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individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated.

ELECTRONICALLY FILED
Superior Court of California,
County of San Diego

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Clerk of the Superior Court
By Shiela Retez, Deputy Clerk

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

CHRISTINA BERARD, individually and
on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

MOR FURNITURE FOR LESS INC.; and
DOES 1 through 20, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 37-2023-00036802-CU-OE-CTL

Assigned for All Purposes to:
Judge Richard S. Whitney; Dept. C-68

**FIRST AMENDED CLASS ACTION
COMPLAINT FOR:**

1. Failure to Pay Minimum Wages;
2. Failure to Pay Overtime Wages;
3. Failure to Provide Meal Periods;
4. Failure to Permit Rest Breaks;
5. Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Wage Statements;
6. Failure to Pay All Wages Due Upon Separation of Employment;
7. Violation of Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*; and
8. Enforcement of Labor Code § 2698 *et seq.* (“PAGA”)

1 Plaintiffs Christina Berard and Thomas Garcia, individually and on behalf of others
2 similarly situated, alleges as follows:

3 **NATURE OF ACTION AND INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT**

4 1. Plaintiffs Christina Berard and Thomas Garcia (“Plaintiffs”) bring this putative
5 class action and representative action pursuant to the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, Cal.
6 Lab. Code. § 2698 *et seq.*, against defendants Mor Furniture for Less Inc., and DOES 1 through
7 20, inclusive (collectively, “Defendants”), on Plaintiffs’ own behalf and on behalf of California
8 citizens who are and were employed by Defendants as non-exempt employees throughout
9 California.

10 2. Defendants provide services or goods throughout California.

11 3. Through this action, Plaintiffs allege Defendants engaged in a systematic pattern
12 of wage and hour violations under the California Labor Code and Industrial Welfare
13 Commission (“IWC”) Wage Orders, all of which contribute to Defendants’ deliberate unfair
14 competition.

15 4. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that Defendants have
16 increased their profits by violating state wage and hour laws by, among other things:

- 17 (a) failing to pay all wages (including minimum wages, non-productive time,
18 and overtime wages);
19 (b) failing to provide lawful meal periods or compensation in lieu thereof;
20 (c) failing to authorize or permit lawful rest breaks or provide compensation
21 in lieu thereof;
22 (d) failing to provide accurate itemized wage statements;
23 (e) failing to pay wages timely during employment; and
24 (f) failing to pay all wages due upon separation of employment.

25 5. Plaintiffs seek monetary relief against Defendants on behalf of Plaintiffs and all
26 others similarly situated in California to recover, among other things, unpaid wages, benefits,
27 interest, attorneys’ fees, costs and expenses, and penalties pursuant to Labor Code §§ 201, 202,
28 203, 204, 210, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 227.3, 510, 512, 558, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1194,

1 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800, 2802, 2698, *et seq.*, and Code of California Civil Procedure §
2 1021.5.

3 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

4 6. This is a class action pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 382. The
5 monetary damages and restitution sought by Plaintiffs exceed the minimal jurisdictional limits of
6 the Superior Court and will be established according to proof at trial.

7 7. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to the California
8 Constitution, Article VI, § 10, which grants the Superior Court original jurisdiction in all causes
9 except those given by statutes to other courts. The statutes under which this action is brought do
10 not specify any other basis for jurisdiction.

11 8. This Court has jurisdiction over all Defendants because, upon information and
12 belief, they are citizens of California, have sufficient minimum contacts in California, or
13 otherwise intentionally avail themselves of the California market so as to render the exercise of
14 jurisdiction over them by the California courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and
15 substantial justice.

16 9. Venue is proper in this Court because, upon information and belief, Defendants
17 reside, transact business, or have offices in this county, and the acts and omissions alleged herein
18 took place in this county.

19 **THE PARTIES**

20 10. Plaintiffs are residents of California and worked for Defendants during the
21 relevant time periods as alleged herein.

22 11. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege that at all times hereinafter
23 mentioned, Defendants were and are subject to the Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders as
24 employers, whose employees were and are engaged throughout this county and the State of
25 California.

26 12. Plaintiffs are unaware of the true names or capacities of the defendants sued
27 herein under the fictitious names DOES 1 through 20, but will seek leave of this Court to amend
28

1 this Complaint and serve such fictitiously named defendants once their names and capacities
2 become known.

3 13. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that DOES 1 through 20
4 are or were the partners, agents, owners, shareholders, managers, or employees of Defendants at
5 all relevant times.

6 14. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that each defendant acted
7 in all respects pertinent to this action as the agent of the other defendant, carried out a joint
8 scheme, business plan, or policy in all respects pertinent hereto, and the acts of each defendant
9 are legally attributable to the other defendant. Furthermore, defendants in all respects acted as the
10 employer and/or joint employer of Plaintiffs and the class members.

11 15. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that each and all of the
12 acts and omissions alleged herein were performed by, or are attributable to, Defendants and/or
13 DOES 1 through 20, acting as the agent or alter ego for the other, with legal authority to act on
14 the other's behalf. The acts of any and all Defendants were in accordance with, and represent, the
15 official policy of Defendants.

16 16. At all relevant times, Defendants, and each of them, acted within the scope of
17 such agency or employment, or ratified each and every act or omission complained of herein. At
18 all relevant times, Defendants, and each of them, aided and abetted the acts and omissions of
19 each and all the other Defendants in proximately causing the damages herein alleged.

20 17. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that each of said
21 Defendants is in some manner intentionally, negligently, or otherwise responsible for the acts,
22 omissions, occurrences, and transactions alleged herein.

23 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

24 18. Plaintiffs brings this action under Code of Civil Procedure § 382 on Plaintiffs'
25 own behalf and on behalf of all others similarly situated who were affected by Defendants'
26 Labor Code, Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, and IWC Wage Order violations.

27 19. All claims alleged herein arise under California law for which Plaintiffs seek
28 relief authorized by California law.

1 20. Plaintiffs' proposed class consists of and is defined as follows:

2 Class

3 All California citizens currently or formerly employed by Defendants as non-
4 exempt employees in the State of California at any time between February 27,
5 2019¹ and the date of class certification ("Class").

6 21. Plaintiffs also seek to certify the following subclasses of employees:

7 Waiting Time Subclass

8 All members of the Class who separated their employment with Defendant at any
9 time between February 27, 2020 and the date of class certification ("Waiting
10 Time Subclass").

11 22. Plaintiffs reserve the right to modify or re-define the Class, establish additional
12 subclasses, or modify or re-define any class or subclass definition as appropriate based on
13 investigation, discovery, and specific theories of liability.

14 23. Members of the Class and the Waiting Time Subclass described above will be
15 collectively referred to as "Class Members."

16 24. There are common questions of law and fact as to the Class Members that
17 predominate over any questions affecting only individual members including, but not limited to,
18 the following:

19 (a) Whether Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and Class Members all wages
20 (including minimum wages, non-productive time, and overtime wages) for
21 all hours worked by Plaintiffs and Class Members.

22 (b) Whether Defendants required Plaintiffs and Class Members to work over
23 eight (8) hours per day, over twelve (12) hours per day, and/or over forty
24 (40) hours per week and failed to pay them proper overtime compensation
25 for all overtime hours worked.

26 _____
27 ¹ The statute of limitations for this matter was tolled between April 6, 2020 and October 1, 2020
28 pursuant to Cal. Rules of Court, Appendix I, Emergency Rule No. 9.

- 1 (c) Whether Defendants deprived Plaintiffs and Class Members of timely
2 meal periods or required Plaintiffs and Class Members to work through
3 meal periods without legal compensation.
- 4 (d) Whether Defendants deprived Plaintiffs and Class Members of rest breaks
5 or required Plaintiffs and Class Members to work through rest breaks.
- 6 (e) Whether Defendants failed to provide Plaintiffs and Class Members
7 accurate itemized wage statements.
- 8 (f) Whether Defendants failed to pay wages timely to Plaintiffs and Class
9 Members;
- 10 (g) Whether Defendants failed to timely pay the Waiting Time Subclass all
11 wages due upon termination or within seventy-two (72) hours of
12 resignation.
- 13 (h) Whether Defendants' conduct was willful or reckless.
- 14 (i) Whether Defendants engaged in unfair business practices in violation of
15 Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

16 25. There is a well-defined community of interest in this litigation and the proposed
17 Class and subclasses are readily ascertainable:

18 (a) Numerosity: The Class Members are so numerous that joinder of all
19 members is impractical. Although the members of the Class are unknown to Plaintiffs at this
20 time, on information and belief, the Class is estimated to be greater than fifty (50) individuals.
21 The identities of the Class Members are readily ascertainable by inspection of Defendants'
22 employment and payroll records.

23 (b) Typicality: Plaintiffs' claims (or defenses, if any) are typical of the claims
24 (or defenses, if any) of the Class Members because Defendants' failure to comply with the
25 provisions of California's wage and hour laws entitled each Class Member to similar pay,
26 benefits, and other relief. The injuries sustained by Plaintiffs are also typical of the injuries
27 sustained by the Class Members, because they arise out of and are caused by Defendants'
28 common course of conduct as alleged herein.

1 (c) Adequacy: Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent and protect the
2 interests of all Class Members because it is in Plaintiffs' best interest to prosecute the claims
3 alleged herein to obtain full compensation and penalties due. Plaintiffs' attorneys, as proposed
4 class counsel, are competent and experienced in litigating large employment class actions and
5 versed in the rules governing class action discovery, certification, and settlement. Plaintiffs have
6 incurred and, throughout the duration of this action, will continue to incur attorneys' fees and
7 costs that have been and will be necessarily expended for the prosecution of this action for the
8 substantial benefit of the Class Members.

9 (d) Superiority: The nature of this action makes use of class action
10 adjudication superior to other methods. A class action will achieve economies of time, effort, and
11 expense as compared with separate lawsuits and will avoid inconsistent outcomes because the
12 same issues can be adjudicated in the same manner for the entire Class and Waiting Time
13 Subclass at the same time. If appropriate, this Court can, and is empowered to, fashion methods
14 to efficiently manage this case as a class action.

15 (e) Public Policy Considerations: Employers in the State of California violate
16 employment and labor laws every day. Current employees are often afraid to assert their rights
17 out of fear of direct or indirect retaliation. Former employees are fearful of bringing actions
18 because they believe their former employers might damage their future endeavors through
19 negative references and/or other means. Class actions provide class members who are not named
20 in the complaint with a type of anonymity that allows for the vindication of their rights while
21 affording them privacy protections.

22 **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

23 26. At all relevant times mentioned herein, Defendants employed Plaintiffs and other
24 California residents as non-exempt employees throughout California at Defendants' California
25 business location(s).

26 27. Defendants continue to employ non-exempt employees within California.

27 28. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that at all times herein
28 mentioned, Defendants were advised by skilled lawyers, employees, and other professionals who

1 were knowledgeable about California's wage and hour laws, employment and personnel
2 practices, and the requirements of California law.

3 29. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that Defendants knew or
4 should have known that Plaintiffs and Class Members were entitled to receive wages for all time
5 worked (including minimum wages, non-productive time, and overtime wages) and that they
6 were not receiving all wages earned for work that was required to be performed. In violation of
7 the Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders, Plaintiffs and Class Members were not paid all wages
8 (including minimum wages, non-productive time, and overtime wages) for all hours worked at
9 the correct rate and within the correct time.

10 30. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that Defendants knew or
11 should have known that Plaintiffs and Class Members were entitled to receive all required meal
12 periods or payment of one (1) additional hour of pay at Plaintiffs' and Class Members' regular
13 rate of pay when they did not receive a timely, uninterrupted meal period. In violation of the
14 Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders, Plaintiffs and Class Members did not receive all meal
15 periods or payment of one (1) additional hour of pay at Plaintiffs' and Class Members' regular
16 rate of pay when they did not receive a timely, uninterrupted meal period.

17 31. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that Defendants knew or
18 should have known that Plaintiffs and Class Members were entitled to receive all rest breaks or
19 payment of one (1) additional hour of pay at Plaintiffs' and Class Members' regular rate of pay
20 when a rest break was late, missed, or interrupted. In violation of the Labor Code and IWC Wage
21 Orders, Plaintiffs and Class Members did not receive all rest breaks or payment of one (1)
22 additional hour of pay at Plaintiffs' and Class Members' regular rate of pay when a rest break
23 was missed, late, or interrupted.

24 32. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that Defendants knew or
25 should have known that Plaintiffs and Class Members were entitled to receive itemized wage
26 statements that accurately showed the following information pursuant to the Labor Code: (1)
27 gross wages earned; (2) total hours worked by the employee; (3) the number of piece-rate units
28 earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis; (4) all

1 deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee may be
2 aggregated and shown as one item; (5) net wages earned; (6) the inclusive dates of the period for
3 which the employee is paid; (7) the name of the employee and only the last four digits of his or
4 her social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security
5 number; (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer; and (9) all applicable
6 hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at
7 each hourly rate by the employee. In violation of the Labor Code, Plaintiffs and Class Members
8 were not provided with accurate itemized wage statements.

9 33. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that Defendants knew or
10 should have known that the Waiting Time Subclass was entitled to timely payment of wages due
11 upon separation of employment. In violation of the Labor Code, the Waiting Time Subclass did
12 not receive payment of all wages within the permissible time periods.

13 34. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that Defendants knew or
14 should have known they had a duty to compensate Plaintiffs and Class Members, and Defendants
15 had the financial ability to pay such compensation but willfully, knowingly, and intentionally
16 failed to do so in order to increase Defendants' profits.

17 35. Therefore, Plaintiffs bring this lawsuit seeking monetary and injunctive relief
18 against Defendants on Plaintiffs' own behalf and on behalf of all Class Members to recover,
19 among other things, unpaid wages (including minimum wages and overtime wages), unpaid meal
20 period premium payments, unpaid rest period premium payments, interest, attorneys' fees,
21 penalties, costs, and expenses.

22 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

23 **FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES**

24 (Violation of Labor Code §§ 226.2, 1194, 1194.2, and 1197;

25 Violation of IWC Wage Order §3-4)

26 36. Plaintiffs hereby re-allege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs above as
27 though fully set forth herein.
28

37. Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1197 provide that the minimum wage for employees fixed by the IWC is the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a lesser wage than the minimum so fixed is unlawful.

38. Labor Code § 226.2 requires payment for non-productive time.

39. Plaintiffs and Class Members were employees entitled to the protections of Labor Code §§ 226.2, 1194, and 1197.

40. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and Class Members all wages owed when Defendants did not pay minimum wage for all hours worked.

41. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to pay at least minimum wage to Plaintiffs and Class Members for all hours worked pursuant to Labor Code §§ 226.2, 1194, and 1197.

42. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiffs and Class Members the required minimum wage violates Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1197. Pursuant to these sections, Plaintiffs and Class Members are entitled to recover the unpaid balance of their minimum wage compensation as well as interest, costs, and attorneys' fees.

43. Pursuant to Labor Code § 1194.2, Plaintiffs and Class Members are entitled to recover liquidated damages in an amount equal to the wages unlawfully unpaid and the accrued interest thereon.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

FAILURE TO PAY OVERTIME

(Violation of Labor Code §§ 510, 1194, and 1198; Violation of IWC Wage Order § 3)

44. Plaintiffs hereby re-allege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

45. Labor Code § 1198 and the applicable IWC Wage Order provide that it is unlawful to employ persons without compensating them at a rate of pay either one and one-half (1½) or two (2) times the person's regular rate of pay, depending on the number of hours worked by the person on a daily or weekly basis.

1 46. Specifically, the applicable IWC Wage Orders provide that Defendants are and
2 were required to pay overtime compensation to Plaintiffs and Class Members at the rate of one
3 and one-half times (1½) their regular rate of pay when working and for all hours worked in
4 excess of eight (8) hours in a day or more than forty (40) hours in a workweek and for the first
5 eight (8) hours of work on the seventh day of work in a workweek.

6 47. The applicable IWC Wage Orders further provide that Defendants are and were
7 required to pay overtime compensation to Plaintiffs and Class Members at a rate of two times
8 their regular rate of pay when working and for all hours worked in excess of twelve (12) hours in
9 a day or in excess of eight (8) hours on the seventh day of work in a workweek.

10 48. California Labor Code § 510 codifies the right to overtime compensation at one
11 and one-half (1½) times the regular hourly rate for hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a
12 day or forty (40) hours in a week and for the first eight (8) hours worked on the seventh
13 consecutive day of work, and overtime compensation at twice the regular hourly rate for hours
14 worked in excess of twelve (12) hours in a day or in excess of eight (8) hours in a day on the
15 seventh day of work in a workweek.

16 49. Labor Code § 510 and the applicable IWC Wage Orders provide that employment
17 of more than six days in a workweek is only permissible if the employer pays proper overtime
18 compensation as set forth herein.

19 50. Plaintiffs and Class Members were employees entitled to the protections of
20 California Labor Code §§ 510 and 1194.

21 51. During the relevant time period, Defendants required Plaintiffs and Class
22 Members to work in excess of eight (8) hours in a day, forty (40) hours in a week, and/or on a
23 seventh consecutive day of work, entitling them to overtime wages.

24 52. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and Class
25 Members overtime wages for all overtime hours worked. To the extent these hours qualify for
26 the payment of overtime wages, Plaintiffs and Class Members were not paid proper overtime
27 wages.

1 53. In violation of California law, Defendants knowingly and willfully refused to
2 perform their obligations and compensate Plaintiffs and Class Members for all wages earned and
3 all hours worked.

4 54. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiffs and Class Members the unpaid balance of
5 overtime compensation, as required by California law, violates the provisions of Labor Code §§
6 510 and 1198, and is therefore unlawful.

7 55. Pursuant to Labor Code § 1194, Plaintiffs and Class Members are entitled to
8 recover their unpaid overtime and double time compensation as well as interest, costs, and
9 attorneys' fees.

10 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

11 **FAILURE TO PROVIDE MEAL PERIODS**

12 (Violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512; Violation of IWC Wage Order § 11)

13 56. Plaintiffs hereby re-allege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs above as
14 though fully set forth herein.

15 57. Labor Code § 226.7 provides that no employer shall require an employee to work
16 during any meal period mandated by the IWC Wage Orders.

17 58. Section 11 of the applicable IWC Wage Order states, "[n]o employer shall
18 employ any person for a work period of more than five (5) hours without a meal period of not
19 less than 30 minutes, except that when a work period of not more than six (6) hours will
20 complete the day's work the meal period may be waived by mutual consent of the employer and
21 the employee."

22 59. Labor Code § 512(a) provides that an employer may not require, cause, or permit
23 an employee to work for a period of more than five (5) hours per day without providing the
24 employee with an uninterrupted meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes, except that if
25 the total work period per day of the employee is not more than six (6) hours, the meal period may
26 be waived by mutual consent of both the employer and the employee.

27 60. Labor Code § 512(a) also provides that an employer may not employ an employee
28 for a work period of more than ten (10) hours per day without providing the employee with a

1 second meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes, except that if the total hours worked is no
2 more than twelve (12) hours, the second meal period may be waived by mutual consent of the
3 employer and the employee only if the first meal period was not waived.

4 61. During the relevant time period, Plaintiffs and Class Members worked more than
5 five (5) or ten (10) hours and did not receive all compliant meal periods because their meal
6 periods were missed, late, short, interrupted, and/or they were not permitted to take a second
7 meal period.

8 62. Labor Code § 226.7(b) and section 11 of the applicable IWC Wage Order require
9 an employer to pay an employee one (1) additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of
10 compensation for each work day that a compliant meal period is not provided.

11 63. At all relevant times, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and Class Members meal
12 period premiums for missed, late, and/or short meal periods pursuant to Labor Code § 226.7(b)
13 and section 11 of the applicable IWC Wage Order.

14 64. As a result of Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiffs and Class Members an
15 additional hour of pay for each day a compliant meal period was not provided, Plaintiffs and
16 Class Members suffered and continue to suffer a loss of wages and compensation.

17 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

18 **FAILURE TO PERMIT REST BREAKS**

19 (Violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7; Violation of IWC Wage Order § 12)

20 65. Plaintiffs hereby re-allege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs above as
21 though fully set forth herein.

22 66. Labor Code § 226.7(a) provides that no employer shall require an employee to
23 work during any rest period mandated by the IWC Wage Orders.

24 67. Section 12 of the applicable IWC Wage Order states "[e]very employer shall
25 authorize and permit all employees to take rest periods, which insofar as practicable shall be in
26 the middle of each work period[,]" and the "[a]uthorized rest period time shall be based on the
27 total hours worked daily at the rate of ten (10) minutes net rest time per four (4) hours or major
28 fraction thereof[,]" unless the total daily work time is less than three and one-half (3½) hours.

1 68. During the relevant time period, Plaintiffs and Class Members did not receive all
2 ten (10) minute rest periods for every four (4) hours or major fraction thereof worked, including
3 working in excess of ten (10) hours, because they were required to work through their rest
4 periods and/or were not authorized to take their rest periods.

5 69. Labor Code § 226.7(b) and section 12 of the applicable IWC Wage Order requires
6 an employer to pay an employee one (1) additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of
7 compensation for each work day that a compliant rest period is not provided.

8 70. At all relevant times, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and Class Members rest
9 period premiums for missed, late, and/or interrupted rest periods pursuant to Labor Code §
10 226.7(b) and section 12 of the applicable IWC Wage Order.

11 71. As a result of Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiffs and Class Members an
12 additional hour of pay for each day a compliant rest period was not provided, Plaintiffs and Class
13 Members suffered and continue to suffer a loss of wages and compensation.

14 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

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

16 (Violation of Labor Code § 226; Violation of IWC Wage Order)

17 72. Plaintiffs hereby re-allege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs above as
18 though fully set forth herein.

19 73. Labor Code § 226(a) requires Defendants to provide each employee with an
20 accurate wage statement in writing showing nine pieces of information, including, the following:
21 (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the employee, (3) the number of piece-rate
22 units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all
23 deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee may be
24 aggregated and shown as one item, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for
25 which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee and the last four digits of his or her
26 social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security number,
27 (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and (9) all applicable hourly
28

1 rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each
2 hourly rate by the employee.

3 74. During the relevant time period, Defendants have knowingly and intentionally
4 failed to comply with Labor Code § 226(a) on wage statements that were provided to Plaintiffs
5 and Class Members. The deficiencies include, among other things, the failure to correctly state
6 the gross and net wages earned, total hours worked, all applicable hourly rates in effect, and the
7 number of hours worked at each hourly rate by Plaintiffs and Class Members.

8 75. As a result of Defendants' knowing and intentional failure to comply with Labor
9 Code § 226(a), Plaintiffs and Class Members have suffered injury and damage to their
10 statutorily-protected rights. Specifically, Plaintiffs and Class Members are deemed to suffer an
11 injury pursuant to Labor Code § 226(e) where, as here, Defendants intentionally violated Labor
12 Code § 226(a). Plaintiffs and Class Members were denied both their legal right to receive, and
13 their protected interest in receiving, accurate itemized wage statements under Labor Code
14 § 226(a). In addition, because Defendants failed to provide the accurate rates of pay on wage
15 statements, Defendants prevented Plaintiffs and Class Members from determining if all hours
16 worked were paid at the appropriate rate and the extent of the underpayment. Plaintiffs had to
17 file this lawsuit in order to analyze the extent of the underpayment, thereby causing Plaintiffs to
18 incur expenses and lost time. Plaintiffs would not have had to engage in these efforts and incur
19 these costs had Defendants provided the accurate hours worked, wages earned, and rates of pay.
20 This has also delayed Plaintiffs' ability to demand and recover the underpayment of wages from
21 Defendants.

22 76. Plaintiffs and Class Members are entitled to recover from Defendants the greater
23 of all actual damages caused by Defendants' failure to comply with Labor Code § 226(a) or fifty
24 dollars (\$50.00) for the initial pay period in which a violation occurred and one hundred dollars
25 (\$100.00) per employee for each violation in subsequent pay periods in an amount not exceeding
26 four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) per employee, plus attorneys' fees and costs.

27 77. Defendants' violations of California Labor Code § 226(a) prevented Plaintiffs and
28 Class Members from knowing, understanding, and disputing the wages paid to them and resulted

1 in an unjustified economic enrichment to Defendants. As a result of Defendants' knowing and
2 intentional failure to comply with California Labor Code § 226(a), Plaintiffs and Class Members
3 have suffered an injury, in the exact amount of damages and/or penalties to be shown according
4 to proof at trial.

5 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

6 **FAILURE TO PAY ALL WAGES DUE UPON SEPARATION OF EMPLOYMENT**

7 (Violation of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, and 203)

8 78. Plaintiffs hereby re-allege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs above as
9 though fully set forth herein.

10 79. Labor Code §§ 201 and 202 provide that if an employer discharges an employee,
11 the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately, and that
12 if an employee voluntarily leaves his or her employment, his or her wages shall become due and
13 payable not later than seventy-two (72) hours thereafter, unless the employee has given seventy-
14 two (72) hours previous notice of an intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to
15 his or her wages at the time of quitting.

16 80. During the relevant time period, Defendants willfully failed to pay the Waiting
17 Time Subclass all their earned wages upon termination, either at the time of discharge or within
18 seventy-two (72) hours of their leaving Defendants' employ.

19 81. Defendants' failure to pay the Waiting Time Subclass all their earned wages at the
20 time of discharge or within seventy-two (72) hours of their leaving Defendants' employ is in
21 violation of Labor Code §§ 201 and 202.

22 82. Labor Code § 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to pay wages owed
23 immediately upon discharge or resignation in accordance with Labor Code §§ 201 and 202, then
24 the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date at the same rate until
25 paid or until an action is commenced; but the wages shall not continue for more than thirty (30)
26 days.

27 83. Pursuant to Labor Code § 203, the Waiting Time Subclass is entitled to recover
28 from Defendants the statutory penalty, which is defined as the Waiting Time Subclass members'

1 regular daily wages at their regular hourly rate of pay for each day they were not paid, up to a
2 maximum of thirty (30) days.

3 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

4 **VIOLATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE §§ 17200, *ET SEQ.***

5 (Violation of Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*)

6 84. Plaintiffs hereby re-allege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs above as
7 though fully set forth herein.

8 85. California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, prohibits acts of
9 unfair competition, which includes any “unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business act or practice . .
10 . .”

11 86. A violation of California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, may
12 be predicated on a violation of any state or federal law. In the instant case, Defendants’ policies
13 and practices violated state law, causing Plaintiffs and Class Members to suffer and continue to
14 suffer injuries-in-fact.

15 87. Defendants’ policies and practices violated state law in at least the following
16 respects:

- 17 (a) Failing to pay all wages earned (including minimum wage and overtime
18 wages) to Plaintiffs and Class Members at the proper rate and in a timely
19 manner in violation of Labor Code §§ 204, 510, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198.
- 20 (b) Failing to provide compliant meal periods without paying Plaintiffs and
21 Class Members premium wages for every day said meal periods were not
22 provided in violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512.
- 23 (c) Failing to authorize or permit compliant rest breaks without paying
24 Plaintiffs and Class Members premium wages for every day said rest
25 breaks were not authorized or permitted in violation of Labor Code §
26 226.7.
- 27 (d) Failing to provide Plaintiffs and Class Members with accurate itemized
28 wage statements in violation of Labor Code § 226.

1 (e) Failing to timely pay all earned wages to the members of the Waiting
2 Time Subclass upon separation of employment in violation of Labor Code
3 §§ 201, 202, and 203.

4 88. As alleged herein, Defendants systematically engaged in unlawful conduct in
5 violation of the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders, such as failing to pay all wages
6 (minimum and overtime wages), failing to provide meal periods and rest breaks or
7 compensation in lieu thereof, failing to furnish accurate wage statements, and failing to pay all
8 wages due and owing upon separation of employment in a timely manner to the Waiting Time
9 Subclass, all in order to decrease their costs of doing business and increase their profits.

10 89. At all relevant times herein, Defendants held themselves out to Plaintiffs and
11 Class Members as being knowledgeable concerning the labor and employment laws of
12 California.

13 90. At all times relevant herein, Defendants intentionally avoided paying Plaintiffs
14 and Class Members wages and monies, thereby creating for Defendants an artificially lower
15 cost of doing business in order to undercut their competitors and establish and/or gain a greater
16 foothold in the marketplace.

17 91. By violating the foregoing statutes and regulations as herein alleged, Defendants'
18 acts constitute unfair and unlawful business practices under California Business and Professions
19 Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

20 92. As a result of the unfair and unlawful business practices of Defendants as alleged
21 herein, Plaintiffs and Class Members are entitled to injunctive relief, disgorgement, and
22 restitution in an amount to be shown according to proof at trial.

23 93. Plaintiffs seek to enforce important rights affecting the public interest within the
24 meaning of California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5. Defendants' conduct, as alleged
25 herein, has been and continues to be unfair, unlawful, and harmful to Plaintiffs, Class Members,
26 and the general public. Based on Defendants' conduct as alleged herein, Plaintiffs and Class
27 Members are entitled to an award of attorneys' fees pursuant to California Code of Civil
28 Procedure § 1021.5.

1 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **ENFORCEMENT OF LABOR CODE §§ 2698 ET SEQ. ("PAGA")**

3 94. Plaintiff Berard hereby re-alleges and incorporate by reference the previous
4 paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

5 95. Pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(a), any provision of the Labor Code that provides
6 for a civil penalty to be assessed and collected by the Labor and Workforce Development
7 Agency ("LWDA") or any of its departments, divisions, commissions, boards, agencies, or
8 employees for violation of the Labor Code may, as an alternative, be recovered through a civil
9 action brought by an aggrieved employee on behalf of himself or herself and other current or
10 former employees pursuant to the procedures specified in Labor Code § 2699.3.

11 96. For all provisions of the Labor Code except those for which a civil penalty is
12 specifically provided, Labor Code § 2699(f) imposes upon Defendants a penalty of one hundred
13 dollars (\$100.00) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial violation and two
14 hundred dollars (\$200.00) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent pay
15 period in which Defendants violated these provisions of the Labor Code.

16 97. Defendants' conduct violates numerous Wage Order and Labor Code sections,
17 including, but not limited to, the following:

- 18 a. violation of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 510, 1182.12, 1194,
19 1197, and 1198 for failure to timely pay all earned wages (including
20 minimum wage and overtime wages) owed to Plaintiff Berard and other
21 aggrieved employees during employment and upon separation of
22 employment as herein alleged;
- 23 b. violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512 for failure to provide meal
24 periods to Plaintiff Berard and other aggrieved employees and failure to
25 pay premium wages for missed meal periods as herein alleged;
- 26 c. violation of Labor Code § 226.7 for failure to permit rest breaks to
27 Plaintiff Berard and other aggrieved employees and failure to pay
28 premium wages for missed rest periods as herein alleged;

- d. violation of Labor Code § 226 for failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements to Plaintiff Berard and other aggrieved employees as herein alleged;
- e. violation of Labor Code §§ 1174 and 1174.5 for failure to maintain accurate and complete records showing, among other things, the hours worked daily by and the wages paid to aggrieved employees; and
- f. violation of Labor Code §§ 2800 and 2802 for failure to reimburse Plaintiff Berard and other aggrieved employees for necessary business expenses as herein alleged.

98. Plaintiff Berard is an “aggrieved employee” because she was employed by the alleged violator and had one or more of the violations committed against her, and therefore is properly suited to represent the interests of all other aggrieved employees.

99. Plaintiff Berard has exhausted the procedural requirements under Labor Code § 2699.3 as to Defendants and is therefore able to pursue a claim for penalties on behalf of herself and all other aggrieved employees under PAGA.

100. Pursuant to Labor Code §§ 2699(a), 2699.3 and 2699.5, Plaintiff Berard is entitled to recover civil penalties, in addition to other remedies, for violations of the Labor Code sections cited above.

101. For bringing this action, Plaintiff Berard is entitled to attorney’s fees and costs incurred herein.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

On Plaintiffs’ own behalf and on behalf of all others similarly situated, Plaintiffs pray for relief and judgment against Defendants, jointly and severally, as follows:

1. For certification under California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 of the proposed Class and any other appropriate subclass;
2. For appointment of Christina Berard and Thomas Garcia as class representatives;
3. For appointment of Aegis Law Firm, PC, as class counsel for all purposes;
4. For compensatory damages in an amount according to proof at trial;

1 5. For an award of damages in the amount of unpaid compensation including, but
2 not limited to, unpaid wages, unreimbursed expenses, benefits, and penalties;

3 6. For economic and/or special damages in an amount according to proof at trial;

4 7. For liquidated damages pursuant to Labor Code § 1194.2;

5 8. For statutory penalties to the extent permitted by law, including those pursuant to
6 the Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders;

7 9. For injunctive relief as provided by the California Labor Code and California
8 Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*;

9 10. For restitution as provided by Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*;

10 11. For an order requiring Defendants to restore and disgorge all funds to each
11 employee acquired by means of any act or practice declared by this Court to be unlawful, unfair,
12 or fraudulent and, therefore, constituting unfair competition under Business and Professions
13 Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*;

14 12. For pre-judgment interest;

15 13. For civil penalties;

16 14. For reasonable attorneys' fees, costs of suit, and interest to the extent permitted
17 by law, including, but not limited to, Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5 and Labor Code §§
18 226(e), 1194, and 2698 *et seq.*; and

19 15. For such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

20
21 Dated: November 6, 2023

AEGIS LAW FIRM, PC

22
23 By: 

Jessica L. Campbell

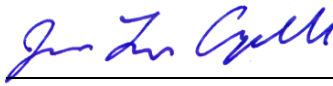
24 Attorneys for Plaintiffs Christina Berard and
25 Thomas Garcia

26 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

27 Plaintiffs hereby demand a jury trial with respect to all issues triable of right by jury.

1 Dated: November 6, 2023

AEGIS LAW FIRM, PC

2
3 By: 

4 Jessica L. Campbell

5 Attorneys for Plaintiffs Christina Berard and
6 Thomas Garcia
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