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Clerk of the Superior Court
By Carla Boston, Deputy Clerk

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**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**

HANNAH LIGHTFOOT, individually and on
behalf of all others similarly situated and the
State of California under the Private Attorneys
General Act,

Plaintiff,

vs.

DISPATCHHEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC
and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 37-2023-00031018-CU-OE-CTL

*Assigned to the Hon. Keri Katz
Department C-74*

CLASS ACTION

**FIRST AMENDED CLASS AND
REPRESENTATIVE ACTION
COMPLAINT**

1. Meal Period Violations
2. Rest Period Violations
3. Untimely Payment of Wages
4. Wage Statement Violations
5. Waiting Time Penalties
6. Failure to Reimburse Business Expenses
7. Failure to Produce Records
8. Unfair Competition
9. Civil Penalties under the Private Attorneys
General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698 *et seq.*)

1 Plaintiff HANNAH LIGHTFOOT, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated
2 and the State of California under the Private Attorneys General Act (“Plaintiff”) brings this FIRST
3 AMENDED CLASS AND REPRESENTATIVE ACTION COMPLAINT against Defendants
4 DISPATCHHEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive (collectively
5 “Defendants”), alleging as follows:

6 **INTRODUCTION**

7 1. This is a class action brought under California Code of Civil Procedure section 382 for
8 Defendants’ violations of the California Labor Code and Business and Professions Code.

9 2. Defendants underpaid the class members’ wages by failing to reimburse the class
10 members for necessary business expenses and by failing to pay meal and rest period premiums when
11 the Defendants did not provide class members compliant meal or rest periods.

12 3. Defendants’ employment policies, practices, and payroll administration systems
13 enabled and facilitated these violations on a company-wide basis with respect to the class members.

14 **JURISDICTION & VENUE**

15 4. Jurisdiction of this action is proper in this Court under Article VI, Section 10 of the
16 California Constitution as the causes of action are premised upon violations of California law.

17 5. The monetary damages and restitution sought exceed the minimal jurisdiction limits of
18 the Superior Court.

19 6. This Court has jurisdiction over Defendants because, upon information and belief,
20 Defendants have sufficient minimum contacts in California, or otherwise intentionally avail
21 themselves to the California economy so as to render the exercise of jurisdiction over them by the
22 California courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

23 7. Venue is proper in this Court under Code of Civil Procedure sections 393(a), 395,
24 and/or 395.5 because, upon information and belief, Defendants conduct business and committed some
25 of the alleged violations in this county.

PARTIES

A. Plaintiff Hannah Lightfoot

8. Plaintiff Lightfoot is an individual over 18 years of age who worked for Defendants in California as a non-exempt employee from about October 2022 to May 2023. Plaintiff worked as a Medical Technician.

9. The State of California, via the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”), is the real party in interest in this action. (*Kim v. Reins Int’l California, Inc.* (2020) 9 Cal. 5th 73, 81 [The “government entity on whose behalf the plaintiff files suit is always the real party in interest.”])

B. Defendants

10. Defendant DispatchHealth Management, LLC is a corporation that maintains operations and conducts business throughout the State of California, including in this county.

11. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, or otherwise, of the parties sued as DOES 1 through 50, are presently unknown, unascertainable, or uncertain, and are sued by such fictitious names under Code of Civil Procedure section 474. Upon information and belief, each of DOES 1 through 50 constitutes a legal employer or is otherwise legally responsible in some manner for the acts and omissions alleged herein. This Complaint may be amended to reflect their true names and capacities once ascertained.

12. Upon information and belief, Defendants in this action are employers, co-employers, joint employers, and/or part of an integrated employer enterprise, as each of the Defendants exercised control over the wages, hours, and working conditions of the employees, suffered and permitted them to work, and otherwise engaged them as employees under California law.

13. Upon information and belief, at least some of the Defendants have common ownership, common management, interrelationship of operations, and centralized control over labor relations and are therefore part of an integrated enterprise and thus jointly and severally responsible for the acts and omissions alleged herein, including pursuant to Labor Code sections 558, 558.1, and 1197.1.

14. Upon information and belief, Defendants acted in all respects pertinent to this action as an alter-ego, agent, servant, joint employer, joint venturer, co-conspirator, partner, in an integrated

enterprise, or in some other capacity on behalf of all other co-defendants, such that the acts and omissions of each defendant may be legally attributable to all others.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

15. This action is brought individually and on behalf of the following class pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 382:

- a. All current and former non-exempt employees who worked for Defendants in California at any time from four years (plus the additional 178-day statutory tolling period under Emergency Rule 9) prior to the filing of this action through date of class certification.

16. Plaintiff reserves the right to establish various subclass definitions as appropriate at the class certification stage, according to proof.

17. The class is ascertainable and shares a well-defined community of interest in this litigation:

- a. Numerosity: The class is estimated to exceed 50 individuals, although the precise membership of the entire class is unknown at this time. The class is so numerous that joinder of all class members is impracticable. The identities of class members are ascertainable by inspection of Defendants' employment and payroll records.
- b. Typicality: Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the other class members. They were subject to the same policies and practices of Defendants, which resulted in losses to the class. Proof of common unlawful business practices, which Plaintiff experienced, will establish the right of the class to recover on the causes of action alleged herein.
- c. Adequacy: Plaintiff is an adequate class representative; will take all necessary steps to protect the class members' interests adequately and fairly; has no interest antagonistic to other class members; and is represented by attorneys who have substantial experience prosecuting, defending, resolving, and

litigating wage and hour class, collective, and representative actions in California state and federal courts.

d. Superiority: A class action is superior to other means for adjudicating this dispute. Individual joinder is impractical. Class treatment will allow for common issues to be resolved in a single forum, simultaneously, and without duplication of effort and expense.

e. Public Policy Considerations: Certification of this lawsuit as a class action advances the State of California's strong public interest in ensuring its approximately millions of employed residents are properly paid the wages they earned for the hours they worked. Class actions provide a mechanism for enforcement of labor laws and allow for vindication of employee rights by unnamed class members.

18. Common questions of law and fact as to the class members predominate over questions affecting only individual members. The common questions of law and fact exist as to whether the employment policies and practices formulated by Defendants and applied to the class members constitute violations of California law.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

19. Plaintiff and class members worked for Defendants and were compensated on an hourly basis as nonexempt employees. In direct consequence of their job duties, Defendants required Plaintiff and class members to download and use several cell phone applications on their personal cell phones during every shift. Defendants did not reimburse Plaintiff or class members for this necessary expense.

20. For example, Plaintiff needed to utilize at least eight cell phone applications for work-related purposes, including Microsoft Teams, Microsoft Outlook, Hybrent, Intune, UKG Ready, Expensify, and Shift Admin, on her personal cell phone to carry out her job responsibilities. Defendants regularly required Plaintiff to utilize these apps for various job duties such as timekeeping, expense reporting, shift scheduling, and communication with supervisors. Despite the frequent and necessary nature of Plaintiff and class members' personal cell phone use in furtherance of job responsibilities, Defendants did not reimburse Plaintiff or class members for this expense.

1 21. Additionally, due to patient load, employee job responsibilities, and the continuous
2 flow of healthcare needs, Plaintiff and class members often suffered late, short, missed, and/or
3 interrupted meal and rest periods. When Plaintiff and class members suffered these deficient meal and
4 rest periods, Defendants did not pay Plaintiff and class members their due premiums.

5 22. For example, when Plaintiff and class members had a higher patient load and more
6 demanding care schedule, Defendants, through their supervisors, instructed Plaintiff and class
7 members to take their rest periods while driving from one work location to another. These “rest
8 periods” were not duty-free, nor uninterrupted, as class members worked through them. Defendants
9 did not pay Plaintiff and class members their due rest period premiums for these deficient rest periods.

10 23. Because of the aforementioned violations, Defendants failed to provide accurate
11 itemized wage statements that included the accurate gross or net wages as employees earned wages
12 and premiums that were not paid, resulting in an inaccurate reflection of “gross” wages and “net
13 wages.” Due to the practices described above, Defendants also failed to provide wage statements that
14 accurately stated the applicable hourly rates in effect and the number of hours worked at each rate.
15 Additionally, the wage statements issued to Plaintiff and class members failed to list the legal entity
16 and proper address for the employer. Rather than list DispatchHealth Management, LLC, Defendants’
17 wage statements listed the individual medical practitioner that the employees worked with and the
18 address for the medical practitioner.

19 24. Finally, on May 8, 2023, Plaintiff, through her counsel, requested her personnel file
20 and payroll records pursuant to Labor Code sections 226, 432, 1174, 1198, 1198.5, and the IWC Wage
21 Orders. Defendants refused to provide Plaintiff with her time records (showing meal periods and daily
22 time worked) and also refused to allow her the opportunity to inspect her time records. Defendants,
23 through their counsel, stated that because Plaintiff was no longer employed by Defendants at the time
24 of her records request, she no longer had the ability to inspect or receive her time records. As of the
25 time of the filing of this Complaint, Plaintiff has not received her time records or the opportunity to
26 inspect them. Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendants have a pattern and practice of refusing
27 to provide employees and former employees with the right to receive or inspect their records pursuant
28 to a statutory request.

25. The above violations create derivative liability for failure to timely pay all wages owed each payday or upon separation of employment.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

MEAL PERIOD VIOLATIONS

Violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512

26. All outside paragraphs of this Complaint are incorporated into this section.

27. This cause of action is brought pursuant to the IWC Wage Orders and Labor Code §§ 226.7, 558 and 512, which require non-exempt employees be provided complaint meal periods (or meal period premiums in lieu thereof), and which further provide a private right of action for an employer's failure to lawfully provide all meal periods and/or pay meal period premiums at the lawful regular rate of compensation.

28. Defendants willfully failed in their affirmative obligation to consistently provide Plaintiff and class members compliant, duty-free meal periods of not less than 30 minutes beginning before the fifth hour of hour for each work period of more than five hours per day and a second duty-free meal period of not less than 30 minutes beginning before the tenth hour of hour of work in violation of Labor Code sections 226.7, 512, 558, 1198 and the IWC Wage Orders (the "Meal Periods" sections of the applicable orders).

29. Further, Defendants willfully failed in their affirmative obligation to consistently pay Plaintiff and class members one additional hour of pay at the respective regular rate of compensation for each workday that a fully compliant meal period was not provided, in violation of Labor Code sections 226.7, 512, 558, and 1198 and the IWC Wage Orders (the "Meal Periods" sections of the applicable orders).

30. Plaintiff and class members are entitled to recover the full amount of the meal period premiums owed, in addition to interest, statutory and civil penalties, and attorneys' fees, and costs to the extent permitted by law.

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37. Defendants willfully failed in their affirmative obligation to timely pay all wages, including paid sick leave and meal and rest premiums, earned by Plaintiff and class members twice during each calendar month on days designated in advance by the employer as regular paydays (for employees paid on a non-weekly basis) and on the regularly-scheduled weekly payday for weekly employees, if any, in violation of Labor Code sections 204 and 204b and the IWC Wage Orders (the “Minimum Wages” sections of the applicable orders).

38. Plaintiff and class members are entitled to recover the full amount of the unpaid wages, in addition to a statutory penalty in the amount of \$100 for the initial violation for each failure to pay each employee and \$200 for all subsequent violations and for all willful or intentional violations for each failure to pay each employee, plus 25 percent of the amount unlawfully withheld under provided in Labor Code § 210, in addition to interest, attorneys’ fees, and costs to the extent permitted by law.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

WAGE STATEMENT VIOLATIONS

Violation of Labor Code § 226

39. All outside paragraphs of this Complaint are incorporated into this section.

40. This cause of action is brought by a wage statement subclass pursuant to Labor Code § 226(a) which requires non-exempt employees be provided accurate itemized wage statements each pay period, and which further provide a private right of action for an employer’s failure to comply with this obligation.

41. Defendants knowingly and intentionally failed in their affirmative obligation to provide accurate itemized wage statements to Plaintiff and class members resulting in injury to Plaintiff and class members. Specifically, the wage statements issued to Plaintiff and class members did not accurately state each pay period all of the information required by Labor Code § 226(a)(1)-(9).

42. Defendants’ unlawful acts and omissions deprived Plaintiff and class members of accurate itemized wage statements, causing confusion and concealing wage and premium underpayments.

43. As a result, Plaintiff and class members are entitled to recover the statutory penalty of \$50 per employee for the initial pay period in which a violation occurred and \$100 per employee for

each violation in a subsequent pay period, up to an aggregate penalty of \$4,000 per employee, in addition to interest, attorneys' fees, and costs to the extent permitted by law, including under Labor Code section 226(e).

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

WAITING TIME PENALTIES

Violation of Labor Code §§ 201 *et seq.*

44. All outside paragraphs of this Complaint are incorporated into this section.

45. This cause of action is brought by a waiting time subclass pursuant to Labor Code §§ 201 through 203, which require an employer to timely pay all wages earned upon termination of employment, and which further provide a private right of action to recover statutory waiting time penalties each day an employer fails to comply with this obligation, up to a maximum of 30 days wages.

46. Defendants willfully failed and continue to fail in their affirmative obligation to pay all wages earned and unpaid to Plaintiff and class members immediately upon termination of employment or within 72 hours thereafter for employees who did not provide at least 72 hours prior notice of his or her intention to quit, and further failed to pay those sums for 30 days thereafter in violation of Labor Code sections 201 through 203 and the IWC Wage Orders.

47. Plaintiff and class members are entitled to recover a waiting time penalty for a period of up to 30 days, in addition to interest, attorneys' fees, and costs to the extent permitted by law.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

FAILURE TO REIMBURSE BUSINESS EXPENSES

Violation of Labor Code § 2802

48. All outside paragraphs of this Complaint are incorporated into this section.

49. Defendants willfully failed in their affirmative obligation to reimburse Plaintiff and a reimbursement subclass for all necessary expenditures, losses, expenses, and costs incurred by them in direct discharge of the duties of their employment, in violation of Labor Code section 2802.

50. Defendants' unlawful acts and omissions deprived Plaintiff and class members of lawful reimbursements for business expenses in amounts to be determined at trial. Plaintiff and class

1 members are entitled to recover the amount unreimbursed expenses of Plaintiff and class members in
2 addition to interest, attorneys' fees, and costs to the extent permitted by law, including under Labor
3 Code section 2802.

4 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

5 **FAILURE TO PROVIDE RECORDS**

6 **Violation of Labor Code §§ 226, 432, and 1198.5**

7 51. All outside paragraphs of this Complaint are incorporated into this section.

8 52. Plaintiff brings this cause of action exclusively *in an individual capacity*.

9 53. Labor Code section 432 states that [i]f an employee. . . signs any instrument relating to
10 the obtaining or holding of employment, he shall be given a copy of the instrument upon request."

11 54. Labor Code section 226(b) grants employees the right to inspect or receive "a copy of
12 records pertaining to their employment." Labor Code section 226(f) authorizes a penalty of \$750 for
13 an employer's failure to comply with a request for records made under section 226.

14 55. Labor Code section 1198.5 requires employers to provide an employee's "personnel
15 records" within 30 days of receipt of the request. Section 1198.5(k) authorizes a penalty of \$750 for
16 an employer's failure to provide a copy of or permit inspection of personnel records. Section 1198.5(l)
17 allows an employee to seek injunctive relief to obtain an employer's compliance with this section and
18 authorizes the recovery of attorneys' fees and costs.

19 56. Section 7 (Records) of the IWC Wage Orders, which may be enforced through Labor
20 Code section 1198, requires that employers maintain time records of when an employee begins and
21 ends each work period and when the employee takes meal periods, among other required employment
22 and payroll records. Section 7(C) states that "[a]n employee's records shall be made available for
23 inspection by the employee upon reasonable request."

24 57. Plaintiff requested from Defendants all records due under the IWC Wage Orders
25 (including the Records sections) and Labor Code sections 226, 432, and 1198.5. However, Defendants
26 did not produce Plaintiff's time records, in violation of the Wage Order and Labor Code § 226(b).

27 58. Defendants' unlawful acts and omissions deprived Plaintiff of the ability review the
28 documents they received during their employment and to inspect and reconcile their actual time

1 worked with the ultimate pay they received on their wage statements. Plaintiff is entitled to recover
2 the penalties and injunctive relief, in addition to interest, attorneys' fees, and costs to the extent
3 permitted by law, including under Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5, and Labor Code sections
4 226 and 1198.5.

5 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

6 **UNFAIR COMPETITION**

7 **Violation of Business and Professions Code §§ 17200 *et seq.***

8 59. All outside paragraphs of this Complaint are incorporated into this section.

9 60. Defendants have engaged and continue to engage in unfair and/or unlawful business
10 practices in the State of California in violation of California Business and Professions Code § 17200
11 by committing the foregoing wage and hour violations alleged throughout this Complaint.

12 61. Defendants' dependence on these unfair and/or unlawful business practices deprived
13 Plaintiff and continue to deprive other class members of compensation to which they are legally
14 entitled, constitutes unfair and/or unlawful competition, and provides an unfair advantage to
15 Defendants over competitors who have been and/or are currently employing workers in compliance
16 with California's wage and hour laws. These failures constitute unlawful, deceptive, and unfair
17 business acts and practices in violation of Business and Professions Code section 17200 *et seq.*

18 62. Plaintiff is a victim of Defendants' unfair and/or unlawful conduct alleged in this
19 Complaint, and Plaintiff, as an individual and on behalf of others similarly situated, seeks full
20 restitution of the moneys as necessary and according to proof to restore all monies withheld, acquired,
21 and/or converted by Defendants pursuant to Business and Professions Code §§ 17203 and 17208.

22 63. Plaintiff does not have an adequate remedy at law for past or future violations, to the
23 extent the statute of limitations on each of the alleged causes of action do not extend to the four year
24 limitation provided under the UCL or to the extent the underlying Labor Code and IWC Wage Order
25 violations do not provide a private right of action.

26 64. Plaintiff and class members are entitled to injunctive relief against Defendants,
27 restitution, and other equitable relief to return all funds over which Plaintiff and class members have
28 an ownership interest and to prevent future damage and the public interest under Business and

1 Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.* Plaintiff and class members are further entitled to recover interest,
2 attorneys' fees, and costs to the extent permitted by law, including under Code of Civil Procedure
3 § 1021.5.

4 **NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

5 **CIVIL PENALTIES UNDER THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT**

6 **Violation of Labor Code §§ 2698 *et seq.***

7 **(By Plaintiff on Behalf of the State and the Aggrieved Employees Against All Defendants)**

8 65. All outside paragraphs of this Complaint are incorporated into this section.

9 66. Plaintiff brings this cause of action as a proxy for the State of California on behalf of
10 the following "aggrieved employees" pursuant to the Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA"),
11 codified as Labor Code section 2698 *et seq.*:

12 a. All current and former non-exempt employees who worked for Defendants in
13 California at any time from one year prior to the postmark date of the initial
14 PAGA notice through date of trial.

15 67. Plaintiff reserves the right to amend, supplement, or add to this description of the
16 aggrieved employees, according to proof.

17 68. The State of California, via the Labor and Workforce Development Agency
18 ("LWDA"), is the real party in interest in this action with respect to this cause of action. (*Kim v. Reins*
19 *Int'l California, Inc.* (2020) 9 Cal. 5th 73, 81 [The "government entity on whose behalf the plaintiff
20 files suit is always the real party in interest."])

21 69. Labor Code section 2699(a) provides: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law,,
22 any provision of this code that provides for a civil penalty to be assessed and collected by the Labor
23 and Workforce Development Agency or any of its departments, divisions, commissions, boards,
24 agencies, or employees, for a violation of this code, may, as an alternative, be recovered through a civil
25 action brought by an aggrieved employee on behalf of himself or herself and other current or former
26 employees pursuant to the procedures specified in Section 2699.3. "

27 70. Labor Code section 2699(f) provides: "For all provisions of this code except those for
28 which a civil penalty is specifically provided, there is established a civil penalty for a violation of these

provisions, as follows: ... (2) If, at the time of the alleged violation, the person employs one or more employees, the civil penalty is one hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial violation and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation.”

71. Any allegations regarding violations of the IWC Wage Orders are enforceable as violations of Labor Code section 1198, which states: “[t]he employment of any employee for longer hours than those fixed by the order or under conditions of labor prohibited by the order is unlawful.”

72. Labor Code section 2699.3 sets forth the procedure for commencing an action for civil penalties under the PAGA.

73. On or about **July 14, 2023**, Plaintiff paid the requisite PAGA filing fee and provided written notice (by online electronic filing with the LWDA and by certified mail to Defendants) of Defendants’ alleged Labor Code violations, including the facts and theories to support the alleged violations.

74. A true and correct copy of Plaintiff’s written PAGA notice, entitled “Notice of Labor Code Violations” is attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein (the “PAGA notice”).

75. To date, neither Plaintiff nor Plaintiff’s counsel has received a response to Plaintiff’s written PAGA notice from the LWDA.

76. Within 33 calendar days of the postmark date of the notice sent by Plaintiff, neither Plaintiff nor Plaintiff’s counsel has received written notice by certified mail from any defendant providing a description of any actions taken to cure the alleged violations.

77. Now that at least 65 days have passed from Plaintiff notifying Defendants of these violations, without notice of cure from Defendants or notice from the LWDA of its intent to investigate the alleged allegations and issue the appropriate citations to Defendants, Plaintiff exhausted all prerequisites and commenced this civil action under Labor Code section 2699 *et seq.*

78. As set forth in the PAGA notice attached as Exhibit 1 and incorporated into this Complaint, Defendants committed the following violations and are liable for all corresponding civil penalties:

- a. ***Unpaid Meal Period Premium Wages.*** Violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, 1198; IWC Wage Orders.
- b. ***Unpaid Rest Period Premium Wages.*** Violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7, 516, 1198; IWC Wage Orders.
- c. ***Untimely Payment of Wages During Employment.*** Violation of Labor Code §§ 204, 204b, 210.
- d. ***Untimely Payment of Wages Upon Separation of Employment.*** Violation of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 256.
- e. ***Non-Compliant Wage Statements.*** Violation of Labor Code §§ 226, 226.3.
- f. ***Unreimbursed Employee Expenses.*** Violation of Labor Code §§ 2802, 2804.
- g. ***Failure to Provide Employee Records.*** Violation of Labor Code §§ 226, 432, 1174, 1198.5; IWC Wage Orders
- h. ***Failure to Maintain Accurate Records.*** Violation of Labor Code § 1174; IWC Wage Orders.

79. Plaintiff seeks to collect all recoverable civil penalties for the Labor Code violations alleged in this Complaint and the PAGA notice (including amendments thereto) against Defendants pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(a) and (f), in addition to attorneys' fees, costs, and interest to the extent permitted by law, including under Labor Code section 2699(g).

PRAYER

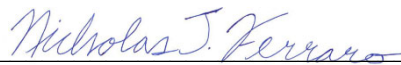
Plaintiff prays for judgment as follows:

- a. For certification of this action as a class action;
- b. For appointment of Plaintiff as the class representative;
- c. For appointment of above-captioned counsel for Plaintiff as Class Counsel;
- d. For division of class members into appropriate classes and/or subclasses according to proof;
- e. For recovery of damages in amount according to proof;
- f. For all recoverable pre- and post-judgment interest;
- g. For recovery of all civil and statutory penalties and liquidated damages;

- 1 h. For disgorgement of all amounts wrongfully obtained;
2 i. For this action to be maintained as a representative action under the PAGA;
3 j. For Plaintiff and counsel of record to be provided with all enforcement capability as if
4 the action were brought by the State of California or the California Division of Labor
5 Enforcement;
6 k. For recovery of all civil penalties and other recoverable amounts under the PAGA;
7 l. For restitution and injunctive relief;
8 m. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit, including expert fees, to the extent
9 permitted by law, including (without limitation) under Labor Code §§ 218.5, 226,
10 1194, 2802, 2699, and Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5; and
11 n. For such other relief the Court deems just and proper.

12
13 Dated: September 20, 2023

Ferraro Vega Employment Lawyers, Inc.

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Nicholas J. Ferraro

Attorneys for Plaintiff Hannah Lightfoot

EXHIBIT 1

Notice of Labor Code Violations

FERRARO VEGA

SAN DIEGO EMPLOYMENT LAWYERS

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619-350-6855 fax
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July 14, 2023

NOTICE OF LABOR CODE VIOLATIONS CALIFORNIA LABOR CODE SECTIONS 2698 *et seq.*

VIA CERTIFIED U.S. MAIL
- Electronic Return Receipt -

DispatchHealth Management, LLC
3827 N. Lafayette St.
Denver, Colorado 80205

- PAGA Notice & Filing Fee -
Submitted electronically to the Labor and
Workforce Development Agency

Dear LWDA Officer and Company Representatives:

This letter serves as written notice under Labor Code section 2699.3 on behalf of **HANNAH LIGHTFOOT** (“Plaintiff(s)”) and all other “aggrieved employees” of the following “Defendant(s)”:

DISPATCHHEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC

Defendant(s) shall mean and include the foregoing in addition to any other related employer entities, individuals under Labor Code sections 558 and 558.1, and all others who may be later added upon further investigation and discovery as liable employers.

This office serves as legal counsel for Plaintiff. If the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”) does not investigate the facts, allegations, and violations set forth in this notice within the statutorily prescribed 65-day period under Labor Code section 2699.3, Plaintiff intends to commence a civil action against Defendants as a proxy and agent of the State of California under the Private Attorneys General Act (“PAGA”). “PAGA allows an ‘aggrieved employee’—a person affected by at least one Labor Code violation committed by an employer—to pursue penalties for all the Labor Code violations committed by that employer.” *Huff v. Securitas Security Services USA, Inc.* (2018) 23 Cal. App. 5th 745, 751; *Kim v. Reins International California, Inc.* (2020) 9 Cal. 73, 79. Plaintiff maintains standing to pursue these claims against Defendants, as Plaintiff experienced one or more of the alleged violations during the relevant statutory period, which continue through the present date. *Cf. Johnson v. Maxim Healthcare Servs., Inc.*, 281 Cal. Rptr. 3d 478, 481 (Cal. Ct. App. 2021).

Through this notice, Plaintiff requests that Defendants complete an internal investigation and audit of the wage and hour and employment practices at issue and make a good faith effort to correct any violations. Plaintiff attempts to identify the non-compliant policies and practices affecting the aggrieved employees so that the parties may resolve the underlying damages and penalties in judgment or settlement approved by the Superior Court of California under Labor Code section 2699(k). Defendants are notified that any attempt to resolve this case should be conducted in coordination with Plaintiff's counsel to protect the interests of Plaintiff, the aggrieved employees, and the State of California via the LWDA. Plaintiff advises Defendants this letter should be also considered a reasonable attempt at settlement of this matter, subject to an exchange of additional documents and information. *Graham v. Daimler Chrysler Corp.* (2004) 24 Cal. 4th 553, 561.

- BACKGROUND -

Defendants employed Plaintiff during the PAGA Period in the position of Medical Technician from about October 2022 to May 2023. During their employment Plaintiff and the other aggrieved employees were subject to the wage and hour and employment protections set forth in the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders.

Through this notice, Plaintiff informs the LWDA of the Labor Code violations set forth herein. The “aggrieved employees” include Plaintiff and the following individuals:

All current and former non-exempt employees who worked for Defendants in the State of California during one-year period preceding the date of this notice through the current date and the date of trial in any pending action (the “aggrieved employees” and the “PAGA Period”).

Plaintiff reserves the right to expand or narrow the definition of the “aggrieved employees” in the forthcoming civil action. Furthermore, Plaintiff seeks all recoverable civil penalties for Defendants’ violations and reserves the right to supplement this notice as further investigation is completed and further facts, witnesses, and violations are uncovered.

- PAGA CLAIMS -

Unreimbursed Employee Expenses **Violation of Labor Code §§ 2802, 2804**

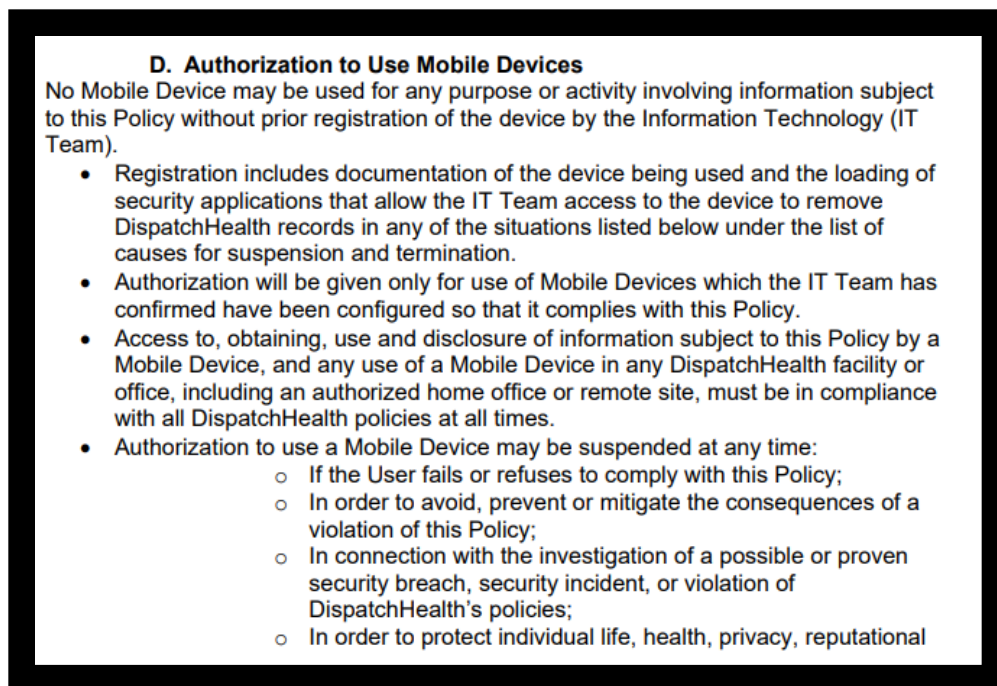
Defendants violated Labor Code section 2802 with respect to the aggrieved employees by failing to reimburse the aggrieved employees for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred as part of their job duties.

Labor Code section 2802 requires an employer to “indemnify his or her employee for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the

discharge of his or her duties, or of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer, even though unlawful, unless the employee, at the time of obeying the directions, believed them to be unlawful.” See, e.g., *Espinoza v. West Coast Tomato Growers, LLC*, 2016 WL 4468175 at *4, n.2 (S.D. Cal. Aug. 24, 2016, No. 14-CV-2984 W (KSC)).

Labor Code section 2804 affirms that “[a]ny contract or agreement, express or implied, made by any employee to waive the benefits of this article or any part thereof, is null and void, and this article shall not deprive any employee or his personal representative of any right or remedy to which he is entitled under the laws of this State.”

Despite Defendants’ policy strongly discouraging Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees from personal cell phone use while working as seen below, Defendants made this cell phone policy functionally impossible in light of the aggrieved employees’ job duties.



Defendants’ employment policy distributed to Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees upon hire discouraging personal cell phone use.

Defendants required Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees to incur costs for work-related personal cell phone use without full reimbursement. In direct consequence of their job duties, Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees unavoidably and necessarily incurred these losses, expenditures, costs, and as a matter of policy and practice. Per Defendants’ practice, Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees needed to download and utilize at least eight apps to complete their work duties. Below is a list of the apps Defendants required Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees to download to their personal cell phone and the corresponding work uses for each.

App Name	Use
1. Microsoft Teams	Communication with coworkers, Defendants' other offices, Defendants' supervisors, and doctors.
2. Microsoft Outlook	Company email
3. Hybrent	Inventory-keeping for medical equipment
4. Intune	Defendants' company portal, used to access all other required apps
5. UKG Ready	Timekeeping for each shift
6. UKG Pro	Two-step authentication for UKG Ready (timekeeping app)
7. Expensify	Expense reporting for work-related costs
8. Shift Admin	Shift scheduling

Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees regularly needed to use their personal cell phones to complete necessary work tasks such as communicating with supervisors, clocking in and out, and viewing or altering their work schedule. Despite the necessity of these activities, Defendants never reimbursed Plaintiff or the aggrieved employees for their cell phone usage, in violation of Labor Code section 2802.

Unpaid Rest Period Premium Wages **Violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7, 516, 1198; IWC Wage Orders**

Defendants violated Labor Code sections 226.7, 516, and 1198, and the related sections of the IWC Wage Orders with respect to Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees.

Labor Code sections 226.7 and 516 and the IWC Wage Orders require that employers authorize and permit an uninterrupted 10-minute rest period for each four-hour period (or major fraction thereof) that an employee works. Labor Code section 226.7 requires that if a rest period is non-compliant, the employer must pay one additional hour of pay at the employee's "regular rate" of compensation. *Ferra v. Loews Hollywood Hotel, LLC* (2021) 11 Cal. 5th 858, 862 ("We hold that the terms are synonymous: "regular rate of compensation" under section 226.7(c), like "regular rate of pay" under section 510(a), encompasses all nondiscretionary payments, not just hourly wages"). Labor Code section 1198 renders "employment of any employee for longer hours than those fixed by the order or under conditions of labor prohibited by the [IWC Wage Orders]" unlawful. The IWC Wage Orders, including Section 12 (Rest Periods), further require one uninterrupted 10-minute rest period for each four-hour period (or major fraction thereof) worked and an additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that a compliant rest period is not authorized or permitted.

Due to patient load, employee job responsibilities, and the continuous flow of healthcare needs, Defendants did not always authorize and permit Plaintiff and aggrieved employees to take all of their rest breaks. In fact, when the patient load was higher, and the care schedule more demanding, Defendants only permitted Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees to "rest" while driving from one work location to another. These "rest" periods were not duty-free, nor uninterrupted, as aggrieved employees were working throughout them. Further, Plaintiff believes and alleges that Defendants had a policy and practice of not providing employees due rest period premiums for deficient rest periods, resulting in unpaid wages.

As a result, Plaintiff may recover civil penalties as an individual and on behalf of the State of California and the aggrieved employees, as provided under Labor Code section 2699 (\$100/\$200) per violation per pay period per employee, along with all other civil penalties permitted by law.

Unpaid Meal Period Premium Wages
Violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, 1198; IWC Wage Orders

Defendants violated Labor Code sections 226.7, 512, and 1198, along with the related sections of the IWC Wage Orders with respect to the aggrieved employees.

Labor Code section 512 and the IWC Wage Orders require that employers provide an uninterrupted 30-minute meal period after no more than five hours of work and a second meal period after no more than 10 hours of work. *See Brinker Restaurant Corp. v. Superior Court* (2012) 53 Cal. 4th 1004, 1049. Labor Code section 226.7 requires that if a meal period is late, missed, short, or interrupted, the employer must pay one additional hour of pay at the employee's "regular rate" of compensation. *Ferra v. Loews Hollywood Hotel, LLC* (2021) 11 Cal. 5th 858, 862 ("We hold that the terms are synonymous: "regular rate of compensation" under section 226.7(c), like "regular rate of pay" under section 510(a), encompasses all nondiscretionary payments, not just hourly wages"). "[T]ime records showing noncompliant meal periods raise a rebuttable presumption of meal period violations, including at the summary judgment stage." *Donohue v. AMN Services, LLC* (2021) 11 Cal. 5th 58, 61. Labor Code section 1198 renders "employment of any employee for longer hours than those fixed by the order or under conditions of labor prohibited by the [IWC Wage Orders]" unlawful. The IWC Wage Orders, including Section 11 (Meal Periods), further require one uninterrupted 30-minute meal period after no more than five hours of work and a second meal period after no more than 10 hours of work and an additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that a compliant meal period is not provided. Pursuant to Section 11(A) of the IWC Wage Orders, the California Supreme Court has held that the on-duty meal period exception is "exceedingly narrow" and applies only when (1) "the nature of the work prevents the employee from being relieved of all duty" and (2) *both* "the employer and employee have agreed, in writing, to the on-duty meal period." *Augustus v. AMB Security Services, Inc.* (2016) 2 Cal. 5th 257, 266-276 (emphasis added). If these two requirements are not met, then the employer owes the employee one hour of premium pay for each non-compliant meal period taken under the purported on-duty meal arrangement. *Naranjo v. Spectrum Security Services, Inc.* (2019) 40 Cal. 5th 444, 459.

On information and belief, and as may be revealed from Defendants' records, Defendants did not pay a meal period premium for each shift an aggrieved employee received a late, short, missed, or interrupted meal period. Upon further review of Defendants' time records once produced, Plaintiff believes and alleges that for similar reasons as the rest periods above, aggrieved employees suffered late, short, missed, or interrupted meal periods, and likewise failed to receive a paid premium for these deficient meal periods.

As a result, Plaintiff may recover civil penalties as an individual and on behalf of the State of California and the aggrieved employees as provided under Labor Code section 2699 (\$100/\$200) per violation per pay period per employee, along with all other civil penalties permitted by law.

Untimely Payment of Wages During Employment
Violation of Labor Code §§ 204, 204b, 210

Defendants violated Labor Code sections 204 and/or 204b and 210, as applicable, with respect to Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees.

Labor Code section 204(a) requires payment of “all wages” for non-exempt employees at least twice each calendar month. Labor Code section 204(d) states all wages due must be paid “not more than seven calendar days following the close of the payroll period.” Labor Code section 204b applies to employees paid on a weekly basis and also requires the payment for all labor within the required pay periods. Labor Code section 210 provides “every person who fails to pay the wages of an employee as provided in Section ... 204 ... shall be subject to a civil penalty” of \$100 for an initial violation and \$200 plus 25% of the amount unlawfully withheld for a subsequent violation.

Because Defendants failed to pay all wages and premiums in each pay period in which such wages were earned at the lawful rate, Defendants violated Labor Code section 204 and/or 204b (for weekly employees, as applicable). Specifically, Defendants did not pay Plaintiff or the aggrieved employees their due wages for necessary pre-shift tasks, rest period premiums, and personal cell phone use reimbursement. Defendants violated Labor Code sections 204 and 204b by failing to pay all wages and premiums owed on the regular pay days scheduled each pay period within seven calendar days of the close of the payroll period, as a result of the policies and practices set forth in this notice.

As a result, Plaintiff may recover civil penalties as an individual and on behalf of the State of California and the aggrieved employees as provided under Labor Code section 2699 (\$100/\$200) per violation per pay period per employee, and Labor Code section 210 (\$100/\$200) per violation per pay period, along with all other civil penalties permitted by law.

Untimely Payment of Wages Upon Separation of Employment
Violation of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 256

Defendants violated Labor Code sections 201, 202, and 203 with respect to the aggrieved employees by failing to pay all wages and premiums owed upon termination of employment.

Labor Code section 201 requires that if an employer fires an employee, the wages must be paid immediately. Labor Code section 202 requires that if an employee quits without providing 72 hours’ notice, his or her wages must be paid no later than 72 hours thereafter.

Labor Code section 202 states that if an employee provides 72 hours' notice, the final wages are payable upon his or her final day of employment. Labor Code section 203 requires an employer who fails to comply with Labor Code sections 201 or 202 to pay a waiting time penalty for each employee, up to a period of 30 days additional compensation.

Defendants failed to pay all wages and premiums owed to aggrieved employees during their employment as set forth in this notice, and also failed to timely pay those amounts to departing employees upon separation of employment. Specifically, Defendants did not pay Plaintiff or the aggrieved employees their due wages for necessary pre-shift tasks, rest period premiums, and personal cell phone use reimbursement. Defendants did not pay waiting time penalties for the late payments. As a result, Defendants violated Labor Code sections 201, 202, and 203.

As a result, Plaintiff may recover civil penalties on behalf of aggrieved employees and the State of California as provided under Labor Code section 2699 (\$100/\$200) per violation per pay period per employee, along with all other civil penalties permitted by law.

Non-Compliant Wage Statements **Violation of Labor Code §§ 226, 226.3**

Defendants violated Labor Code sections 226(a) and 226.3 with respect to the aggrieved employees by failing to furnish itemized wage statements each pay period that accurately list all information required by Labor Code section 226(a)(1) through (9).

Labor Code section 226(a) requires an employer to furnish wage statements to employees semimonthly or at the time of each payment of wages, "an accurate itemized statement in writing showing:" (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked, (3) the number of piece rate units earned and applicable piece-rate in effect, (4) all deductions, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the pay period, (7) the name of the employee and last four digits of SSN or an EIN, (8) the name and address of the legal name of the employer, and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.

Defendants failed to provide accurate itemized wage statements to the aggrieved employees each pay period as a result of the policies and practices set forth in this notice. Defendants violated Labor Code section 226(a)(1) and (5) by not listing the correct "gross wages earned" or "net wages earned," as the employees earned wages and premiums that were not paid, resulting in an inaccurate reflection, and recording of "gross wages earned" on those wage statements.

Likewise, in violation of Labor Code section 226(a)(9), Defendants failed to state on employee wage statements each pay period the applicable hourly rates in effect and the number of hours worked at that rate, as Defendants failed to pay all wages and premiums owed to employees. The amounts stated are instead depreciated and underpaid, resulting in an inaccurate reflection on the pay stub.

Further, in violation of Labor Code section 226 (a)(8), Defendants failed to list the name and address of Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees' employer. Instead of listing "DispatchHealth Management, LLC.," the entity responsible for hiring Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees, Defendants incorrectly listed the individual medical practitioner the aggrieved employees worked with on wage statements as seen below.

UKG

Andrew Wagner MD PC
3825 N. Lafayette Street
Denver, CO 80205
303-500-1518

Pay Statement

Period Start Date	04/23/2023
Period End Date	05/05/2023
Pay Date	05/09/2023
Document	723
Net Pay	\$537.08

Pay Details

HANNAH LIGHTFOOT [REDACTED]	Employee Number 96853	Pay Group Andrew Wagner MD PC
	SSN XXX-XX-XXXX	Location San Diego, CA
	Job DHMT	Division ACUTE - Clinical/Acute
	Pay Rate \$22.0000	Department SW - Southwest
	Pay Frequency Biweekly	GL Location SAN - San Diego
		ProviderType DHMT - DHMT

Plaintiff's wage statement from 5/9/2023 with the incorrect employer's name and address listed.

Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees cannot promptly and easily determine from the wage statement alone the wages paid or earned without reference to other documents or information. Indeed, these wage statement violations are significant because they sow confusion among Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees with respect to what amounts were owed and paid, at what rates, the number of hours worked, and how those amounts were or should be calculated. The wage statements reflect a false statement of earnings and concealed the underlying problems and underpayments of employee wages.

As a result, Plaintiff may recover civil penalties as an individual and on behalf of the State of California and the aggrieved employees, as provided under Labor Code sections 226.3 (\$250/\$1,000) and 2699 (\$100/\$200) per violation per pay period per employee, along with all other civil penalties permitted by law.

As a result, Plaintiff may recover civil penalties as an individual and on behalf of the State of California and the aggrieved employees, as provided under Labor Code section 2699 (\$100/\$200) per violation per pay period per employee, along with all other civil penalties permitted by law.

Failure to Provide Employee Records
Violation of Labor Code §§ 226, 432, 1174, 1198.5; IWC Wage Orders

Defendants violated Labor Code sections 226, 432, 1198.5, and 1174 with respect to the aggrieved employees.

Labor Code section 226(b) requires employers to “afford current and former employees the right to inspect or receive a copy of records pertaining to their employment, upon reasonable request to the employer.” Labor Code section 432 states that “[i]f an employee ... signs any instrument relating to the obtaining or holding of employment, he shall be given a copy of the instrument upon request.” Labor Code section 1198.5 grants “[e]very current and former employee, or his or her representative, ... the right to inspect and receive a copy of the personnel files that the employer maintains relating to the employee’s performance or to any grievance concerning the employee.” Section 7(A) (Records) of the IWC Wage Orders, which may be enforced through Labor Code section 1198, mandates that employers maintain and make available “time records showing when the employee begins and ends each work period” as well as time records showing “[m]eal periods, split shift intervals, and daily hours worked[.]” Labor Code section 1174(d) requires these and other records be maintained for at least three years.

Defendants failed to provide all records upon Plaintiff’s request. Specifically, defendants failed to provide Plaintiff’s time records showing meal periods and daily hours worked in violation of Labor Code section 1198 and the IWC Wage Orders.

As a result, Plaintiff may recover civil penalties as an individual and on behalf of the State of California and the aggrieved employees, as provided under Labor Code sections 226.3 (\$250/\$1,000), 1174.5 (\$500), and 2699 (\$100/\$200) per violation per pay period per employee, along with all other civil penalties permitted by law.

Failure to Maintain Accurate Records
Violation of Labor Code § 1174; IWC Wage Orders

Defendants violated Labor Code sections 1174 and the IWC Wage Orders by failing to maintain accurate employee payroll records with respect to Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees.

Labor Code section 1174 requires that employers maintain accurate “payroll records showing the hours worked daily by and the wages paid to, and the number of piece-rate units earned by and any applicable piece rate paid to, employees employed at the respective plants or establishments.” Section 7(A) of the IWC Wage Orders, which may be enforced through Labor Code section 1198, mandates similar recordkeeping obligations.

Because of the policies and practices set forth in this notice, including the failure to accurately account for wages earned, hours worked, or reimbursements due, Defendants failed to

accurately maintain records in accordance with Labor Code section 1174 and the IWC Wage Orders.

As a result, Plaintiff may recover civil penalties as an individual and on behalf of the State of California and the aggrieved employees, as provided under Labor Code section 1174.5 (\$500) and 2699 (\$100/\$200), along with all other civil penalties permitted by law.

Attorneys' Fees and Costs
Labor Code § 2699(g)

Plaintiff has been compelled to retain the services of counsel to protect the interests of other aggrieved employees and the State of California. Plaintiff continues to incur attorneys' fees and costs, which are recoverable under California law, including Labor Code section 2699(g).

- LITIGATION HOLD NOTICE -

This letter imposes a duty upon all defendants and their respective employees, officers, directors, executives, attorneys, human resource and payroll personnel, accountants, and other agents to preserve all physical and electronic evidence, including electronically stored information and emails, which relate to the employment of Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees specified in this notice. Evidence includes, but is not limited to, Defendants' written employment and payroll policies and handbooks; the aggrieved employees' personnel files and payroll records, such as paystubs, time records, wage statements, compensation reports, as well as the underlying electronically data in Excel or similar format. Memoranda and internal and external correspondence relating to the subject matter of this notice shall also be maintained. Failure to preserve and retain relevant evidence may constitute spoliation of evidence and result in an adverse inference or sanctions.

If you have any questions regarding the scope your obligations to preserve evidence, please consult your legal counsel and always err on the side of caution. Periodic or regularly scheduled purges or deletions of information covered by this hold must be suspended immediately.

- CONCLUSION -

If the LWDA does not pursue enforcement, Plaintiff intends to bring representative claims on behalf of the State of California and the aggrieved employees seeking civil penalties for violations of the Labor Code and the IWC Wage Orders, along with attorneys' fees, costs, interest, and other appropriate relief.

Please advise if the LWDA intends to investigate any of the factual or legal allegations set forth in this notice. Defendants may contact Plaintiff's counsel with any questions regarding this letter or the forthcoming lawsuit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nicholas J. Ferraro". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nicholas J. Ferraro

REJ

Cc Plaintiff Hannah Lightfoot

David L. Cheng, Counsel for Defendants
dcheng@fordharrison.com