent exercise of their paid sick leave. But for

1 this failure, PLAINTIFF and all Aggrieved Employees would have used their paid sick leave at least
2 prior to their respective separations, for as on several occasions thereafter, he or she would have
3 been entitled to use the banked sick leave and earn appropriate compensation.

4 87. Upon information and belief, DEFENDANTS failed and continue to fail to comply
5 with Labor Code section 246, by failing to provide PLAINTIFF and all Aggrieved Employees with
6 a Labor Code section 226 wage statement, or separate writing containing the amount of paid sick
7 leave available, or paid time off leave an employer provides in lieu of sick leave, at the time it pays
8 wages.

9 88. As such, DEFENDANTS have violated California's paid sick leave laws and
10 unlawfully retained and continue to retain paid sick leave that should have been paid and was not as
11 a result of DEFENDANTS' failure to properly institute a lawful paid sick leave program. These
12 unlawful practices and policies violate Labor Code sections 245-248.5.

13 89. **Failure To Provide Supplemental Paid Sick Leave.** Labor Code § 248.2 provides
14 that all employers with 26 or more employees are required to provide up to 80 hours for covered
15 employees to take 2021 COVID-19 Supplemental Paid Sick Leave to care for themselves, to care
16 for a family member or if it is vaccine-related. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS
17 violated Labor Code § 248.2 by not providing Aggrieved Employees with required 2021 COVID-
18 19 Supplemental Paid Sick Leave. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS failed to
19 provide Supplemental Paid Sick Leave in 2022 in violation of Labor Code section 248.6.

20 90. **Seating Violations.** Per section 14(A-B) of all applicable IWC Wage Orders,
21 employees shall be provided with suitable seats when the nature of the work reasonably permits the
22 use of seats and when they are not actively engaged in the work duties that would not permit them
23 to be seated.

24 91. All applicable IWC Wage Orders, Section 14(A-B) provides:

25 (A) All working employees shall be provided with suitable seats when the nature of the
26 work reasonably permits the use of seats.

27 (B) When employees are not engaged in the active duties of their employment and the
28 nature of the work requires standing, an adequate number of suitable seats shall be placed in

1 reasonable proximity to the work area and employees shall be permitted to use such seats when it
2 does not interfere with the performance of their duties.

3 92. Suitable seating is one of the worker protections covered by California's Wage
4 Orders, which have the same dignity as statutes, are remedial in nature and are to be broadly
5 construed to effectuate the goal of protecting the comfort and welfare of employees. *Brinker*
6 *Restaurant Corp. v. Superior Court*, 53 Cal.4th 1004, 1027 (2012).

7 93. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS failed to provide Aggrieved
8 Employees with suitable seating, and when such employees were not engaged in duties which
9 required them to stand, no seating was placed in reasonable proximity to their workstations.

10 94. Moreover, based on information and belief, the nature of the work reasonably
11 permitted the use of seats for at least part of the time that Aggrieved Employees were working.
12 Lastly, there were periods of time when Aggrieved Employees were not engaged in active duties of
13 their employment, yet there were no suitable seats in reasonable proximity to the work area and use
14 of seats would not interfere with the performance of their duties.

15 95. **Failure to Pay Vested Vacation/Paid Time Off.** Based on information and belief,
16 DEFENDANTS have and continue to have a uniform policy and practice of failing to allow
17 Aggrieved Employees to use their earned vacation/paid time off during their employment and/or
18 failing to pay all vested, accrued paid time off to Aggrieved Employees upon separation of
19 employment, in violation of California law, including but not limited to, Labor Code section 227.3.

20 96. **Failure to Timely Pay All Wages Upon Separation of Employment.** Based on
21 information and belief, DEFENDANTS failed to timely pay Aggrieved Employees all wages that
22 were due and owing upon termination or resignation. Based on information and belief,
23 DEFENDANTS untimely provide final wages to Aggrieved Employees without regard to the timing
24 requirements of Labor Code sections 201-202.

25 97. Upon separation of employment, Aggrieved Employees' final paychecks were not
26 timely provided and/or were not timely provided with all owed vacation pay and/or paid time off.
27 Moreover, Aggrieved Employees' final paychecks, once provided, did not include all wages owed
28 as they were devoid of, including but not limited to, all owed minimum wages, overtime wages,

1 premium wages, vacation pay, and all owed sick leave and/or paid time off wages at the properly
2 accrued rates.

3 98. Based on further information and belief, DEFENDANTS failed to timely provide all
4 owed wages immediately upon discharge of employment. Based in information and belief, at times,
5 Aggrieved Employees experienced breaks in employment caused by DEFENDANTS whereby
6 Aggrieved Employees would not be called in for work for longer than a single pay period due to
7 including but not limited to DEFENDANTS' lack of work or lack of assignments. Such instances
8 qualify as a discharge of employment. Yet, DEFENDANTS failed to timely pay all owed wages at
9 the end of such periods of employment, in violation of including but not limited to Labor Code
10 section 201-202.

11 99. **Unlawful Inquiries into Salary History.** Labor code section 432.3 provides in part
12 "(b) An employer shall not, orally or in writing, personally or through an agent, seek salary history
13 information, including compensation and benefits, about an applicant for employment." Based on
14 information and belief, DEFENDANTS have a policy and/or practice of unlawfully asking
15 Aggrieved Employees to reveal their salary history when applying for employment with
16 DEFENDANTS.

17 100. Moreover, by requiring Aggrieved Employees to disclose prior salary information in
18 a written application for employment, DEFENDANTS violated Labor Code section 432.5 by
19 requiring Aggrieved Employees to agree in writing to disclose their salary history as a condition of
20 obtaining employment with DEFENDANTS, in violation of California law.

21 101. **Unlawful Agreements-Unlawful Criminal History Inquiries.**

22 Unlawful Agreements/ Unlawful Financial and Criminal Background Checks.

23 102. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS required Aggrieved Employees to
24 agree in writing to unlawful conditions of employment including but not limited to unlawful
25 criminal and/or financial checks as a condition of obtaining and/or continuing employment in
26 violation of Labor Code section 432.5.

27 103. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS ordered unlawful financial credit
28 checks on Aggrieved Employees, in violation of Labor Code section 1024.5, and required Aggrieved

1 Employees to provide ongoing written consent to the unlawful credit checks as a condition of
2 employment, in violation of California and Federal law, which results in a further violation of Labor
3 Code section 432.5.

4 104. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS also required Aggrieved
5 Employees to submit and/or agree to submit in writing to unlawful criminal background checks as
6 a condition of obtaining and/or holding employment in violation of the Investigative Consumer
7 Reporting Agencies Act (ICRAA- CA Civil Code section 1786, *et seq.*) and the Fair Credit
8 Reporting Act (FCRA - 15 U.S.C. section 1681, *et seq.*). Based on information and belief,
9 DEFENDANTS failed and continue to fail to comply with the requirements of the ICRAA and
10 FCRA when conducting background screenings for applicants, including but not limited to
11 Aggrieved Employees that were subject to a background check as a condition of employment during
12 the application phase.

13 105. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS required Aggrieved Employees to
14 agree in writing to a background check which failed to abide by the requirements set forth in CA
15 Civil Code section 1786, *et seq.* and 15 U.S.C. section 1681, *et seq.*, including but not limited to by
16 failing to provide a clear and conspicuous disclosure and/or failing to provide any disclosure at all,
17 failing to provide disclosures free of extraneous information, failing to provide a lawful purpose for
18 the background check, failing to provide a summary of rights under the ICRAA and/or the FCRA,
19 failing to provide a way by which the individual could request a copy of the report, failing to disclose
20 the name, address, and telephone number of the third party preparing the report, and failing to
21 properly obtain authorization or consent to such a background check, and thus was an unlawful
22 background check.

23 106. By requiring Aggrieved Employees to agree in writing to unlawful criminal and/or
24 financial checks not in conformance with the applicable laws, DEFENDANTS violated Labor Code
25 section 432.5.

26 107. Based on further information and belief, DEFENDANTS also required Aggrieved
27 Employees to agree in writing to provide ongoing consent to DEFENDANTS to conduct
28 background checks throughout the duration of employment, in violation of the ICRAA and/or FCRA

1 and/or other applicable laws, resulting in a further violation of Labor Code section 432.5, by
2 requiring applicants and employees to agree to an unlawful provision as a condition of employment.

3 108. Based on further information and belief, DEFENDANTS knew that requiring
4 Aggrieved Employees to agree to unlawful criminal and/or financial background checks as a
5 condition of obtaining and/or holding employment was unlawful.

6 109. By requiring Aggrieved Employees to agree in writing to unlawful provisions as a
7 condition of employment, DEFENDANTS violated Labor Code section 432.5.

8 Unlawful Inquires into Criminal History

9 110. Labor Code section 432.7 prohibits an employer from asking applicants about past
10 arrest(s) unless they resulted in conviction(s) and even then, certain limitations apply. Based on
11 information and belief, DEFENDANTS asked Aggrieved Employees about arrests not resulting in
12 convictions on its employment application, in violation of California law.

13 111. Upon information and belief, DEFENDANTS, in violation of California law,
14 including but not limited to the Fair Chance Act/the California Fair Employment and Housing Act
15 (“FEHA”), asked Aggrieved Employees about convictions prior to extending an offer of
16 employment and/or otherwise impermissibly inquired into criminal history on its employment
17 application in violation of California law, and in violation of Labor code section 432.5.

18 Unlawful PAGA Waiver

19 112. Additionally, DEFENDANTS violated Labor Code section 432.5 by requiring
20 Aggrieved Employees to agree in writing to other unlawful agreements, including but not limited
21 to, an unlawful waiver of PAGA and or representative actions as a condition of employment.

22 113. An action pursuant to PAGA “...is a representative action on behalf of the state”
23 *Kim v Reins Int’l California, Inc.*, (2020) 9 Cal. 5th 73, 86-87. It is well settled that agreements
24 purporting to waive an employee’s right to a trial of PAGA claims is contrary to California law and
25 unenforceable. See *Iskanian v CLS Transportation Los Angeles, LLC* (2014) 59 Cal. 4th 348, 384
26 (“We conclude that where, as here, an employment agreement compels the waiver of representative
27 claims under the PAGA, it is contrary to public policy and unenforceable as a matter of state law.”)

28 114. Moreover, the California Supreme Court has ruled that a court cannot compel

1 arbitration of an aggrieved employee's individual PAGA claim because there is no such thing as an
2 individual PAGA claim. *Kim v Reins Int'l California, Inc.*, (2020) 9 Cal. 5th 73, 86-87 ("There is
3 no individual component to a PAGA action because 'every PAGA action ... is a representative
4 action on behalf of the state.'")

5 115. Upon information and belief, DEFENDANTS required Aggrieved Employees to
6 agree in writing to waive their right to a trial of PAGA claims in violation of California law. By
7 requiring Aggrieved Employees to agree, in writing, to an unlawful PAGA waiver, DEFENDANTS
8 required written agreement to an unlawful provision as a condition of employment which is a
9 violation of labor code section 432.5.

10 116. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes and alleges thereon that DEFENDANTS
11 engaged in these same herein described unlawful practices, which led to violations of the California
12 Labor Code as further alleged below, and that DEFENDANTS applied these same herein described
13 unlawful practices to all of its employees that it applied to PLAINTIFF.

14 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**
15 **VIOLATION OF PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT, LABOR CODE SECTIONS**
16 **2698, ET SEQ.**
17 **(On behalf of PLAINTIFF, Aggrieved Employees and the State of California against all**
18 **Defendants)**

19 117. PLAINTIFF incorporates all preceding paragraphs as if fully alleged herein.

20 **Failure to Keep Accurate Records**

21 118. California Labor Code § 1174 requires employers to keep "accurate and complete"
22 payroll records showing, among other things, the hours worked daily by all non-exempt employees.
23 All applicable Wage Orders § 7 similarly requires employers to keep time records reflecting the
24 times during which all owed meal periods were provided each day.

25 119. At all relevant times, DEFENDANTS failed, and continue to fail, to keep accurate
26 and complete records as required by law, including but not limited to the following records: total
27 daily hours worked, applicable rates of pay, time records showing when PLAINTIFF and other
28 Aggrieved Employees began and ended each work period, time records of meal periods, and
accurate itemized wage statements.

120. DEFENDANTS' failure to keep "accurate and complete" payroll records for

1 PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees violates Labor Code §§ 1174, 1198, 1199, and all
2 applicable Wage Orders, section 7. These violations subject DEFENDANTS to civil penalties under
3 Labor Code §§ 558.1, 226.6, 1174.5 and 2699. Each violation of each Labor Code section and
4 Wage Order provision results in a *separate* civil penalty, for each Aggrieved Employee for each pay
5 period during which the referenced statutes and Wage Order provisions were violated.¹

6 **Failure to Produce Records in Violation of Labor Code §§ 226(b)-(c), 1198.5, and 432**

7 121. Time and Pay Records: Labor Code section 226 and all applicable IWC Wage
8 Orders, section 7 require that employers keep the following information on file for each employee
9 for a minimum of three years: The employee's dates of employment; the employee's hourly rates
10 and the corresponding number of hours worked by the employee at each hourly rate, when the
11 employee begins and ends each work period (including meal periods) and split intervals; total hours
12 worked by the employee; all deductions; gross wages earned; and net wages earned.

13 122. Section (b) of Labor Code section 226 further requires employers to "afford current
14 and former employees the right to inspect or receive a copy of records pertaining to their
15 employment upon reasonable request to the employer." Section (c) of Labor Code section 226
16 provides that, "an employer who receives a written or oral request to inspect or receive a copy of
17 records pursuant to subdivision (b) pertaining to a current or former employee shall comply with
18 the request as soon as practicable, but no later than 21 calendar days from the date of the request. A
19 violation of this subdivision is an infraction." An employer's failure to comply within this timeframe
20 entitles a current or former employee to recover a seven hundred fifty-dollar (\$750) penalty from
21 the employer. Lab. Code section 226(f).

22 123. Personnel Records. In addition to their right to time and pay records, employees, and
23 their representatives, have the right to inspect and receive a copy of their personnel files pursuant to
24 Labor Code section 1198.5. This statute applies to both former and current employees. Labor Code

25 ¹ Labor Code § 2699(f)(2) (establishing that the civil penalty is "for each aggrieved employee per pay period"); Labor
26 Code § 558 (establishing that the civil penalty is "for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the
27 employee was underpaid"); All applicable wage orders, § 20 (establishing that "[i]n addition to any other civil
28 penalties provided by law, any employer or any other person acting on behalf of the employer who violates, or causes
to be violated, the provisions of this order, shall be subject to the civil penalty...for each underpaid employee for each
pay period during which the employee was underpaid") (emphasis added).

1 section 432 further specifies that employers must furnish copies of all employment records bearing
2 the employee's signature. Labor Code section 1198.5 also requires that the file be made available
3 for inspection or receipt within a "reasonable" amount of time, but "not later than 30 calendar days
4 from the date the employer receives a written request." An employer's failure to comply within this
5 timeframe likewise entitles a current or former employee to recover a seven hundred fifty-dollar
6 (\$750) penalty from the employer. Lab. Code section 1198.5(k).

7 124. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS fail to timely produce or make
8 available Aggrieved Employees' personnel records and/or payroll records when requested pursuant
9 to Labor Code sections 226, 1198.5, 432, and/or the applicable Wage Order. These violations subject
10 DEFENDANTS to penalties under Labor Code sections 226, 1198.5, and 2699.

11 **Meal Period Violations**

12 125. California law requires employers to provide employees a duty-free, uninterrupted
13 thirty (30) minute meal period when an employee works more than five (5) hours in a workday, and
14 it must be provided within the first five (5) hours the employee works. Lab. Code section 512 (and
15 all applicable IWC Wage Orders), section 11(A) and (C); *Brinker Restaurant Corp. v. Superior*
16 *Court* (2012) 53 Cal.4th 1004.

17 126. Employers must also provide employees with a second duty-free, uninterrupted thirty
18 (30) minute meal period when an employee works more than (10) hours in a workday, and it must
19 be provided before the end of the 10th hour of work. *Ibid.*

20 127. Employers covered by any and all applicable IWC Wage Orders have an obligation
21 to both (1) relieve their employees for at least one meal period for shifts over five hours (see above),
22 and (2) to record having done so. If the employer fails to properly record a valid meal period, it is
23 presumed that no meal period was provided. All applicable IWC Wage Orders, section 7(A)(3)
24 ("Meal periods . . . shall also be recorded"); *Brinker, supra*, 53 Cal.4th 1004, 1052-1053, citing
25 section 7(A)(3) ("If an employer's records show no meal period for a given shift over five hours, a
26 rebuttable presumption arises that the employee was not relieved of duty and no meal period was
27 provided").

28 128. Employers must pay employees an additional hour of wages at the employees'

1 regular rate of pay for each missed or unlawful meal period (e.g., less than 30 minutes, interrupted
2 meal period, first meal period provided after five (5) hours, second meal period provided after 10
3 hours). Lab. Code § 226.7; all applicable IWC Wage Orders, §11(B) (“If an employer fails to
4 provide an employee a meal period in accordance with the applicable provision of this Order, the
5 employer shall pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee’s regular rate of compensation
6 for each workday that the meal period is not provided”); *Brinker, supra*, 53 Cal.4th 1004.

7 129. As explained above, PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees were consistently
8 unable to take timely, off duty, thirty-minute, uninterrupted first and second meal periods, often
9 being forced to take late meal periods, interrupted meal periods, and/or work through part or all of
10 their meal periods due to understaffing, the nature and constraints of their job duties, and/or
11 commentary from supervisors pressuring them to take non-compliant meal periods or skip meal
12 periods completely.

13 130. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS had and continue to have a policy
14 of rounding the start and end times of employees’ meal periods and/or automatically deducting thirty
15 minutes per shift despite having actual and/or constructive knowledge that PLAINTIFF and
16 Aggrieved Employees did not receive compliant meal periods.

17 131. Moreover, based on information and belief, Aggrieved Employees did not receive a
18 timely, uninterrupted second meal period when working shifts over ten (10) hours in a workday.

19 132. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes and thereon alleges that DEFENDANTS had
20 actual and/or constructive knowledge that its time-rounding and auto-deduction policies and
21 practices, other unlawful policies and practices resulted in the denial of compliant meal periods in
22 violation of California's meal period laws.

23 133. DEFENDANTS also failed to pay premiums for missed/otherwise unlawful meal
24 periods in violation of California law and/or failed to pay the proper meal period premium for failure
25 to incorporate all non-discretionary remuneration including but not limited to, bonuses, shift
26 differential pay and/or other non-discretionary compensation into the regular rate or compensation
27 for purposes of calculating the owed meal period premium.

28 134. These unlawful meal period policies and practices result in violations of Labor Code

1 sections 226.7, 512, and 1198-1199, and all applicable wage orders, § 11. These violations subject
2 DEFENDANTS to civil penalties under Labor Code §§ 558, 558.1 and 2699, and all applicable
3 Wage Orders, § 20. These practices result in further violations such as violations of Labor Code §
4 1174 as discussed above, 1198-1199, 226.6 and other violations discussed below.

5 **Rest Period Violations**

6 135. Labor Code section 226.7 and all applicable IWC Wage Orders require an employer
7 to authorize or permit an employee to take a rest period of ten (10) net minutes for every four hours
8 worked or major fraction thereof. Such rest periods must be in the middle of the four-hour period
9 “insofar as practicable.” In *Brinker v. Restaurant Corp.*, 53 Cal.4th 1004 (2012),
10 the California Supreme Court held that employees are entitled to a 10-minute paid rest period for
11 shifts from 3 ½ to 6 hours in a length, two 10-minute rest periods for shifts more than 6 hours up to
12 10 hours, and three 10-minute rest periods for shifts of more than 10 hours up to 14 hours. (*Id.* at
13 1029). The rest period requirement obligates employers to permit and authorize employees to take
14 off-duty rest periods, meaning employers must relieve employees of all duties and relinquish control
15 over how employees spend their time. *Augustus v. ABM Security Services, Inc.*, (2016) 5 Cal.5th
16 257. If the employer fails to provide any required rest period, the employer must pay the employee
17 one hour of pay at the employee’s regular rate of compensation for each workday the employer did
18 not provide at least one legally required rest period, pursuant to Labor Code section 226.7, and
19 applicable IWC Wage Order, §12(B).

20 136. Moreover, under California law rest periods must be a “net” ten minutes in a suitable
21 rest area. *Id.* at 268 (relying on January 3, 1986 and February 22, 2002 Division of Labor Standards
22 Enforcement (DLSE) Letters wherein the DLSE ruled that the net ten-minute language for rest
23 periods means ten minutes of time in a rest area and cannot include time it takes to get to and from
24 the rest area). The employer must show that it clearly articulates the right to a net ten minutes,
25 which means it must clearly communicate what “net” ten minutes means (i.e., regardless of what
26 happens along the way to and from a rest area, employees are entitled to a full ten minutes of rest in
27 the rest area). *Id.*; see also, *Bufile v. Dollar Fin. Grp., Inc.*, (2008) 162 Cal. App. 4th 1193, 1199 (the
28 “onus is on the employer to clearly communicate the authorization and permission [to take rest

1 periods] to its employees.”).

2 137. PLAINTIFF and the Aggrieved Employees did not receive legally compliant, timely
3 10-minute rest periods for every four (4) hours worked or major fraction thereof. As explained
4 above, any purported rest periods were late, interrupted, cut short, on duty, and/or otherwise subject
5 to DEFENDANTS’ control due to the nature and constraints of Aggrieved Employees’ job duties,
6 understaffing, and/or commentary from supervisors pressuring PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved
7 Employees to skip rest periods completely or otherwise take non-compliant rest periods.

8 138. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS implemented policies and/or
9 practices that failed to relieve PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees of all duties and
10 employer control during rest periods. Based on further information and belief, Aggrieved
11 Employees were pressured to complete their work duties according to a designated schedule such
12 that rest periods were only taken once tasks were completed, and/or as time permitted.

13 139. As a result, PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved Employees did not receive legally compliant
14 first, second, or third rest periods as required by California law.

15 140. Moreover, based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS failed to pay a rest
16 period premium to PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees for each workday in which there
17 was a missed or otherwise unlawful rest period. Based on further information and belief, when a
18 rest premium was paid, DEFENDANTS failed to include non-discretionary compensation including
19 but not limited to, bonuses, shift differential pay, and/or other non-discretionary compensation into
20 the regular rate of compensation for purposes of determining the owed rest period premium.

21 141. As such, DEFENDANTS violated Labor Code sections 226.7, and 1198-1199, and
22 all applicable IWC Wage Orders, §12. These violations subject DEFENDANTS to civil penalties
23 under Labor Code §§ 558 and 2699, and all applicable Wage Orders, §20.

24 **Failure to Provide Suitable Resting Facilities**

25 142. Per section 13 of all applicable IWC Wage Orders, including but not limited to Wage
26 Order 4, employees shall be provided with suitable resting facilities. Section 13(B) of the Wage
27 Orders provides: “Suitable resting facilities shall be provided in an area separate from the toilet
28 rooms and shall be available to employees during work hours.”

1 143. DEFENDANTS' locations/facilities are generally similar in layout and design, and
2 there was, and continues to be, space that allows for a resting facility that employees may use to
3 cease work and recover during meal or rest periods. DEFENDANTS could have provided Aggrieved
4 Employees with a resting facility within DEFENDANTS' facilities/locations with reasonable or no
5 modification, but instead denied and continues to deny, employees with suitable areas to rest (e.g. a
6 breakroom). As a result, Aggrieved Employees were forced to adjust to areas not conducive to
7 resting, including but not limited to leaning up against the wall, or search for facilities outside of
8 DEFENDANTS' premises which are not designated or reserved for their rest, such as their personal
9 vehicles.

10 144. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS did not provide Aggrieved
11 Employees with suitable resting facilities during their hours of work, particularly during meal and/or
12 rest periods.

13 145. DEFENDANTS' failure to provide suitable resting facilities to Aggrieved
14 Employees violated and continue to violate the applicable Wage Order, section 13(B) and the
15 California Labor Code, including but not limited to section 1198.

16 **Minimum and Overtime Wage Violations**

17 146. California law provides that employees in California must be paid for all hours
18 worked, up to forty (40) hour per week or eight (8) hours per day, at a regular rate that is no less
19 than the mandated minimum wage. *See* Labor Code section 1197 and the applicable Wage Order.
20 The minimum wage standard applies to each hour employees worked for which they were not paid.
21 Therefore, an employer's failure to pay for any particular hour worked by an employee is unlawful
22 even if averaging an employee's total pay over all hours worked, paid or not, results in an average
23 hourly wage above minimum wage. *Armenta v. Osmose, Inc.* (2005) 135 Cal.App.4th 314, 324.

24 147. California law also provides that employees in California must be paid overtime,
25 equal to 1.5 times the employee's regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of 40 hours per
26 week or 8 hours per day. *See* Labor Code 510 and the applicable Wage Order section 3. Employers
27 must pay overtime equal to double the regular hourly rate of pay for each hour worked beyond
28 twelve (12) hours per workday and for all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours on the seventh

1 consecutive day of work in a work week. *Ibid.*

2 148. As explained above, DEFENDANTS violated California's minimum and overtime
3 wage laws by failing to compensate PLAINTIFF and the Aggrieved Employees for all hours worked
4 by virtue of, among other things, DEFENDANTS' time rounding policies and practices (for shift
5 start and end times and meal period start and end times), payment according to scheduled hours
6 worked, automatic deduction for meal periods, and/or off-the-clock/unpaid work completed during
7 meal periods, and/or other otherwise off-the-clock work (described above), and/or other unlawful
8 policies and/or practices described above which resulted in unpaid minimum and overtime wages.

9 149. DEFENDANTS had and continue to have a policy of failing to pay PLAINTIFF and
10 Aggrieved Employees for all hours worked.

11 150. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS had actual or constructive
12 knowledge that its time-rounding policies and practices, auto-deduction policies and practices for
13 meal periods, payment according to scheduled hours, failure to relieve employees of all duties and
14 employer control during unpaid meal periods, and/or other off-the-clock work resulted in the
15 underpayment of minimum and overtime wages owed to PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved
16 Employees.

17 151. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS failed to pay twice Aggrieved
18 Employees' regular rate(s) of pay for time worked beyond twelve (12) hours per workday and for
19 time worked beyond eight (8) hours on the seventh consecutive day of work in a work week, in
20 violation of California's overtime laws.

21 152. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS further violated California's
22 overtime wage laws by failing to incorporate all non-discretionary compensation, including but not
23 limited to, non-discretionary bonus compensation, shift differentials, and/or other non-discretionary
24 compensation into the regular rate of pay used to calculate the overtime rate of pay. Failing to
25 include non-discretionary compensation into the regular rate of pay resulted in a miscalculation of
26 the overtime wage rate, resulting in the underpayment of overtime wages owed to PLAINTIFF and
27 other Aggrieved Employees.

28 153. This conduct results in violations of Labor Code sections 218.5, 510, 558, 558.1,

1 1194, 1197, 1198-1199, and all applicable Wage Orders. These violations subject DEFENDANTS
2 to civil penalties under Labor Code sections 218.5, 558, 558.1, 1197.1, 2699, and all applicable IWC
3 Wage Orders, section 20.

4 **Statutory Wage Violations**

5 154. California Labor Code section 223 makes it unlawful for an employer to secretly pay
6 wages lower than required by statute while purporting to pay legal wages. As described above,
7 DEFENDANTS willfully and systematically denied PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved Employees of all
8 earned minimum and overtime compensation for all hours worked which resulted in the payment of
9 less than statutorily required wages. DEFENDANTS acted with the intent to deprive them of
10 statutory wages, including, but not limited to, minimum and overtime wages, to which they were
11 entitled to under California law. Thus, DEFENDANTS paid PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved
12 Employees lower wages than those they were entitled to while purporting that PLAINTIFF and
13 other Aggrieved Employees were properly paid. As a result, PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved
14 Employees are entitled to recover penalties, attorney's fees, costs, and interest thereon, pursuant to
15 Labor Code § 2699(f)-(g).

16 **Refusal to Make Payment**

17 155. Labor Code section 216 declares unlawful an employer's refusal to pay wages due
18 and payable and/or the denial of the validity of any claim to wages due. DEFENDANTS violated
19 and continue to violate this section by failing to pay PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved Employees for all
20 hours worked at the proper wage rate and by failing to pay an additional hour of pay for each
21 meal/rest period not provided or that was otherwise unlawful. *Gould v. Maryland Sound Industries,*
22 *Inc.* (1995) 31 Cal.App.4th 1137, 1154-1155. These violations subject DEFENDANTS to civil
23 penalties under Labor Code section 225.5. Each violation results in a *separate* civil penalty, for
24 each Aggrieved Employee, for each pay period during which the statute provisions were violated.²

25 **Standard Conditions of Labor Violations**

26
27 ² Labor Code § 225.5 (establishing that “[i]n addition to, and entirely independent and apart from, any other penalty
28 provided in this article, every person who unlawfully withholds wages due any employee in violation of sections 212,
216, 221, 222, or 223 shall be subject to a civil penalty...for each failure to pay each employee”) (emphasis added).

1 156. Together, Labor Code sections 1198 and 1199 make unlawful any employment of
2 any employee under conditions of labor prohibited by the Wage Orders, and any violation, refusal,
3 or neglect to comply with any provision within Part 4, Chapter 1 of the Labor Code, including
4 sections 1174, 1197, and 1198, or order or ruling of the commission. Therefore, DEFENDANTS’
5 violations with respect to meal periods, rest periods, record keeping provisions, business expenses,
6 minimum/overtime wages and other violations described herein result in separate violations of
7 sections 1198 and 1199, which subject DEFENDANTS to civil penalties under Labor Code sections
8 1197.1 and 2699.

9 **Business Expense Violations**

10 157. California law requires employers to indemnify their employees for all necessary
11 expenditures incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of their duties or of
12 their obedience to the directions of the employer. *See* Cal. Lab. Code s. 2802 and all applicable
13 Wage Orders section 9(b). Furthermore, “for purposes of [section 2802], the term ‘necessary
14 expenditure or losses’ shall include all reasonable costs, including, but not limited to, attorneys’ fees
15 incurred by the employee enforcing the rights granted by this section.”

16 158. Among other things, under California law, when employees must use their personal
17 cellphones for work-related purposes, the employer must reimburse them for a reasonable
18 percentage of their cell phone bills. *See Cochran v. Schwan’s Home Services, Inc.* (2014) 228
19 Cal.App.4th 1137, 1140. To show liability, an employee will only need to show that he or she was
20 required to use their personal cellphone for work-related purposes and not reimbursed for the use.
21 *Id.* 1144-1145. California law also requires employers to reimburse employees for automobile
22 expenses incurred for the business use of personal vehicles, such as for mileage, gas, and the wear
23 and tear on the vehicle. *See Gattuso v. Harte-Hanks Shoppers, Inc.* (2007) 42 Cal.4th 554.

24 159. Further, “any contract or agreement, express or implied, made by any employee to
25 waive the benefits of this article or any part thereof, is null and void, and this article shall not deprive
26 any employee or his personal representative of any right or remedy to which he is entitled to under
27 the laws of this State.” *See* Cal. Lab. Code section 2804.

28 160. As described above, PLAINTIFF and the Aggrieved Employees were improperly

1 required to pay for business expenses that are legally the responsibility of the employer.

2 161. DEFENDANTS' failure to provide PLAINTIFF and the Aggrieved Employees with
3 full reimbursement for all reasonable expenses associated with carrying out their duties required
4 that PLAINTIFF and the Aggrieved Employees subsidize and/or carry the burden of business
5 expenses in violation of Labor Code section 2802.

6 162. As a result of DEFENDANTS' unlawful conduct, PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved
7 Employees have suffered injury in that they were not completely reimbursed as mandated by
8 California law.

9 163. DEFENDANTS' failure to provide PLAINTIFF and the Aggrieved Employees with
10 full reimbursement for all reasonable expenses associated with carrying out their duties required
11 that PLAINTIFF and the Aggrieved Employees subsidize and/or carry the burden of business
12 expenses in violation of Labor Code section 2802.

13 164. As a result of DEFENDANTS' unlawful conduct, PLAINTIFF and the Aggrieved
14 Employees have suffered injury in that they were not completely reimbursed as mandated by
15 California law.

16 165. Despite being aware of these business expenses, DEFENDANTS failed to reimburse
17 PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees for such expenses in violation of California Labor
18 Code § 2802. In turn, there constitutes a PAGA violation based on violations of California Labor
19 Code § 2802 and the applicable Wage Order.

20 **Wage Statement Violations**

21 166. California law requires every employer semi-monthly or at the time of each payment
22 of wages to furnish its employees with an accurate itemized wage statement in writing that contains
23 the following: (1) gross wages earned; (2) total hours worked by the employee; (3) the number of
24 piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis;
25 (4) all deductions; (5) net wages earned; (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee
26 is paid; (7) the name of the employee and only the last four digits of his or her social security number
27 or an employee identification number other than a social security number; (8) the name and address
28 of the legal entity that is the employer; and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay

1 period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate. Lab. Code § 226.

2 167. As DEFENDANTS failed to provide PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees
3 with meal and rest periods that complied with Labor Code section 226.7, the wage statements
4 DEFENDANTS issued to PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees failed and continue to fail
5 to correctly set forth (a) the gross wages earned, in violation of Labor Code section 226(a)(1); (b)
6 the total hours worked by the employee in violation of Labor Code section 226(a)(2); (c) the net
7 wages earned, in violation of Labor Code section 226(a)(5); and (d) all applicable hourly rates in
8 effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by
9 the employee, in violation of Labor Code section 226(a)(9).

10 168. Moreover, due to violations detailed above, including but not limited to,
11 DEFENDANTS' failure to pay regular and overtime wages for all hours worked, failure to provide
12 meal and rest break premiums, and failure to pay all sick leave wages at the proper rates,
13 DEFENDANTS have violated California Labor Code § 226 by willfully failing to furnish
14 PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees with accurate, itemized wage statements that listed
15 the gross and net wages earned and the correct applicable rates of pay for all hours worked. Based
16 on information and belief, DEFENDANTS failed to incorporate all forms of non-discretionary
17 compensation earned during the pay period into the regular rate of pay for purposes of calculating
18 the owed overtime rate, and as such, failed to display the proper overtime rate(s) for each hour of
19 overtime worked by PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees.

20 169. As explained above, wage statements issued by DEFENDANTS failed to list the
21 "total hours worked" by PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved Employees (by virtue of rounded time entries,
22 automatic deduction for meal periods/failure to relieve Aggrieved Employees of all duties and
23 employer control during unpaid meal periods, and/or other off-the-clock work policies and practices
24 described above), which results in a violation of Labor Code section 226(a). Failure to list all hours
25 worked on a wage statement, gives rise to an inference of injury under Labor Code Section 226
26 (*Maldonado v. Epsilon Plastics, Inc.*, (2018) 22 Cal.App.5th 1308, 1337).

27 170. Based on information and belief, wage statements issued by DEFENDANTS failed
28 to list all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of

1 hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee, in violation of, including but not limited to, Labor
2 Code section 226(a)(9).

3 171. Separately, and independent from the above allegations, based on information and
4 belief, DEFENDANTS issued wage statements to PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved Employees that
5 violate Labor Code section 226(a)(8), by failing to list the correct name and/or address of the legal
6 entity that is the employer.

7 172. Based on information and belief, wage statements issued by DEFENDANTS failed
8 to list the inclusive dates of the pay period for which the Class Member is being paid.

9 173. DEFENDANTS' failure to accurately list all hours worked on all wage statements
10 caused confusion to PLAINTIFF and caused and continues to cause confusion to other Aggrieved
11 Employees over whether they received all wages owed to them.

12 174. As a result, PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees have suffered injury as
13 they could not easily determine whether they received all wages owed to them and whether they
14 were paid for all hours worked.

15 175. Moreover, as a result of DEFENDANTS' failure to list the correct name and/or
16 address of the legal entity that is the employer, PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved Employees have suffered
17 injury as they could not contact their employer regarding any question(s) they had about wages paid.

18 176. DEFENDANTS' knowingly and intentionally failed to provide PLAINTIFF and
19 Aggrieved Employees with accurate, itemized wage statements.

20 177. As a result of DEFENDANTS' unlawful conduct, PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved
21 Employees have suffered injury. The absence of accurate information on their wage statements has
22 prevented earlier challenges to DEFENDANTS' unlawful pay practices, will require discovery and
23 mathematical computations to determine the amount of wages owed, and will cause difficulty and
24 expense in attempting to reconstruct time and pay records. DEFENDANTS' conduct led to the
25 submission of inaccurate information about wages and amounts deducted from wages to state and
26 federal government agencies. As a result, PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved Employees are required to
27 participate in this lawsuit and create more difficulty and expense from having to reconstruct time
28 and pay records than if DEFENDANT had complied with its legal obligations.

1 178. These violations subject DEFENDANTS to civil penalties under Labor Code § 226.
2 Each violation results in a *separate* civil penalty, for each Aggrieved Employee, for each pay period
3 during which the statute provisions were violated.³

4 **Unlawful Deductions**

5 179. Labor Code section 221 prohibits an employer from “collect[ing] or receiv[ing] from
6 an employee any part of wages theretofore paid by said employer to said employee.” Based on
7 information and belief DEFENDANTS made unlawful deductions from Aggrieved Employees
8 paychecks during the relevant period. Such a practice is in violation of including but not limited to,
9 Labor Code Sections 221-222 which subjects DEFENDANTS to civil penalties under Labor Code
10 Section 2699.

11 180. PLAINTIFF alleges on information and belief that DEFENDANTS made unlawful
12 deductions from Aggrieved Employees paychecks during the relevant period, including, but not
13 limited to, the cost of transactional fees incurred by virtue of their paychecks being placed on a pay
14 card, which had transactional fees whenever it was used.

15 181. The foregoing violates, including but not limited to, Labor Code Section 221, which
16 subjects Employer to civil penalties under Labor Code Section 2699.

17 182. Each violation results in a separate civil penalty, for each Aggrieved Employee, for
18 each pay period during which the statute provisions were violated. See Lab. Code §225.5
19 (establishing that “[i]n addition to, and entirely independent and apart from, any other penalty
20 provided in this article, every person who unlawfully withholds wages due any employee in
21 violation of Section 212, 216, 221, 222, or 223 shall be subject to a civil penalty...for each failure
22 to pay each employee”).

23 **Reporting Time Pay Violations**

24 183. Section 5 of all applicable IWC Wage Orders, provides as follows:

25 184. (A) Each workday an employee is required to report for work and does report, but is
26 not put to work or is furnished less than half said employee’s usual or scheduled day’s work, the
27 employee shall be paid for half the usual or scheduled day’s work, but in no event for less than two

28 ³ Labor Code § 226.3 (establishing that the civil penalty is “per employee per violation”).

1 (2) hours nor more than four (4) hours, at the employee's regular rate of pay, which shall not be less
2 than the minimum wage. (B) If an employee is required to report for work a second time in any one
3 workday and is furnished less than two (2) hours of work on the second reporting said employee
4 shall be paid for two hours at the employee's regular rate of pay, which shall not be less than the
5 minimum wage.

6 185. PLAINTIFF was not paid reporting time wages in accordance with California law,
7 including but not limited to the applicable IWC Wage Order. For example, based on information
8 and belief, at times, PLAINTIFF and/or other Aggrieved Employees reported to work for a
9 scheduled shift but were sent home and/or were not put to work and were not paid all owed reporting
10 time pay wages in accordance with California law.

11 186. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS have a policy and practice of
12 failing to pay all reporting time wages to Aggrieved Employees, in violation of California law,
13 including but not limited to, the applicable IWC Wage Order, Section 5. DEFENDANTS' failure to
14 pay all reporting time wages to PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved Employees violated and continues to
15 violate the applicable Wage Order, and the California Labor Code, including but not limited to
16 section 1198.

17 **Seating Violations**

18 187. Per section 14(A-B) of all applicable IWC Wage Orders, employees shall be
19 provided with suitable seats when the nature of the work reasonably permits the use of seats and
20 when they are not actively engaged in the work duties that would not permit them to be seated.

21 188. All applicable IWC Wage Orders, Section 14(A-B) provides:

22 (A) All working employees shall be provided with suitable seats when the nature of the
23 work reasonably permits the use of seats.

24 (B) When employees are not engaged in the active duties of their employment and the
25 nature of the work requires standing, an adequate number of suitable seats shall be placed in
26 reasonable proximity to the work area and employees shall be permitted to use such seats when it
27 does not interfere with the performance of their duties.

28 189. Suitable seating is one of the worker protections covered by California's Wage

1 Orders, which have the same dignity as statutes, are remedial in nature and are to be broadly
2 construed to effectuate the goal of protecting the comfort and welfare of employees. *Brinker*
3 *Restaurant Corp. v. Superior Court*, 53 Cal.4th 1004, 1027 (2012).

4 190. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS failed to provide Aggrieved
5 Employees with suitable seating, and when such employees were not engaged in duties which
6 required them to stand, no seating was placed in reasonable proximity to their workstations.

7 191. Moreover, based on information and belief, the nature of the work reasonably
8 permitted the use of seats for at least part of the time that Aggrieved Employees were working.
9 Lastly, there were periods of time when Aggrieved Employees were not engaged in active duties of
10 their employment, yet there were no suitable seats in reasonable proximity to the work area and use
11 of seats would not interfere with the performance of their duties.

12 192. The Aggrieved Employees worked in various positions, including but not limited to
13 cashiers and/or cooking/kitchen positions. The nature of PLAINTIFF's and other Aggrieved
14 Employees' work reasonably permitted the use of seats. However, DEFENDANTS failed to provide
15 suitable seating in reasonable proximity to Aggrieved Employees' work areas in violation of section
16 14(A-B) of all applicable Wage Orders, and Labor Code sections 1198 and 1199, subjecting
17 DEFENDANTS to civil penalties under Labor Code sections 1199 and 2699. Each violation of each
18 Labor Code section and IWC Wage Order provision, for each Aggrieved Employee, results in a
19 separate civil penalty.

20 **Sick Leave Violations**

21 193. DEFENDANTS violated California's paid sick leave laws including, Labor Code
22 section 245-248.5 and 233-234. DEFENDANTS either failed to provide sick leave pay to
23 PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees or failed to properly accrue paid sick leave due to
24 DEFENDANTS' failure to account for actual hours worked (as explained above), and/or failure to
25 incorporate multiple rates of pay and/or all forms of non-discretionary remuneration including but
26 not limited to, non-discretionary bonuses, shift differential pay, and/or other non-discretionary
27 compensation into the sick leave pay rate calculation.

28 194. DEFENDANTS further failed to give PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees

1 notice of their paid sick leave rights – or thereby putting their entitlement to sick leave in a Labor
2 Code section 2810.5 notice. In addition, DEFENDANTS failed to maintain accurate records of used
3 sick leave and the balance of paid sick leave left to the employees, which affected PLAINTIFF and
4 Aggrieved Employees’ intelligent exercise of their paid sick leave.

5 195. But for this failure, PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees would have used
6 their paid sick leave at least prior to their respective separations, for as on several occasions
7 thereafter, he or she would have been entitled to use the banked sick leave and earn appropriate
8 compensation.

9 196. In violation of Labor Code section 247.5, DEFENDANTS failed to maintain records
10 documenting the hours worked and paid sick days accrued and used by PLAINTIFF and all
11 Aggrieved Employees, permitting the presumption that PLAINTIFF and all Aggrieved Employees
12 were entitled to the maximum number of hours accruable.

13 197. Upon information and belief, DEFENDANTS failed and continue to fail to comply
14 with Labor Code section 246, by failing to provide PLAINTIFF and all Aggrieved Employees with
15 a Labor Code section 226 wage statement, or separate writing containing the amount of paid sick
16 leave available, or paid time off leave an employer provides in lieu of sick leave, at the time it pays
17 wages.

18 198. These practices violated California’s sick leave laws, Labor Code section 245, *et seq.*

19 199. On information and belief, PLAINTIFF alleges that all of these practices were
20 experienced and continue to be experienced by other Aggrieved Employees.

21 200. Accordingly, PLAINTIFF seeks all appropriate relief under the PAGA, the
22 aforementioned code provisions including but not limited to Labor Code section 233 and 234, and
23 seeks injunctive relief, attorney’s fees, declaratory relief, and penalties as permitted by law.

24 **Failure To Provide Supplemental Paid Sick Leave**

25 201. Labor Code § 248.2 provides that all employers with 26 or more employees are
26 required to provide up to 80 hours for covered employees to take 2021 COVID-19 Supplemental
27 Paid Sick Leave to care for themselves, to care for a family member or if it is vaccine-related.
28 DEFENDANTS violated Labor Code § 248.2 by not providing PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved

1 Employees with required 2021 COVID-19 Supplemental Paid Sick Leave. Based on information
2 and belief, DEFENDANTS failed to provide Supplemental Paid Sick Leave in 2022 in violation of
3 Labor Code section 248.6.

4 **Failure to Pay Vested Vacation/Paid Time Off**

5 202. California Labor Code section 227.3 provides that when an employer policy provides
6 for paid vacations and/or paid time off, and an employee is terminated without having taken off his,
7 her, or their vested vacation time, all vested vacation shall be paid to the employee as wages at the
8 employee's final rate in accordance with such contract of employment or employer policy respecting
9 eligibility or time served and that there shall be no forfeiture of vested vacation time or paid time
10 off upon termination.

11 203. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS had and continue to have a
12 uniform policy and practice of failing to allow Aggrieved Employees to use their earned
13 vacation/paid time off during their employment and failing to pay all vested, accrued paid time off
14 to Aggrieved Employees upon separation of employment, in violation of California law, including
15 but not limited to, Labor Code section 227.3.

16 **Untimely Payment of Final Wages**

17 204. California Labor Code section 201(a) provides, in relevant part, that "[i]f an
18 employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and
19 payable immediately." California Labor Code section 202(a) provides, in relevant part, that "[i]f an
20 employee not having a written contract for a definite period quits his or her employment, his or her
21 wages shall become due and payable not later than 72 hours thereafter, unless the employee has
22 given 72 hours previous notice of his or her intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled
23 to his or her wages at the time of quitting."

24 205. Pursuant to Labor Code section 203, an employer that willfully fails to pay wages
25 due an employee who is terminated or resigns must pay (in addition to the unpaid wages) a penalty
26 equal to the employee's daily wages for each day, not exceeding 30 days, that the wages are unpaid.
27 Case law clarifies this 30-day waiting time penalty is recoverable under the PAGA via Labor Code
28 section 256. See, *Iskanian v. CLS Transportation Los Angeles, LLC*, 59 Cal.4th 348 (2014); see also,

1 *Caliber Bodyworks, Inc. v. Superior Court*, 134 Cal. App. 4th 365 (2005).

2 206. Based in information and belief, DEFENDANTS failed and continue to fail to timely
3 pay final wages to PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved Employees upon separation of employment in
4 violation of Labor Code section 201-202. Moreover, final paychecks once provided to PLAINTIFF
5 and Aggrieved Employees did not include all wages owed as they are devoid of, including but not
6 limited to, all owed minimum wages, overtime wages, premium wages, vacation pay, and all owed
7 sick leave and/or paid time off wages at the properly accrued rates.

8 207. As a result, DEFENDANTS violated Labor Code sections 201, 202, and 203. These
9 violations subject DEFENDANTS to civil penalties under Labor Code sections 203, 210, and/or
10 256.

11 **Unlawful Inquiries into Salary History**

12 208. Labor code section 432.3 provides in part “(b) An employer shall not, orally or in
13 writing, personally or through an agent, seek salary history information, including compensation
14 and benefits, about an applicant for employment.” Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS
15 have a policy and/or practice of unlawfully asking Aggrieved Employees to reveal their salary
16 history when applying for employment with DEFENDANTS.

17 209. Moreover, by requiring Aggrieved Employees to disclose prior salary information in
18 a written application for employment, DEFENDANTS violated Labor Code section 432.5 by
19 requiring Aggrieved Employees to agree in writing to disclose their salary history as a condition of
20 obtaining employment with DEFENDANTS, in violation of California law.

21 **Unlawful Agreements/ Unlawful Criminal History Inquiries**

22 210. *Unlawful Agreements.* Labor Code section 432.5 provides that “no employer...shall
23 require any employee or applicant for employment to agree, in writing, to any term or condition
24 which is known by such employer...to be prohibited by law.” DEFENDANTS required and
25 continue to require PLAINTIFF and Aggrieved Employees to agree in writing to unlawful
26 conditions of employment including but not limited to unlawful criminal and/or financial checks as
27 a condition of obtaining and/or continuing employment in violation of Labor Code section 432.5.

28 211. The California Labor Code places certain procedural and substantive limits on an

1 employers' ability to conduct employee background checks and on how employers can use the
2 information they obtain through those background checks. Labor Code section 1024.5 states that
3 employers, except for financial institutions, may order a credit check only if the individual works
4 (or is applying to work) in certain positions (e.g., managerial positions, financially-related positions,
5 and certain government positions). Additionally, the Investigative Consumer Reporting Agencies
6 Act (ICRAA- CA Civil Code section 1786, *et seq.*) and the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA - 15
7 U.S.C. section 1681, *et seq.*) mandate several requirements prior to and following an employee
8 background check, including but not limited to identifying an appropriate reason for the background
9 check, a separate consent form with required disclosures and certain formatting requirements,
10 additional forms such as a summary of rights, a way by which to request a copy of the report, as
11 well as proper notice of adverse actions taken, among other statutory requirements.

12 212. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS ordered unlawful financial credit
13 checks on Aggrieved Employees, in violation of Labor Code section 1024.5, and required them to
14 provide ongoing written consent to the unlawful credit checks as a condition of employment, in
15 violation of California and Federal law, which results in a violation of Labor Code section 432.5.

16 213. Based on information and belief, DEFENDANTS required Aggrieved Employees to
17 submit and/or agree to submit in writing to unlawful criminal background checks as a condition of
18 obtaining and/or holding employment in violation of the ICRAA and the FCRA as alleged above.

19 214. Based on further information and belief, DEFENDANTS required Aggrieved
20 Employees to agree in writing to provide DEFENDANTS with ongoing consent to conduct
21 background checks throughout the duration of employment, in violation of the ICRAA and/or FCRA
22 and/or other applicable laws, resulting in a further violation of Labor Code section 432.5, by
23 requiring applicants and employees to agree to an unlawful provision as a condition of employment.

24 215. Based on further information and belief, DEFENDANTS knew that requiring
25 Aggrieved Employees to agree to unlawful criminal and/or financial background checks as a
26 condition of obtaining and/or holding employment was unlawful.

27 216. By requiring that Aggrieved Employees sign off on the illegal background and/or
28 financial checks, DEFENDANTS violated Labor Code section 432.5.

1 Unlawful Inquires into Criminal History

2 217. Labor Code section 432.7 prohibits an employer from asking applicants about past
3 arrest(s) unless they resulted in conviction(s) and even then, certain limitations apply. Based on
4 information and belief, DEFENDANTS asked Aggrieved Employees about arrests not resulting in
5 convictions on its employment application, in violation of California law.

6 218. Upon information and belief, DEFENDANTS, in violation of California law,
7 including but not limited to the Fair Chance Act/the California Fair Employment and Housing Act
8 (“FEHA”), asked Aggrieved Employees about convictions prior to extending an offer of
9 employment and/or otherwise impermissibly inquired into criminal history on its employment
10 application in violation of California law.

11 219. By asking about arrests not resulting in convictions, DEFENDANTS violated Labor
12 Code section 432.7. By asking about convictions at the application phase or prior to extending an
13 employment offer, DEFENDANTS violated California’s Fair Chance Act, and thereby violated
14 Labor Code section 432.5 by unlawfully requiring Aggrieved Employees to agree in writing to
15 disclose arrests and/or convictions as a condition of employment.

16 Unlawful PAGA Waiver

17 220. Additionally, DEFENDANTS violated Labor Code section 432.5 by requiring
18 PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees to agree in writing to other unlawful agreements,
19 including but not limited to, an unlawful waiver of PAGA and/or representative actions as a
20 condition of employment.

21 221. An action pursuant to PAGA “...is a representative action on behalf of the state”
22 *Kim v Reins Int’l California, Inc.*, (2020) 9 Cal. 5th 73, 86-87. It is well settled that agreements
23 purporting to waive an employee’s right to a trial of PAGA claims is contrary to California law and
24 unenforceable. See *Iskanian v CLS Transportation Los Angeles, LLC* (2014) 59 Cal. 4th 348, 384
25 (“We conclude that where, as here, an employment agreement compels the waiver of representative
26 claims under the PAGA, it is contrary to public policy and unenforceable as a matter of state law.”)

27 222. Moreover, the California Supreme Court has ruled that a court cannot compel
28 arbitration of an aggrieved employee’s individual PAGA claim because there is no such thing as an

1 individual PAGA claim. *Kim v Reins Int'l California, Inc.*, (2020) 9 Cal. 5th 73, 86-87 (“There is
2 no individual component to a PAGA action because ‘every PAGA action ... is a representative
3 action on behalf of the state.’”)

4 223. Upon information and belief, DEFENDANTS required Aggrieved Employees to
5 agree in writing to waive their right to a trial of PAGA claims in violation of California law. By
6 requiring Aggrieved Employees to agree, in writing, to an unlawful PAGA waiver, DEFENDANTS
7 required written agreement to an unlawful provision as a condition of employment which is a
8 violation of labor code section 432.5.

9 224. Under the provisions of PAGA and the above mentioned Labor Code sections,
10 including but not limited to Labor Code sections 201-203, 210, 216, 221-223, 225.5, 226, 226.7,
11 245-248.6, 256, 432, 432.5, 432.7, 510, 512, 558, 558.1, 1174, 1174.5, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198,
12 1198.5, 1199, 2699, 2699.3, 2802, 2810.5 and all applicable Wage Orders as well as all
13 interpretations of these laws by California Courts and administrative bodies, as well as any other
14 law that is enforceable through PAGA, DEFENDANTS are liable for the following penalties:

- 15 a. All statutorily-specified penalties recoverable under PAGA as enumerated in the
16 relevant California Labor Code provisions listed herein only if permitted by the
17 PAGA statute, pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(a); and
18 b. Default PAGA penalties for any violation of the enumerated list of Labor Code
19 violations without a civil penalty recoverable under the PAGA, all in the default
20 amounts provided by Labor Code section 2699(f).
21 c. The proper measure of penalties under PAGA is the number of violations,
22 whether those violations were committed as against PLAINTIFF or any
23 Aggrieved Employee, whether a party to this action or not.

24 225. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(g), and/or any and all other applicable laws,
25 PLAINTIFF is entitled to recover civil penalties, costs, and attorney’s fees.

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PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF prays for relief and judgment as follows on behalf of PLAINTIFF, the State of California, and all Aggrieved Employees:

1. For civil penalties under Labor Code Section 2699 (75% payable to the LWDA and 25% payable to Aggrieved Employees);
2. For an order temporarily, preliminarily and permanently enjoining and restraining DEFENDANTS from engaging in similar unlawful conduct as set forth herein;
3. For reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit; and
4. For such other and further relief that the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: August 21, 2023

CROSNER LEGAL, PC

By: 
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