

January 15, 2026

PAGA NOTICE FILED ELECTRONICALLY

Re: Notice Letter on Behalf of HANNAH SMITH and Aggrieved Employees
Under California Labor section 2699.3

Via Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested:

KEHE DISTRIBUTORS, INC.
1245 E DIEHL RD, SUITE 200
NAPERVILLE, IL 60563
(CMRR Tracking
#9414809898643577305307)

CSC - LAWYERS INCORPORATING
SERVICE
c/o KEHE DISTRIBUTORS, INC.
2710 GATEWAY OAKS DRIVE, SUITE
150N,
SACRAMENTO, CA 95833
(CMRR Tracking
#9414809898643077612059)

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter shall constitute notice under Labor Code section 2699.3 (hereinafter “PAGA Notice”). The \$75 filing fee for the PAGA Notice was paid online by credit card at the time this PAGA Notice was submitted online to the Department of Industrial Relations.

This PAGA Notice concerns HANNAH SMITH’s (“Employee”) employment with Employee’s former employer: KEHE DISTRIBUTORS, INC. (“Employer”). Employee was a non-exempt hourly employee and worked for Employer as a warehouse cooler selector at, without limitation, 16081 Fern Avenue, Chino, California 91708 . Employee worked for Employer from approximately August of 2025 through approximately October of 2025. Employee’s duties included, but were not limited to, Collecting orders, driving assigned routes through warehouse aisles, and picking items according to given numbers and orders.

Employee seeks to represent all Aggrieved Employees that worked for Employer during the PAGA Period. Specifically, in connection with any alleged claims for failure to comply with Labor Code sections 200, 201, 201.3, 202, 203, 204, 206.5, 210, 221, 223, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 227.3, 232.5, 233, 234, 245, 246, 432, 510, 512, 551, 552, 558, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1198, 1197, 1197.1, 2800, 2802, 2810.5, 2699, among others, Business and Professions Code section 17200, as well as applicable Wage Orders, Employee seeks to represent all current and former employees of Employer’s working during the PAGA Period. On all other claims mentioned herein, Employee seeks to represent only non-exempt current and former employees of Employer that worked during the PAGA Period. Collectively, these employees are referred to herein as “Aggrieved Employees.” The “PAGA Period” covers the three years preceding the date this letter was submitted to the LWDA and continues past that date into perpetuity.

Unpaid Minimum and Overtime Wages:

Employee is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer had and has a practice or policy of failing to compensate Employee and other Aggrieved Employees for all hours worked at the proper rates of pay. Employer knew, or should have known, that Employee and Aggrieved Employees were entitled to receive wages for all time worked, including regular, overtime, and double times wages, yet failed to pay Employee and Aggrieved Employees all wages owed for work that was required to be performed.

Employee is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer maintains a practice or policy of failing to track all minutes actually worked by Employee and Aggrieved Employees by engaging, suffering, or permitting Aggrieved Employees to work off the clock. Specifically, Employer engaged, suffered, or permitted Aggrieved Employees to work off the clock, including, without limitation, by requiring Employee and other Aggrieved Employees to complete pre-shift tasks before clocking in, such as arriving early to secure functioning machines that would allow them to perform their job and required quota, before clocking in, as there were not enough functioning machines for the amount of employees working the same shift, and to suffer under Employer's control by waiting in long lines to clock in as there were many employees clocking in at the same time, and not enough time clocks available.

Given Employee personally suffered these violations of the minimum wage and overtime laws, Employee also seeks to represent Aggrieved Employees in connection with other violations of the minimum wage and overtime laws, including potential violations failing to pay for all hours worked; incorrectly calculating the regular rate of pay; rounding, editing and/or manipulating time entries; and requiring employees to work through meal periods and/or rest breaks. These practices were all to the detriment of Employee and other Aggrieved Employees. As such, Employee is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer violated, without limitation, Labor Code sections 223, 510, 1197, 1198, 1182.12, and applicable Wage Orders based on its continued failure to pay minimum and overtime wages for all hours worked. Thus, Employee and other Aggrieved Employees are entitled to actual and liquidated damages under, without limitation, Labor Code sections 1194, 1194.2, and 1198. Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer's conduct was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive. Thus, Employer is liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 210, 558, 1197.1, 1199 and 2699, or injunctive relief under sections 2699(e)(1) and 2699(k). Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer's conduct was malicious, fraudulent, and/or oppressive, making Employer subject to heightened civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

Non-Compliant Meal Periods:

Employee is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer had and has a policy or practice of compelling Employee and other Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period to work excess of five (5) and ten (10) hours per day, without being afforded uninterrupted,

timely, and complete 30-minute meal periods or compensation in lieu thereof. By way of example, Employer regularly denied Employee and Aggrieved Employees lawful meal periods by, without limitation, interrupting meal periods; failing to provide meal periods all together; failing to provide a suitable break area; not providing timely meal periods; failing to provide second meal periods; providing short meal periods, including without limitation, meal periods that may appear on the record to be 30 minutes or longer but in practice were shorter than thirty minutes due to walking time to get to a designated break area and time spent having to wait in line to clock back in. For example, Employee had to cut meal periods short due to having to walk for approximately 6 minutes to the break area, and had to cut meal periods short due to being interrupted with new quota requirements, and having to return to work in order to complete the newly required quota. Employee, and upon information and belief, Aggrieved Employees, were only provided, at times, with one meal period when they worked twelve hour shifts. Given Employee personally suffered these violations of the meal period laws, Employee also seeks to represent Aggrieved Employees in connection with other violations of the meal period laws, including potential violations for auto-deducted meals, and meals for which Aggrieved Employees were not permitted to leave the premises, if any of these should be found.

Employee is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer violated Labor Code sections 512, 1198 and applicable Wage Order(s) each day for each Aggrieved Employee during the PAGA Period, and therefore each Aggrieved Employee was owed one hour of premium pay at their regular rate of pay for each day worked during the PAGA Period under Labor Code section 226.7. However, Employee is informed and believes that those premium payments under Labor Code section 226.7 were not made for these non-compliant meal periods, either at all or at the proper regular rate of pay. Employer is thus liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 210, 558, 1199 and 2699 for both failing to authorize the taking of compliant meal periods and for failing to provide premium pay under Labor Code section 226.7, or injunctive relief under sections 2699(e)(1) and 2699(k). Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer's conduct was malicious, fraudulent, and/or oppressive, making Employer subject to heightened civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

Non-Compliant Rest Periods:

Employee is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer maintains policies or practices of compelling Employee and other Aggrieved to work over four-hour periods (or major fractions thereof) without authorizing and permitting Employee and other Aggrieved Employees to take uninterrupted, timely, and complete ten-minute rest periods in which the Aggrieved Employees are completely relieved of all of their duties, including, without limitation, by interrupting rest breaks; by failing to provide rest periods all together; failing to provide rest periods that were at least ten minutes in length, including rest periods that may have encompassed a total of ten minutes but were in practice less than ten uninterrupted minutes due to, without limitation, walking time to get to a designated break area, and otherwise requiring on-duty/on-call rest periods. For example, Employee was often required to skip rest breaks altogether in order to comply with the required quota for the day. Additionally, Employee was interrupted during rest

breaks and required to return to work, in cases where the quota for the day increased. Given Employee personally suffered these violations of the rest period laws, Employee also seeks to represent Aggrieved Employees in connection with other violations of the rest period laws, including potential violations for rest periods where Aggrieved Employees are required to clock-out, rest periods for which Aggrieved Employees were not relieved of all duties, and rest periods for which Aggrieved Employees were not permitted to leave the premises, if any of these should be found. Employee is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer violated the applicable Wage Order(s) each day for each Aggrieved Employee during the PAGA Period, and that, thus each Aggrieved Employee was owed one hour of premium pay at their regular rate of pay for each day worked during the PAGA Period under Labor Code section 226.7. Employee is informed and believes that those premium payments under Labor Code section 226.7 were not made for these non-compliant rest periods, either at all or at the proper regular rate of pay, in violation of Labor Code sections 226.7 and 1198. Employer would thus be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 210, 558, 1199 and 2699 for both failing to authorize the taking of compliant rest periods and for failing to provide premium pay under Labor Code section 226.7, or injunctive relief under sections 2699(e)(1) and 2699(k). Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer's conduct was malicious, fraudulent, and/or oppressive, making Employer subject to heightened civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

Inaccurate and Inadequate Recordkeeping Practices:

In addition to the above, Employee is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer failed and continues to fail to keep adequate or accurate time records including wage statements and similar payroll documents under Labor Code section 226, documents signed to obtain or hold employment under Labor Code section 432, personnel records under Labor Code section 1198.5, time records under Labor Code section 1174, making it difficult for Employee and other aggrieved employees to calculate their unpaid wages and/or premium payments. Employer also failed to provide all documents requested by Employee December 12, 2025, in violation of these Labor Code sections, including but not limited to *all* personnel documents under Labor Code sections 432 and 1198.5, wage statements in violation of Labor Code section 226, and time records in violation of Labor Code section 1174. Employee and the Aggrieved Employees personally suffered these violations, which in turn entitles Employee and other Aggrieved Employees to penalties prescribed by Labor Code sections 226 and 1198.5. Employer would also be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 558, 1174.5, 1199, and 2699. Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer's conduct was malicious, fraudulent, and/or oppressive, making Employer subject to heightened civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

Inaccurate Itemized Wage Statements:

Both independently and as a result of, among other things, Employer's herein-described policies or practices, Employer also intentionally failed and continues to fail to furnish Employee and Aggrieved Employees with itemized wage statements that accurately reflect: gross wages

earned; total hours worked by the employee; net wages earned; all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee; Employer failed to provide wage statements as requested under Labor Code section 226 and Employee does not recall the wage statements including this information. Consequently, Employee is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer violated Labor Code sections 226, and 1198 each day for each Aggrieved Employee during the PAGA Period, and Employee and each Aggrieved Employee personally suffered these violations and was owed penalties under Labor Code section 226 for each pay period worked during the PAGA Period. However, Employee is informed and believes that those penalties under Labor Code section 226 were not paid for these violations of Labor Code sections 226. Employer would thus be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 226.3, 558, 1199, and 2699, or injunctive relief under sections 2699(e)(1) and 2699(k). Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer's conduct was malicious, fraudulent, and/or oppressive, making Employer subject to heightened civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

Failure to Timely Pay Employees at Time of Separation:

Employee is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer, both independently and for the reasons stated above, also willfully and/or intentionally failed and refused, and continues to fail and refuse, to timely pay compensation to Employee and other terminated or resigned Aggrieved Employees, including but not limited to, all overtime wages owed, all minimum wages owed, which Employee states under information and belief because Employer failed to provide the requested records under Labor Code section 226; and all premium pay owed. Consequently, Employee is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer violated Labor Code sections 201, 202 203, and 1198 each pay period for each Aggrieved Employee during the PAGA Period, and that, thus Employee and each Aggrieved Employee personally suffered these violations and was owed penalties under Labor Code section 203 for each pay period worked during the PAGA Period. Employee further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer's conduct above gave rise to such violations and was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive. Employer would also be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 558, 1199 and 2699, or injunctive relief under sections 2699(e)(1) and 2699(j). Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii). Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer's conduct was malicious, fraudulent, and/or oppressive, making Employer subject to heightened civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

Failure to Provide Wage Theft Notices:

Because Employer refused to provide Employee's personnel file on December 2, 2025, Employee is unable to provide specifics regarding the exact documents, and language therein, that Employee was required to sign. Nevertheless, Employee recalls, and thus Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges that Employer failed and refused, and continues to fail and refuse, to comply with the notice requirements of Labor Code section 2810.5 (i.e., the Wage Theft Protection Act of 2011) by, among other things, failing to provide Employee and other

Aggrieved Employees with the rates of pay and overtime rates of pay applicable to their employment; any allowances claimed as part of the minimum wage; the regular payday designated by Employer; the name of the employer, including any “doing business as” names used by the employer; the physical address of the employer’s main office and the telephone number of the employer; the name, address and telephone number of the workers’ compensation insurance carrier; information regarding paid sick leave; and other pertinent information required to be disclosed by Employer under Labor Code section 2810.5. Employee is informed and believes that Employer’s failure to provide such information, including rates of pay that are in effect, has permitted Employer to pay employees at rates of pay that were not agreed upon and violate minimum wage and overtime wage laws in California. Employee is informed and believes that Employer violated Labor Code sections 1198 and 2810.5. Among other relief, Aggrieved Employees may collect from Employer in connection with these violations’ civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 558, 1199 and 2699, or injunctive relief under sections 2699(e)(1) and 2699(k). Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer’s conduct was malicious, fraudulent, and/or oppressive making Employer subject to heightened civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

Failure to Reimburse Employees:

Employee is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer also failed and refused, and continues to fail and refuse, to reimburse Employee and other Aggrieved Employees, for their costs incurred for the use of personal cellular phone for work purposes, as required by Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802, and other statutory and common law offenses. As a result, Employee and other Aggrieved Employees have personally suffered these violations and Employer is liable to reimburse Employee and other Aggrieved Employees for the costs incurred in furtherance of work duties. In addition, Employer would be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 558, 1199 and 2699, or injunctive relief under sections 2699(e)(1) and 2699(k). Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer’s conduct was malicious, fraudulent, and/or oppressive making Employer subject to heightened civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

Failure to Timely Pay All Wages Owed:

Employee is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer had and has a policy or practice of failing to pay Employee and Aggrieved Employees their wages in accordance with Labor Code Section 204, which requires that: “[l]abor performed between the 1st and 15th days, inclusive, of any calendar month shall be paid for between the 16th and 26th day of the month during which the labor was performed, and labor performed between the 16th and the last day, inclusive of any calendar month, shall be paid for between the 1st and 10th day of the following month.” Employee is informed and believes and based thereon alleges that Employer did not and does not pay Employee and other Aggrieved Employees every day and every workweek in accordance with Labor Code sections 204 and 1198 due to, among other things, the violations set forth above, the derivative nature of which is an implicit consequence of the rationale in *Camp v. Home Depot USA, Inc.* (2022) 84 Cal.App.5th 638. As such, Employee is informed

and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer violated Labor Code section 204 and Employee and other Aggrieved Employees have personally suffered these violations. Thus, Employer would be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 210, 558, 1199 and 2699, or injunctive relief under sections 2699(e)(1) and 2699(k). Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer's conduct was malicious, fraudulent, and/or oppressive, making Employer subject to heightened civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

Unlawful Terms and Conditions:

Once again, Employer did not provide Employee with all of the documents Employee signed to obtain or maintain employment in violation of Labor Code sections 1198.5 and 432. However, based on memory, Employee is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer, including its agents, managers, superintendents, and/or officers, required Employee and/or Aggrieved Employees to agree, in writing, to terms and conditions known by Employer (and its agents, managers, superintendents and/or officers) to be prohibited by law, including, without limitation, terms known to be illegal in purported arbitration agreements, and other written documents presented for signature and/or assent to Employee and/or Aggrieved Employees by Employer. Employer also required Employee and Aggrieved Employees to inform prospective employers of Employer's restrictions of Employee's and Aggrieved Employees' freedom to work. As a result, Employee is informed and believes that Employer violated Labor Code sections 432.5, 1198 and Government Code section 12952. Thus, Employer would be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 432.5, 1199, and 2699, or injunctive relief under sections 2699(e)(1) and 2699(k). Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer's conduct was malicious, fraudulent, and/or oppressive, making Employer subject to heightened civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

Violation of Warehouse Quota Laws:

Employee is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer knew or should have known it imposed systematic quota and production demands on Employee and other Aggrieved Employees which violated the rights of Employee and Aggrieved Employees under Labor Code sections 2100, *et seq.* Specifically, Employee is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer had a duty to ensure its production demands/quotas did not prevent Employee and Aggrieved Employees from complying with laws pertaining to meal periods, rest periods, bathroom breaks (including, without limitation, reasonable travel time to and from bathroom facilities), and/or exposing them to safety or Occupational Safety and Health Administration ("OSHA") hazards. Employer is a "covered employer" and its warehouse employees are "covered employees."

Employer implements quotas as defined in Labor Code section 2100, subdivision (h) and subjects Employee and Aggrieved Employees to adverse employment actions as defined in Labor Code section 2102. Furthermore, Employer willfully, knowingly and intentionally established quotas that harmed Employee and Aggrieved Employees all to increase Employer's profits without

concern for employee safety. Employer, in fact, tracked meals, rest, and recovery periods, that were not provided and did nothing to change its policies and practices. Employer maintained a point system designed to prevent Employee and Aggrieved Employees from complying with California law as alleged in this Notice and systematically used to punish Employee and Aggrieved Employees. Furthermore, Employer prevented compliance with California's meal and rest break laws and failed to consider meal and rest breaks as productive time when Employee and Aggrieved Employees were required to remain on call in violation of Labor Code section 2103, subdivision (b). Employee and Aggrieved Employees were not permitted to take compliant meal breaks, rest breaks, and/or rest and recovery periods when requested, due to Employer's unlawful policy and practice to favor production goals over the rights of Employee and Aggrieved Employees. Consequently, Employee and other Aggrieved Employees were not provided with meal periods (or second meal periods); and/or authorized or permitted to take rest periods (including second or third rest periods); and/or recovery periods; and Employer's policies prevented Aggrieved Employees from taking these meal, rest and/or recovery periods as required by California law. Furthermore, Employer did not provide to Employee and Aggrieved Employees a written description of each quota that was applicable to Employee and Aggrieved Employees; and failed to provide written disclosures each and every time quotas changed either seasonally, daily, hourly, weekly and/or monthly. This includes the number of tasks to be performed or materials that must be produced or handled within a time period, and any potential adverse employment action that could result from failing to meet the quota. This information has not been given by Employer to Employee and Aggrieved Employees, including when hired. Additionally, Employer changed the "quota" regularly without notice, as often as daily. Employer was also required to provide a new written quota disclosure each and every time the quota changed and failed to do so since the Notice was provided. Employer failed to produce Employee's written quota disclosure upon written request pursuant to Labor Code sections 2100 through 2112, and failed to provide written disclosures to Employee and Aggrieved Employees, including new hires, each time the quota changed. Employer had and has a policy and practice of taking adverse employment action against Employee and Aggrieved Employees for failing to meet a quota that does not allow Employee and Aggrieved Employees to comply with meal and rest periods, or occupational health and safety laws in the Labor Code or Division Standards, or for failure to meet a quota that has not been disclosed to Employee and Aggrieved Employees pursuant to Labor Code section 2101. Employer thus violated Labor Code sections 2100 through 2112. Employee and the Aggrieved Employees personally suffered these violations. Thus, Employer would also be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 226, 558, 1174.5, 1695.55, 1198.5, 1199 and 2699. Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer's conduct was malicious, fraudulent, and/or oppressive, making Employer subject to heightened civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

To the extent Employer previously used the notice and cure provision of Labor Code section 2699.3 within the last twelve months, under section 2699.3(d), Employer is not eligible to cure the violations discussed herein under section 2699.3 or otherwise use the early evaluation conference process pursuant to section 2699.3(f).

In the event that Employer is determined to have satisfied sections 2699(g), 2699(h), or otherwise 2699(d)(1), Employer is also, in the alternative, liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 2699(j), 2699(e)(2), and 2699(f)(2).

In the event that Employer is determined to have, prior to this notice or a request for records pursuant to Labor Code section 226, 432, or 1198.5, from Employee or his/her counsel, adequately taken all reasonable steps to be in compliance with all provisions identified in this notice, Employer is still liable for civil penalties pursuant to section 2699(g)(1)-(3).

In the event that Employer is deemed to have adequately taken all reasonable steps to be in compliance with all provisions identified in this notice within 60 days of receiving this notice, Employer is still liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(h)(1)-(3).

If the LWDA or a court issued a finding or determination to the Employer within five (5) years of any of violations described above, that Employer's policy or practice giving rise to such violations was unlawful, Employer would be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(i), 2699(g)(3) and 2699(h)(3), and is **not** eligible for reduced penalties under either Labor Code sections 2699(g) or 2699(h) for remedying violations either prior to or after the serving of this notice. Regardless, as set forth above, Employee alleges Employer's conduct giving rise to the violations as detailed herein was and is malicious, fraudulent, and/or oppressive, particularly given, among other reasons, Employer has been sued for these violations in the past. Thus, Employer is additionally subject to increased penalties under Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii) and, per Labor Code sections 2699(g)(3) and 2699(h)(3), is **not** eligible for reduced penalties for remedying violations either prior to or after the Employer's receipt of this notice.

Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subdivisions (a)(2)(A), (c)(1)(D)-(E), and/or (c)(2)(A)-(B), please advise within sixty-five (65) calendar days of the postmarked date of this notice whether the LWDA intends to investigate the violations alleged above. Our office understands that if we do not receive a response within sixty-five (65) calendar days of the postmark date of this PAGA Notice that the LWDA intends to investigate these allegations, Employee may immediately thereafter file a civil complaint against Employer to allege causes of action for civil penalties or for injunctive relief under the Private Attorney General Act for the herein-described alleged violations of the Labor Code.

Very truly yours,

BIBIYAN LAW GROUP, P.C.

/s/ Sarah H. Cohen

Sarah H. Cohen