

Brian J. Mankin, Esq. [CSB No. 216228]
brian@lmlfirm.com
Peter J. Carlson, Esq. [CSB No. 295611]
peter@lmlfirm.com
LAUBY, MANKIN & LAUBY LLP
5198 Arlington Avenue, PMB 513
Riverside, CA 92504
Tel: (951) 320-1444 | Fax: (951) 320-1445

Attorneys for Plaintiff, on behalf of the State of California as the real party in interest

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

IGNACIO RAMIREZ, on behalf of the State
of California as the Real Party in Interest;

Plaintiff,

vs.

VINTAGE DESIGN, LLC, a Delaware
Limited Liability Company; NU WOOD
DESIGN, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability
Company; ARTISAN DESIGN GROUP,
LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company;
and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive;

Defendants.

Case No.: **CVRI2602646**

**REPRESENTATIVE ACTION
COMPLAINT [Private Attorneys General
Act of 2004 ("PAGA"), Lab. Code § 2698,
et seq.]**

- (1) Failure to Pay Minimum Wages;
- (2) Failure to Pay for Rest Periods and Nonproductive Time;
- (3) Failure to Pay Overtime Wages;
- (4) Failure to Provide Meal Periods;
- (5) Failure to Provide Rest Breaks;
- (6) Failure to Reimburse Bus. Expenses;
- (7) Failure to Pay Vested Vacation;
- (8) Failure to Timely Pay Final Wages; and
- (9) Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Wage Statements

1 Plaintiff Ignacio Ramirez (“Plaintiff”) brings this Private Attorneys General Act
2 (“PAGA”) representative action, on behalf of the State of California as the real party in interest,¹
3 against Defendants as follows.

4 **I. INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

5 1. Plaintiff brings this action against his former employer(s), Vintage Design, LLC,
6 Nu Wood Design LLC, Artisan Design Group, LLC, and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive,
7 (collectively, “Defendants”) on behalf of the State of California, seeking civil penalties under
8 PAGA for Labor Code violations committed against all current and former nonexempt
9 employees employed by Defendants in California within the last one year and 65-days prior to
10 the filing of this action. Such violations include, but are not limited to, Defendants’ failure to pay
11 all wages owed, including minimum, regular, and overtime wages, failure to provide separate
12 hourly compensation for rest periods and other nonproductive time under Labor Code § 226.2,
13 failure to provide meal periods, failure to provide rest breaks, failure to reimburse business
14 expenses, failure to pay all vested vacation owed upon separation of employment, failure to
15 timely pay wages each period and upon separation of employment, and failure to provide
16 accurate itemized wage statements.

17 2. Plaintiff has standing to bring these claims because he meets the only two
18 requirements for standing to bring PAGA claims, namely that he: (1) was employed by
19 Defendants during the applicable period, and (2) was subjected to one or more of the violations
20 alleged herein. *See Adolph v. Uber Technologies, Inc.* (2023) 14 Cal.5th 1104, 1120 (these are
21 the only requirements for PAGA standing: “The plaintiff must allege that he or she is (1)
22 someone who was employed by the alleged violator and (2) someone against whom one or more
23 of the alleged violations was committed”) (internal quotations omitted).

24 3. Additionally, Plaintiff brings these claims on behalf of the State of California, as
25 the proxy or agent of the state (*Adolph*, 14 Cal.5th at 1116), and further only pursues the
26

27 ¹ Because a PAGA action is aimed at deterring and punishing violations of the Labor Code, the
28 State of California “is always the real party in interest in the suit.” *Iskanian v. CLS Transp. of
Los Angeles, LLC* (2014) 59 Cal.4th 348, 360; *ZB, N.A. v. Superior Court* (2019) 8 Cal.5th 175,
185 (all PAGA claims “are brought on the state’s behalf”).

1 “representative PAGA claims” while explicitly not bringing any “individual” claims, as is
2 permitted under the holding of *Balderas v. Fresh Start Harvesting, Inc.* (2024) 101 Cal.App.5th
3 533, 536 (“an employee who does not bring an individual claim against her employer may
4 nevertheless bring a PAGA action for herself and other employees of the company”); *see also*
5 *Johnson v. Maxim Healthcare Services, Inc.* (2021) 66 Cal.App.5th 924 (employee need not
6 bring an individual claim against the employer to have standing to pursue a PAGA claim; it is
7 sufficient to allege the employee suffered a Labor Code violation).

8 4. Plaintiff alleges on information and belief that the Aggrieved Employees were
9 subjected to the same policies, working conditions, and corresponding wage and hour violations
10 to which Plaintiff was subjected during employment.

11 5. Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees were not provided all minimum, regular,
12 and overtime wages due to Defendants’ failure to accurately record and compensate for all hours
13 worked. As one specific example, Defendants frequently required Plaintiff and the Aggrieved
14 Employees to perform pre- and post-shift work without recording such time – leading to unpaid
15 wages – such as when being functionally required by the Defendants to work off-the-clock when
16 exceeding 8 hours of work in a day. The practices led to frequent and recurring unpaid
17 compensable time. *Troester v. Starbucks Corporation* (2018) 5 Cal.5th 829 (California law
18 “do[es] not allow employers to require employees to routinely work for minutes off the clock
19 without compensation”); *Frlekin v. Apple Inc.* (2020) 8 Cal.5th 1038 (tasks are compensable
20 when employee is under company’s control and where the tasks served the employer’s interests).

21 6. Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees were not provided all minimum, regular,
22 and overtime wages due to Defendants’ “auto-deduct” policy and practice. Under this “auto-
23 deduct” practice, Defendants automatically deducted 30 minutes from the shift of Aggrieved
24 Employees without inquiry into whether a meal period was taken or for how long. In other
25 words, when an Aggrieved Employee’s timekeeping showed a shift spanning 8.5 hours worked,
26 the Defendants only paid for 8 hours, deducting 30 minutes (0.5 hours) for a meal period despite
27 no verification of a 30-minute meal period occurring on that shift.

1 7. Additionally, Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees often worked more than 8
2 hours per day and/or 40 hours per week yet did not receive all required overtime compensation
3 on such occasions. Also, at all relevant times, Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees were
4 compensated on an hourly basis plus additional earned compensation (including bonuses and
5 other compensation). However, when the Aggrieved Employees worked overtime hours and
6 received earned additional compensation during the same workweek, Defendants failed to
7 properly include these amounts in the calculations for the regular rate of pay – in violation of
8 California law.

9 8. Defendants also paid Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees on a piece-rate basis,
10 but failed to pay separate hourly compensation at no less than the minimum wage for
11 nonproductive time where piece-rate wages could not be earned, such as preparatory/post work,
12 meetings, maintenance/downtime, cleanup, scheduling, and for rest and recovery periods. Also,
13 the piece-rate paid to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees often resulted in a payment of
14 wages at less than the required California minimum wage for all hours worked. Thus,
15 Defendants’ pay policy violated California law by failing to provide separate hourly
16 compensation to piece-rate and commission employees for rest and recovery periods and other
17 nonproductive time.

18 9. Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees were also denied 30-minute off-duty meal
19 periods, as mandated by California law. As a result of Defendants’ policies and practices, the
20 Aggrieved Employees were subjected to meal period violations when they were: (1) unable to
21 take a meal period due to workload, (2) forced to take an on-duty meal period while under the
22 control of Defendants, (3) forced to take a shortened meal period, (4) forced to take a meal
23 period after the 5th hour of work, and (5) not provided mandated second meal periods for shifts
24 in excess of 10 hours. And, for the instances when Defendants paid meal premiums for such
25 violations, Defendants failed to pay them at the “regular rate” as required by Labor Code §
26 226.7. Moreover, Defendants failed to record or keep accurate information regarding when
27 Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees took mandated meal periods, in violation of the
28 applicable IWC Wage Order § 7(A)(3).

1 10. Defendants also failed to provide Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees with 10
2 minutes of net rest break time for every 4 hours worked, or major fraction thereof, as mandated
3 by California law. Defendants did not schedule rest breaks for Plaintiff and the Aggrieved
4 Employees and the Aggrieved Employees were often not authorized and/or permitted to take
5 mandated rest breaks due to being overwhelmed by their hectic workload. Furthermore, on
6 occasions when Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees worked longer shifts, Defendants failed
7 to authorize and/or permit additional mandated rest breaks.

8 11. Moreover, at all relevant times, Defendants required Plaintiff and the Aggrieved
9 Employees to incur necessary business-related expenses and costs without reimbursement,
10 including, but not limited to, cellular phone expenses, safety equipment, and tools necessary to
11 carry out their job duties.

12 12. Also, at all relevant times, Defendants utilized a policy and practice through
13 which Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees accrued vacation and/or paid time off hours
14 (collectively, “vacation hours”). California law, specifically Labor Code § 227.3, requires
15 Defendants to pay all accrued and unused vacation hours upon separation of employment at the
16 final rate of pay. However, Defendants failed to pay all accrued and unused vacation hours to
17 the Aggrieved Employees upon separation of employment. And, for vacation hours that
18 Defendants *did* pay, Defendants failed to calculate and pay for said hours at the “final rate” of
19 pay as required by Labor Code § 227.3.

20 13. Plaintiff further alleges that he and the Aggrieved Employees were not paid all
21 wages due and owing each pay period (Labor Code § 204) and upon separation of employment
22 within the time required by Labor Code §§ 201 – 203. Plaintiff further alleges that Defendants
23 engaged in the practice of failing to pay all wages due and owing to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved
24 Employees at the time their employment ended with Defendants, including, but not limited to
25 minimum, regular, and overtime wages, wage premiums, vacation and sick wages, among others.

26 14. Plaintiff further alleges that Defendants failed to provide accurate itemized wage
27 statements that fully complied with the requirements of Labor Code § 226(a).
28

1 15. At all material times, Defendants and DOES 1 through 20 were and/or are the
2 Aggrieved Employees’ employers or persons acting on behalf of the Aggrieved Employees’
3 employer, within the meaning of California Labor Code § 558, who violated or caused to be
4 violated, a section of Part 2, Chapter 1 of the California Labor Code or any provision regulating
5 hours and days of work in an IWC Wage Order and, as such, are subject to penalties for each
6 underpaid employee as set forth in Labor Code § 558 and under California law.

7 16. Plaintiff brings this lawsuit on behalf of the State of California, as the real party in
8 interest, to recover all applicable and available PAGA remedies for violations of the California
9 Labor Code committed against the Aggrieved Employees as alleged herein, as well as attorneys’
10 fees, costs, and/or other damages as permitted by PAGA. Plaintiff reserves the right to name
11 additional representatives throughout the State of California.

12 **II. JURISDICTION**

13 17. This Court has jurisdiction over the claims for relief of Plaintiff and the
14 Aggrieved Employees pursuant to the Labor Code and the IWC Wage Orders.

15 **III. VENUE**

16 18. Venue as to each Defendant is proper in this Court pursuant to Code of Civil
17 Procedure § 395(a). Defendants transact business in Riverside County, the unlawful acts alleged
18 herein have a direct effect on Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees in Riverside County,
19 Defendants employ/employed Aggrieved Employees in Riverside County, and alleged violations
20 occurred in Riverside County. *Crestwood Behavioral Health, Inc. v. Superior Court* (2021) 60
21 Cal.App.5th 1069, 1075 (“venue is proper in any county in which an aggrieved employee
22 worked and Labor Code violations allegedly occurred.”).

23 **IV. PARTIES**

24 **Plaintiff**

25 19. Plaintiff and PAGA Representative Ignacio Ramirez was employed by
26 Defendants from approximately during the relevant periods herein.

27 ///

28 ///

1 **Defendants**

2 20. Plaintiff is informed and believes and alleges that Defendant Vintage Design,
3 LLC, is a Delaware limited liability company authorized to and doing business in Riverside
4 County and is or was the legal employer of Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees during the
5 applicable periods.

6 21. Plaintiff is informed and believes and alleges that Defendant Nu Wood Design
7 LLC is a Delaware limited liability company authorized to and doing business in Riverside
8 County and is or was the legal employer of Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees during the
9 applicable periods.

10 22. Plaintiff is informed and believes and alleges that Defendant Artisan Design
11 Group, LLC, is a Delaware limited liability company authorized to and doing business in
12 Riverside County and is or was the legal employer of Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees
13 during the applicable periods.

14 23. Plaintiff is ignorant of the true names, capacities, relationships, and extent of
15 participation in the conduct herein alleged, of Defendants sued herein as DOES 1 through 20,
16 inclusive, but on information and belief alleges that those Defendants are legally responsible for
17 the payment of penalties and damages to Plaintiff and all Aggrieved Employees by virtue of
18 Defendants' unlawful actions and practices and therefore sue these Defendants by such fictitious
19 names. Plaintiff will amend this complaint to allege the true names and capacities of the DOE
20 Defendants when ascertained.

21 24. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that he and the Aggrieved
22 Employees worked under the joint direction and control of Defendants and that Defendants, and
23 each of them, acted in all respects pertinent to this action as the agent of the other Defendants,
24 carried out a joint scheme, business plan or policy in all respect pertinent hereto, and the acts of
25 each Defendant are legally attributable to the other Defendants. On information and belief, a
26 unity of interest and ownership between each Defendant exists such that all Defendants acted as
27 a single employer of Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees.

1 25. Furthermore, Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that
2 Defendants, and each of them, are an integrated enterprise and should be treated as a single
3 employer because these entities share an interrelation of operations, with common human
4 resources and personnel policies and shared common offices and facilities. Additionally,
5 Defendants also have a shared website, common management, a centralized control of labor
6 operations, and common ownership or financial control.

7 26. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that, in conducting
8 themselves in the manner described herein, Defendants, and each of them, were acting in active
9 concert with one another such that the acts of each were and are fully attributable to the others in
10 all material respects. Plaintiff is further informed and believes that at all relevant times
11 Defendants and each of them are now, and at all material times herein mentioned were, the
12 agents, servants, employees, partners, affiliates, and/or representatives of each of their remaining
13 Co-Defendants, and were, at all times herein mentioned, acting within the course, scope, and
14 purpose of such relationship(s) and with the knowledge, consent and/or ratification of each of
15 their remaining co-Defendants.

16 27. Plaintiff is further informed and believes that at all relevant times, Defendants
17 have been inadequately capitalized to conduct business, have failed to follow appropriate
18 corporate formalities, and have simply been a shell and instrumentality through which
19 Defendants DOES 11 through 20, inclusive, have conducted their personal affairs. Accordingly,
20 the corporate veil should be pierced, and any liability attached to Defendants should be imposed
21 jointly and severally against Defendants DOES 11 through 20. Adherence to the fiction of the
22 separate existence of these corporate entities would permit abuse of the corporate privilege,
23 thereby sanctioning fraud and promoting injustice.

24 **V. PAGA CAUSES OF ACTION (Labor Code §§ 2698 – 2699.5)**

25 28. Plaintiff incorporates the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if fully
26 alleged herein.

27 29. Plaintiff is an “aggrieved employee” under the PAGA as he was employed by
28 Defendants during the applicable statutory period and suffered one or more of the Labor Code

1 violations alleged herein. As such, Plaintiff may recover the remedies described herein in a civil
2 action filed on behalf of the State of California and for violations committed against the
3 Aggrieved Employees.

4 30. Plaintiff seeks to recover all applicable and available PAGA remedies (on a
5 representative, not individual basis) pursuant to Labor Code § 2699, as well as attorneys' fees,
6 costs, and/or other damages as permitted by PAGA through a representative action pursuant to
7 the PAGA and the California Supreme Court in *Arias v. Superior Court* (2009) 46 Cal. 4th 969.
8 Therefore, Plaintiff is not required to, nor does he, seek class certification of the PAGA claims
9 under Code of Civil Procedure § 382.

10 31. Pursuant to Labor Code § 2699.3(a), Plaintiff gave written notice by online filing
11 to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and by certified mail to
12 Defendants of the specific provisions of the Labor Code alleged to have been violated, including
13 the facts and theories to support the alleged violations. Now that sixty-five (65) days have
14 elapsed since Plaintiff provided notice of the claims alleged herein without the LWDA assuming
15 jurisdiction over the claims alleged, Plaintiff has fully satisfied his administrative prerequisites
16 for bringing suit under the PAGA.

17 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

18 **PAGA ASSESSMENT FOR FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES**

19 (Labor Code §§ 200, 1194, 1194.2, 1197; IWC Wage Order § 4)

20 *Against All Defendants*

21 32. Plaintiff incorporates the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if fully
22 alleged herein.

23 33. Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees were not exempt from the requirement to
24 be paid at least the applicable California minimum wage throughout the statutory period for each
25 hour worked.

26 34. Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees were not provided proper minimum and
27 regular wages due to the allegations herein. As a result of these policies and practices, Plaintiff
28 and the Aggrieved Employees were required to perform off-the-clock work that Defendants

1 either knew or should have known they were performing.

2 35. Consequently, Defendants violated California Labor Code laws and minimum
3 wage laws, *inter alia*, Labor Code §§ 200, 221, 222, 223, 1197, IWC Wage Order 9, § 4, and
4 Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8, section 11090, subds. 1 and 4(B).

5 36. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants
6 intentionally, willfully, and improperly failed to pay wages to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved
7 Employees for each hour worked in violation of Labor Code §§ 221-223, 1194 and 1197.

8 37. Defendants' conduct was willful, as Defendants knew that Plaintiff and the
9 Aggrieved Employees were entitled to be paid wages throughout the statutory period for each
10 hour worked, including proper minimum and regular wages, yet Defendants chose not to pay
11 them in accordance thereto.

12 38. As a result of the unlawful employment practices alleged herein, Plaintiff, on
13 behalf of the State of California, seeks the assessment of all applicable and available PAGA
14 remedies pursuant to Labor Code § 2699, and seeks to recover all attorneys' fees, costs, and/or
15 any other damages permitted under PAGA.

16 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

17 **PAGA ASSESSMENT FOR FAILURE TO PROVIDE SEPARATE PAYMENT FOR**
18 **REST AND RECOVERY PERIODS AND OTHER NONPRODUCTIVE TIME**

19 (Labor Code § 226.2)

20 *Against All Defendants*

21 39. Plaintiff incorporates the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if fully
22 alleged herein.

23 40. Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees are and/or were employees of Defendants
24 who were paid on a piece-rate basis.

25 41. Labor Code § 226.2 requires employers that pay their employees on a piece-rate
26 basis to provide separate payment for nonproductive time at an hourly rate that is no less than the
27 applicable minimum wage. However, at all relevant times herein, Defendants failed to
28 compensate the Aggrieved Employees for all nonproductive time and rest and recovery periods

1 separate from any piece-rate compensation. Therefore, Defendants violates Labor Code § 226.2
2 every pay period with respect to each and every one of the Aggrieved Employees.

3 42. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants
4 intentionally, willfully, and improperly failed to pay proper wages to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved
5 Employees in violation of Labor Code §§ 226.2, 510, 1194 and 1197.

6 43. Defendants' conduct was willful, as Defendants knew that Plaintiff and the
7 Aggrieved Employees were entitled to be paid proper wages throughout the statutory period, yet
8 Defendants chose not to pay them in accordance thereto.

9 44. As a result of the unlawful employment practices alleged herein, Plaintiff, on
10 behalf of the State of California, seeks the assessment of all applicable and available PAGA
11 remedies pursuant to Labor Code § 2699, and seeks to recover all attorneys' fees, costs, and/or
12 any other damages permitted under PAGA.

13 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

14 **PAGA ASSESSMENT FOR FAILURE TO PAY OVERTIME WAGES**

15 (Labor Code §§ 204 and 510; IWC Wage Order § 3(A))

16 *Against All Defendants*

17 45. Plaintiff incorporates the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if fully
18 alleged herein.

19 46. Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees were employees of Defendants who did
20 not receive proper protections and benefits of the laws governing payment of overtime wages.

21 47. Labor Code § 204 requires that the employer timely pay all overtime wages to its
22 employees. Labor Code § 510(a) and the applicable IWC Wage Order § 3(A) provide that any
23 work performed in excess of eight (8) hours in one workday or in excess of forty (40) hours in
24 any one workweek shall be compensated at the rate of no less than one and one-half times the
25 regular rate of pay for an employee. Furthermore, any work performed in excess of twelve (12)
26 hours in one workday shall be compensated at twice the regular rate of pay for an employee.

27 48. At all relevant times, Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees were required by
28 Defendants to work hours in excess of 8 and/or 12 per day and/or 40 per week. However, as a

1 result of the policies and practices described in this Complaint, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff
2 and the Aggrieved Employees for all overtime hours worked.

3 49. As a result of these policies and practices, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and
4 the Aggrieved Employees for all overtime hours worked.

5 50. Defendants violate Labor Code §§ 204 and 510 and the applicable IWC Wage
6 Order § 3(A) every pay period with respect to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees because
7 Defendants required their employees to work hours in excess of 8 and/or 12 per day and/or 40
8 per week without proper overtime compensation.

9 51. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants
10 intentionally, willfully, and improperly failed to pay proper overtime wages to Plaintiff and the
11 Aggrieved Employees in violation of Labor Code §§ 204, 221-223, 510, 1194 and 1197.

12 52. Defendants' conduct was willful, as Defendants knew that Plaintiff and the
13 Aggrieved Employees were entitled to be paid proper overtime wages throughout the statutory
14 period, yet Defendants chose not to pay them in accordance thereto.

15 53. As a result of the unlawful employment practices alleged herein, Plaintiff, on
16 behalf of the State of California, seeks the assessment of all applicable and available PAGA
17 remedies pursuant to Labor Code § 2699, and seeks to recover all attorneys' fees, costs, and/or
18 any other damages permitted under PAGA.

19 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

20 **PAGA ASSESSMENT FOR FAILURE TO PROVIDE MEAL PERIODS**

21 (Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512; IWC Wage Order § 11, 12)

22 *Against All Defendants*

23 54. Plaintiff incorporates the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if fully
24 alleged herein.

25 55. Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees are and/or were employees of Defendants
26 who did not receive proper protections and benefits of laws governing mandatory meal periods.

27 56. Labor Code § 226.7 requires employers, including Defendants, to provide
28 employees with meal periods as mandated by the Industrial Welfare Commission.

1 57. Labor Code § 512(a), in part, provides that employers, including Defendants, may
2 not employ an employee for a work period of more than five hours per day without providing an
3 employee the opportunity to take an uninterrupted meal period of not less than 30 minutes,
4 except that if the total work period per day of the employee is no more than six hours, the meal
5 period may be waived by mutual consent of both the employer and the employee. Employers
6 may not employ an employee for a work period of more than 10 hours per day without providing
7 the employee with a second meal period of not less than 30 minutes.

8 58. Pursuant to Labor Code § 226.7(b) and the applicable IWC Wage Order § 11(B),
9 Defendants shall pay an employee one additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of
10 pay for each meal period that is missed.

11 59. At all relevant times, and as a result of the policies and practices described in this
12 Complaint, Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees were denied the 30-minute meal periods to
13 which they were entitled.

14 60. Defendants violated Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, and the applicable IWC Wage
15 Order every pay period because Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees were not provided with
16 all mandatory meal periods and Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees
17 one additional hour of compensation at the regular rate of pay in lieu thereof.

18 61. On information and belief, Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees did not
19 voluntarily or willfully waive the mandated meal periods. Any expressed or implied waivers
20 obtained from Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees were not willfully obtained, were not
21 voluntarily agreed to, were a condition of employment, or were a part of a contract of unlawful
22 adhesion. Defendants did not permit or authorize Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees to take
23 meal periods in accordance with California law.

24 62. As a result of the unlawful employment practices alleged herein, Plaintiff, on
25 behalf of the State of California, seeks the assessment of all applicable and available PAGA
26 remedies pursuant to Labor Code § 2699, and seeks to recover all attorneys' fees, costs, and/or
27 any other damages permitted under PAGA.

28 ///

1 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **PAGA ASSESSMENT FOR FAILURE TO PROVIDE REST BREAKS**

3 (Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512; IWC Wage Order § 12)

4 *Against All Defendants*

5 63. Plaintiff incorporates the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if fully
6 alleged herein.

7 64. Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees are and/or were employees of Defendants
8 who did not receive proper protections and benefits of the laws governing mandatory rest breaks.

9 65. Labor Code § 226.7 requires employers, including Defendants, to provide rest
10 breaks to their employees as mandated by Order of the Industrial Welfare Commission.

11 66. The IWC Wage Order § 12 states, in part, that every employer shall authorize and
12 permit all employees to take rest periods, which insofar as practicable shall be in the middle of
13 each work period. Employees shall receive a 10-minute rest period every four hours or major
14 fraction thereof that they are required to work. Authorized rest period time shall be counted, as
15 hours worked, for which there shall be no deduction from wages.

16 67. Pursuant to Labor Code § 226.7(b) and Section 12(B) of the applicable Wage
17 Order, Defendants shall pay Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees one additional hour of pay at
18 their regular rate of compensation for each day that the rest period is not provided.

19 68. At all relevant times, and as a result of the policies and practices described in this
20 Complaint, Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees were denied mandated rest breaks.

21 69. Defendants violated Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, and the applicable IWC Wage
22 Order every pay period because Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees were not provided with
23 all mandatory rest periods and Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees
24 one additional hour of compensation in lieu thereof.

25 70. As a result of the unlawful employment practices alleged herein, Plaintiff, on
26 behalf of the State of California, seeks the assessment of all applicable and available PAGA
27 remedies pursuant to Labor Code § 2699, and seeks to recover all attorneys' fees, costs, and/or
28 any other damages permitted under PAGA.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
0

71. Plaintiff incorporates the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if fully alleged herein.

72. Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees are and/or were employees of Defendants who did not receive proper protections and benefits of the laws governing reimbursement of business expenses.

74. At all relevant times herein mentioned, Defendants violated Labor Code § 2802(a) when they failed to reimburse Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for expenses incurred as a direct consequence of employment with Defendants and/or under the direction of Defendants.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Labor Code § 227.3)

Against All Defendants

77. Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees were employees of Defendants who did not receive proper protections and benefits of the laws governing the payment of vested vacation time and/or paid time off upon separation of employment.

1 78. Pursuant to Labor Code § 227.3, an employer that has implemented a paid
2 vacation, paid time off, or compensated time off policy must, upon an employee's separation
3 from employment, pay to the employee all vested but unused vacation and/or paid time off at his
4 final rate of pay.

5 79. At all relevant times, Defendants utilized a policy and practice through which
6 Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees accrued vacation and/or PTO hours (collectively,
7 "vacation hours"). However, Defendants' policy and practice violated Labor Code § 227.3
8 because Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees did not receive compensation for all accrued but
9 unused vacation hours and did not receive compensation for the same at the "final rate", as
10 required by Labor Code § 227.3.

11 80. At all relevant times herein, Defendants failed to pay the Aggrieved Employees,
12 including Plaintiff, all vested but unused vacation time and/or paid time off upon separation from
13 employment, thereby receiving an economic benefit.

14 81. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants, and each of
15 them, knowingly refused to perform their obligations to compensate the Aggrieved Employees
16 for all vested but unused vacation time and/or paid time off upon separation from employment.

17 82. As a result of Defendants' violations of Labor Code § 227.3, Plaintiff and the
18 Aggrieved Employees seek to recover the unpaid vacation hours, as well as penalties, interest,
19 attorneys' fees, and costs as permitted under California law.

20 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

21 **PAGA ASSESSMENT FOR FAILURE TO TIMELY PAY FINAL WAGES**

22 (Labor Code §§ 201–203)

23 *Against All Defendants*

24 83. Plaintiff incorporates the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if fully
25 alleged herein.

26 84. Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees are and/or were employees of Defendants
27 who did not receive proper protections and benefits of the laws governing the timing and
28 payment of wages.

1 85. Labor Code § 201 requires that the employer immediately pay any wages, without
2 abatement or reduction, to any employee who is discharged.

3 86. Labor Code § 202 requires that the employer pay all wages earned and unpaid,
4 without abatement or reduction, no later than 72 hours of receiving an employee's notice of
5 intent to quit or immediately at the time of quitting if at least a 72-hour notice was provided.

6 87. Labor Code §§ 201-203 cause the unpaid wages of the employee to continue as a
7 penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or until an action therefore is
8 commenced, but the wages shall not continue for more than thirty (30) days.

9 88. At all relevant times, Defendants employed a policy and practice whereby
10 Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees were not paid all wages due and owing upon separation
11 of employment within the time required by Labor Code §§ 201 and 202.

12 89. Also, at all relevant times, Defendants engaged in the practice of failing to pay all
13 wages due and owing to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees upon separation of employment,
14 including, but not limited to, minimum, regular, and overtime wages, vacation wages, as well as
15 meal and rest period premiums.

16 90. Additionally, at all relevant times, Defendants failed to pay all mandated sick
17 wages owed to the Aggrieved Employees at the proper rate of pay.

18 91. Labor Code § 246(l)(1) provides that paid sick time for non-exempt employees
19 must be “calculated in the same manner as the regular rate of pay for the workweek in which the
20 employee uses paid sick time, whether or not the employee actually works overtime in that
21 workweek.” Additionally, Labor Code § 246(l)(2) states that the paid sick time must be
22 “calculated by dividing the employee’s total wages, not including overtime premium pay, by the
23 employee’s total hours worked in the full pay periods of the prior 90 days of employment.”

24 92. Here, Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees were compensated on an hourly
25 basis plus additional compensation in the form of shift differentials and/or nondiscretionary
26 compensation. However, on the occasions that the Aggrieved Employees took sick time and
27 received paid sick leave, Defendants only paid sick time at the base rate of pay (not factoring in
28 the additional compensation as required by Labor Code §§ 246(l)(1-2)), leading to unpaid wages

1 at the time of separation of employment.

2 93. Plaintiff alleges that, at all times material to this action, Defendants had a planned
3 pattern and practice of failing to timely pay Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees all wages due
4 and owing upon separation of employment as required by Labor Code §§ 201 and 202.

5 94. As a result of the unlawful employment practices alleged herein, Plaintiff, on
6 behalf of the State of California, seeks the assessment of all applicable and available PAGA
7 remedies pursuant to Labor Code § 2699, and seeks to recover all attorneys' fees, costs, and/or
8 any other damages permitted under PAGA.

9 **NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

10 **PAGA ASSESSMENT FOR**

11 **FAILURE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE ITEMIZED WAGE STATEMENTS**

12 (Labor Code § 226)

13 *Against All Defendants*

14 95. Plaintiff incorporates the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if fully
15 alleged herein.

16 96. Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees are and/or were employees of Defendants
17 who did not receive proper protections and benefits of the laws governing the provision of
18 accurate itemized wage statements.

19 97. Labor Code § 226(a) requires an employer to provide its employees with itemized
20 wage statements accurately stating gross wages earned, all deductions, net wages earned, the
21 inclusive dates of the pay period, the employee's name and the last four digits of his or her
22 Social Security number (or employee identification number), the name and address of the legal
23 entity that is the employer, and all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the
24 corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.

25 98. Defendants violate Labor Code § 226(a) every pay period with respect to P the
26 Aggrieved Employees due to violations including the failure to accurately state: total hours
27 worked (for example, the wage statements failed to accurately reflect the compensable hours
28 worked); gross wages earned, net wages earned, and all deductions; the applicable hourly rates

(including the accurate overtime rate of pay); and the number of hours worked at each hourly rate. Moreover, Defendants' wage statements violated Labor Code § 226(a) each period due to the failure to pay and report premium wages for denied meal and rest breaks under § 226.7.

99. Therefore, Defendants violate Labor Code § 226(a) every pay period with respect to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees because Defendants failed to provide a wage statement to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees that complied with the requirements of § 226(a).

100. Unlike class action claims, a PAGA plaintiff need not meet the "injury" and "knowing and intentional" violation requirements of Labor Code § 226(e). See *Lopez v. Friant & Associates, LLC* (2017) 15 Cal.App.5th 773, 788 ("a plaintiff seeking civil penalties under PAGA for a violation of section 226(a) does not have to satisfy the "injury" and "knowing and intentional" requirements of section 226(e)(1)"); see also, *Lawson v. ZB, N.A.* (2017) 18 Cal.App.5th 705, 722 ("the scienter requirement [of § 226(e)] has no application in a PAGA claim for violation of [§ 226(a)]").

101. As a result of the unlawful employment practices alleged herein, Plaintiff, on behalf of the State of California, seeks the assessment of all applicable and available PAGA remedies pursuant to Labor Code § 2699, and seeks to recover all attorneys' fees, costs, and/or any other damages permitted under PAGA.

VI. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

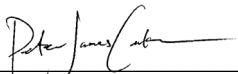
WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of the State of California as the real party in interest, prays for judgment and relief against Defendants, jointly and severally, as follows:

1. For the assessment of all remedies and/or penalties available under the PAGA;
2. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit to the extent permitted by law; and
3. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: April 30, 2026

LAUBY, MANKIN & LAUBY LLP

BY:



Brian J. Mankin, Esq.
Peter J. Carlson, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiff