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5 Attorneys for Plaintiff LAMONT NICHOLSON,
on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated
6

7 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
8 **FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**

9 LAMONT NICHOLSON, an individual
10 on behalf of himself and all others
similarly situated,

11 Plaintiff,

12 v.

13 BILL WILSON CENTER, a California
14 non-profit organization; and DOES 1
through 50, inclusive,

15 Defendants.
16

Case No.: 23CV426564

11 CLASS ACTION

12 Assigned for All Purposes

Honorable Theodore C. Zayner
13 Dept. 19

14 **DECLARATION OF NATALIE**
HARITOUNIAN IN SUPPORT OF
15 **PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY**
APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION AND PAGA
16 **SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

17 Date: November 25, 2026

18 Time: 1:30 p.m.

Dept.: 19

19 Original Complaint Filed: November 30, 2023

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1. I am an attorney licensed and admitted to practice before all courts of the State of California, the United States District Court for the Central, Southern, Eastern, and Northern Districts of California. I am Senior Counsel at D.Law, Inc. and counsel for Plaintiff Lamont Nicholson (hereinafter, “Plaintiff”), on behalf of himself and all other similarly situated employees of Defendant Bill Wilson Center (“Defendant”).

2. All of the matters set forth herein are within my personal knowledge. I submit this Declaration in support of Plaintiff’s Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement (“Motion”). A copy of the Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement (“Settlement Agreement”) is attached as **Exhibit 1** hereto, with the Notice of Class and PAGA Action Settlement (“Class Notice”) (attached as **Exhibit A** to the Settlement Agreement).

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3. On October 30, 2023, Plaintiff Lamont Nicholson commenced a Class Action by filing a Complaint alleging causes of action against Defendant for (1) Failure to Pay Minimum Wages; (2) Failure to Pay Wages and Overtime under Labor Code § 510; (3) Meal Period Liability Under Labor Code § 226.7; (4) Rest Break Liability Under Labor Code § 226.7; (5) Violation of Labor Code § 226; (6) Violation of Labor Code § 204; (7) Violation of Labor Code § 203; (8) Failure to Maintain Records Required under Labor Code §§ 1174, 1174.5; (9) Failure to Reimburse Necessary Business Expenses under Labor Code § 2802; and (10) Violation of Business & Professions Code 17200 *et seq.* (the “Action” or “Nicholson Action”). .

4. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd.(a), Plaintiff Lamont Nicholson gave timely written notice to Defendant and California’s Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”) by sending his PAGA Notice (LWDA-CM-1161987-26). (A true and correct copy of his PAGA Notice is attached hereto as **Exhibit 2**. On May 8, 2026, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint adding a cause of action for violation of Labor Code ¶246 and for civil penalties under the PAGA, Labor Code § 2698 *et seq.*

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1 explore early resolution via mediation and engage in informal discovery prior to mediation.

2 **Plaintiff's Claims and Defendant's Denials**

3 6. Plaintiff's claims are based on Defendant's alleged failure to pay wages (including
4 overtime), failure to provide meal and rest periods, failure to provide sick pay, failure to reimburse
5 business expenses, the resulting failure to pay final wages when required and provide accurate wage
6 statements, and largely derivative claims under the UCL and PAGA.

7 7. Plaintiff alleges Defendant's policy and practice of requiring systematic off-the-
8 clock work flowed in part from their unlawful timekeeping procedures. Plaintiff alleges that
9 Defendant required timekeeping entries to be manually input into an application on the Class
10 Members' cell phones rather than having Class Members clock in through a time clock or some
11 other method of contemporaneously recording all hours worked. Plaintiff also allege that Defendant
12 instructed Plaintiff and Class Members to record their scheduled hours rather than their actual hours
13 worked, which led to Plaintiff and Class Members not being compensated for all hours worked,
14 including overtime. Plaintiff further allege that Defendant would modify Plaintiff's and Class
15 Members' timekeeping entries to reduce their hours worked, or ask Plaintiff and Class Members to
16 clock out but continue working so they would only be paid based on their scheduled shift hours
17 rather than their actual hours worked. Plaintiff maintain that Defendant required Plaintiff and Class
18 Members to work prior to the start of their scheduled shifts and after the end of their scheduled
19 shifts, including supervising clients, performing "handoff" routines, covering for employees who
20 were late for their shift, undergoing COVID-19 screenings before clocking in, answering work-
21 related phone calls and messages, and responding to work emails.

22 8. Plaintiff also allege that Defendant recorded Plaintiff's and Class Members' time into
23 the timekeeping system to reflect that they took a 30-minute meal period before the fifth hour of
24 work without regard as to whether their meal periods were taken on time, for the full duration, or
25 were interrupted by work requirements. In fact, Plaintiff allege that Defendant required Plaintiff and
26 Class Members to routinely work through their meal periods, resulting in them cutting their meal
27 periods short or taking their meal periods late due to their work responsibilities. Despite this,
28 Defendant instructed Plaintiff and Class Members to record that they took a full thirty (30) minute

meal period. Defendant's records also showed facial violations of the meal break provisions of the labor code. Plaintiff further alleges that Defendant failed to pay the legally required premium at their regular rate of pay whenever meal periods were missed, interrupted, or late. Plaintiff similarly allege that Plaintiff and Class Members were unable to take two or three duty-free rest periods during their work shifts because they were required to respond to work demands throughout the day, and/or Defendant prevented Plaintiff's and Class Members from leaving the premises or taking a rest break entirely. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant failed to pay the legally required premium at their regular rate of pay whenever rest periods were missed, interrupted, or late.

9. Additionally, Plaintiff allege that Defendant required Plaintiff and Class Members to use their cellular phones for work for which they were not reimbursed.

10. Defendant generally denies all claims alleged in the Action and further denies class and/or representative treatment is appropriate for any purpose other than this Settlement and that it complied with all applicable laws. However, after careful consideration, Defendant has concluded that further litigation would be protracted and expensive and that it is desirable that the Action be fully and finally settled in the manner and upon the terms and conditions herein.

Investigation

11. Before filing the lawsuit, Class Counsel conducted a thorough investigation and researched the facts and circumstances underlying the pertinent issues and applicable law. This required thorough discussions and interviews between Class Counsel and Plaintiff, in addition to the above-described research into the various legal issues involved in the case. After filing the lawsuit, Class Counsel conducted a thorough investigation of the facts and claims giving rise to the action, including (1) conducting both formal and informal discovery and meeting and conferring with defense counsel about same; (2) reviewing and analyzing records and data, as well as employment-related policies; (3) reviewing Plaintiff's personnel file and other documentation; (4) interviewing Plaintiff regarding potential Class Members; (5) researching the applicable law and potential defenses; (6) constructing damage models based on interpretations of California law and the facts and numbers provided by Defendant; and (7) reviewing information provided by Defendant in response to informal discovery and in advance of the mediation. The Parties conducted their own

1 evaluations of the potential recoveries based on the claims alleged in the Action, including
2 consulting experts.

3 12. Defendant, for its part, vigorously contested liability, the amount of claimed
4 damages, and the propriety of class certification. After analyzing the relevant documents and other
5 gathered data, Class Counsel believed that this case was appropriate for resolution via mediation.
6 Given the high level of risk present for both sides, the Parties elected to mediate Plaintiff's claims
7 and explore the possibility of settlement.

8 **Settlement Efforts**

9 13. On July 10, 2025, the Parties participated in an all-day mediation with Lonnia
10 Giamela, Esq., a respected and highly experienced attorney and mediator in wage and hour class
11 actions. During mediation, counsel for Plaintiff and Defendant discussed all aspects of the case,
12 including the risks of litigation, the risks to both Parties, and the law and how it applied to the facts
13 of this case. Following a full day of mediation, the Parties agreed to general settlement terms to
14 resolve the lawsuit. The Parties continued to work together negotiating the long form settlement
15 terms following mediation, as set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

16 14. Based on their own independent investigations and evaluations, Class Counsel is of
17 the opinion that the Settlement with Defendant for the consideration and terms set forth herein,
18 considering the representative and class claims, and the risk of loss, is fair, reasonable, and adequate
19 in light of all known facts and circumstances, and is in the best interests of the Class. Class Counsel
20 is also of the opinion that the total consideration and payment set forth in this Settlement Agreement
21 is adequate in light of the uncertainties surrounding the risk of further litigation, the possibility of
22 losing class certification, that the PAGA claim could be deemed unmanageable, and the defenses
23 that Defendant has asserted and/or could assert as to the substantive merit of the claims. Based on
24 the settlement negotiations, which were extensive and conducted in good faith and at arm's length
25 between attorneys with substantial experience litigating wage and hour class action cases, the
26 Settlement was the product of a non-collusive settlement process and compromises in the interest
27 of reaching a full and complete settlement. As a result, Class Counsel has determined that the
28 Settlement set forth in this Settlement Agreement is in the best interests of the Class.

Summary of the Settlement

15. Under the terms of the proposed Settlement Agreement, Defendant has agreed to pay \$1,000,000.00 (“Gross Settlement Amount” or “GSA”) on a non-reversionary basis to settle and release all claims asserted by Plaintiff in the Operative Complaint on behalf of the proposed Class. (Exhibit 1, Settlement Agreement, ¶ 1.22.) The Settlement Agreement defines “Class” as “all persons employed by Defendant in California classified as non-exempt, hourly employees during the Class Period.” (*Id.* at ¶ 1.5.) The Class Period is the period commencing on November 30, 2019, and continuing through September 30, 2025. (*Id.* at ¶ 1.12.) The “Net Settlement Amount” means the funds available for payments to the Class members on a pro-rata basis, which shall be the amount remaining after the following amounts are deducted from the Gross Settlement Amount: (1) Class Counsel Fees Payment, (2) Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, (3) Administration Expenses Payment, (4) Class Representative Service Payments; and (5) PAGA Penalties to be paid to the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees. (*Id.* at ¶ 1.28.) These amounts are detailed as follows:

- Class Counsel Fees Payment: Up to one-third (1/3) of the Gross Settlement Amount, or **\$333,333.33** (Exhibit 1, Settlement Agreement, ¶ 3.2.2.);
- Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment: Up to **\$20,000.00** to Class Counsel for reimbursement of reasonable expenses incurred to prosecute the Action (*Id.* at ¶ 3.2.2.);
- Class Representative Service Payments: Up to **\$7,500.00** to Plaintiff as an award for his service as the Class Representative (*Id.* at ¶ 3.2.1.);
- Administration Expenses Payment: Up to **\$11,490.00** to the Administrator for its fees and costs to administer the Settlement (*Id.* at ¶ 3.2.3.);
- PAGA Penalties: **\$50,000.00** for settlement of claims for civil penalties under PAGA, with 25% allocated to the Individual PAGA Payments (\$17,500.00) and 75% allocated to the LWDA (\$52,500.00) to be paid to the LWDA (“LWDA PAGA Payment”) (*Id.* at ¶ 3.2.5.)

16. If the Court approves the above allocations from the Gross Settlement Amount, the Net Settlement Amount is estimated to be **\$577,676.67**. Each Class Member’s share of the Net Settlement Amount (“Individual Class Payment”) will be calculated by (a) dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members

1 during the Class Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Participating Class Members'
2 Workweeks. (Exhibit 1, Settlement Agreement, ¶ 3.2.4.) For the approximately 632 Class Members
3 (if no exclusions), the average Individual Class Payment, using a straight average, is **\$914.05**. If the
4 Court approves a lesser amount for any of the above requested allocations from the Net Settlement
5 Amount, none of the Gross Settlement Amount would revert to Defendant. (*Id.* at ¶ 3.1.) Instead,
6 the remainder will be added to the Net Settlement Amount to be distributed to Participating Class
7 Members. (*Id.*)

8 17. Not later than fifteen (15) days after the Court grants Preliminary Approval of the
9 Settlement, Defendant will simultaneously deliver the Class Data to the Administrator, in the form
10 of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. (Exhibit 1, Settlement Agreement, ¶ 4.2.) Not later than fourteen
11 (14) days after receiving the Class Data, the Administrator will mail the Class Notice, attached to
12 the Settlement Agreement as Exhibit A, to all Class Members identified in the Class Data via first-
13 class United States Postal Service (“USPS”) mail. (Exhibit 1, Settlement Agreement, ¶ 7.4.2.) The
14 Class Notice includes a summary of the case and settlement terms and provides Class Members with
15 detailed instructions on how to exclude themselves, object to the settlement, and challenge the
16 number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods attributed to each Class Member per Defendant’s records.
17 (Exhibit 1, Settlement Agreement, Exhibit A, Class Notice.) Class Members will have sixty (60)
18 days from the mailing of the Class Notice (plus an additional fourteen (14) days for Class Members
19 whose Class Notice is re-mailed) to opt out of the Settlement, object to the Settlement, or challenge
20 the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods (“Response Deadline”). (Exhibit 1, Settlement
21 Agreement, ¶¶ 1.44, 7.4.4., 7.4.5.)

22 **Certification for Settlement Purposes Only is Appropriate**

23 18. Plaintiff alleges that the proposed Class satisfies the criteria for certification of a
24 settlement class under California law, as embodied in California Code of Civil Procedure § 382.
25 Defendant has agreed to the conditional certification of the class for settlement purposes only.
26 Defendant does not concede that certification is appropriate outside of this Settlement and preserves
27 all rights to oppose certification if, for any reason, the settlement does not become effective. In
28 general, courts may take a proposed settlement into account in evaluating the propriety of class

1 certification. *See Dunk v. Ford Motor Co.* (1996) 48 Cal.App.4th 1794, 1807 fn. 19. Indeed, a “lesser
2 standard” of scrutiny applies in certifying classes for settlement purposes. *Id.* Therefore, the Court
3 should take into consideration the fact that the Parties have settled their claims and stipulated to
4 certification for settlement purposes when assessing whether the Settlement is fair and reasonable.

5 19. Numerosity and Ascertainability. The putative Class is so numerous that joinder of
6 all members is impractical. Class Members are all individuals employed as non-exempt, hourly
7 employees by Bill Wilson Center within the State of California during the Class Period, which is the
8 period commencing on November 30, 2019 and continuing through September 30, 2025. (Exhibit
9 1, Settlement Agreement, ¶¶ 1.5 and 1.12.) Defendant has identified approximately 632 Class
10 Members based on review of its payroll and personnel records. Thus, there is numerosity and
11 ascertainability.

12 20. Well-Defined Community of Interest. Plaintiff contends, and Defendant does not
13 dispute for settlement purposes only, that common issues of fact and law predominate as to each of
14 the claims alleged by Plaintiff, and the Class is united in its proof. This action involves, *inter alia*,
15 a determination about Defendant’s alleged failure to provide meal and rest periods, failure to pay
16 wages and overtime due to allegedly common off-the-clock work and time rounding policies, failure
17 to provide sick pay, failure to reimburse business expenses, the resulting failure to pay final wages
18 when required and failure to provide accurate wage statements; and largely derivative claims under
19 the UCL and PAGA. Plaintiff contend Defendant’s practices affected Class Members in the same
20 way and present questions that are suitable for common adjudication because all Class Members
21 were subject to the same employment policies and practices. The outcome of litigation in this matter
22 depends upon questions that are common to Class Members.

23 21. Typicality. The class representative’s claims are typical when they arise from the
24 same event, practice, or course of conduct that gives rise to the claims of other putative Class
25 Members, and if their claims rest on the same legal theories. Here, Plaintiff alleges that their claims
26 are typical of Class Members’ claims because they arose from the same factual basis and are based
27 on the same legal theories. Plaintiff and Class Members were employed by Defendant during the
28 Class Period and subject to the allegedly unlawful meal and rest policies and pay practices at issue

1 in this litigation. Thus, the typicality requirement is satisfied.

2 22. Adequacy. Plaintiff's interests are aligned with those of the Class Members, as he
3 has suffered the same injuries as the Class Members and have no conflicts of interest. Plaintiff has
4 not shrunk from this responsibility. Indeed, Plaintiff has devoted a substantial amount of time and
5 energy to litigating this Action and effectuating a settlement. Furthermore, as set forth below, Class
6 Counsel are experienced in wage-and-hour litigation, especially class actions, and have zealously
7 represented the interests of the Class in litigating this case and have no conflicts of interest.
8 Accordingly, the adequacy requirement is satisfied.

9 23. Predominance and Superiority. Plaintiff contends that individualized issues do not
10 predominate over the issues of law and fact that are common to the Class as a whole. As explained,
11 *supra*, Plaintiff allege there are common issues of law and fact given that Plaintiff and all Class
12 Members were subjected to the same policies and pay practices during the relevant time period.
13 Plaintiff and Class Members seek meal and rest premiums, unpaid wages and overtime, and
14 penalties for work performed as non-exempt employees for Defendant. Plaintiff alleges that these
15 issues are suitable for common adjudication because all Class Members were allegedly subject to
16 the same employment policies, and Plaintiff contend the practices applied uniformly to all Class
17 Members.

18 24. Plaintiff contends that class resolution is superior to other available methods for the
19 fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy as there is little interest or incentive for Class
20 Members to individually control the prosecution of separate actions. Although the alleged injury
21 resulting from Defendant's policies and practices are allegedly real and significant, the cost of
22 individually litigating each such case against Defendant would easily exceed the value of any relief
23 that could be obtained by any one Class Member individually. If Class Members are forced to litigate
24 their claims individually, this would result in 632 individual actions against Defendant. Here, the
25 alternative methods of resolution are individual suits for relatively small amounts, each for relatively
26 small amounts. Hence, an individual suit would prove uneconomical for potential Plaintiff because
27 litigation costs would dwarf a potential recovery.

28 ///

1 **The Settlement is Fair, Adequate and Reasonable**

2 25. In deciding whether to approve a proposed class action settlement, the Court must
3 find that a proposed settlement is “fair, adequate, and reasonable” and falls within the “range of
4 approval.” *Dunk*, 48 Cal.App.4th at 1801-02. The trial court considers all relevant factors, such as
5 “the strength of Plaintiff’s case, the risk, expense, complexity and likely duration of further
6 litigation, the risk of maintaining class action status through trial, the amount offered in settlement,
7 the extent of discovery completed and the stage of the proceedings, the experience and views of
8 counsel, the presence of a governmental participant, and the reaction of the Class Members to the
9 proposed settlement.” *Id.* The Settlement satisfies all of these requirements.

10 **A. The Settlement is the Result of Serious, Informed, Non-Collusive Negotiations.**

11 26. The proposed settlement was reached as a result of arm’s length negotiations after
12 the completion of pertinent discovery and the exchange of necessary class data. The negotiations
13 have been, at all times, adversarial and non-collusive in nature. *See*, 4 Newberg on Class Actions §
14 13:45 (5th ed.) (due to the preference of settlement over litigation, “a court will presume that a
15 proposed class action settlement is fair when certain factors are present, particularly evidence that
16 the settlement is the product of arms-length negotiation, untainted by collusion.”). Although
17 Plaintiff steadfastly maintains that his claims are meritorious, Plaintiff acknowledges that there were
18 substantial risks and uncertainty in proceeding with litigation. As described below, Defendant
19 presented multiple defenses to Plaintiff’s claims, both on the merits and with respect to class
20 certification. Thus, while Plaintiff were prepared to litigate these claims through class certification,
21 and ultimately trial, success was far from certain. Assistance from a well-respected mediator ensured
22 negotiations were non-collusive and well-informed.

23 **B. Extent of Discovery and Stage of Proceedings.**

24 27. As stated above, the Parties engaged in substantial formal and informal discovery
25 before the Settlement was reached to allow them to fully evaluate the class claims and Defendant’s
26 defenses. This litigation has reached the stage where the Parties have a clear view of their respective
27 strengths and weaknesses.

28 ///

1 **C. Strength of Plaintiff's Case and the Risk, Expense, Complexity and Likely Duration of**
2 **Any Litigation.**

3 28. As stated above, while Plaintiff and Class Counsel contend the claims asserted in the
4 Action have merit, they also acknowledge the expense and delay of continued litigation. Although
5 the Parties engaged in significant formal and informal discovery in advance of mediation, the Parties
6 still had significant discovery to complete had the matter not settled. This would have required
7 expenditure of substantial time and resources by both Parties that would have very likely spanned
8 several years. Even if Plaintiff were to certify the class, the Parties would incur considerably more
9 attorneys' fees and costs through a possible decertification motion, trial, and possible appeal. This
10 Settlement avoids those risks and the accompanying expense.

11 **D. The Risk of Maintaining Class Action Status Through Trial.**

12 29. Plaintiff had not yet filed their motion for class certification, and as such, the extent
13 to which Plaintiff's proposed class is certifiable is somewhat speculative. Absent a settlement, there
14 was a risk that there would not be a certified class at the time of trial, or if there were, it could consist
15 of a significantly smaller group of employees than the proposed Class resulting in less overall
16 recovery.

17 30. Finally, in class actions, decertification is always a possibility, and there is always a
18 risk that a trial of this magnitude can become unmanageable. Cases like *Duran v. U.S. Bank Nat.*
19 *Assn.* (2014) 59 Cal. 4th 1, 34 address the complexity of using statistical samples in class actions
20 and demonstrate that decertification is a real risk that Class Counsel must consider. A class trial
21 would have also required expert witnesses, the accrual of extensive litigation costs, and the
22 commitment of extensive further time and financial resources. Finally, given the complexity and
23 unsettled nature of the issues, it is likely that any outcome at trial would have resulted in a lengthy
24 and costly appeal. An appeal would result in further delay for the Class Members who have already
25 waited years for resolution in this matter. Risk and legal uncertainty must be dealt with in any
26 litigation, and this Settlement was the product of compromise accounting for those risks and that
27 uncertainty.

28 ///

E. The Presence of a Governmental Participant.

31. Class Counsel will be submitting the Settlement Agreement to the LWDA concurrently with the filing of this motion pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(l)(2).

F. The Amount Offered in Settlement is Fair Given the Potential Value of the Claims.

32. Because the Class consists of numerous employees, it was unlikely that the potential monetary claims of individual Class Members would have proved viable without the class-action mechanism. The Settlement Agreement should be approved in light of two California appellate decisions: *Clark v. American Residential Services LLC* (2009) 175 Cal.App.4th 785 and *Kullar v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.* (2008) 168 Cal.App.4th 116.

33. The strength of the Plaintiff's case in light of the settlement amount is deemed by courts to be the "most important." *Clark v. American Residential Services, LLC* (2009) 175 Cal.App.4th 785, 799 (citing *Kullar*). Here, Plaintiff allege that Defendant failed to pay minimum wages and overtime, failed to provide meal and rest breaks, failed to provide accurate wage statements, failed to pay all wages upon termination, failed to pay all sick pay owed, and failed to reimburse for business expenses, all in violation of California law. Plaintiff seeks related violations of California's Business & Professions Code, penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 2699 *et seq.* Summary calculations for estimated liability for each of these claims follow.

Failure to Pay Regular Wages and Overtime:

34. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant failed to pay Plaintiff and Class Members at least minimum wages for all hours worked and proper overtime wages for hours worked in excess of eight hours in a day and 40 hours in a week. Plaintiff alleges Defendant's policy and practice of requiring systematic off-the-clock work flowed in part from their unlawful timekeeping procedures. Defendant required timekeeping entries to be manually input into an application on the Class Members' cell phones rather than having Class Members clock in through a time clock or some other method of contemporaneously recording all hours worked. Plaintiff also alleges that Defendant instructed Plaintiff and Class Members to record their scheduled hours rather than their actual hours worked, which led to Plaintiff and Class Members not being compensated for all hours worked, including overtime. Plaintiff further alleges that Defendant would modify Plaintiff's and Class

Members' timekeeping entries to reduce their hours worked, or ask Plaintiff and Class Members to clock out but continue working so they would only be paid based on their scheduled shift hours rather than their actual hours worked. Plaintiff maintains that Defendant required Plaintiff and Class Members to work prior to the start of their scheduled shifts and after the end of their scheduled shifts, including supervising clients, performing "handoff" routines, covering for employees who were late for their shift, undergoing COVID-19 screenings before clocking in, answering work-related phone calls and messages, and responding to work emails.

35. Defendant contends that these claims are not suitable for class treatment given the individualized issues they raise and the manageability difficulties. Defendant also argues it did not require off-the-clock work, any uncompensated overtime work was not authorized, suffered, or permitted by Defendant and was performed without Defendant's knowledge and/or control, and that Plaintiff was exempt from the overtime wage requirements and other wage and hour requirements under the provisions of the applicable Wage Order of the California Industrial Welfare Commission of the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement and/or the applicable Wage Order was otherwise inapplicable.

36. Plaintiff's expert estimated Defendant's exposure on the unpaid wages claims to be approximately \$1,152,408.23, calculated as follows: (31,441 off the clock hours (assuming 10 minutes per shift, 188,646 shifts total) x \$25.56 average rate of pay (assuming 86.8% of off the clock hours attributable to overtime). However, given Defendant's defenses and the potential hurdles facing certification of off-the-clock claims, Class Counsel applied an 80% discount, making for an adjusted realistic exposure of \$230,481.65 for Defendant.

Meal Periods and Rest Breaks:

37. Plaintiff argues that Defendant had a common practice and policy of denying compliant meal periods. Specifically, Plaintiff and Class Members were regularly required to work through meal periods, resulting in meal periods taken after the fifth hour of work, and were not provided the opportunity to take full uninterrupted thirty (30) minute meal periods in accordance with California law. Plaintiff and Class Members were also required to perform various work-related tasks during their unpaid meal periods, resulting in their meal periods being cut short. Plaintiff further allege that

1 Defendant failed to pay the legally required premium at their regular rate of pay whenever meal
2 periods were missed, interrupted, or late.

3 38. For each meal period missed, of less than 30 minutes, or taken late for which the employee
4 was not provided a reasonable opportunity to take a complete and timely meal period, an employer
5 must pay the employee an additional one hour of compensation. Labor Code § 226.7. This additional
6 hour of compensation is referred to as “premium pay.” To comply with these laws, every employer
7 must keep, for each employee, accurate time records showing when the employee begins and ends
8 each work period and takes his or her meal periods. See Wage Order 4-2001(7)(A)(3).

9 39. Defendant contends that Class Members were given a reasonable opportunity to take their
10 meal periods. Defendant further contends that Plaintiff and Class Members qualified for and agreed
11 to on duty meal breaks, six-hour shifts without meal breaks, and agreed to waive the second meal
12 break where shifts did not exceed twelve hours. Defendant also contends that Plaintiff’s claims for
13 missed and late meal breaks are barred to the extent they elected not to take them for personal
14 reasons. Defendant also maintains that the meal break claim requires individualized inquiries, which
15 would preclude class certification.

16 40. Plaintiff’s expert estimated Defendant’s maximum exposure on the meal period claim at
17 approximately \$1,019,026.08 (assuming one violation per workweek 39,868 total multiplied by the
18 average rate of pay, \$25.56). However, given Defendant’s contentions, Class Counsel applied a 80%
19 discount, making for an adjusted realistic exposure of \$203,805.22 for Defendant.

20 41. Rest Breaks: The same argument applied to rest breaks. Plaintiff contends that Defendant
21 did not provide Class Members with timely paid 10-minute rest breaks for every four hours or major
22 fraction thereof. While Defendant made some effort to schedule one ten-minute rest break on some
23 work shifts, Plaintiff alleges it was often untimely and was frequently interrupted by work-related
24 demands. Plaintiff further alleges they were unable to take two duty-free rest periods during their
25 work shifts, or three on the occasions when they worked over ten hours on a shift, because they were
26 required to respond to work demands throughout the day, and/or Defendant prevented Plaintiff’s
27 and Class Members from leaving the premises. Defendant failed to pay the legally required premium
28 at their regular rate of pay whenever rest periods were missed, interrupted, or late.

42. Defendant maintains that it provided the reasonable opportunity for Class Members to take duty-free rest breaks. Defendant also contends that Plaintiff's claims for missed and late rest breaks are barred to the extent they elected not to take them for personal reasons. Defendant also argues that, unlike meal periods, rest breaks need not be recorded. Plaintiff's expert estimated Defendant's maximum liability exposure on the rest break period claim at approximately \$1,019,026.08 (assuming one violation per workweek 39,868 total multiplied by the average rate of pay, \$25.56). However, given Defendant's contentions and considering a more realistic violation rate for the Class as well as the potential hurdles facing certification of rest break claims, Class Counsel applied a 80% discount making for an adjusted realistic exposure of \$203,805.22 for Defendant. Owing to the arguments above and the fact that the recording of rest periods is not required, this claim was substantially discounted and was not a major driver of exposure in this case.

Inaccurate Wage Statement Violations:

43. Under Labor Code § 226(a), Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to recover \$50 for initial violations for inaccurate wage statements and \$100 for subsequent violations, up to a maximum of \$4,000 per employee. Plaintiff allege Defendant issued wage statements to Plaintiff and the Class Members that did not accurately list all hours worked by omitting off-the-clock work and by unlawful rounding and inaccurately listing applicable hourly rates.

44. Defendant challenged Plaintiff's claim for Labor Code § 226(e) penalties, including by arguing they were merely derivative of the other claims that lacked merit, and Plaintiff's failure to prove the underlying claims could result in the dismissal of these derivative claims. Defendant also maintains that it did not knowingly and intentionally commit these alleged violations. *See, e.g.*, Labor Code § 226(e) (recovery of penalties requires showing there was "a knowing and intentional failure by an employer").

45. Plaintiff's expert estimated Defendant's maximum total exposure on the section 226 claim at approximately \$922,600 (376 employees from November 30, 2022 to July 10, 2025). After considering Defendant's contentions and the potential class certification issues, Class Counsel discounted this amount by 80% to get an adjusted realistic exposure of \$184,520.00.

///

1 Failure to Pay Final Wages at Termination or Separation:

2 46. In allegedly failing to pay Class Members their minimum wages, overtime wages, and
3 premium pay for deficiently provided meal periods and rest breaks, all discussed above, Plaintiff
4 allege that Defendant willfully failed to pay Class Members all wages due and certain at the time of
5 termination or within seventy-two (72) hours of resignation, as required under Labor Code § 203.

6 47. Section 203 further provides that if an employer willfully fails to pay an employee all
7 wages due at termination or within 72 hours of resignation, then that employee's wages will continue
8 as a penalty until paid for a period of up to 30 days from the date they were due. Because Class
9 Members stopped working for Defendant but were allegedly not paid their full compensation for the
10 reasons discussed above, Class Members did not receive all wages due upon termination of
11 employment.

12 48. Defendant challenged this claim under Labor Code § 203 with several arguments,
13 including that this claim is merely derivative of the other claims that lacked merit and that under
14 Labor Code § 203, employers are only obligated to pay waiting-time penalties if they "willfully"
15 fail to pay wages due and owing at the time of termination or resignation. As Title 8, California
16 Code of Regulations, § 13520 states: "A willful failure to pay wages within the meaning of Labor
17 Code Section 203 occurs when an employer intentionally fails to pay wages to an employee when
18 those wages are due. However, a good faith dispute that any wages are due will preclude imposition
19 of waiting time penalties under Section 203." Defendant argued that their good faith disputes and
20 lack of willfulness would excuse its violations. Defendant maintained that because they had viable
21 defenses in both law and fact, such penalties were subject to a three-year limitations period under
22 Labor Code § 203(b).

23 49. Plaintiff's expert estimated Defendant's maximum total exposure on the section 203
24 claim at approximately \$2,232,921.60 (364 terminated employees (commencing on November 30,
25 2020) during the relevant period x 30 days x average hourly rate per year x hours per work day).
26 Given the foregoing arguments, Class Counsel discounted this amount by 80% to get an adjusted
27 realistic exposure of \$446,584.32.

28 ///

1 Failure to Reimburse for Necessary Business Expenditures:

2 50. Under Labor Code § 2802(a) Defendant must indemnify Plaintiff and Class Members
3 for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred in direct consequence of the discharge of their
4 duties. As discussed above, Plaintiff allege that Plaintiff and Class Members incurred necessary
5 expenditures in the performance of their job duties for Defendant, including the cost of personal
6 cell phone usage for work-related purposes, but were not reimbursed for those expenses by
7 Defendant. Defendant maintains that Plaintiff and Class Members did not incur business expenses
8 and/or were properly reimbursed for all business expenses, and further contend that any
9 unreimbursed business expenses were not necessary expenditures as required by Labor Code
10 section 2802.

11 51. Plaintiff estimated Defendant's total exposure on the unreimbursed business expenses
12 claim at approximately \$18,960.00 (\$30 x 632 Class Members). However, given Defendant's
13 reimbursement policy and the potential for the need for individualized inquiries, making class
14 certification of this claim difficult, Class Counsel applied a discount of 80% to get an adjusted
15 realistic exposure of \$3,792.00.

16 PAGA Penalties:

17 52. The Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act, Labor Code § 2698 *et seq.*, allows
18 Plaintiff to obtain civil penalties on behalf of himself and other aggrieved employees for
19 Defendant's violation of any provision of the Labor Code enumerated under Labor Code § 2699.5.
20 Where civil penalties are provided in the statute, those civil penalties are recoverable; where no civil
21 penalties are recoverable, Labor Code § 2699(f) establishes civil penalties of one (\$100) for each
22 aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial violation and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each
23 aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation. Pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(i),
24 seventy-five (75) percent of the penalties recovered must be allocated to the Labor and Workforce
25 Development Agency (LWDA), with the remaining twenty-five (25) percent allocated to the
26 affected employees. The limitations period as for all penalties is one year prior to the filing of the
27 complaint.

28 53. The provisions of the Labor Code potentially triggering PAGA penalties in this case

1 include but are not limited to Labor Code §§ 203, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 510, and 1194. PAGA
2 penalties are not mandatory and are instead permissive. Labor Code § 2699(e)(2) states that “a court
3 may award a lesser amount than the maximum civil penalty amount specified by this part if, based
4 on the facts and circumstances of the particular case, to do otherwise would result in an award that
5 is unjust, arbitrary and oppressive, or confiscatory.” *See Thurman v. Bayshore* (2012) 203 Cal. App.
6 4th 1112 (substantially reducing PAGA penalties by 30% under this provision). Defendant contested
7 Plaintiff’s claim for PAGA penalties.

8 54. PAGA penalties are also derivative of each and every other claim, and Defendant argued
9 the PAGA claims would be subject to the same defenses as the underlying claims, and as well as
10 additional equitable defenses, including substantial compliance. Finally, under *Amaral v. Cintas*
11 *Corp.* (2008) 163 Cal.App.4th 1157, Defendant asserted that penalties under PAGA could, at best,
12 be awarded only at the rates obtainable for initial violations under the applicable statutes, because
13 Defendant had never been notified of the alleged violations. *Id.* at 1208-1209.

14 55. Plaintiff estimated Defendant’s maximum total exposure on PAGA claims at
15 approximately \$1,145,100.00 (11,451 PAGA Pay Periods x \$100). However, Class Counsel also
16 estimated any PAGA recovery would be substantially reduced, and applied discounts in light of the
17 countervailing arguments with regard to the other causes of action and the Court’s power to award
18 “a lesser amount than the maximum civil liability.” This is especially true in light of Defendant’s
19 status as a non-profit organization. Class Counsel applied a discount of 95% to get an adjusted
20 realistic exposure of \$57,255.00. The PAGA allocation agreed upon by the Parties therefore was
21 **\$50,000.00**, subject to the Court’s final approval. 75% of that amount (\$37,500.00) will be paid to
22 the LWDA out of the Gross Settlement Amount, and the remaining 25% (\$12,500.00) will remain
23 in the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to the Aggrieved Employees.

24 Unfair Business Practices

25 56. Plaintiff pled this cause of action to augment their other causes of action and aid in their
26 prosecution. Business & Professions Code § 17200 extends the statute of limitations on Plaintiff’s
27 wage claims, which qualify as unfair business practices, to four years rather than the three years
28 provided by statute.

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Class Representative Service Payments are Fair and Reasonable

60. Plaintiff is entitled to reasonable service payments for his efforts and initiatives in bringing and helping to prosecute this action. Plaintiff spent significant time better apprising himself of his rights, deciding whether remedial action should be taken and how it should be taken, searching for attorneys, and contacting Class Counsel, who spent many hours with Plaintiff discussing the case and the law.

61. Both before and after the filing of this lawsuit, Plaintiff conferred with Class Counsel to discuss every aspect of their case. Plaintiff provided Class Counsel with information about Defendant and about the industry generally, produced and reviewed documents, identified witnesses, consulted with Class Counsel regarding litigation strategy, participated in the mediation process, monitored the progress of the litigation with Class Counsel, and reviewed and signed the Settlement Agreement. In light of the foregoing, Class Counsel believes that the Class Representative Service Payments in the amount of \$7,500.00 to Class Representative Nicholson is fair and reasonable.

Proposed Class Notice Provides Adequate Notice

62. The notification procedure set out in the Settlement Agreement provides the greatest likelihood that each and every Class Member will receive the Class Notice, attached to the Settlement Agreement as Exhibit A. Under the Settlement, not later than fifteen (15) days after the Court grants Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, Defendant will simultaneously deliver the Class Data to the Administrator, in the form of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. (Exhibit 1, Settlement Agreement, ¶ 4.2). The Administrator will mail the Class Notice, attached to the Settlement Agreement as Exhibit A, to all Class Members identified in the Class Data no later than fourteen (14) calendar days after receiving the Class Data from Defendant via first-class USPS mail. (Exhibit 1, Settlement Agreement, ¶ 7.4.2). The Class Notice includes a summary of the case and settlement terms and provides Class Members with detailed instructions on how to exclude themselves, object to the settlement, and challenge the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods attributed to each Class Member per Defendant's records. (Exhibit 1, Settlement Agreement, Exhibit A, Class Notice). Class Members will have sixty (60) days from the mailing of the Class Notice (plus an additional

1 fourteen (14) days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed) to opt out of the Settlement,
2 object to the Settlement, or challenge the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods. (Exhibit 1,
3 Settlement Agreement, ¶¶ 7.4.4., 7.4.5.) This is the best and most practicable way to ensure the
4 greatest possible number of Class Members will receive the Class Notice.

5 63. The Class Notice itself fully apprises Class Members of the nature of the lawsuit, the
6 claims involved, the terms of the Settlement, and their options thereunder. (Exhibit 1, Settlement
7 Agreement, Exhibit A, Class Notice). It provides for a specific procedure to seek exclusion from the
8 Class, challenge payments and Class Data, challenge Workweek and Pay Period data, and make
9 objections to the Settlement. (Exhibit 1, Settlement Agreement, Exhibit A, Class Notice). In the
10 Class Notice, Class Members will also receive Class Counsel's contact information so they can
11 speak to attorneys conversant with the legal and factual issues involved in this case, as well as the
12 contact information for the Administrator. The efforts taken to ensure that Class Members receive
13 the Class Notice and are well informed about the settlement are reasonable and provide the best
14 notice practicable under the facts.

15 **Qualifications and Adequacy of Class Counsel**

16 64. D.Law (formerly known as Davtyan Law Firm) prosecutes wage and hour cases,
17 including class actions and PAGA actions on behalf of employees and others who have had their
18 rights violated. D.Law, either on its own or with co-counsel, is currently serving as Plaintiff's
19 counsel of record in numerous wage and hour and employment class action and PAGA action cases
20 pending in both state and federal court.

21 65. D.Law is well-qualified and has ample experience, knowledge, and resources to act as
22 counsel and represent Plaintiff and the putative Class and Aggrieved Employees in this action. Our
23 practice is exclusively focused on employment matters and representing Plaintiff in wage and hour
24 actions with the same or similar causes of actions brought forth in the matter pending before this
25 Court.

26 66. D.Law has litigated and successfully resolved many wage and hour class action cases
27 involving failure to pay wages and derivative Labor Code claims and penalties. See e.g. De La Rosa
28 v. The Coca Cola Company et al. (Superior Court of California in Napa, 17CV000787), Harvey v.

1 Bed Bath & Beyond of California Limited Liability Company (Superior Court of California in
2 Alameda, RG17885153), Paredes v. Bottling Group LLC et. al. (Superior Court of California in
3 Kern), Ramirez v. Harris Ranch Beef Company (Superior Court of California in Fresno,
4 16CECG04103), Gates v. Gate Gourmet, Inc. et. al. (Southern District of California, 16-cv-01084-
5 L-AGS), Hargrave v. Antelope Valley Hospital (Superior Court of California in Los Angeles,
6 BC663252), Ramirez v. Milton Roy et. al. (Superior Court of California in Los Angeles, BC 632
7 276), Hawkins v. AvalonBay Communities (Superior Court of California in Santa Clara,
8 17CV316492), Jones Tharpe et al. v. Sprint Corporation et al. (Superior Court of California in Los
9 Angeles, BC644645), Ortega et al. v. Nestle Waters North America, Inc. et al. (Superior Court of
10 California in Los Angeles, BC623610), Schultz v. Jimbo's Natural Family, Inc. (Superior Court of
11 California in San Diego, 37-2017-00022348-CUE-OE-CTL), Ambrose v. Victor Valley Global et
12 al. (Superior Court of California in San Bernardino, CIVDS1709289), Puerta-Gildardo v. Real Time
13 Staffing Services LLC et. al. (Superior Court of California in Los Angeles, BC565445), Vargo v.
14 Pregis Innovative Packaging LLC (Superior Court of California in Tulare, 270836), Conlin v. Aegis
15 Senior Communities LLC (Northern District of California, 17-cv-05534-LHK), Galarza v.
16 Kloeckner Metals Corporation (Central District of California, 2:17-cv-04910-FMO), Estes v. L3
17 Technologies, Inc. et al. (Southern District of California, 3:17-cv-02356-H-JMA), Rowser v. Trunk
18 Club, Inc. (Central District of California, 2:17-cv-05064-DSF-RAO), Leach v. The Claremont
19 Colleges, Inc. (Superior Court of California in Los Angeles, BC686451), Vaesau v. PCT
20 Enterprises, Inc. dba Precision Cabinets (Superior Court of California, County of Contra Costa
21 MSC18-02404), Terry v. TF Louderback, Inc. dba Bay Area Beverage Company (Superior Court
22 of the State of California, County of Contra Costa, MSC18-00859), Roach v. Westcare California,
23 Inc. (Superior Court of California in Kern County, BCV-17-102367-SDS), Patton v. Church &
24 Dwight Co., Inc. (Central District of California, EDCV 18-903-MWF (KKx)), Juarez v. ISL
25 Employees, Inc. (Superior Court of California in Madera, MCV074787), Ferraro v. USC Verdugo
26 Hill s Hospital, et al. (Superior Court of California in Los Angeles, 18STCV09463), Ford v. Account
27 Control Technology, Inc., et al. (Superior Court of California in Los Angeles, 19STCV09369),
28 Ornelas v. iStorage, et al. (Superior Court of California in San Francisco, CGC-18-571421),

1 Martinez v. Ronpak, Inc. (Superior Court of California in Riverside, RIC1901307), Barrera et al. v.
2 Exclusive Wireless, Inc. (Superior Court of California in Stanislaus, 9000687), Barajas v. Mancha
3 Development Company LLC (Superior Court of California in Orange County, 30-2018-00974707-
4 CU-OE-CXC), Prado v. IMAX Corporation dba IMAC Worldwide Home (Superior Court of
5 California in San Bernardino, CIVDS1820265), Rodriguez v. ND Industries, Inc. (Superior Court
6 of California in Los Angeles, 19STCV38096), Singletary v. Motel 6 Operating LP, et al. (Southern
7 District of California, 3:20-cv-0270-LAB-AHG), Quizon v. CF Watsonville East, LLC, et al.
8 (Superior Court of California in Santa Cruz, 20CV01868), Stephenson v. Bakersfield Dodge, Inc.
9 (Superior Court of California in Kern, BCV-20-102693), Bacerra v. Hugo Boss Retail, Inc.
10 (Superior Court of California in San Diego, 37-2021-00002933-CU-OE-CTL), Walker v. Ariat
11 International, Inc. (Superior Court of California in Alameda, HG19026439), Orr v. Petvet Care
12 Centers (California) Inc. (Superior Court of California in Santa Clara, 19CV354063), Jimenez v.
13 OEC Distribution Services, Inc. (Superior Court of California in San Bernardino, CIVDS1915743),
14 Viridi v. Absolute Security International (Superior Court of California in San Bernardino, CIVDS
15 1909589), Raj v. First Transit, Inc (Superior Court of California in Sacramento, 34-2021-00295895-
16 CU-OE-GDS), Marchbanks v. Torrid Administration, Inc. (Superior Court of California in San
17 Diego, 37-2020-00008179-CU-OE-NC), among others.

18 67. I am Senior Counsel at D.Law where I manage the a team of wage and hour class action
19 litigators and counsel of record for Plaintiff Nicholson. I was admitted to the California Bar in
20 December 2018. I received my J.D. from University of Southern California; Gould School of Law
21 and B.A. from University of Southern California. Since graduating from law school, I have
22 dedicated virtually my entire career on the practice of employment law. I have significant experience
23 specifically working on wage and hour class actions from the plaintiff's side.

24 68. The collective experience of the D.Law attorneys in litigating employment wage and hour
25 matters has been integral in identifying legal issues, evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of a
26 case, and generally negotiating fair and reasonable class and representative action settlements.
27 Practice in the narrow field of wage and hour litigation requires skill and knowledge concerning the
28 constantly evolving substantive law (state and federal), as well as the procedural law of class and

1 representative action litigation. In this action, the attorneys at D.Law are fully equipped to use the
2 skills and knowledge developed over decades of prosecuting and defending wage and hour class
3 actions to fairly and adequately represent the interests of the Class Members and Aggrieved
4 Employees. Therefore, based on our resources, experience, and knowledge, the attorneys at D.Law
5 are well-qualified to act as Class Counsel and represent the Plaintiff and the putative Class Members
6 and Aggrieved Employees in this action.

7 69. We understand the responsibilities owed as counsel to the class members and the
8 aggrieved employees we represent. The attorneys at D.Law thoroughly investigated the claims
9 asserted in this action and have remained committed to dedicating the resources necessary to
10 represent the Class and vigorously pursue their claims. Based upon my experience and
11 understanding of the claims and defenses in this action, I believe the settlement is fair, adequate,
12 and reasonable for the Class Members and Aggrieved Employees and all involved, and that the
13 Settlement is well within the range of reasonableness that would permit it to be finally approved. I
14 am not aware of any conflict of interest with Plaintiff or any other Class Member that would
15 interfere with the duties as Class Counsel.

16 70. On May 8, 2026, Plaintiff submitted the Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement
17 and Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement
18 and supporting documents to the LWDA. A true and correct copy of the confirmatory email from
19 the LWDA is attached hereto as **Exhibit 3.**

20 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the
21 foregoing is true and correct.

22 Executed this 8th day of May, 2026, at Pasadena, California

23
24 
25 _____
26 Natalie Haritonian
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EXHIBIT 1

CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND CLASS NOTICE

This Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and between plaintiff Lamont Nicholson (“Plaintiff”) and defendant Bill Wilson Center (“Defendant”). The Agreement refers to Plaintiff and Defendant collectively as “Parties,” or individually as “Party.”

1. **DEFINITIONS.**

- 1.1 “Action” means the Plaintiff’s lawsuit alleging wage and hour violations against Defendant captioned *Lamont Nicholson v. Bill Wilson Center* initiated on November 30, 2023 and pending in Superior Court of the State of California, County of Santa Clara, Case No. 23CV426564.
- 1.2 “Administrator” means CPT Group, Inc., the neutral entity the Parties have agreed to appoint to administer the Settlement.
- 1.3 “Administration Expenses Payment” means the amount the Administrator will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount to reimburse its reasonable fees and expenses in accordance with the Administrator’s “not to exceed” bid submitted to the Court in connection with Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.4 “Aggrieved Employee” means a person employed by Defendant in California and classified as a non-exempt, hourly employee who worked for Defendant during the PAGA Period.
- 1.5 “Class” means all persons employed by Defendant in California and classified as a non-exempt, hourly employee who worked for Defendant during the Class Period.
- 1.6 “Class Counsel” means Emil Davtyan, David Yeremian, and Natalie Haritounian of D.Law, Inc.
- 1.7 “Class Counsel Fees Payment” and “Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment” mean the amounts allocated to Class Counsel for reimbursement of reasonable attorneys’ fees and expenses, respectively, incurred to prosecute the Action.
- 1.8 “Class Data” means Class Member identifying information in Defendant’s possession including the Class Member’s name, last-known mailing address, Social Security number, and number of Class Period Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods.
- 1.9 “Class Member” or “Settlement Class Member” means a member of the Class, as either a Participating Class Member or Non-Participating Class Member (including a Non-Participating Class Member who qualifies as an Aggrieved Employee).
- 1.10 “Class Member Address Search” means the Administrator’s investigation and search for current Class Member mailing addresses using all reasonably available

sources, methods and means including, but not limited to, the National Change of Address database, skip traces, and direct contact by the Administrator with Class Members.

- 1.11 “Class Notice” means the COURT APPROVED NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND HEARING DATE FOR FINAL COURT APPROVAL, to be mailed to Class Members in English with a Spanish translation, if applicable in the form, without material variation, attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference into this Agreement.
- 1.12 “Class Period” means the period from November 30, 2019 to September 30, 2025.
- 1.13 “Class Representative” means the named Plaintiff in the operative complaint in the Action seeking Court approval to serve as a Class Representative.
- 1.14 “Class Representative Service Payment” means the payment to the Class Representative for initiating the Action and providing services in support of the Action.
- 1.15 “Court” means the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara.
- 1.16 “Defendant” means named Defendant Bill Wilson Center.
- 1.17 “Defense Counsel” means Michael A. Farbstein and Ramsey F. Kavar of Farbstein & Blackman, APC.
- 1.18 “Effective Date” means the date by when both of the following have occurred: (a) the Court enters a Judgment on its Order Granting Final Approval of the Settlement; and (b) the Judgment is final. The Judgment is final as of the latest of the following occurrences: (a) if no Participating Class Member objects to the Settlement, the day the Court enters Judgment; (b) if one or more Participating Class Members objects to the Settlement, the day after the deadline for filing a notice of appeal from the Judgment; or if a timely appeal from the Judgment is filed, the day after the appellate court affirms the Judgment and issues a remittitur.
- 1.19 “Final Approval” means the Court’s order granting final approval of the Settlement.
- 1.20 “Final Approval Hearing” means the Court’s hearing on the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.21 “Final Judgment” means the Judgment Entered by the Court upon Granting Final Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.22 “Gross Settlement Amount” means \$1,000,000.00 which is the total amount Defendant agrees to pay under the Settlement except as provided in Paragraph 3 below. The Gross Settlement Amount will be used to pay Individual Class Payments, Individual

PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, Class Counsel Fees, Class Counsel Expenses, Class Representative Service Payment and the Administrator's Expenses.

- 1.23 "Individual Class Payment" means the Participating Class Member's pro rata share of the Net Settlement Amount calculated according to the number of Workweeks worked during the Class Period.
- 1.24 "Individual PAGA Payment" means the Aggrieved Employee's pro rata share of 25% of the PAGA Penalties calculated according to the number of Workweeks worked during the PAGA Period.
- 1.25 "Judgment" means the judgment entered by the Court based upon the Final Approval.
- 1.26 "LWDA" means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the agency entitled, under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.27 "LWDA PAGA Payment" means the 75% of the PAGA Penalties paid to the LWDA under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.28 "Net Settlement Amount" means the Gross Settlement Amount, less the following payments in the amounts approved by the Court: Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Administration Expenses Payment. The remainder is to be paid to Participating Class Members as Individual Class Payments.
- 1.29 "Non-Participating Class Member" means any Class Member who opts out of the Settlement by sending the Administrator a valid and timely Request for Exclusion.
- 1.30 "PAGA Pay Period" means any Pay Period during which an Aggrieved Employee worked for Defendant for at least one day during the PAGA Period.
- 1.31 "PAGA Period" means the period from November 30, 2023 through the date the Court grants preliminary approval.
- 1.32 "PAGA" means the Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698. et seq.).
- 1.33 "PAGA Notice" means Plaintiff's letter to Defendant and the LWDA providing notice pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd.(a).
- 1.34 "PAGA Penalties" means the total amount of PAGA civil penalties to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, allocated 25% to the Aggrieved Employees (\$12,500.00) and the 75% to LWDA (\$37,500.00) in settlement of PAGA claims.

- 1.35 “Participating Class Member” means a Class Member who does not submit a valid and timely Request for Exclusion from the Settlement.
- 1.36 “Plaintiff” means Lamont Nicholson, the named plaintiff in the Action.
- 1.37 “Preliminary Approval” means the Court’s Order Granting Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.38 “Preliminary Approval Order” means the proposed Order Granting Preliminary Approval and Approval of PAGA Settlement.
- 1.39 “Released Class Claims” means the claims being released as described in Paragraph 5.2 below.
- 1.40 “Released PAGA Claims” means the claims being released as described in Paragraph 5.3 below.
- 1.41 “Released Parties” means: Defendant and each of its former and present directors, officers, shareholders, owners, members, attorneys, insurers, predecessors, successors, assigns, subsidiaries, and affiliates.
- 1.42 “Request for Exclusion” means a Class Member’s submission of a written request to be excluded from the Class Settlement signed by the Class Member.
- 1.43 “Response Deadline” means 60 days after the Administrator mails Notice to Class Members and Aggrieved Employees, and shall be the last date on which Class Members may: (a) fax, email, or mail Requests for Exclusion from the Settlement, or (b) fax, email, or mail his or her Objection to the Settlement. Class Members to whom Notice Packets are resent after having been returned undeliverable to the Administrator shall have an additional 14 calendar days beyond the Response Deadline has expired.
- 1.44 “Settlement” means the disposition of the Action effected by this Agreement and the Judgment.
- 1.45 “Workweek” means any week during which a Class Member worked for Defendant for at least three days, during the Class Period.

2. **RECITALS.**

- 2.1 On November 30, 2024, Plaintiff commenced this Action by filing a complaint alleging causes of action against Defendants for failing to pay minimum wages, overtime wages, failing to provide meal periods, failing to provide rest periods, failing to provide accurate itemized wage statements, failing to timely provide wages including wages due upon termination, failing to maintain accurate records, and failing to provide reimbursable expenses. Plaintiff will file a First Amended Complaint alleging causes of action against Defendants for civil penalties under the California Private Attorneys General Act

(“PAGA”). The First Amended Complaint will be the operative complaint in the Action (the “Operative Complaint.”) Defendant denies the allegations in the Operative Complaint, denies any failure to comply with the laws identified in in the Operative Complaint and denies any and all liability for the causes of action alleged.

2.2 Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd.(a), Plaintiff gave timely written notice to Defendant and the LWDA by sending the PAGA Notice.

2.3 On July 10, 2025, the Parties participated in an all-day mediation presided over by Lonnie Giamela, Esq. which led to this Agreement to settle the Action.

2.4 Prior to mediation, Plaintiff obtained, through formal and informal discovery, pertinent payroll, timekeeping, and other data. Plaintiff’s investigation was sufficient to satisfy the criteria for court approval set forth in *Dunk v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.* (1996) 48 Cal.App.4th 1794, 1801 and *Kullar v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.* (2008) 168 Cal.App.4th 116, 129-130 (“Dunk/Kullar”).

2.5 The Court has not granted class certification.

2.6 The Parties, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel represent that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or affected by the Settlement.

3. **MONETARY TERMS.**

3.1 Gross Settlement Amount. Except as otherwise provided by Paragraph 9 below, Defendant promises to pay \$1,000,000.00 and no more as the Gross Settlement Amount and to separately pay any and all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portions of the Individual Class Payments. Defendant has no obligation to pay the Gross Settlement Amount (or any payroll taxes) prior to the deadline stated in Paragraph 4.3 of this Agreement. The Administrator will disburse the entire Gross Settlement Amount without asking or requiring Participating Class Members or Aggrieved Employees to submit any claim as a condition of payment. None of the Gross Settlement Amount will revert to Defendant.

3.2 Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Administrator will make and deduct the following payments from the Gross Settlement Amount, in the amounts specified by the Court in the Final Approval:

3.2.1 To Plaintiff: Class Representative Service Payment to the Class Representative of not more than \$7,500.00 (in addition to any Individual Class Payment and any Individual PAGA Payment the Class Representative is entitled to receive as a Participating Class Member). Defendant will not oppose Plaintiff’s request for a Class Representative Service Payment that does not exceed this amount. As part of the motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Litigation Expenses Payment, Plaintiff will seek Court approval for any Class Representative Service

Payments no later than 16 court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. If the Court approves a Class Representative Service Payment less than the amount requested, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will pay the Class Representative Service Payment using IRS Form 1099. Plaintiff assumes full responsibility and liability for employee taxes owed on the Class Representative Service Payment.

- 3.2.2 To Class Counsel: A Class Counsel Fees Payment of not more than one-third, which is currently estimated to be \$333,333.33 and a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment of not more than \$20,000.00. Defendant will not oppose requests for these payments provided they do not exceed these amounts. Plaintiff and/or Class Counsel will file a motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Litigation Expenses Payment no later than 16 court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. If the Court approves a Class Counsel Fees Payment and/or a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment less than the amounts requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. Released Parties shall have no liability to Class Counsel or any other Plaintiff's Counsel arising from any claim to any portion of any Class Counsel Fee Payment and/or Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment. The Administrator will pay the Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Expenses Payment using one or more IRS 1099 Forms. Class Counsel assumes full responsibility and liability for taxes owed on the Class Counsel Fees Payment and the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and holds Defendant harmless, and indemnifies Defendant, from any dispute or controversy regarding any division or sharing of any of these Payments.
- 3.2.3 To the Administrator: An Administrator Expenses Payment not to exceed \$11,490 except for a showing of good cause and as approved by the Court.
- 3.2.4 To Each Participating Class Member: An Individual Class Payment calculated by (a) dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members during the Class Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Participating Class Member's Workweeks.
 - 3.2.4.1 Tax Allocation of Individual Class Payments. 15% of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement of wage claims (the "Wage Portion"). The Wage Portions are subject to tax withholding and will be reported on an IRS W-2 Form. 85% of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement of claims for interest and penalties (the "Non-Wage Portion"). The Non-Wage Portions are not subject to wage withholdings and will be reported on IRS 1099 Forms. Participating Class Members assume full responsibility and liability for any employee taxes owed on their Individual Class Payment.

3.2.4.2 Effect of Non-Participating Class Members on Calculation of Individual Class Payments. Non-Participating Class Members will not receive any Individual Class Payments. The Administrator will retain amounts equal to their Individual Class Payments in the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to Participating Class Members on a pro rata basis.

3.2.5 To the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees: PAGA Penalties in the amount of \$50,000.00 to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, with 75% (\$37,500.00) allocated to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% (\$12,500.00) allocated to the Individual PAGA Payments.

3.2.5.1 The Administrator will calculate each Individual PAGA Payment by (a) dividing the amount of the Aggrieved Employees' 25% share of PAGA Penalties \$12,500.00 by the total number of PAGA Period Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Aggrieved Employee's PAGA Period Pay Periods. Aggrieved Employees assume full responsibility and liability for any taxes owed on their Individual PAGA Payment.

3.2.5.2 If the Court approves PAGA Penalties of less than the amount requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

4. **SETTLEMENT FUNDING AND PAYMENTS.**

4.1 Class Workweeks and Aggrieved Employee Pay Periods. Based on a review of its records to date, Defendant estimated at mediation 632 Class Members who collectively worked a total of 39,821 Workweeks, and 378 Aggrieved Employees who worked a total 11,036 PAGA Pay Periods.

4.2 Class Data. Not later than 15 days after the Court grants Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, Defendant will simultaneously deliver the Class Data to the Administrator, in the form of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. To protect Class Members' privacy rights, the Administrator must maintain the Class Data in confidence, use the Class Data only for purposes of this Settlement and for no other purpose, and restrict access to the Class Data to Administrator employees who need access to the Class Data to effect and perform under this Agreement. Defendant has a continuing duty to immediately notify Class Counsel if it discovers that the Class Data omitted class member identifying information and to provide corrected or updated Class Data as soon as reasonably feasible. Without any extension of the deadline by which Defendant must send the Class Data to the Administrator, the Parties and their counsel will expeditiously use best efforts, in good faith, to reconstruct or otherwise resolve any issues related to missing or omitted Class Data.

- 4.3 Funding of Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant shall fund half of the Gross Settlement Amount by transmitting the funds to the Administrator no later than 60 days after the Effective Date and shall fund the second half of the Gross Settlement Amount as well as the amounts necessary to fully pay Defendant's share of payroll taxes by transmitting the funds to the Administrator no later than 180 days after the Effective Date.
- 4.4 Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. Within 14 days after Defendant funds the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will mail checks for all Individual Class Payments, all Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, the Administration Expenses Payment, the Class Counsel Fees Payment, the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Class Representative Service Payment.
- 4.4.1 The Administrator will issue checks for the Individual Class Payments and/or Individual PAGA Payments and send them to the Class Members via First Class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid. The face of each check shall prominently state the date (not less than 180 days after the date of mailing) when the check will be voided. The Administrator will cancel all checks not cashed by the void date. The Administrator will send checks for Individual Settlement Payments to all Participating Class Members (including those for whom Class Notice was returned undelivered). The Administrator will send checks for Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees including Non-Participating Class Members who qualify as Aggrieved Employees (including those for whom Class Notice was returned undelivered). The Administrator may send Participating Class Members a single check combining the Individual Class Payment and the Individual PAGA Payment. Before mailing any checks, the Settlement Administrator must update the recipients' mailing addresses using the National Change of Address Database.
- 4.4.2 The Administrator must conduct a Class Member Address Search for all other Class Members whose checks are returned undelivered without USPS forwarding address. Within 7 days of receiving a returned check the Administrator must re-mail checks to the USPS forwarding address provided or to an address ascertained through the Class Member Address Search. The Administrator need not take further steps to deliver checks to Class Members whose re-mailed checks are returned as undelivered. The Administrator shall promptly send a replacement check to any Class Member whose original check was lost or misplaced, requested by the Class Member prior to the void date.
- 4.4.3 For any Class Member whose Individual Class Payment check or Individual PAGA Payment check is uncashed and cancelled after the void date, the Administrator shall transmit the funds represented by such checks to the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the Class Member thereby leaving no "unpaid residue" subject to the requirements of California Code of Civil Procedure Section 384, subd. (b).

4.4.4 The payment of Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments shall not obligate Defendant to confer any additional benefits or make any additional payments to Class Members (such as 401(k) contributions or bonuses) beyond those specified in this Agreement.

5. **RELEASES OF CLAIMS.** Effective on the date when Defendant fully funds the entire Gross Settlement Amount and funds all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portion of the Individual Class Payments, Plaintiff and Class Members will release claims against all Released Parties as follows:

5.1 **Plaintiff's Release.** Plaintiff and his or her respective former and present spouses, representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns generally, release and discharge Released Parties from all claims, transactions, or occurrences that occurred during the Class Period, including, but not limited to: (a) all claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged, based on the facts contained, in the Operative Complaint and (b) all PAGA claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged based on facts contained in the Operative Complaint, Plaintiff's PAGA Notice, or ascertained during the Action and released under 6.2, below. ("Plaintiff's Release.") Plaintiff's Release does not extend to any claims or actions to enforce this Agreement, or to any claims for vested benefits, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, social security benefits, workers' compensation benefits that arose at any time, or based on occurrences outside the Class Period. Plaintiff acknowledges that Plaintiff may discover facts or law different from, or in addition to, the facts or law that Plaintiff now knows or believes to be true but agrees, nonetheless, that Plaintiff's Release shall be and remain effective in all respects, notwithstanding such different or additional facts or Plaintiff's discovery of them.

5.1.1 **Plaintiff's Waiver of Rights Under California Civil Code Section 1542.** For purposes of Plaintiff's Release, Plaintiff expressly waives and relinquishes the provisions, rights, and benefits, if any, of section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads:

A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, and that if known by him or her would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or Released Party.

5.2 **Release by Participating Class Members:** All Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, release Released Parties from (i) all claims that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the Class Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint (as well as Class Period facts ascertained in the course of the Action) including, but not limited to, any and all claims involving any (a) failure to pay minimum wages; (b) failure to pay wages and overtime wages; (c) failure to provide meal periods or timely meal periods; (d) failure to provide rest periods or timely rest periods; (e) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements; (f) failure to pay wages

under Labor Code 204, and timely pay wages including wages due upon termination; (g) failure to maintain accurate records; (h) failure to pay reimbursable expenses; (i) failure to pay sick pay under labor code §246; (j) violation of Business & Professions Code § 17200, *et. seq.* Except as set forth in Section 5.3 of this Agreement, Participating Class Members do not release any other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, violation of the Fair Employment and Housing Act, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers' compensation, or claims based on facts occurring outside the Class Period.

5.3 Release by Aggrieved Employees: All Class Members who are Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA penalties that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the PAGA Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint, and the PAGA Notice and ascertained in the course of the Action including, but not limited to any and all claims involved any (a) failure to pay minimum wages; (b) failure to pay overtime wages; (c) failure to provide meal periods or timely meal periods; (d) failure to provide rest periods or timely rest periods; (e) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements; (f) failure to timely pay wages including wages due upon termination; (g) failure to maintain accurate records; (h) failure to pay reimbursable expenses; (i) failure to pay sick pay under labor code §246; (j) violation of Business & Professions Code § 17200, *et. seq.*; and (k) violation of Labor Code § 2698, *et. seq.* Aggrieved Employees may discover facts or law different from, or in addition to, the facts or law that Aggrieved Employees now know or believe to be true. Nonetheless, the Release by Aggrieved Employees shall be and remain effective in all respects, notwithstanding such different or additional facts or Participating Aggrieved Employees' discovery of them.

6. **MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL**. The Parties agree to jointly prepare and file a motion for preliminary approval ("Motion for Preliminary Approval") that complies with the Court's current checklist for Preliminary Approvals.

6.1 Plaintiff's Responsibilities. Plaintiff will prepare and deliver to Defense Counsel all documents necessary for obtaining Preliminary Approval, including: (i) a draft of the notice, and memorandum in support, of the Motion for Preliminary Approval that includes an analysis of the Settlement under Dunk/Kullar and a request for approval of the PAGA Settlement under Labor Code Section 2699, subd. (f)(2)); (ii) a draft proposed Order Granting Preliminary Approval and Approval of PAGA Settlement; (iii) a draft proposed Class Notice; (iv) a signed declaration from the Administrator attaching its "not to exceed" bid for administering the Settlement and attesting to its willingness to serve; competency; operative procedures for protecting the security of Class Data; amounts of insurance coverage for any data breach, defalcation of funds or other misfeasance; all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Class Members; and the nature and extent of any financial relationship with Plaintiff, Class Counsel or Defense Counsel; (v) a signed declaration from Plaintiff confirming willingness and competency to serve and disclosing all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest

with Class Members and/or the Administrator; (v) a signed declaration from each Class Counsel firm attesting to its competency to represent the Class Members; its timely transmission to the LWDA of all necessary PAGA documents (initial notice of violations (Labor Code section 2699.3, subd. (a)), Operative Complaint (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l)(1)), this Agreement (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l)(2)); (vi) a redlined version of the parties' Agreement showing all modifications made to the Model Agreement ready for filing with the Court; and (vii) all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflict of interest with Class Members and/or the Administrator. In their Declarations, Plaintiff and Class Counsel Declaration shall aver that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or adversely affected by the Settlement.

6.2 Responsibilities of Counsel. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel are jointly responsible for expeditiously finalizing and filing the Motion for Preliminary Approval no later than 30 days after the full execution of this Agreement; obtaining a prompt hearing date for the Motion for Preliminary Approval; and for appearing in Court to advocate in favor of the Motion for Preliminary Approval. Class Counsel is responsible for delivering the Court's Preliminary Approval to the Administrator.

6.3 Duty to Cooperate. If the Parties disagree on any aspect of the proposed Motion for Preliminary Approval and/or the supporting declarations and documents, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together on behalf of the Parties by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve the disagreement. If the Court does not grant Preliminary Approval or conditions Preliminary Approval on any material change to this Agreement, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together on behalf of the Parties by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to modify the Agreement and otherwise satisfy the Court's concerns.

7. SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION.

7.1 Selection of Administrator. The Parties have jointly selected CPT Group, Inc. to serve as the Administrator and verified that, as a condition of appointment, CPT Group, Inc. agrees to be bound by this Agreement and to perform, as a fiduciary, all duties specified in this Agreement in exchange for payment of Administration Expenses. The Parties and their Counsel represent that they have no interest or relationship, financial or otherwise, with the Administrator other than a professional relationship arising out of prior experiences administering settlements.

7.2 Employer Identification Number. The Administrator shall have and use its own Employer Identification Number for purposes of calculating payroll tax withholdings and providing reports state and federal tax authorities.

7.3 Qualified Settlement Fund. The Administrator shall establish a settlement fund that meets the requirements of a Qualified Settlement Fund ("QSF") under US Treasury Regulation section 468B-1.

7.4 Notice to Class Members.

- 7.4.1 No later than three (3) business days after receipt of the Class Data, the Administrator shall notify Class Counsel that the list has been received and state the number of Class Members, PAGA Members, Workweeks, and Pay Periods in the Class Data.
- 7.4.2 Using best efforts to perform as soon as possible, and in no event later than 14 days after receiving the Class Data, the Administrator will send to all Class Members identified in the Class Data, via first-class United States Postal Service (“USPS”) mail, the Class Notice with Spanish translation, if applicable substantially in the form attached to this Agreement as Exhibit A. The first page of the Class Notice shall prominently estimate the dollar amounts of any Individual Class Payment and/or Individual PAGA Payment payable to the Class Member, and the number of Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods (if applicable) used to calculate these amounts. Before mailing Class Notices, the Administrator shall update Class Member addresses using the National Change of Address database.
- 7.4.3 Not later than 3 business days after the Administrator’s receipt of any Class Notice returned by the USPS as undelivered, the Administrator shall re-mail the Class Notice using any forwarding address provided by the USPS. If the USPS does not provide a forwarding address, the Administrator shall conduct a Class Member Address Search, and re-mail the Class Notice to the most current address obtained. The Administrator has no obligation to make further attempts to locate or send Class Notice to Class Members whose Class Notice is returned by the USPS a second time.
- 7.4.4 The deadlines for Class Members’ written objections, Challenges to Workweeks and/or Pay Periods, and Requests for Exclusion will be extended an additional 14 days beyond the 60 days otherwise provided in the Class Notice for all Class Members whose notice is re-mailed. The Administrator will inform the Class Member of the extended deadline with the re-mailed Class Notice.
- 7.4.5 If the Administrator, Defendant or Class Counsel is contacted by or otherwise discovers any persons who believe they should have been included in the Class Data and should have received Class Notice, the Parties will expeditiously meet and confer in person or by telephone, and in good faith, in an effort to agree on whether to include them as Class Members. If the Parties agree, such persons will be Class Members entitled to the same rights as other Class Members, and the Administrator will send, via email or overnight delivery, a Class Notice requiring them to exercise options under this Agreement not later than 14 days after receipt of Class Notice, or the deadline dates in the Class Notice, which ever are later.

7.5 Requests for Exclusion (Opt-Outs).

- 7.5.1 Class Members who wish to exclude themselves (opt-out of) the Class Settlement must send the Administrator, by fax, email, or mail, a signed written Request for Exclusion not later than 60 days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed). A Request for Exclusion is a letter from a Class Member or his/her representative that reasonably communicates the Class Member's election to be excluded from the Settlement and includes the Class Member's name, address and email address or telephone number. To be valid, a Request for Exclusion must be timely faxed, emailed, or postmarked by the Response Deadline.
- 7.5.2 The Administrator may not reject a Request for Exclusion as invalid because it fails to contain all the information specified in the Class Notice. The Administrator shall accept any Request for Exclusion as valid if the Administrator can reasonably ascertain the identity of the person as a Class Member and the Class Member's desire to be excluded. The Administrator's determination shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge. If the Administrator has reason to question the authenticity of a Request for Exclusion, the Administrator may demand additional proof of the Class Member's identity. The Administrator's determination of authenticity shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge.
- 7.5.3 Every Class Member who does not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion is deemed to be a Participating Class Member under this Agreement, entitled to all benefits and bound by all terms and conditions of the Settlement, including the Participating Class Members' Releases under Paragraphs 5.2 and 6.3 of this Agreement, regardless whether the Participating Class Member actually receives the Class Notice or objects to the Settlement.
- 7.5.4 Every Class Member who submits a valid and timely Request for Exclusion is a Non-Participating Class Member and shall not receive an Individual Class Payment or have the right to object to the class action components of the Settlement. Because future PAGA claims are subject to claim preclusion upon entry of the Judgment, Non-Participating Class Members who are Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release the claims identified in Paragraph 5.3 of this Agreement and are eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment.
- 7.6 Challenges to Calculation of Workweeks. Each Class Member shall have 60 days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed) to challenge the number of Class Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods (if any) allocated to the Class Member in the Class Notice. The Class Member may challenge the allocation by communicating with the Administrator via fax, email or mail. The Administrator must encourage the challenging Class Member to submit supporting documentation. In the absence of any contrary documentation, the Administrator is entitled to presume that the Workweeks contained in the Class Notice are correct so long as they are consistent with the Class Data. The Administrator's

determination of each Class Member's allocation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge. The Administrator shall promptly provide copies of all challenges to calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods to Defense Counsel and Class Counsel and the Administrator's determination the challenges.

7.7 Objections to Settlement.

7.7.1 Only Participating Class Members may object to the class action components of the Settlement and/or this Agreement, including contesting the fairness of the Settlement, and/or amounts requested for the Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and/or Class Representative Service Payment.

7.7.2 Participating Class Members may send written objections to the Administrator, by fax, email, or mail. In the alternative, Participating Class Members may appear in Court (or hire an attorney to appear in Court) to present verbal objections at the Final Approval Hearing. A Participating Class Member who elects to send a written objection to the Administrator must do so not later than 60 days after the Administrator's mailing of the Class Notice (plus an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice was re-mailed).

7.7.3 Non-Participating Class Members have no right to object to any of the class action components of the Settlement.

7.8 Administrator Duties. The Administrator has a duty to perform or observe all tasks to be performed or observed by the Administrator contained in this Agreement or otherwise.

7.8.1 Website, Email Address and Toll-Free Number. The Administrator will establish and maintain and use an internet website to post information of interest to Class Members including the date, time and location for the Final Approval Hearing and copies of the Settlement Agreement, Motion for Preliminary Approval, the Preliminary Approval, the Class Notice, the Motion for Final Approval, the Motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and Class Representative Service Payment, the Final Approval and the Judgment. The Administrator will also maintain and monitor an email address and a toll-free telephone number to receive Class Member calls, faxes and emails.

7.8.2 Requests for Exclusion (Opt-outs) and Exclusion List. The Administrator will promptly review on a rolling basis Requests for Exclusion to ascertain their validity. Not later than 5 days after the expiration of the deadline for submitting Requests for Exclusion, the Administrator shall email a list to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel containing (a) the names and other identifying information of Class Members who have timely submitted valid Requests for Exclusion ("Exclusion List"); (b) the names and other identifying information of Class

Members who have submitted invalid Requests for Exclusion; (c) copies of all Requests for Exclusion from Settlement submitted (whether valid or invalid).

- 7.8.3 Weekly Reports. The Administrator must, on a weekly basis, provide written reports to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel that, among other things, tally the number of: Class Notices mailed or re-mailed, Class Notices returned undelivered, Requests for Exclusion (whether valid or invalid) received, objections received, challenges to Workweeks and/or Pay Periods received and/or resolved, and checks mailed for Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments (“Weekly Report”). The Weekly Reports must include provide the Administrator’s assessment of the validity of Requests for Exclusion and attach copies of all Requests for Exclusion and objections received.
- 7.8.4 Workweek and/or Pay Period Challenges. The Administrator has the authority to address and make final decisions consistent with the terms of this Agreement on all Class Member challenges over the calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods. The Administrator’s decision shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge.
- 7.8.5 Administrator’s Declaration. Not later than 14 days before the date by which Plaintiff is required to file the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement, the Administrator will provide to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel, a signed declaration suitable for filing in Court attesting to its due diligence and compliance with all of its obligations under this Agreement, including, but not limited to, its mailing of Class Notice, the Class Notices returned as undelivered, the re-mailing of Class Notices, attempts to locate Class Members, the total number of Requests for Exclusion from Settlement it received (both valid or invalid), the number of written objections and attach the Exclusion List. The Administrator will supplement its declaration as needed or requested by the Parties and/or the Court. Class Counsel is responsible for filing the Administrator’s declaration(s) in Court.
- 7.8.6 Final Report by Settlement Administrator. Within 10 days after the Administrator disburses all funds in the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will provide Class Counsel and Defense Counsel with a final report detailing its disbursements by employee identification number only of all payments made under this Agreement. At least 15 days before any deadline set by the Court, the Administrator will prepare, and submit to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel, a signed declaration suitable for filing in Court attesting to its disbursement of all payments required under this Agreement. Class Counsel is responsible for filing the Administrator's declaration in Court.
8. **CLASS SIZE ESTIMATES and ESCALATOR CLAUSE.** Based on its records, Defendant estimates, as of the date of mediation, (1) 632 Class Members and 39,868 Total Workweeks during the Class period and (2) 378 Aggrieved Employees and 11,036 Pay Periods during the PAGA Period. If a final accounting indicates that the Total Workweeks

increases by more than 10% (i.e. exceeds 43,804), then the GSA will be increased proportionally by the number of workweeks worked in excess of 10%. For example, if the Total Workweeks increases by 11%, then the GSA will increase by 1%.

9. **DEFENDANT'S RIGHT TO WITHDRAW.** If the number of valid Requests for Exclusion identified in the Exclusion List exceeds 10% of the total of all Class Members, Defendant may, but is not obligated, elect to withdraw from the Settlement. The Parties agree that, if Defendant withdraws, the Settlement shall be void ab initio, have no force or effect whatsoever, and that neither Party will have any further obligation to perform under this Agreement; provided, however, Defendant will remain responsible for paying all Settlement Administration Expenses incurred to that point. Defendant must notify Class Counsel and the Court of its election to withdraw not later than seven days after the Administrator sends the final Exclusion List to Defense Counsel; late elections will have no effect.
10. **MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL.** Not later than 16 court days before the calendared Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiff will file in Court, a motion for final approval of the Settlement that includes a request for approval of the PAGA settlement under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l), a Proposed Final Approval Order and a proposed Judgment (collectively "Motion for Final Approval"). Plaintiff shall provide drafts of these documents to Defense Counsel not later than seven days prior to filing the Motion for Final Approval. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously meet and confer in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve any disagreements concerning the Motion for Final Approval.
 - 10.1 **Response to Objections.** Each Party retains the right to respond to any objection raised by a Participating Class Member, including the right to file responsive documents in Court no later than five court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing, or as otherwise ordered or accepted by the Court.
 - 10.2 **Duty to Cooperate.** If the Court does not grant Final Approval or conditions Final Approval on any material change to the Settlement (including, but not limited to, the scope of release to be granted by Class Members), the Parties will expeditiously work together in good faith to address the Court's concerns by revising the Agreement as necessary to obtain Final Approval. The Court's decision to award less than the amounts requested for the Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and/or Administrator Expenses Payment shall not constitute a material modification to the Agreement within the meaning of this paragraph.
 - 10.3 **Continuing Jurisdiction of the Court.** The Parties agree that, after entry of Judgment, the Court will retain jurisdiction over the Parties, Action, and the Settlement solely for purposes of (i) enforcing this Agreement and/or Judgment, (ii) addressing settlement administration matters, and (iii) addressing such post-Judgment matters as are permitted by law.

10.4 Waiver of Right to Appeal. Provided the Judgment is consistent with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, specifically including the Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment reflected set forth in this Settlement, the Parties, their respective counsel, and all Participating Class Members who did not object to the Settlement as provided in this Agreement, waive all rights to appeal from the Judgment, including all rights to post-judgment and appellate proceedings, the right to file motions to vacate judgment, motions for new trial, extraordinary writs, and appeals. The waiver of appeal does not include any waiver of the right to oppose such motions, writs or appeals. If an objector appeals the Judgment, the Parties' obligations to perform under this Agreement will be suspended until such time as the appeal is finally resolved and the Judgment becomes final, except as to matters that do not affect the amount of the Net Settlement Amount.

10.5 Appellate Court Orders to Vacate, Reverse, or Materially Modify Judgment. If the reviewing Court vacates, reverses, or modifies the Judgment in a manner that requires a material modification of this Agreement (including, but not limited to, the scope of release to be granted by Class Members), this Agreement shall be null and void. The Parties shall nevertheless expeditiously work together in good faith to address the appellate court's concerns and to obtain Final Approval and entry of Judgment, sharing, on a 50-50 basis, any additional Administration Expenses reasonably incurred after remittitur. An appellate decision to vacate, reverse, or modify the Court's award of the Class Representative Service Payment or any payments to Class Counsel shall not constitute a material modification of the Judgment within the meaning of this paragraph, as long as the Gross Settlement Amount remains unchanged.

11. **AMENDED JUDGMENT.** If any amended judgment is required under Code of Civil Procedure section 384, the Parties will work together in good faith to jointly submit and a proposed amended judgment.

12. **ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.**

12.1 No Admission of Liability, Class Certification or Representative Manageability for Other Purposes. This Agreement represents a compromise and settlement of highly disputed claims. Nothing in this Agreement is intended or should be construed as an admission by Defendant that any of the allegations in the Operative Complaint have merit or that Defendant has any liability for any claims asserted; nor should it be intended or construed as an admission by Plaintiff that Defendant's defenses in the Action have merit. The Parties agree that class certification and representative treatment is for purposes of this Settlement only. If, for any reason the Court does grant Preliminary Approval, Final Approval or enter Judgment, Defendant reserves the right to contest certification of any class for any reasons, and Defendant reserves all available defenses to the claims in the Action, and Plaintiff reserves the right to move for class certification on any grounds available and to contest Defendant's defenses. The Settlement, this Agreement and Parties' willingness to settle the Action will have no bearing on, and will not be admissible in connection with, any litigation (except for proceedings to enforce or effectuate the Settlement and this Agreement).

- 12.2 Confidentiality Prior to Preliminary Approval. Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant and Defense Counsel separately agree that, until the Motion for Preliminary Approval of Settlement is filed, they and each of them will not disclose, disseminate and/or publicize, or cause or permit another person to disclose, disseminate or publicize, any of the terms of the Agreement directly or indirectly, specifically or generally, to any person, corporation, association, government agency, or other entity except: (1) to the Parties' attorneys, accountants, or spouses, all of whom will be instructed to keep this Agreement confidential; (2) counsel in a related matter; (3) to the extent necessary to report income to appropriate taxing authorities; (4) in response to a court order or subpoena; or (5) in response to an inquiry or subpoena issued by a state or federal government agency. Each Party agrees to immediately notify each other Party of any judicial or agency order, inquiry, or subpoena seeking such information. Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant and Defense Counsel separately agree not to, directly or indirectly, initiate any conversation or other communication, before the filing of the Motion for Preliminary Approval, any with third party regarding this Agreement or the matters giving rise to this Agreement except to respond only that "the matter was resolved," or words to that effect. This paragraph does not restrict Class Counsel's communications with Class Members in accordance with Class Counsel's ethical obligations owed to Class Members.
- 12.3 No Solicitation. The Parties separately agree that they and their respective counsel and employees will not solicit any Class Member to opt out of or object to the Settlement, or appeal from the Judgment. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to restrict Class Counsel's ability to communicate with Class Members in accordance with Class Counsel's ethical obligations owed to Class Members.
- 12.4 Integrated Agreement. Upon execution by all Parties and their counsel, this Agreement together with its attached exhibits shall constitute the entire agreement between the Parties relating to the Settlement, superseding any and all oral representations, warranties, covenants, or inducements made to or by any Party.
- 12.5 Attorney Authorization. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel separately warrant and represent that they are authorized by Plaintiff and Defendant, respectively, to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Agreement to effectuate its terms, and to execute any other documents reasonably required to effectuate the terms of this Agreement including any amendments to this Agreement.
- 12.6 Cooperation. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts, in good faith, to implement the Settlement by, among other things, modifying the Settlement Agreement, submitting supplemental evidence and supplementing points and authorities as requested by the Court. In the event the Parties are unable to agree upon the form or content of any document necessary to implement the Settlement, or on any modification of the Agreement that may become necessary to implement the Settlement, the Parties will seek the assistance of a mediator and/or the Court for resolution.

- 12.7 No Prior Assignments. The Parties separately represent and warrant that they have not directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered, or purported to assign, transfer, or encumber to any person or entity and portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of action, or right released and discharged by the Party in this Settlement.
- 12.8 No Tax Advice. Neither Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant nor Defense Counsel are providing any advice regarding taxes or taxability, nor shall anything in this Settlement be relied upon as such within the meaning of United States Treasury Department Circular 230 (31 CFR Part 10, as amended) or otherwise.
- 12.9 Modification of Agreement. This Agreement, and all parts of it, may be amended, modified, changed, or waived only by an express written instrument signed by all Parties or their representatives, and approved by the Court.
- 12.10 Agreement Binding on Successors. This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors of each of the Parties.
- 12.11 Applicable Law. All terms and conditions of this Agreement and its exhibits will be governed by and interpreted according to the internal laws of the state of California, without regard to conflict of law principles.
- 12.12 Cooperation in Drafting. The Parties have cooperated in the drafting and preparation of this Agreement. This Agreement will not be construed against any Party on the basis that the Party was the drafter or participated in the drafting.
- 12.13 Confidentiality. To the extent permitted by law, all agreements made, and orders entered during Action and in this Agreement relating to the confidentiality of information shall survive the execution of this Agreement.
- 12.14 Use and Return of Class Data. Information provided to Class Counsel pursuant to Cal. Evid. Code §1152, and all copies and summaries of the Class Data provided to Class Counsel by Defendant in connection with the mediation, other settlement negotiations, or in connection with the Settlement, may be used only with respect to this Settlement, and no other purpose, and may not be used in any way that violates any existing contractual agreement, statute, or rule of court. Not later than 90 days after the date when the Court discharges the Administrator's obligation to provide a Declaration confirming the final pay out of all Settlement funds, Plaintiff shall destroy, all paper and electronic versions of Class Data received from Defendant unless, prior to the Court's discharge of the Administrator's obligation, Defendant makes a written request to Class Counsel for the return, rather than the destructions, of Class Data.
- 12.15 Headings. The descriptive heading of any section or paragraph of this Agreement is inserted for convenience of reference only and does not constitute a part of this Agreement.

12.16 Calendar Days. Unless otherwise noted, all reference to “days” in this Agreement shall be to calendar days. In the event any date or deadline set forth in this Agreement falls on a weekend or federal legal holiday, such date or deadline shall be on the first business day thereafter.

12.17 Notice. All notices, demands or other communications between the Parties in connection with this Agreement will be in writing and deemed to have been duly given as of the third business day after mailing by United States mail, or the day sent by email or messenger, addressed as follows:

To Plaintiff:

D.Law, Inc.

Emil Davtyan

emil@d.law

David Yeremian

d.yeremian@d.law

Natalie Haritounian

n.haritounian@d.law

250 N Madison Ave., 2nd Floor

Pasadena, CA 91101

Telephone: (818) 962-6465

To Defendant:

Farbstein & Blackman, APC

Ramsey Kawar

rfk@farbstein.com

Barbara Lyons

bll@farbstein.com

Michael Farbstein

maf@farbstein.com

411 Borel Avenue, Suite 600

San Mateo, CA 94402

Telephone: (650) 554-6200

12.18 Execution in Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts by facsimile, electronically (i.e. DocuSign), or email which for purposes of this Agreement shall be accepted as an original. All executed counterparts and each of them will be deemed to be one and the same instrument if counsel for the Parties will exchange between themselves signed counterparts. Any executed counterpart will be admissible in evidence to prove the existence and contents of this Agreement.

12.19 Stay of Litigation. The Parties agree that upon the execution of this Agreement the litigation shall be stayed, except to effectuate the terms of this Agreement. The Parties further agree that upon the signing of this Agreement that pursuant to CCP section

583.330 to extend the date to bring a case to trial under CCP section 583.310 for the entire period of this settlement process.

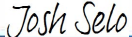
Dated: 5/7/2026

DocuSigned by:

8063095F030F4A3...

Lamont Nicholson

Dated: May 7, 2026


Josh Selo (May 7, 2026 15:29:45 PDT)

Bill Wilson Center
By: Josh Selo
Its: Chief Executive Officer

AGREED AS TO FORM

Dated: May 7, 2026

D.LAW, INC.



Natalie Haritounian

Dated: May _____, 2026

FARBSTEIN & BLACKMAN, APC

Michael A. Farbstein
Ramsey F. Kavar

583.330 to extend the date to bring a case to trial under CCP section 583.310 for the entire period of this settlement process.

Dated: May _____, 2026

Lamont Nicholson

Dated: May _____, 2026

Bill Wilson Center

By: _____

Its: _____

AGREED AS TO FORM

Dated: May _____, 2026

D.LAW, INC.

Natalie Haritonian

Dated: May 7, 2026

FARBSTEIN & BLACKMAN, APC

Ramsey Kavar

Ramsey Kavar (May 7, 2026 15:38:34 PDT)

Michael A. Farbstein

Ramsey F. Kavar

**COURT APPROVED NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND HEARING
DATE FOR FINAL COURT APPROVAL**

Lamont Nicholson v. Bill Wilson Center

Case No. 23CV426564; Santa Clara County Superior Court

The Superior Court for the State of California authorized this Notice. Read it carefully! It's not junk mail, spam, an advertisement, or solicitation by a lawyer. You are not being sued.

You may be eligible to receive money from an employee class action lawsuit ("Action") against Bill Wilson Center ("Defendant") for alleged wage and hour violations. The Action was filed by a former employee, Lamont Nicholson ("Plaintiff") and seeks payment of (1) back wages and other relief for a class of hourly employees ("Class Members") who worked for Defendant during the Class Period (November 30, 2019 to September 30, 2025); and (2) penalties under the California Private Attorney General Act ("PAGA") for all hourly employees who worked for Defendant during the PAGA Period (November 30, 2023 to _____) ("Aggrieved Employees").

The proposed Settlement has two main parts: (1) a Class Settlement requiring Defendant to fund Individual Class Payments, and (2) a PAGA Settlement requiring Defendant to fund Individual PAGA Payments and pay penalties to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA").

Based on Defendant's records, and the Parties' current assumptions, **your Individual Class Payment is estimated to be \$_____ (less withholding) and your Individual PAGA Payment is estimated to be \$_____**. The actual amount you may receive likely will be different and will depend on a number of factors. (If no amount is stated for your Individual PAGA Payment, then according to Defendant's records you are not eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment under the Settlement because you didn't work during the PAGA Period.)

The above estimates are based on Defendant's records showing that **you worked _____ workweeks** during the Class Period and **you worked _____ pay periods** during the PAGA Period. If you believe that you worked more workweeks or pay periods during either period, you can submit a challenge by the deadline date. See Section 4 of this Notice.

The Court has already preliminarily approved the proposed Settlement and approved this Notice. The Court has not yet decided whether to grant final approval. Your legal rights are affected whether you act or not act. Read this Notice carefully. You will be deemed to have carefully read and understood it. At the Final Approval Hearing, the Court will decide whether to finally approve the Settlement and how much of the Settlement will be paid to Plaintiff and Plaintiff's attorneys ("Class Counsel"). The Court will also decide whether to enter a judgment that requires Defendant to make payments under the Settlement and requires Class Members and Aggrieved Employees to give up their rights to assert certain claims against Defendant.

If you worked for Defendant during the Class Period and/or the PAGA Period, you have two basic options under the Settlement:

- (1) **Do Nothing.** You don't have to do anything to participate in the proposed Settlement and be eligible for an Individual Class Payment and/or an Individual PAGA Payment. As a Participating Class Member, though, you will give up your right to assert Class Period wage claims and PAGA Period penalty claims against Defendant.
- (2) **Opt-Out of the Class Settlement.** You can exclude yourself from the Class Settlement (opt-out) by submitting the written Request for Exclusion or otherwise notifying the Administrator in writing. If you opt-out of the Settlement, you will not receive an Individual Class Payment. You will, however, preserve your right to personally pursue Class Period wage claims against Defendant, and, if you are an Aggrieved Employee, remain eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment. You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement.

Defendant will not retaliate against you for any actions you take with respect to the proposed Settlement.

SUMMARY OF YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT

You Don't Have to Do Anything to Participate in the Settlement	If you do nothing, you will be a Participating Class Member, eligible for an Individual Class Payment and an Individual PAGA Payment (if any). In exchange, you will give up your right to assert the wage claims against Defendant that are covered by this Settlement (Released Claims).
You Can Opt-out of the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement The Opt-out Deadline is _____	If you don't want to fully participate in the proposed Settlement, you can opt-out of the Class Settlement by sending the Administrator a written Request for Exclusion. Once excluded, you will be a Non-Participating Class Member and no longer eligible for an Individual Class Payment. Non-Participating Class Members cannot object to any portion of the proposed Settlement. See Section 6 of this Notice. You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement. Defendant must pay Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees and the Aggrieved Employees must give up their rights to pursue Released Claims (defined below).
Participating Class Members Can Object to the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement	All Class Members who do not opt-out ("Participating Class Members") can object to any aspect of the proposed Settlement. The Court's decision whether to finally approve the Settlement will include a determination of how much will be paid to Class Counsel and Plaintiff who pursued the Action on behalf of the Class. You are not personally responsible for any payments to Class Counsel or Plaintiff, but every dollar paid to Class Counsel and Plaintiff reduces the overall amount paid to Participating Class Members. You can

Written Objections Must be Submitted by	object to the amounts requested by Class Counsel or Plaintiff if you think they are unreasonable. See Section 7 of this Notice.
You Can Participate in the _____ Final Approval Hearing	The Court's Final Approval Hearing is scheduled to take place on _____. You don't have to attend but you do have the right to appear (or hire an attorney to appear on your behalf at your own cost), in person, by telephone or by using the Court's virtual appearance platform. Participating Class Members can verbally object to the Settlement at the Final Approval Hearing. See Section 8 of this Notice.
You Can Challenge the Calculation of Your Workweeks/Pay Periods Written Challenges Must be Submitted by _____	The amount of your Individual Class Payment and PAGA Payment (if any) depend on how many workweeks you worked at least one day during the Class Period and how many Pay Periods you worked at least one day during the PAGA Period, respectively. The number Class Period Workweeks and number of PAGA Period Pay Periods you worked according to Defendant's records is stated on the first page of this Notice. If you disagree with either of these numbers, you must challenge it by _____. See Section 4 of this Notice.

1. WHAT IS THE ACTION ABOUT?

Plaintiff is a former Defendant employee. The Action accuses Defendant of violating California labor laws by failing to pay overtime wages, minimum wages, wages due upon termination and reimbursable expenses and failing to provide meal periods, rest breaks and accurate itemized wage statements. Based on the same claims, Plaintiff has also asserted a claim for civil penalties under the California Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698, et seq.) ("PAGA"). Plaintiff is represented by attorneys in the Action: Emil Davtyan, David Yeremian, and Natalie Haritoonian of D.Law, Inc. ("Class Counsel.")

Defendant strongly denies violating any laws or failing to pay any wages and contends it complied with all applicable laws.

2. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT THE ACTION HAS SETTLED?

Court has made no determination whether Defendant or Plaintiff is correct on the merits. Defendant Bill Wilson Center denies any wrongdoing alleged in this lawsuit.

In the meantime, Plaintiff and Defendant hired an experienced, neutral mediator, Lonnie Giamela, Esq., in an effort to resolve the Action by negotiating an end to the case by agreement (settle the case) rather than continuing the expensive and time-consuming process of litigation. The negotiations were successful. By signing a lengthy written settlement agreement ("Agreement") and agreeing to jointly ask the Court to enter a judgment ending the Action and enforcing the Agreement, Plaintiff and Defendant have negotiated a proposed Settlement that is subject to the Court's Final Approval. Both sides agree the proposed Settlement is a compromise of disputed claims. By agreeing to settle, Defendant does not admit any violations or concede the

merit of any claims. Plaintiff and Class Counsel strongly believe the Settlement is a good deal for you because they believe that: (1) Defendant has agreed to pay a fair, reasonable and adequate amount considering the strength of the claims and the risks and uncertainties of continued litigation; and (2) Settlement is in the best interests of the Class Members and Aggrieved Employees. The Court preliminarily approved the proposed Settlement as fair, reasonable and adequate, authorized this Notice, and scheduled a hearing to determine Final Approval.

3. WHAT ARE THE IMPORTANT TERMS OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT?

1. Defendant Will Pay \$1,000,000.00 as the Gross Settlement Amount (Gross Settlement). Defendant has agreed to deposit the Gross Settlement into an account controlled by the Administrator of the Settlement. The Administrator will use the Gross Settlement to pay the Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel's attorney's fees and expenses, the Administrator's expenses, and penalties to be paid to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA"). Assuming the Court grants Final Approval, Defendant will fund the Gross Settlement not more than 14 days after the Judgment entered by the Court become final. The Judgment will be final on the date the Court enters Judgment, or a later date if Participating Class Members object to the proposed Settlement or the Judgment is appealed.
2. Court Approved Deductions from Gross Settlement. At the Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiff and/or Class Counsel will ask the Court to approve the following deductions from the Gross Settlement, the amounts of which will be decided by the Court at the Final Approval Hearing:
 - a. Up to \$333,333.33 (one-third of the Gross Settlement to Class Counsel for attorneys' fees and up to \$20,000.00 for their litigation expenses. To date, Class Counsel have worked and incurred expenses on the Action without payment.
 - b. Up to \$7,500.00 as a Class Representative Service Payment for filing the Action, working with Class Counsel and representing the Class. A Class Representative Service Payment will be the only monies Plaintiff will receive other than Plaintiff's Individual Class Payment and any Individual PAGA Payment.
 - c. Up to \$10,500 to the Administrator for services administering the Settlement.
 - d. Up to \$50,000.00 for PAGA Penalties, allocated 75% to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% in Individual PAGA Payments to the Aggrieved Employees based on their PAGA Period Pay Periods.

Participating Class Members have the right to object to any of these deductions. The Court will consider all objections.

3. Net Settlement Distributed to Class Members. After making the above deductions in amounts approved by the Court, the Administrator will distribute the rest of the Gross Settlement (the “Net Settlement”) by making Individual Class Payments to Participating Class Members based on their Class Period Workweeks.
4. Taxes Owed on Payments to Class Members. Plaintiff and Defendant are asking the Court to approve an allocation of 15% of each Individual Class Payment to taxable wages (“Wage Portion”) and 85% to interest and penalties (“Non-Wage Portion.”). The Wage Portion is subject to withholdings and will be reported on IRS W-2 Forms. Defendant will separately pay employer payroll taxes it owes on the Wage Portion. The Individual PAGA Payments are counted as penalties rather than wages for tax purposes. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments and the Non-Wage Portions of the Individual Class Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

Although Plaintiff and Defendant have agreed to these allocations, neither side is giving you any advice on whether your Payments are taxable or how much you might owe in taxes. You are responsible for paying all taxes (including penalties and interest on back taxes) on any Payments received from the proposed Settlement. You should consult a tax advisor if you have any questions about the tax consequences of the proposed Settlement.

5. Need to Promptly Cash Payment Checks. The front of every check issued for Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments will show the date when the check expires (the void date). If you don’t cash it by the void date, your check will be automatically cancelled, and the monies will be deposited with the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in your name.

If the monies represented by your check is sent to the Controller’s Unclaimed Property, you should consult the rules of the Fund for instructions on how to retrieve your money.

6. Requests for Exclusion from the Class Settlement (Opt-Outs). You will be treated as a Participating Class Member, participating fully in the Class Settlement, unless you notify the Administrator in writing, not later than _____, that you wish to opt-out. The easiest way to notify the Administrator is to send a written and signed Request for Exclusion by the _____ Response Deadline. The Request for Exclusion should be a letter from a Class Member or his/her representative setting forth a Class Member’s name, present address, telephone number, and a simple statement electing to be excluded from the Settlement. Excluded Class Members (i.e., Non-Participating Class Members) will not receive Individual Class Payments, but will preserve their rights to personally pursue wage and hour claims against Defendant.

You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the Settlement. Class Members who exclude themselves from the Class Settlement (Non-Participating Class Members)

remain eligible for Individual PAGA Payments and are required to give up their right to assert PAGA claims against Defendant based on the PAGA Period facts alleged in the Action.

7. The Proposed Settlement Will be Void if the Court Denies Final Approval. It is possible the Court will decline to grant Final Approval of the Settlement or decline enter a Judgment. It is also possible the Court will enter a Judgment that is reversed on appeal. Plaintiff and Defendant have agreed that, in either case, the Settlement will be void: Defendant will not pay any money and Class Members will not release any claims against Defendant.
8. Administrator. The Court has appointed a neutral company, CPT Group, Inc. (the “Administrator”) to send this Notice, calculate and make payments, and process Class Members’ Requests for Exclusion. The Administrator will also decide Class Member Challenges over Workweeks, mail and remail settlement checks and tax forms, and perform other tasks necessary to administer the Settlement. The Administrator’s contact information is contained in Section 9 of this Notice.
9. Participating Class Members’ Release. After the Judgment is final and Defendant has fully funded the Gross Settlement and separately paid all employer payroll taxes, Participating Class Members will be legally barred from asserting any of the claims released under the Settlement. This means that unless you opted out by validly excluding yourself from the Class Settlement, you cannot sue, continue to sue, or be part of any other lawsuit against Defendant or related entities for wages based on the Class Period facts and PAGA penalties based on PAGA Period facts, as alleged in the Action and resolved by this Settlement.

The Participating Class Members will be bound by the following release:

All Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, release Released Parties from (i) all claims that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the Class Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint (as well as Class Period facts ascertained in the course of the Action) including, but not limited to, any and all claims involving any (a) failure to pay minimum wages; (b) failure to pay overtime wages; (c) failure to provide meal periods or timely meal periods; (d) failure to provide rest periods or timely rest periods; (e) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements; (f) failure to timely pay wages including wages due upon termination; (g) failure to maintain accurate records; (h) failure to pay reimbursable expenses; (i) failure to pay sick pay under labor code §246; (j) violation of Business & Professions Code § 17200, *et. seq.* Except as set forth in Section 5.3 of the Settlement Agreement, Participating Class Members do not release any other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, violation of the Fair Employment and Housing Act, unemployment insurance, disability,

social security, workers' compensation, or claims based on facts occurring outside the Class Period.

10. Aggrieved Employees' PAGA Release. After the Court's judgment is final, and Defendant has paid the Gross Settlement (and separately paid the employer-side payroll taxes), all Aggrieved Employees will be barred from asserting PAGA claims against Defendant, whether or not they exclude themselves from the Settlement. This means that all Aggrieved Employees, including those who are Participating Class Members and those who opt-out of the Class Settlement, cannot sue, continue to sue, or participate in any other PAGA claim against Defendant or its related entities based on the PAGA Period facts alleged in the Action and resolved by this Settlement.

The Aggrieved Employees' Releases for Participating and Non-Participating Class Members are as follows:

All Class Members who are Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA penalties that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the PAGA Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint, and the PAGA Notice and ascertained in the course of the Action including, but not limited to any and all claims involved any (a) failure to pay minimum wages; (b) failure to pay overtime wages; (c) failure to provide meal periods or timely meal periods; (d) failure to provide rest periods or timely rest periods; (e) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements; (f) failure to timely pay wages including wages due upon termination; (g) failure to maintain accurate records; (h) failure to pay reimbursable expenses; (i) failure to pay sick pay under labor code §246 (j) violation of Business & Professions Code § 17200, *et. seq.*; and (k) violation of Labor Code § 2698, *et. seq.* Aggrieved Employees may discover facts or law different from, or in addition to, the facts or law that Aggrieved Employees now know or believe to be true. Nonetheless, the Release by Aggrieved Employees shall be and remain effective in all respects, notwithstanding such different or additional facts or Participating Aggrieved Employees' discovery of them.

4. HOW WILL THE ADMINISTRATOR CALCULATE MY PAYMENT?

1. Individual Class Payments. The Administrator will calculate Individual Class Payments by (a) dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members, and (b) multiplying the result by the number of Workweeks worked by each individual Participating Class Member.
2. Individual PAGA Payments. The Administrator will calculate Individual PAGA Payments by (a) dividing \$12,500.00 by the total number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees and (b) multiplying the result by the number of PAGA Period Pay Periods worked by each individual Aggrieved Employee.

3. Workweek/Pay Period Challenges. The number of Class Workweeks you worked during the Class Period and the number of PAGA Pay Periods you worked during the PAGA Period, as recorded in Defendant's records, are stated in the first page of this Notice. You have until _____ to challenge the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods credited to you. You can submit your challenge by signing and sending a letter to the Administrator via mail, email or fax. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

You need to support your challenge by sending copies of pay stubs or other records. The Administrator will accept Defendant's calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods based on Defendant's records as accurate unless you send copies of records containing contrary information. You should send copies rather than originals because the documents will not be returned to you. The Administrator will resolve Workweek and/or Pay Period challenges based on your submission and on input from Class Counsel (who will advocate on behalf of Participating Class Members) and Defendant's Counsel. The Administrator's decision is final. You can't appeal or otherwise challenge its final decision.

5. HOW WILL I GET PAID?

1. Participating Class Members. The Administrator will send, by U.S. mail, a single check to every Participating Class Member (i.e., every Class Member who doesn't opt-out) including those who also qualify as Aggrieved Employees. The single check will combine the Individual Class Payment and the Individual PAGA Payment.
2. Non-Participating Class Members. The Administrator will send, by U.S. mail, a single Individual PAGA Payment check to every Aggrieved Employee who opts out of the Class Settlement (i.e., every Non-Participating Class Member).

Your check will be sent to the same address as this Notice. If you change your address, be sure to notify the Administrator as soon as possible. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

6. HOW DO I OPT-OUT OF THE CLASS SETTLEMENT?

Submit a written and signed letter with your name, present address, telephone number, and a simple statement that you do not want to participate in the Settlement. The Administrator will exclude you based on any writing communicating your request be excluded. Be sure to personally sign your request, identify the Action as *Lamont Nicholson v. Bill Wilson Center*, and include your identifying information (full name, address, telephone number, approximate dates of employment, and social security number for verification purposes). You must make the request yourself. If someone else makes the request for you, it will not be valid. **The Administrator must be sent your request to be excluded by _____, or it will be invalid.** Section 9 of the Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

7. HOW DO I OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT?

Only Participating Class Members have the right to object to the Settlement. Before deciding whether to object, you may wish to see what Plaintiff and Defendant are asking the Court to approve. At least 16 court days before the _____ Final Approval Hearing, Class Counsel and/or Plaintiff will file in Court (1) a Motion for Final Approval that includes, among other things, the reasons why the proposed Settlement is fair, and (2) a Motion for Fees, Litigation Expenses and Service Payment stating (i) the amount Class Counsel is requesting for attorneys' fees and litigation expenses; and (ii) the amount Plaintiff is requesting as a Class Representative Service Payment. Upon reasonable request, Class Counsel (whose contact information is in Section 9 of this Notice) will send you copies of these documents at no cost to you. You can also view them on the Administrator's Website _____ or the Court's website _____.

A Participating Class Member who disagrees with any aspect of the Agreement, the Motion for Final Approval and/or Motion for Fees, Litigation Expenses and Service Payment may wish to object, for example, that the proposed Settlement is unfair, or that the amounts requested by Class Counsel or Plaintiff are too high or too low. **The deadline for sending written objections to the Administrator is _____.** Be sure to tell the Administrator what you object to, why you object, and any facts that support your objection. Make sure you identify the Action *Lamont Nicholson v. Bill Wilson Center* and include your name, current address, telephone number, and approximate dates of employment for Defendant and sign the objection. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

Alternatively, a Participating Class Member can object (or personally retain a lawyer to object at your own cost) by attending the Final Approval Hearing. You (or your attorney) should be ready to tell the Court what you object to, why you object, and any facts that support your objection. See Section 8 of this Notice (immediately below) for specifics regarding the Final Approval Hearing.

8. CAN I ATTEND THE FINAL APPROVAL HEARING?

You can, but don't have to, attend the Final Approval Hearing on _____ at _____ in Department ____ of the Santa Clara Superior Court, located at 191 North First Street, San Jose, California 95113. At the Hearing, the judge will decide whether to grant Final Approval of the Settlement and how much of the Gross Settlement will be paid to Class Counsel, Plaintiff, and the Administrator. The Court will invite comment from objectors, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel before making a decision. You can attend (or hire a lawyer to attend) either personally or virtually. Check the Court's website for the most current information.

It's possible the Court will reschedule the Final Approval Hearing. You should check the Administrator's website _____ beforehand or contact Class Counsel to verify the date and time of the Final Approval Hearing.

9. HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

The Agreement sets forth everything Defendant and Plaintiff have promised to do under the proposed Settlement. The easiest way to read the Agreement, the Judgment or any other Settlement documents is to go to _____'s website at _____. You can also telephone or send an email to Class Counsel or the Administrator using the contact information listed below, or consult the Superior Court website by going to (_____) and entering the Case Number for the Action, Case No. 23CV426564. You can also make an appointment to personally review court documents in the Clerk's Office at the Santa Clara County Courthouse by calling (408) 882-2700.

**DO NOT TELEPHONE THE SUPERIOR COURT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION
ABOUT THE SETTLEMENT.**

Class Counsel:

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250 N Madison Ave., 2nd Floor

Pasadena, CA 91101

Telephone: (818) 962-6465

Settlement Administrator: Name of
Company:

Email Address:

Mailing Address: Telephone:

Fax Number:

10. WHAT IF I LOSE MY SETTLEMENT CHECK?

If you lose or misplace your settlement check before cashing it, the Administrator will replace it as long as you request a replacement before the void date on the face of the original check. If your check is already void you should consult the California State Controller's Office - Unclaimed Property Division at (800) 992-4647; mail at P.O. Box 942850, Sacramento, CA 94250; in-person 10600 White Rock Road, Suite 141, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 for instructions on how to retrieve the funds.

11. WHAT IF I CHANGE MY ADDRESS?

To receive your check, you should immediately notify the Administrator if you move or otherwise change your mailing address.

EXHIBIT 2

March 5, 2026

VIA ON-LINE SUBMISSION ONLY TO:

<https://dir.tfaforms.net/128> (copy by certified mail to all Defendants)

Private Attorneys General Act
Attn. PAGA Administrator
455 Golden Gate Avenue, 9th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

Bill Wilson Center
3490 The Alameda
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Certified Mail Tracking Number: 9414 8111 0549 5873 2788 36

Josh Selo, Agent for Service
Bill Wilson Center
3490 The Alameda
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Certified Mail Tracking Number: 9414 8111 0549 5873 2789 97

LWDA Case No.:

**Re: Labor Code § 2698, *et seq.* Penalties – PAGA Notice Letter to the LWDA
Lamont Nicholson v. Bill Wilson Center, et al.
Superior Court for the County of Los Angeles**

Gentlepersons:

This office represents Plaintiff Lamont Nicholson (“Plaintiff”) and other similarly situated aggrieved non-exempt, hourly employees aggrieved employees (collectively “Aggrieved Employees”) for violations of California Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 221, 226, 226(b), 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512, 551, 552, 558, 558.1, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1185, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2698, and 2699, *et seq.*, and 2802; provisions of the Industrial Welfare Commission (IWC) Wage Order(s); and California Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.*

The purpose of this letter is to comply with the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, pursuant to California Labor Code § 2698 *et. seq.* (“the Act”). Plaintiff would like to bring a representative action, pursuant to the Act, on behalf of herself and all other similarly situated Aggrieved Employees, and the State of California, against Defendants, Bill Wilson Center, a California nonprofit corporation; and DOES 1 through 50 inclusive (all defendants being referred to herein collectively as “Defendants”).



Additionally, this correspondence will serve to satisfy the notice requirements under the Act, along with a copy of Plaintiff's Class Action Complaint, which is attached to this Notice letter. The Complaint was filed in Santa Clara County Superior Court and will be assigned a local case number. The Complaint allegations and claims are incorporated into this Notice Letter.

We also set forth herein the facts and theories and the California Labor Code violations which Defendants engaged in with respect to Plaintiff and all of their Aggrieved Employees in California. The attached Class Action Complaint provides the details of Plaintiff's class-wide claims and claims under the Act, and the applicable California law governing them. It, along with this Notice Letter, addresses in detail numerous violations that subject Defendants to civil and statutory penalties under the Act.

Relevant Facts

Plaintiff was employed by Defendants as a non-exempt, hourly employee based out of Defendants' locations in California. Aggrieved Employees include all non-exempt hourly employees of Defendants within the state of California from one year prior to the date of this letter and continuing through the present. Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees are collectively referred to herein as "Aggrieved Employees." Aggrieved Employees consistently worked at Defendants' behest and under their control and subject to their policies and practices without being paid all wages due. Plaintiff is also informed and believes that there are other Aggrieved Employees employed by Defendants as non-exempt employees within the state of California within the statutory time period who suffer or suffered from the same wage and hour violations outlined below.

Defendants had a common policy and/or practice of failing to pay Aggrieved Employees minimum wages for all hours worked. Aggrieved Employees were either not paid by Defendants for all hours worked or were not paid at the appropriate minimum, regular and overtime rates. Plaintiff also contends that Defendants failed to pay Aggrieved Employees all wages due and owing, including by requiring off the clock work, unlawful rounding to their detriment, failing to provide meal breaks, failing to pay wages due, negotiable and payable in cash on demand, failing to furnish accurate wage statements, failing to timely pay wages including final wages, and failing to maintain accurate records, all in violation of various provisions of the California Labor Code and applicable Wage Orders.

During the course of Aggrieved Employees' employment with Defendants, they were not paid all wages they were owed, including for all work performed resulting in off the clock work. Specifically, Defendants implemented an unlawful time-rounding policy and practice which rounded down and reduced the actual working hours recorded by Plaintiff and Class Members, and upon which their pay was based, and generally did so to the detriment of the Plaintiff and Class Members, and these unlawfully rounded time entries were inputted into Defendants' payroll system from which wage statements and payroll checks were created. Defendants did so with the ostensible intent of paying Plaintiff and Class members only for the hours they were scheduled to work, rather than the hours they were actually under Defendants' control. Plaintiff



contends this policy is not neutral and results, over time, to the detriment of the Plaintiff and Class members by systematically undercompensating them. This effectively required that Class Members work off-the-clock.

Moreover, Defendants routinely underpaid employees for time worked utilizing a quarter hour rounding system. As a result, Defendants had a consistent policy and practice of unlawfully rounding hours worked to the detriment of Aggrieved Employees. Rather than paying Aggrieved Employees for all hours and minutes they actually worked, Defendants followed a uniform policy and practice of rounding all time entries to the nearest quarter-hour or half-hour (i.e. to the nearest 15-minute or 30- minute time increment). Generally, rounding was to the detriment of Aggrieved Employees, and Plaintiff contends this policy is not neutral and resulted, over time, in the systematic under-compensation of the Aggrieved Employees. Rather than reflecting the actual hours worked by Aggrieved Employees, the time entries were rounded and reduced to reflect the scheduled work time rather than the actual hours worked. These unlawfully rounded time entries were inputted into Defendants' payroll system from which wage statements and payroll checks were created.

By implementing policies, programs, practices, procedures and protocols which resulted in off the clock work and also rounded down the hours worked by Aggrieved Employees, Defendants' willful actions resulted in the systematic underpayment of wages and overtime pay to Aggrieved Employees. For example, the off the clock work addressed above caused Aggrieved Employees to begin receiving overtime pay later than they should have.

As a result of the above described unlawful rounding and requirements to work off the clock, Aggrieved Employees were not properly paid all wages earned and all wages owed to them by Defendants, including when working more than eight (8) hours in any given day and/or more than forty (40) hours in any given week. Moreover, the uncompensated time, discussed above, was worked by Aggrieved Employees in excess of 8 hours a day and/or 40 hours a week, further entitling Aggrieved Employees overtime wages which they were consistently denied, all in violation of Labor Code and applicable Wage Orders.

Additionally, Defendants failed to provide all the legally required unpaid, off-duty meal periods to Aggrieved Employees, as required by the applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. Aggrieved Employees were required to perform work as ordered by Defendants for more than five (5) hours during a shift but were often required to do so without receiving a lawful and timely meal break. In addition to untimely meal periods, Defendants also required Aggrieved Employees to respond to work demands. Defendants placed their needs over Aggrieved Employees' lawful meal breaks and this resulted in Aggrieved Employees often having to work through their scheduled meal breaks, or otherwise taking shortened ones, because the demands of the job would not avail them the opportunity to take a lawfully uninterrupted and off duty meal break.

On the occasions when Aggrieved Employees worked over 10 hours in a shift, Defendants also failed to provide them with a second, uninterrupted, timely and duty-free meal period. As a result, Defendants' failure to provide Aggrieved Employees with all legally required off-duty,



unpaid meal periods is and will be evidenced by Defendants' business records, or lack thereof. Defendants also failed to pay Aggrieved Employees "premium pay," i.e. one hour of wages at each Aggrieved Employee's effective hourly rate of pay, including their earned commission, for each meal period that Defendants failed to provide or deficiently provided.

Therefore, Defendants have regularly required Aggrieved Employees to work shifts in excess of five (5) hours without providing them with uninterrupted meal periods of not less than thirty (30) minutes, and shifts in excess of (10) hours without providing them with second meal periods of not less than thirty minutes; nor did Defendants pay Aggrieved Employees "premium pay," i.e. one hour of wages at each Aggrieved Employee's effective hourly rate of pay, including their earned commission, for each meal period that Defendants failed to provide or deficiently provided.

Aggrieved Employees were also not authorized and permitted to take lawful rest periods, were systematically required by Defendants to work through or during breaks and were not provided with one (1) hour's wages in lieu thereof. To the extent Aggrieved Employees were able to take rest breaks, they were restricted from leaving the premises. Aggrieved Employees were restricted in their ability to take their full ten (10) minutes net rest time or were otherwise not provided with duty-free rest periods. Therefore, Defendants have consistently failed to provide Aggrieved Employees with paid rest breaks of not less than ten minutes for every work period of four or more consecutive hours; or major fraction thereof, nor did Defendant pay Aggrieved Employees premium pay for each day on which requisite rest breaks were not provided or were deficiently provided.

Defendants also consistently failed to issue accurate itemized wage statements as required by Labor Code § 226(a). Specifically, the wage statements given to Aggrieved Employees failed to accurately account for unpaid wages and overtime because of unlawful rounding by Defendants and because their actual hours worked were under-reported due to off the clock work. Additionally, the wage statements given to Aggrieved Employees failed to accurately account for premium pay for deficiently provided meal periods.

Defendants also failed to reimburse Aggrieved Employees for necessary business expenses. Defendants have regularly required Plaintiff to incur business expenses in the course of performing their required job duties for Defendants including use of their personal cell phones. Upon information and belief, Aggrieved Employees incurred similar costs. These expenses incurred by Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees were necessary and required of them in performing their assigned job duties, but Defendants failed to reimburse Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees for all such necessary expenditures, thus entitling them to reimbursement according to proof as required under Labor Code § 2802 and the applicable provisions of the IWC Wage Orders.

Defendants also violated California Labor Code § 246 by not providing all required paid sick days to Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved Employees. Labor Code § 246 provides that an Employee who "works in California for the same employer for 30 or more days within a year from the



commencement of employment is entitled to paid sick days as specified in this section.”

Defendants failed to provide Plaintiffs and the other similarly Aggrieved Employees with all their required and earned sick days, in violation of Labor Code § 246. Additionally and upon information and belief, Defendants have failed to provide COVID-19 supplemental sick leave to the Aggrieved Employees during the relevant time period, including by failing to provide two work weeks of COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave as required under Labor Code §§ 248.1 and 248.2 and including damages and penalties as these sections are enforced through Labor Code § 248.5, which requires that: “If paid sick days were unlawfully withheld, the dollar amount of paid sick days withheld from the employee multiplied by three, or two hundred fifty dollars (\$250), whichever amount is greater, but not to exceed an aggregate penalty of four thousand dollars (\$4,000), shall be included in the administrative penalty.”

Additionally, Defendants failed to pay Aggrieved Employees all wages owed, as detailed above, at the time of their termination or within seventy-two (72) hours of their resignation, as required under Labor Code § 203. Specifically, Plaintiff did not receive her final paycheck until eighteen days after her termination. Moreover, Aggrieved Employees were not paid all regular and overtime wages because Defendants failed to pay for all hours worked by requiring off the clock work and unlawfully rounding time entries to the detriment of Aggrieved Employees. Moreover, Defendants failed to pay premium wages owed for unprovided meal periods. Defendants’ failure to pay said wages within the required time was willful within the meaning of Labor Code § 203.

PAGA Claim Details, Legal Bases for Violations and Penalties:

As addressed above and in further detail in the attached Class Action Complaint, Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees complain of the following violations committed by Defendants:

Failure to Pay Minimum Wages

Defendants violated the law by failing to pay Aggrieved Employees minimum wages for all hours worked. California Labor Code § 1197, entitled “Pay of Less Than Minimum Wage” states, “[t]he minimum wage for employees fixed by the commission is the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a less wage than the minimum so fixed is unlawful.” The applicable minimum wages fixed by the commission for work during the relevant period is found in the Wage Orders.

In California, employees must be paid at least the then applicable state minimum wage for all hours worked, including under Labor Code § 1197, IWC Wage Order MW-2014, and paragraphs 2(K), 2(S), and 4(A)-4(C) of the applicable IWC Wage Orders. Paragraph 2(H) of the applicable IWC Wage Orders defines “Hours Worked” as “the time during which an employee is subject to the control of an employer, and includes all the time the employee is suffered or permitted to work, whether or not required to do so.” Additionally, pursuant to Labor Code § 204, other applicable laws and regulations, and public policy, an employer must timely pay its employees for all hours worked. Defendants failed to do so.



California Labor Code § 1197, entitled “Pay of Less Than Minimum Wage” states: “The minimum wage for employees fixed by the commission is the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a less wage than the minimum so fixed is unlawful.” The minimum wage provisions of California Labor Code are enforceable by private civil action pursuant to Labor Code § 1194(a) which states: “Notwithstanding any agreement to work for a lesser wage, any employee receiving less than the legal minimum wage or the legal overtime compensation applicable to the employee is entitled to recover in a civil action the unpaid balance of the full amount of this minimum wage or overtime compensation, including interest thereon, reasonable attorney’s fees and costs of suit.”

As described in California Labor Code §§ 1185 and 1194.2, any action for wages incorporates the applicable Wage Order of the California Industrial Welfare Commission. Also, California Labor Code §§ 1194, 1197, 1197.1 and those Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders entitle non-exempt employees to an amount equal to or greater than the minimum wage for all hours worked. All hours must be paid at the statutory or agreed rate, or at the minimum rate in the absence of a contractually agreed upon one. The underpayment of wages to Aggrieved Employees is and has been a direct consequence of Defendants’ unlawful compensation policies and practices, which applied uniformly to the Aggrieved Employees working at locations and work sites throughout California.

During the course of Aggrieved Employees’ employment with Defendants, they were not paid all wages they were owed, including for all work performed resulting in off the clock work. Specifically, Defendants would unlawfully round time entries to the nearest fifteen minutes resulting in net underpayment of the Aggrieved Employees. Aggrieved Employees were therefore required to work without minimum wages or overtime pay.

Defendants, and each of them, have also intentionally and improperly rounded, changed, adjusted, and/or modified Employee hours, or required Employees to do so, and imposed difficult to attain job and shift scheduling requirements on Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees, which resulted in off the clock work and underpayment of all wages owed to Employees over a period of time, while benefiting Defendants. During the relevant time period, Defendants thus regularly failed to pay minimum wages to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees, including by requiring systematic off the clock work. Defendants’ uniform pattern of unlawful wage and hour practices manifested, without limitation, applicable to the Aggrieved Employees as a whole, as a result of implementing a uniform policy and practice that denied accurate compensation to Plaintiff and the other Aggrieved Employees as to minimum wage pay.

In light of the forgoing, the Aggrieved Employees seek to recover wages and penalties. Aggrieved Employees are entitled to recover the unpaid minimum wages (including double minimum wages), liquidated damages in an amount equal to the minimum wages unlawfully unpaid, interest thereon and reasonable attorney’s fees and costs of suit pursuant to California Labor Code § 1194(a). Plaintiff and the other Aggrieved Employees further request recovery of all unpaid wages, according to proof, interest, statutory costs, as well as the assessment of any statutory and civil penalties against Defendants, in a sum as provided by the California Labor



Code and/or other applicable statutes, including pursuant to Labor Code § 558, and Wage Order provisions. To the extent minimum wage compensation is determined to be owed to the Aggrieved Employees who have terminated their employment, Defendants' conduct also violates Labor Code §§ 201 and/or 202, and therefore these individuals are also be entitled to waiting time penalties under California Labor Code § 203, which penalties are sought herein on behalf of these Aggrieved Employees. Defendants' failure to timely pay all wages owed also violated Labor Code § 204 and resulted in violations of Labor Code § 226 because they resulted in the issuance of inaccurate wage statements. Defendants' conduct as alleged herein was willful, intentional and not in good faith. Further, Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees are entitled to seek and recover statutory costs.

Under the PAGA, and following exhaustion of the notice period, Plaintiff is seeking all civil and statutory penalties available and applicable under Labor Code §§ 510, 558, 1194.2, 1197.1, 1199, 2699(f)(2), and 2699.5, and also for attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1).

Failure to Pay Wages and Overtime in Violation of Labor Code § 510

Defendants violated the law by failing to pay Aggrieved Employees earned wages and overtime and double time. Specifically, Defendants had a consistent policy of not paying Employees wages for all hours worked, including hours at their required regular, overtime, and double-time rates, or of miscalculating them by not including all forms of remuneration in the regular rate of compensation. Defendants, and each of them, have intentionally and improperly rounded, changed, adjusted, and/or modified certain employees' hours, including Plaintiff's, or required Aggrieved Employees to do so, or otherwise caused them to work off the clock to avoid paying Aggrieved Employees all earned and owed straight time and overtime wages and other benefits.

Defendants have violated Labor Code § 1194 and Labor Code § 510 (and paragraphs 2(K), 2(S), 3(A) and 4(A)-4(B) of the relevant orders of the Industrial Welfare Commission) by failing to pay Employees: (a) time and one-half their regular hourly rates for hours worked in excess of eight hours in a workday or in excess of forty hours in any workweek or for the first eight hours worked on the seventh day of work in any one workweek; or (b) twice their regular rate of pay for hours worked in excess of twelve hours in any one day or for hours worked in excess of eight hours on any seventh day of work in a workweek. Defendants had a consistent policy of not paying Employees wages for all hours worked, including by requiring off the clock work as addressed above and by under-reporting actual hours worked. With work shifts generally requiring eight hours or more of work on a given day, this unpaid off the clock work resulted in Aggrieved Employees working past eight hours on a shift or more than forty hours in a week, which required that they be paid at the correct overtime rate of 1.5 times their regular rate.

When considered in combination with the other wage violations addressed above, Aggrieved Employees were not properly compensated, nor were they paid overtime and double time rates for hours worked in excess of eight hours or twelve hours in a given day, and/or forty hours in a given week. Defendants did not make available to Employees a reasonable protocol for correcting time records when Employees worked overtime hours or to fix incorrect time entries



or those that Defendants unlawfully under-recorded to the Employee's detriment. Defendants have also violated these provisions by requiring Plaintiff and other similarly situated Aggrieved Employees to work through meal periods when they were required to be clocked out or to otherwise work off the clock to complete their daily job duties.

In light of the forgoing, Aggrieved Employees seek to recover wages and penalties pursuant to the California Labor Code, including Labor Code §§ 204, 510, 558, 1174, 1194, 1198, 1199, and the relevant paragraphs of the IWC Wage Orders, including paragraphs 2(K), 2(S), 3(A), 4, and 20. Defendants are liable to Employees for the full amount of all their unpaid wages and overtime compensation, with interest, plus their reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, as well as the assessment of any statutory penalties against Defendants, and each of them, and any additional sums as provided by the Labor Code and/or other statutes and Wage Order provisions.

Under the PAGA, and following exhaustion of the notice period, Plaintiff is seeking all civil and statutory penalties available and applicable under Labor Code §§ 510, 558, 1194.2, 1197.1, 1199, 2699(f)(2), and 2699.5, and also for attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1).

Meal-Period Liability Under Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512 and Penalties

Defendants have regularly required Aggrieved Employees to work shifts in excess of five hours without providing them with uninterrupted meal periods of not less than thirty minutes as required under Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, and paragraph 11 of the applicable Wage Orders. Specifically, Aggrieved Employees were forced to incur shortened meal periods, were provided with breaks late and well after the fifth hour of work, could not be relieved to take breaks, or were required to remain on-duty at all times and were unable to take off-duty breaks or were otherwise not provided with the opportunity to take required breaks.

On the occasions when Aggrieved Employees were provided with a meal period, it was often untimely or interrupted by having to respond to work demands or remain under Defendant's control, in violation of the Labor Code and applicable Wage Orders. On shifts over ten hours, second meal periods were not provided. Defendants also failed to pay Aggrieved Employees "premium pay," i.e. one hour of wages at each Aggrieved Employee's effective regular rate of pay, for each meal period that Defendants failed to provide or deficiently provided, including by miscalculating any premium payments they did make. Therefore, pursuant to Labor Code § 226.7 and paragraphs 11 and 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Order, Aggrieved Employees are entitled to damages in an amount equal to one hour of wages at their correctly calculated regular rate of compensation for each meal period not provided or deficiently provided, as well as the assessment of any statutory penalties against the Defendants, and each of them, in a sum as provided by the Labor Code, including Labor Code § 558 and other applicable statutes and Wage Order provisions. Defendants also miscalculated the rate at which they paid any meal period premiums when Defendant did attempt to pay them, resulting in further violations of section 226.7.



Under the PAGA, and following exhaustion of the notice period, Plaintiff is seeking all civil and statutory penalties and wages as available and applicable under Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, 558, including sections 558(a)(1)-(3), 1199, 2699(f)(2) and 2699.5, and also for attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1).

Rest-Break Liability Under Labor Code § 226.7 and Penalties

Defendants have consistently failed to provide Aggrieved Employees with paid rest breaks of not less than ten minutes for every work period of four or more consecutive hours, as required under Labor Code § 226.7. Specifically, Defendants provided rest periods untimely or for shortened durations, and Defendants' policies and procedures required Aggrieved Employees to remain under Defendants' control during breaks to respond to job requirements. Additionally, to the extent Aggrieved Employees attempted to take a break, they were prohibited from leaving the premises.

Defendants also failed to pay Aggrieved Employees premium pay for each day on which requisite rest breaks were not provided or were deficiently provided, or miscalculated any premiums paid. Therefore, pursuant to Labor Code § 226.7 and paragraphs 12 and 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Order, Aggrieved Employees are entitled to damages in an amount equal to one hour of wages at their correctly calculated regular rate of compensation for each rest period not provided or deficiently provided, as well as the assessment of any statutory penalties against the Defendants, and each of them, in a sum as provided by the Labor Code, including Labor Code § 558 and other applicable statutes and Wage Order provisions.

Under the PAGA, and following exhaustion of the notice period, Plaintiff is seeking all civil and statutory penalties and wages as available and applicable under Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, 558, including sections 558(a)(1)-(3), 1199, 2699(f)(2), and 2699.5, and also for attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1).

Failure to Issue Accurate and Itemized Wage Statements in Violation of Labor Code § 226

California Labor Code § 226(a) requires an employer to furnish each employee with an accurate, itemized wage statements in writing. These statements must be appended to the detachable part of the check, draft, voucher, or whatever else serves to pay the employee's wages; or, if wages are paid by cash or personal check, these statements may be given to the employee separately from the payment of wages; in either case the employer must give the employee these statements twice a month or each time wages are paid. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants' violation of Labor Code § 226(a), Aggrieved Employees suffered injuries, including among other things confusion over whether they received all wages owed them, the difficulty and expense involved in reconstructing pay records, and forcing them to make mathematical computations to analyze whether the wages paid in fact compensated them correctly for all hours worked.

Defendants failed to provide accurate itemized wage statements in writing, as required by the Labor Code and paragraph 7 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders. Any wage statements given to Employees by Defendants necessarily failed to accurately account for wages, overtime, and premium pay, including by failing to pay for all hours worked, failure to pay for all overtime



hours worked or at the correct rate of pay and for providing deficient meal periods, all of which Defendants knew or reasonably should have known were owed to the Employees, as alleged above.

In light of these violations, and pursuant to Labor Code §§ 226(a) and 226(e) and paragraphs 4(b), 7, and 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders, Aggrieved Employees are entitled to recover the greater of all actual damages or fifty dollars (\$50) for the initial pay period in which a violation occurs and one hundred dollars (\$100) for each violation in a subsequent pay period, not exceeding an aggregate penalty of four thousand dollars (\$4,000). They are also entitled to an award of costs and reasonable attorneys' fees.

Under the PAGA, and following exhaustion of the notice period, Plaintiff asserts PAGA claims for failure to provide Aggrieved Employees with accurate, itemized wage statements and failure to maintain employment records for Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees under Labor Code §§ 226, 1174, and 1198.5, and Sections 7(A), 7(B), and 7(C) of the applicable IWC Wage Order(s) seeking all civil and statutory penalties and wages available and applicable under Labor Code §§ 226(e), 226.3, 558, 1174.5, 1199, and 2699(f)(2), and paragraph 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Order, and also for attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1). More specifically, by providing inaccurate wage statements and failing to maintain records as required under Labor Code § 226(a), Defendants committed ongoing violations giving rise to civil penalties under Labor Code § 226.3, which in addition to other penalties provided by law, subjects Defendants to "a penalty in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per employee per violation in an initial citation and one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per employee for each violation in a subsequent citation, ..."

Failure to Issue Semimonthly Payments in Violation of Labor Code § 204

In failing to pay Aggrieved Employees wages, overtime, premium pay, etc., and failing to provide them with checks and wage statements, Defendants failed to timely pay Aggrieved Employees wages on a semimonthly basis as required under Labor Code § 204. Defendants failed to maintain records showing accurate hours worked daily and the wages paid to Aggrieved Employees, as well as the meal periods taken by Aggrieved Employees, as required by Labor Code § 1174 and the applicable IWC wage orders.

Defendants also required Aggrieved Employees to work hours off the clock for which they were not compensated, including during interrupted or otherwise on-duty meal periods. Defendants also failed to pay all overtime premium wages owed for work conducted on a work shift and a workday, or miscalculated these premiums by not including all forms of remuneration in the regular rate, as addressed above. Therefore, when Aggrieved Employees received wage statements and pay checks, they did not compensate all hours worked on a timely basis, resulting in Defendants' systematic failure to pay all wages owed to Aggrieved Employees twice monthly in accordance with the requirements of Labor Code § 204. Additionally, by not providing wage statements as required under section 204, Defendants systematically violated Labor Code § 204 and § 226.



Given the above described off the clock work and deductions from hours worked perpetrated by Defendants' management, Plaintiff was not paid at the correct overtime rate for all hours she worked after eight hours into a shift or over forty in a work week and that she was not paid all double time owed either. Defendants' uniformly applied payroll policies and practices thus resulted in further systematic and ongoing violations of the requirements of Labor Code § 204.

In light of the foregoing, Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees seek to recover wages and penalties, interest, fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code §§ 201.3, 210, 218.5, 558, and 1194. In failing to pay Aggrieved Employees minimum wages and overtime, by requiring off the clock work, by not providing proper meal periods, failing to provide accurate itemized wage statements, and failing to pay Employees wages upon termination or timely upon resignation, all discussed above, Defendants failed to timely pay Aggrieved Employees wages on a semimonthly basis as required under Labor Code § 204. Defendants also failed to maintain records showing accurate hours worked daily and the wages paid to Aggrieved Employees, as required by Labor Code § 1174 and paragraph 7 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders, entitling Aggrieved Employees to recover penalties pursuant to paragraph 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders.

Under the PAGA, and following exhaustion of the notice period, Plaintiff asserts PAGA claims for failure to timely pay all wages owed, including at least semi-monthly and upon separation or termination, under Labor Code §§ 203, 204, 2926, 2927, and 2699.5 seeking all civil penalties available and applicable under Labor Code §§ 204, 210, 558, 1197, 1198, 1199 and 2699(f)(2), and paragraph 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders, and also for attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1).

Reimbursement of Necessary Expenditures Under Labor Code § 2802

Under Labor Code § 2802(a) an employer must indemnify its employees for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of his or her duties, or of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer. In the present case, Aggrieved Employees incurred necessary expenditures in the performance of their job duties for Defendants including purchasing their own coats and boots. Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees were not reimbursed for those lawful and necessary work related expenses or losses incurred in direct discharge of their job duties during employment with Defendants and at the direction of the Defendants pursuant to Labor Code § 2802(a) and the applicable IWC Wage Orders, paragraph 9.

Failure to Provide Paid Sick Days and COVID-19 Supplemental Sick Leave

Defendants violated California Labor Code § 246 by not providing all required paid sick days to Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved Employees. Labor Code § 246 provides that an Employee who "works in California for the same employer for 30 or more days within a year from the commencement of employment is entitled to paid sick days as specified in this section." Defendants failed to provide Plaintiffs and the other similarly Aggrieved Employees with all their required and earned sick days, in violation of Labor Code § 246. Defendants have also failed to provide COVID-19 supplemental sick leave to the Aggrieved Employees during the relevant time period, including by failing to provide two work weeks of COVID-19 supplemental



paid sick leave as required under Labor Code §§ 248.1 and 248.2 and including damages and penalties as these sections are enforced through Labor Code § 248.5, which requires that: “If paid sick days were unlawfully withheld, the dollar amount of paid sick days withheld from the employee multiplied by three, or two hundred fifty dollars (\$250), whichever amount is greater, but not to exceed an aggregate penalty of four thousand dollars (\$4,000), shall be included in the administrative penalty.” Plaintiffs accordingly seek this relief available for Defendants’ failure to provide Aggrieved Employees with all their required and earned sick days and all their COVID-19 supplemental sick leave in violation of Labor Code §§ 246, 248.1, and the civil and statutory penalties available and applicable under Labor Code §§ 246, 248.1, 248.2, 248.5, 558, 1194.2, 1197.1, 1198, 1199, and 2699(f)(2), and also for attorneys’ fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1).

Failure to Keep Records In Accordance With Labor Code § 1174

Labor Code § 1174 requires employers to keep records showing payroll data and the hours worked daily by and the wages paid to employees. By failing to pay Aggrieved Employees proper wages, overtime, double time, premium pay, etc., and by not recording meal period start and end times, all discussed herein, Defendants failed to maintain proper employment records in accordance with Section 1174. In light of the forgoing, Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees seek to recover penalties pursuant to Labor Code §§ 1174.5 and 2699, *et seq.* Defendants have also failed to comply with paragraph 7 of the applicable California IWC Wage Orders by failing to maintain time records showing when the employee begins and ends each work period, meal periods, wages earned pursuant to Labor Code § 226.7, and total daily hours worked by itemizing in wage statements all deductions from payment of wages and accurately reporting total hours worked by the Aggrieved Employees, and they are entitled to recover penalties pursuant to paragraph 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders.

Under the PAGA, and following exhaustion of the notice period, Plaintiff asserts PAGA claims for failure to provide Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees with accurate, itemized wage statements and failure to maintain employment records for Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees under Labor Code §§ 226, 1174, 1198, and 1198.5, and Sections 7(A), 7(B), and 7(C) of the applicable IWC Wage Order(s) seeking all civil and statutory penalties and wages available and applicable under Labor Code §§ 558, 1174.5, 1199, and 2699(f)(2), 2699.5, and paragraph 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Order, and also for attorneys’ fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1).

Waiting Time Penalties Pursuant to Labor Code § 203

Some Aggrieved Employees no longer work for Defendants; they either resigned or were terminated from Defendants’ employ. Based on the forgoing, Defendants have had a consistent policy of failing to pay all wages earned by and owed to Aggrieved Employees at the time of their termination of within seventy-two hours of their resignation, as required by California under Labor Code § 203. In light of the forgoing, Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees seek to recover wages and penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 558 and further specifically seek penalties and wages under Labor Code § 203, which provides that an employee’s wages shall continue until paid for up to thirty (30) days from the date they were due.



Under the PAGA, and following exhaustion of the notice period, Plaintiff asserts PAGA claims for failure to timely pay all wages owed, including at least semi-monthly and upon separation or termination, under Labor Code §§ 201, 201, 203, 204, 1197.5, 2926, and 2927 seeking all civil penalties available and applicable under Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 210, 558, 1197, 1198, 1199, 2699(f)(2), 2699.5, and paragraph 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders, and also for attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1).

Unfair Competition Under Business and Professions Code § 17200, et seq.

Consequently, Defendants' conduct has been and continues to be unfair, unlawful, and harmful to Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees and the general public in violation of Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.*

Plaintiff's PAGA Claim under Labor Code § 2698 et seq. and Recovery Bases:

After complying with the notice procedures of Labor Code § 2699.3 and the running of the notice period after the filing of the attached Class Action Complaint, Plaintiff will file an amended Complaint asserting, as a representative action on behalf of the California Attorney General and the other similarly Aggrieved Employees, a PAGA claim for violations of the above addressed underlying claims and seeking penalties as specified by the applicable corresponding provisions.

Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees seek penalties under Labor Code §§ 2698 and 2699 for Defendants' violation of Labor Code provisions included under Labor Code § 2699.5, including the penalty provisions, without limitation, based, *inter alia*, on the following California Labor Code sections: §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226, 226(b), 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512, 551, 552, 558, 558.1, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1185, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2698, 2699, *et seq.* and 2802, including as follows:

(a) **Wage Claims:** For failure to provide Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees all earned regular pay and minimum wages for regular hours worked and for failure to pay overtime premium wages for overtime hours worked under Labor Code §§ 510, 1194(a), 1197, and 1198, and paragraphs 2(K), 3(A), 4(A), 4(B) and 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Order(s) seeking all civil and statutory penalties available and applicable under Labor Code §§ 510, 558, 1194.2, 1197.1, 1198, 1199, 2699(f)(2), and 2699.5, and also for attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1);

(b) **Meal Period and Rest Period Claims:** For failure to provide Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees off-duty, timely, and unpaid meal periods, and failure to authorize and permit them to take off-duty, timely, and paid rest periods, or pay one hour of regular pay in lieu thereof, under Labor Code §§ 512, 1198, and 226.7, and Sections 11, 12(A), and 12(B) of the applicable IWC Wage Order(s) seeking all civil and statutory penalties available and applicable, including under paragraph 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders, and wages under Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, 558, including sections 558(a)(1)-(3), 1199 and 2699(f)(2), and also for attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1);



(c) Inaccurate Wage Statements and Failure to Maintain Records: For failure to provide Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees with wage statements or with accurate, itemized wage statements and failure to maintain employment records for Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees under Labor Code §§ 226, 1174, and 1198.5, and Sections 7(A), 7(B), and 7(C) of the applicable IWC Wage Order(s) seeking all civil and statutory penalties and wages available and applicable under Labor Code §§ 226(e), 226.3, 558, 1174.5, 1199, and 2699(f)(2), and paragraph 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Order, and also for attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1). More specifically, by providing inaccurate wage statements and failing to maintain records as required under Labor Code § 226(a), Defendants committed ongoing violations giving rise to civil penalties under Labor Code § 226.3, which in addition to other penalties provided by law, subjects Defendants to "a penalty in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per employee per violation in an initial citation and one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per employee for each violation in a subsequent citation, ...";

(d) Failure to Timely Pay Wages: For failure to timely pay all wages owed, including at least semi-monthly and upon separation or termination, under Labor Code §§ 201, 201, 203, 204, 1197.5, 2926, and 2927 seeking all civil penalties available and applicable under Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 210, 558, 1197, 1198, 1199 and 2699(f)(2), and paragraph 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders, and also for attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1);

(e) Failure to Provide Paid Sick Days: For Defendants' failure to provide Class Members with all their required and earned sick days in violation of Labor Code §§ 246, 248.1, 248.2, and the civil and statutory penalties available and applicable under Labor Code §§ 246, 248.1, 248.2, 248.5, 558, 1194.2, 1197.1, 1198, 1199, and 2699(f)(2), and also for attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1); and

(f) All Alleged Violations of the IWC Wage Orders: For any above addressed violation of the applicable provisions of the IWC Wage Orders constituting violations of Labor Code § 1198 and Labor Code § 2699.5, and seeking penalties available and applicable under Labor Code § 2699(f)(2) and paragraph 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders, and for attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1).

We have been constrained to initially move forward with the filing of this Complaint, alleging the causes of action discussed herein, without the PAGA claim. Thus, any action by the LWDA would not resolve the entirety of the case, and the interest of judicial economy will be served by allowing the case to proceed as a cohesive whole.

This letter and the attached Complaint therefore provide the requisite notice under the Act to the LWDA and Defendants by setting forth the specific provisions of the Labor Code and related provisions Plaintiff alleges have been violated, including the facts and relevant theories alleged against Bill Wilson Center.; and any other named Defendants and joint employers. To prevent the violations described in the Complaint and herein from occurring, and to remedy past violations,



Plaintiff respectfully requests that the LWDA conduct an investigation into Defendants' employment practices in accordance with the Act.

Wherefore we request that you advise us, by certified mail within sixty days of the postmark on this letter, whether you intend to proceed with these claims or whether Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees should include them in an amended Labor Code § 2698 *et seq.* claim under the Act in an amended Complaint.

Regards,

D.LAW, INC.

Natalie Haritonian

Cc: Bill Wilson Center, and its agent for service

EXHIBIT 3

[Blank for the purposes of submission to the LWDA, filed copy will include confirmation from this submission]