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ELECTRONICALLY FILED
Superior Court of California,
County of San Diego
6/4/2026 4:27:28 PM

Clerk of the Superior Court
By M. Sepulveda ,Deputy Clerk

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

NICHELL ANALEE LOPEZ ACOSTA, on
behalf of others similarly situated and the State
of California under the Private Attorneys General
Act,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

SAN DIEGO BLOOD BANK and DOES 1
through 50, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 26CU019282C

Judge: Behan, Wendy M.
Department: C-66

CLASS ACTION

**FIRST AMENDED CLASS AND
REPRESENTATIVE ACTION
COMPLAINT**

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

Action Filed: April 7, 2026

1 Plaintiff NICHELL ANALEE LOPEZ ACOSTA, on behalf of all others similarly situated and
2 the State of California under the Private Attorneys General Act (“Plaintiff”) brings this FIRST
3 AMENDED CLASS AND REPRESENTATIVE ACTION COMPLAINT against Defendants SAN
4 DIEGO BLOOD BANK and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive (collectively “Defendants”), alleging as
5 follows:

6 **INTRODUCTION**

- 7 1. This is a class action filed for wage and hour violations of the California Labor Code.
- 8 2. Defendant failed to compensate Plaintiff and covered employees for all hours suffered
9 or permitted to work in violation of the applicable IWC Wage Order.
- 10 3. Defendant underpayment of wages was facilitated by their company-wide practices of
11 requiring off-the-clock work.
- 12 4. Defendant also underpaid overtime and premiums at the lawful rate of pay for overtime
13 hours worked.
- 14 5. Defendant failed to provide, authorize, and/or permit Plaintiff and the covered
15 employees to take compliant meal and rest periods to which they were entitled. Yet Defendant did
16 not pay all meal and rest period premiums.
- 17 6. Defendant’s employment policies, practices, and payroll administration systems
18 enabled and facilitated these violations on a company-wide basis with respect to the covered
19 employees.
- 20 7. Defendant is further liable for derivative claims for wage statements, untimely
21 payment, and other associated violations.
- 22 8. Plaintiff seeks to recover the underpaid damages, plus associated penalties, interests,
23 attorney’s fees and costs.

24 **JURISDICTION & VENUE**

- 25 9. Jurisdiction of this action is proper in this Court under Article VI, Section 10 of the
26 California Constitution as the causes of action are premised upon violations of California law.
- 27 10. The monetary damages and restitution sought exceed the minimal jurisdiction limits of
28 the Superior Court.

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

PARTIES

13. Plaintiff Analee Lopez Acosta is an individual over 18 years of age who worked for Defendants in California as a non-exempt employee from about November 2022 to Present. Plaintiff worked as a CDL Class B Bus Driver.

B. Defendants

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. 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

20. 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 prior to the filing of this action through date of class certification.

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

22. 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.

23. 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

24. Plaintiff and the covered employees worked for Defendant as non-exempt employees and were compensated on an hourly basis.

25. Defendant failed to pay Plaintiff and the covered employees at the lawful minimum

1 wage rate for all hours worked, resulting in unpaid minimum wages.

2 26. Defendant employed an unlawful practice of requiring Plaintiff and covered employees
3 to perform work duties during unpaid meal periods. Defendant retroactively and unilaterally altered
4 Plaintiff's time records to reflect compliant meal breaks. For example, despite Plaintiff frequently
5 working through her lunch breaks to meet performance demands, managers manually adjusted her
6 timesheets to hide the additional labor. Plaintiff was unaware of the frequency of these adjustments
7 until other employees began noticing similar discrepancies.

8 27. Furthermore, Plaintiff's manager would routinely approve timecards on Plaintiff's
9 behalf before she even had the opportunity to review or approve them herself. As a direct result of this
10 unlawful practice, Plaintiff and the covered employees were systematically deprived of earned wages
11 for all hours worked.

12 28. Defendant failed to compensate Plaintiff and the covered employees at the lawful
13 overtime rate for all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours per day or forty (40) hours per week.

14 29. As a direct result of Defendant's practice of unilaterally altering timesheets and
15 requiring work during unpaid meal periods, substantial periods of labor went unrecorded. Because
16 these unrecorded hours were performed in addition to a full-time schedule, they constitute unpaid
17 overtime.

18 30. Additionally, Defendant failed to calculate the correct "regular rate of pay" used to
19 determine overtime and double-time compensation.

20 31. Defendant paid Plaintiff and the covered employees non-discretionary bonuses and
21 other forms of remuneration. However, Defendant failed to include these payments when calculating
22 the overtime rate for those pay periods. This omission resulted in a systematic underpayment of all
23 overtime hours worked.

24 32. Through the combination of unrecorded "off-the-clock" work and the exclusion of
25 bonuses from the regular rate of pay, Defendant willfully deprived Plaintiff and the covered employees
26 of their earned overtime wages.

27 33. Plaintiff and other covered employees routinely experienced missed, late, short, and
28 interrupted meal periods due to the pressures to keep up with the high demands of the job.

1 34. Defendant maintained a policy and practice of high-intensity operational requirements,
2 including back-to-back donor assistance, strict transport deadlines, and chronic understaffing. As a
3 result, Plaintiff and the covered employees were often required to skip, miss, or otherwise experience
4 non-compliant meal periods.

5 35. Defendant avoided paying all owed meal period premiums by making unauthorized
6 time edits to Plaintiff and the covered employees' time records. Plaintiff's manager would frequently
7 retroactively adjust her timesheets to reflect that a meal period was taken even when she worked
8 through these periods to meet her work requirements.

9 36. Managers routinely approved timecards on behalf of Plaintiff before she could review
10 or dispute the entries, effectively masking the lack of compliant breaks. On information and belief,
11 this was a common experience among the covered employees.

12 37. Defendant successfully masked the frequency of missed meal periods and avoided the
13 legal obligation to pay the required premium wages because of these adjustments, which Plaintiff only
14 discovered after other employees noticed similar patterns.

15 38. When Defendant did not provide compliant meal periods, Defendant failed to pay
16 Plaintiff and the covered employees all meal period premiums at the regular rate of compensation as
17 required by California law.

18 39. Due to the same staffing and workload pressures, Defendant failed to authorize and
19 permit Plaintiff and the covered employees to take ten-minute rest periods for every four hours worked.
20 Plaintiff personally experienced non-compliant rest periods approximately four to five times per week
21 because no relief staff was provided to cover her duties. Plaintiff alleges, based on information and
22 belief, that this was a matter of common policy and practice with respect to other covered employees.

23 40. Every time Plaintiff or the covered employees received a non-compliant rest period,
24 they were owed a rest period premium at their regular rate of pay. However, during Plaintiff's
25 employment with Defendant, Plaintiff never received a rest period premium. Plaintiff alleges, based
26 on information and belief, that this was a matter of common policy and practice with respect to other
27 covered employees.

1 41. These violations create derivative liability for failure to timely pay all wages owed each
2 payday or upon separation of employment.

3 42. Defendant failed to provide accurate itemized wage statements to the covered
4 employees each pay period as a result of the policies and practices. Defendant violated Labor Code
5 section 226(a)(1) and (5) by not listing the correct “gross wages earned” or “net wages earned,” as the
6 employees earned wages and premiums that were not paid, resulting in an inaccurate reflection, and
7 recording of “gross wages earned” on those wage statements.

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

13 44. Additionally, Defendant violated Labor Code section 226(a)(2) by failing to accurately
14 list employees’ “total hours worked,” as the wage statements did not accurately include the
15 uncompensated time that Plaintiff and other covered employees worked due to Defendant’s policy and
16 practice of requiring off-the-clock work.

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

24 46. Because of the policies and practices set forth above, Defendants failed to accurately
25 maintain records in accordance with Labor Code section 1174 and the IWC Wage Orders.
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1 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **FAILURE TO PAY ALL WAGES OWED**

3 **Violation of Labor Code §§ 200, 218, 1194, 1194.2 and 1197**

4 **(All Claims Alleged by Plaintiff and Class Members Against All Defendants)**

5 47. All outside paragraphs of this Complaint are incorporated into this section.

6 48. This cause of action is brought pursuant to the IWC Wage Orders and Labor Code
7 §§ 200, 218, 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1 and 1198 and the IWC Wage Orders (the “Hours
8 and Days of Work” and “Minimum Wages” sections of the applicable orders), which require non-
9 exempt employees be timely paid at least the state or local minimum wage (if higher) for each hour of
10 work, and further provide a private right of action for an employer’s failure to pay all minimum wages
11 (plus liquidated damages). In addition to minimum wages, Labor Code § 200 states that “‘wages’
12 includes all amounts for labor performed by employees of every description, whether the amount is
13 fixed or ascertained by the standard of time, task, piece, commission basis, or other method of
14 calculation.”

15 49. Defendants willfully failed in their affirmative obligation to pay Plaintiff and class
16 members at least the lawful minimum wage for each hour worked in violation of Labor Code sections
17 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1 and 1198 and the IWC Wage Orders (the “Hours and Days of
18 Work” and “Minimum Wages” sections of the applicable orders), including payment at the lawful
19 local and county minimum wage ordinances in effect. As a result, Defendants are liable for all
20 associated damages, including liquidated damages for the minimum wage violations pursuant to Labor
21 Code § 1194.2.

22 50. Defendants’ unlawful acts and omissions deprived Plaintiff and class members of
23 minimum, regular and overtime wages in amounts to be determined at trial. Plaintiff and class
24 members are entitled to recover the full amount of the unpaid wages, plus liquidated damages in an
25 amount equal to the wages unlawfully unpaid (and interest thereon), in addition to interest, attorneys’
26 fees, and costs to the extent permitted by law, including under Labor Code sections 1194 and 1194.2,
27 218.6 and any other applicable statutes.

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1 Plaintiff and class members compliant, duty-free meal periods of not less than 30 minutes beginning
2 before the fifth hour of hour for each work period of more than five hours per day and a second duty-
3 free meal period of not less than 30 minutes beginning before the tenth hour of hour of work in
4 violation of Labor Code sections 226.7, 512, 558, 1198 and the IWC Wage Orders (the “Meal Periods”
5 sections of the applicable orders).

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

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

14 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

15 **REST PERIOD VIOLATIONS**

16 **Violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 516**

17 60. All outside paragraphs of this Complaint are incorporated into this section.

18 61. This cause of action is brought pursuant to the IWC Wage Orders and Labor Code
19 §§ 226.7 and 516, which require non-exempt employees be authorized to take complaint rest periods
20 (or rest period premiums in lieu thereof), and which further provide a private right of action for an
21 employer’s failure to lawfully provide all rest periods and/or pay rest period premiums at the lawful
22 regular rate of compensation.

23 62. Defendants willfully failed in their affirmative obligation to consistently authorize and
24 permit Plaintiff and class members to receive compliant, duty-free rest periods of not less than ten
25 (10) minutes for every four hours worked (or major fraction thereof) in violation of Labor Code
26 sections 226.7, 516, 558, and 1198 and the IWC Wage Orders (the “Rest Periods” sections of the
27 applicable orders).

28 63. Further, Defendants willfully failed in their affirmative obligation to consistently pay

1 Plaintiff and class members one additional hour of pay at the respective regular rate of compensation
2 for each workday that a fully compliant rest period was not provided, in violation of Labor Code
3 sections 226.7, 516, 558, and 1198 and the IWC Wage Orders.

4 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

5 **UNTIMELY PAYMENT OF WAGES**

6 **Violation of Labor Code §§ 204, 210, 218**

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

8 65. This cause of action is brought pursuant to the IWC Wage Orders and Labor Code
9 §§ 204, 204b, and 210 which require non-exempt employees be timely paid all wages owed each pay
10 period, and which further provide a private right of action for an employer's failure to comply with
11 this obligation. Labor Code § 218 authorizes individuals to sue directly for wages and penalties due
12 under these sections, including Labor Code § 210(c)'s statutory late payment penalties.

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

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

24 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

25 **WAGE STATEMENT VIOLATIONS**

26 **Violation of Labor Code § 226**

27 68. All outside paragraphs of this Complaint are incorporated into this section.

28 69. 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.

70. 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).

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

72. 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).

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

WAITING TIME PENALTIES

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

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

74. 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.

75. 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.

76. 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.

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION

UNFAIR COMPETITION

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

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

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

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

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

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

82. Plaintiff and class members are entitled to injunctive relief against Defendants, restitution, and other equitable relief to return all funds over which Plaintiff and class members have an ownership interest and to prevent future damage and the public interest under Business and Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.* Plaintiff and class members are further entitled to recover interest,

attorneys' fees, and costs to the extent permitted by law, including under Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5.

NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION

CIVIL PENALTIES UNDER THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT

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

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

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

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

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

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

86. The State of California, via the Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA"), is the real party in interest in this action with respect to this cause of 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."])

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

88. 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.”

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

90. On or about **March 30, 2026**, 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.

91. 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”).

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

93. 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.

94. 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.*

95. 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 Hours Worked/Minimum Wage.*** Violation of Labor Code §§ 1194, 1197, 1198; IWC Wage Orders.
- b. ***Unpaid Overtime.*** Violation of Labor Code §§ 510, 1194, 1198; IWC Wage Orders.
- c. ***Unpaid Meal Period Premium Wages.*** Violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, 1198; IWC Wage Orders.

- d. ***Unpaid Rest Period Premium Wages.*** Violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7, 516, 1198; IWC Wage Orders.
- e. ***Untimely Payment of Wages During Employment.*** Violation of Labor Code §§ 204, 204b, 210.
- f. ***Non-Compliant Wage Statements.*** Violation of Labor Code §§ 226, 226.3.
- g. ***Failure to Maintain Accurate Records.*** Violation of Labor Code § 1174; IWC Wage Orders.

96. 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(k).

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 all statutory penalties and liquidated damages;
- f. For disgorgement of all amounts wrongfully obtained to the extent permitted by law;
- g. For restitution and injunctive relief;
- h. For attorneys' fees and costs of suit, including expert fees, to the extent permitted by law, including (without limitation) under Labor Code §§ 218.5, 226, 1194, and Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5.;
- i. For recovery of damages in amount according to proof;
- j. For all recoverable pre- and post-judgment interest;
- k. For this action to be maintained as a representative action under the PAGA;
- l. For Plaintiff and counsel of record to be provided with all enforcement capability as if

1 the action were brought by the State of California or the California Division of Labor
2 Enforcement;

3 m. For recovery of all civil penalties and other recoverable amounts under the PAGA;

4 n. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit, including expert fees, to the extent
5 permitted by law, associated with the PAGA claims pursuant to Labor Code § 2699,
6 and Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5 and any other applicable sections; and

7 o. For such other relief the Court deems just and proper.

8
9 Dated: June 4, 2026

Ferraro Vega Employment Lawyers, Inc.

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11 Andrew T. Katseanes

12 Rick A. Waltman

13 *Attorneys for Plaintiff Nichell Analee Lopez Acosta*

EXHIBIT 1

Notice of Labor Code Violations

FERRARO VEGA

SAN DIEGO EMPLOYMENT LAWYERS

Nicholas J. Ferraro
nick@ferrarovega.com
Lauren N. Vega
lauren@ferrarovega.com

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619-350-6855 fax
ferrarovega.com

March 30, 2026

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

VIA CERTIFIED U.S. MAIL

- Electronic Return Receipt -

SAN DIEGO BLOOD BANK
3636 Gateway Center Avenue, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92102

- 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 **NICHELL ANALEE LOPEZ ACOSTA** (“Plaintiff(s)”) and all other “covered employees” of the following “Defendant(s)”:

SAN DIEGO BLOOD BANK

Defendant 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 Defendant 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.5th 73, 79. Plaintiff maintains standing to pursue these claims against Defendant as an aggrieved employee.

Through this notice, Plaintiff requests that Defendant 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(s). Defendant 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 Defendant 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 -

Defendant employed Plaintiff during the PAGA Period in the position of CDL Class B Bus Driver from about November 2022 to the present day. During their employment, Plaintiff and the other covered (i.e., 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, including those misclassified as non-exempt, and exempt employees who worked for Defendant 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 "covered employees" and the "PAGA Period"). As defined, these covered current and former employees are "aggrieved employees" under PAGA.

Plaintiff reserves the right to expand or narrow the definition of the "covered employees" in the forthcoming civil action. Furthermore, Plaintiff seeks all recoverable civil penalties for Defendant's violations and reserves the right to supplement this notice as further investigation is completed and further facts, witnesses, and violations are uncovered.

- PAGA CLAIMS -

Unpaid Hours Worked/Minimum Wage Violation of Labor Code §§ 1194, 1197, 1198; IWC Wage Orders

Defendant violated Labor Code sections 1194, 1197, and 1198, along with the California Minimum Wage Order, the applicable local minimum wage ordinances, and the "Hours and Days of Work" and "Minimum Wages" sections of the applicable IWC Wage Orders with respect to the covered employees.

Labor Code section 1194 renders it unlawful for an employee to receive less than the legal minimum wage for hours worked in California. Labor Code section 1197 further mandates that “[t]he minimum wage for employees fixed by the commission is the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a lower wage than the minimum so fixed is unlawful.” 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 California Minimum Wage Order and the applicable sections of the IWC Wage Orders further require payment of minimum wages for all hours worked. The “Minimum Wages” sections of the applicable IWC Wage Order provide that “[e]very employer shall pay to each employee, on the established payday for the period involved, not less than the applicable minimum wage for all hours worked in the payroll period, whether the remuneration is measured by time, piece, commission, or otherwise.” The foregoing California wage laws require payment of “not less than the applicable minimum wage *for all hours worked* in the payroll period” and California law does not allow averaging of pay over the hours worked in the pay period, even if the total pay results in an average above the minimum wage. *Armenta v. Osmose, Inc.* (2005) 135 Cal.App.3d 314, 324.

Defendant failed to pay Plaintiff and the covered employees at the lawful minimum wage rate for all hours worked, resulting in unpaid minimum wages.

Specifically, Defendant employed an unlawful practice of requiring Plaintiff and aggrieved employees to perform work duties during unpaid meal periods and unilaterally altering time records to avoid paying for that time. For example, while Plaintiff frequently worked through her scheduled lunch breaks to complete tasks, her manager would retroactively adjust her timesheets to show a lunch break was taken, despite the work performed. Plaintiff was unaware of the frequency of these adjustments until other employees began noticing similar discrepancies. Furthermore, the manager would routinely approve timecards on Plaintiff’s behalf before she even had the opportunity to review or approve them herself. Consequently, Plaintiff completed work off the clock, which resulted in unpaid hours worked. As a result of this unlawful practice, Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees were systematically deprived of earned wages for all hours worked.

As a result, Plaintiff may recover civil penalties as an individual and on behalf of the State of California and the covered employees, up to the maximum amount allowed as set forth under the Labor Code.

Unpaid Overtime **Violation of Labor Code §§ 510, 1194, 1198; IWC Wage Orders**

Defendant violated Labor Code sections 510, 1194, and 1198, along with the “Hours and Days of Work” sections of the applicable IWC Wage Orders with respect to the covered employees.

Labor Code section 510 requires “[a]ny work in excess of eight hours in one workday and any work in excess of 40 hours in any one workweek and the first eight hours worked on the seventh day of work in any one workweek shall be compensated at the rate of no less than one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for an employee;” and “any work in excess of 12 hours in one day shall be compensated at the rate of no less than twice the regular rate of pay for an employee;” and “any work in excess of eight hours on any seventh day of a workweek shall be compensated at the rate of no less than twice the regular rate of pay of an employee.” Labor Code section 1194 renders it unlawful for an employee to receive less than the legal overtime rate for overtime hours worked in California. 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 further require payment of overtime wages for all overtime hours worked, including the “Hours and Days of Work” sections.

Defendant failed to pay Plaintiff and the covered employees overtime wages and the lawful rate of pay for overtime hours worked, resulting in unpaid overtime wages. As outlined in the unpaid hours worked section, Plaintiff was not paid for all of the time she spent working. Specifically, because her manager frequently adjusted timesheets to reflect lunch breaks that were never taken and approved timecards without Plaintiff’s consent, hours spent working off the clock went unrecorded. To the extent that these unaccounted-for hours, including the time worked during lunch periods, resulted in Plaintiff working more than eight hours a day or forty hours in a week, Plaintiff is owed unpaid overtime as a result.

Further, to the extent Defendant paid Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees bonuses and other forms of remuneration that Defendant failed to include in the overtime and double time rate in those pay periods, this resulted in the underpayment of any overtime hours worked.

As a result, Plaintiff may recover civil penalties as an individual and on behalf of the State of California and the covered employees, up to the maximum amount allowed as set forth under the Labor Code.

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

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

Plaintiff and other covered employees routinely experienced missed, late, short, and interrupted meal periods due to the pressures to keep up with the high demands of the job. Due to an impracticable workload, specifically the high-intensity requirements of assisting back-to-back donors, understaffing, and maintaining timely transport and delivery routes, Plaintiff and the covered employees were often required to skip, miss, or otherwise experience non-compliant meal periods.

However, Defendant avoided paying all owed meal period premiums by making unauthorized time edits to Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees' time records. For example, Plaintiff’s manager would frequently adjust her timesheets to reflect that a meal was taken even when she worked through these periods to meet her work requirements. Plaintiff was often unable to notice these discrepancies because her manager would approve the timecards on her behalf, commonly doing so before Plaintiff had any opportunity to review or approve the recorded hours herself. On information and belief, this was a common experience among the covered employees. Defendant successfully masked the frequency of missed meal periods and avoided the legal obligation to pay the required premium wages because of these adjustments, which Plaintiff only discovered after other employees noticed similar patterns.

When Defendant did not provide compliant meal periods, Defendant failed to pay Plaintiff and the covered employees all meal period premiums at the regular rate of compensation as required by California law.

As a result, Plaintiff may recover civil penalties as an individual and on behalf of the State of California and the covered employees, up to the maximum amount allowed as set forth under the Labor Code.

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

Defendant violated Labor Code sections 226.7, 516, and 1198, and the related sections of the IWC Wage Orders with respect to Plaintiff and the covered 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 similar reasons explained in the "Unpaid Meal Period" section above, such as an impracticable workload and the pressures to keep up with the demands of the job, Plaintiff and the covered employees were not always authorized or permitted to take their rest periods. Specifically, while employed by Defendant, Plaintiff would often experience non-compliant rest periods.

These duties were particularly difficult to step away from because of the high demands of the job, as described in the meal period section above, and understaffing. Consequently, Plaintiff recalls missing her rest breaks approximately four to five times a week. Because no relief was provided to take over Plaintiff's duties, Plaintiff frequently experienced missed, short, late, and interrupted rest periods. Plaintiff alleges, based on information and belief, that this was a matter of common policy and practice with respect to other covered employees.

Every time Plaintiff or the covered employees received a non-compliant rest period, they were owed a rest period premium at their regular rate of pay. However, during Plaintiff's employment with Defendant, Plaintiff never received a rest period premium. Plaintiff alleges, based on information and belief, that this was a matter of common policy and practice with respect to other covered employees.

As a result, Plaintiff may recover civil penalties as an individual and on behalf of the State of California and the covered employees, up to the maximum amount allowed as set forth under the Labor Code.

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

Defendant violated Labor Code sections 204 and/or 204b and 210, as applicable, with respect to Plaintiff and the covered 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 Defendant failed to pay all wages and premiums in each pay period in which such wages were earned at the lawful rate, Defendant violated Labor Code section 204 and/or 204b (for weekly employees, as applicable). Defendant 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 covered employees, up to the maximum amount allowed as set forth under the Labor Code.

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

Defendant violated Labor Code sections 226(a) and 226.3 with respect to the covered 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.

Defendant failed to provide accurate itemized wage statements to the covered employees each pay period as a result of the policies and practices set forth in this notice. Defendant 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), Defendant 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 Defendant 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.

Additionally, Defendant violated Labor Code section 226(a)(2) by failing to accurately list employees’ “total hours worked,” as the wage statements did not accurately include the uncompensated time that Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees worked due to Defendant’s policy and practice of requiring off-the-clock work.

Plaintiff and other covered 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 covered 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 covered employees, up to the maximum amount allowed as set forth under the Labor Code.

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

Defendant violated Labor Code sections 1174 and the IWC Wage Orders by failing to maintain accurate employee payroll records with respect to Plaintiff and other covered 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 or hours worked, Defendant 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 covered employees, up to the maximum amount allowed as set forth under the Labor Code.

Attorneys' Fees and Costs
Labor Code § 2699(k)(1)

Plaintiff has been compelled to retain the services of counsel to protect the interests of other covered 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(k)(1).

- 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 covered employees specified in this notice. Evidence includes, but is not limited to, Defendants' written employment and payroll policies and handbooks; the covered employees' personnel files and payroll records, such as paystubs, time records, wage statements, compensation reports, as well as the underlying electronic 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.

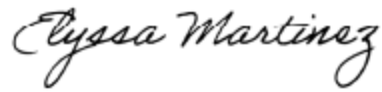
If you have any questions regarding the scope of your obligations to preserve evidence, please consult your legal counsel and always err on the side of caution. Periodic or regularly scheduled purges or deletions of information covered by this hold must be suspended immediately.

- CONCLUSION -

If the LWDA does not pursue enforcement, Plaintiff intends to bring representative claims on behalf of the State of California and the covered 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. Defendant may contact Plaintiff's counsel with any questions regarding this letter or the forthcoming lawsuit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elyssa Martinez". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Elyssa" and last name "Martinez" clearly legible.

Elyssa Martinez

Z.E.

Cc Plaintiff Nichell Analee Lopez Acosta
Milton Green, Vice President, Human Resources, mgreen@sdbb.org