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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

BERNETTIA CLARA WILLIAMS, on behalf
 of herself, all others similarly situated, the
 State of California, and the general public,

Plaintiff,

v.

EMPIRE TRANSPORTATION, INC., a
 California corporation; and DOES 1 through
 50, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 23STCV21618

Amended As a Matter of Right Pursuant to
 Labor Code Section 2699.3(a)(2)(C)

**FIRST AMENDED CLASS AND
 REPRESENTATIVE ACTION COMPLAINT**

1. Failure to Provide Meal Periods (Lab. Code §§ 204, 223, 226.7, 512 and 1198);
2. Failure to Provide Rest Periods (Lab. Code §§ 204, 223, 226.7 and 1198);
3. Failure to Pay Hourly Wages and Overtime (Lab. Code §§ 223, 510, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1997.1 and 1198);
4. Failure to Provide Accurate Written Wage Statements (Lab. Code §§ 226(a));
5. Failure to Timely Pay All Final Wages (Lab. Code §§ 201, 202 and 203);
6. Failure to Indemnify (Lab. Code § 2802); and
7. Unfair Competition (Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 *et seq.*);
8. Civil Penalties (Lab. Code § 2698, *et seq.*)

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

1 Plaintiff BERNETTIA CLARA WILLIAMS (“Plaintiff”), on behalf of herself, all others
2 similarly situated, the State of California, and the general public, complain and allege as follows:

3 **INTRODUCTION**

4 1. Plaintiff brings this class and representative action against Defendants EMPIRE
5 TRANSPORTATION, INC., a California corporation; and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,
6 (collectively referred to as “Defendants”) for alleged violations of the California Labor Code and
7 California Business and Professions Code. As set forth below, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants have:

- 8 a. failed to pay them overtime wages at the correct rate;
- 9 b. failed to pay them double time wages at the correct rate;
- 10 c. failed to pay them overtime and/or double time wages by failing to include all
11 applicable remuneration in calculating the regular rate of pay;
- 12 d. failed to provide them with meal periods;
- 13 e. failed to provide them with rest periods;
- 14 f. failed to pay them premium wages for missed meal and rest periods;
- 15 g. failed to provide them with accurate written wage statements;
- 16 h. failed to reimburse them with necessary business expenditures; and
- 17 i. failed to pay them all of their final wages following separation of employment.

18 Based on these alleged Labor Code violations, Plaintiff now brings this class and
19 representative action to recover unpaid wages, liquidated damages, civil and statutory penalties,
20 restitution and related relief on behalf of herself, all others similarly situated, and the general public.

21 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

22 2. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction to hear this case because the monetary
23 damages and restitution sought by Plaintiff from Defendants conduct exceeds the minimal jurisdiction
24 of the Superior Court of the State of California.

25 3. Venue is proper in the County of Los Angeles pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure
26 sections 395(a) and 395.5 in that liability arose this county because at least some of the transactions
27 that are the subject matter of this Complaint occurred therein and/or each defendant is found,
28 maintains offices, transacts business and/or has an agent therein.

4. Venue is proper in Los Angeles County because Defendants' have at all times alleged herein, conducted business in Los Angeles County, and throughout California. As such, venue is proper in any county in California.

PARTIES

5. Plaintiff BERNETTIA CLARA WILLIAMS is, and at all relevant times mentioned herein, an individual residing in the State of California.

6. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges that Defendant EMPIRE TRANSPORTATION, INC., is, and at all relevant times mentioned herein, a California corporation doing business in the State of California.

7. Plaintiff is ignorant of the true names and capacities of the defendants sued herein as DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, and therefore sues these defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff will amend this Complaint to allege the true names and capacities of the DOE defendants when ascertained. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges that each of the fictitiously named defendants are responsible in some manner for the occurrences, acts and omissions alleged herein and that Plaintiff's alleged damages were proximately caused by these defendants, and each of them. Plaintiff will amend this complaint to allege both the true names and capacities of the DOE defendants when ascertained.

8. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges that, at all relevant times mentioned herein, some or all of the defendants were the representatives, agents, employees, partners, directors, associates, joint venturers, joint employers, owners, principals or co-participants of some or all of the other defendants, and in doing the things alleged herein, were acting within the course and scope of such relationship and with the full knowledge, consent and ratification by such other defendants.

9. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges that, at all relevant times mentioned herein, some of the defendants pursued a common course of conduct, acted in concert and conspired with one another, and aided and abetted one another to accomplish the occurrences, acts and omissions alleged herein.

10. This action has been brought and may be maintained as a class action pursuant to Code

of Civil Procedure section 382 because there is a well-defined community of interest among the persons who comprise the readily ascertainable classes defined below and because Plaintiff is unaware of any difficulties likely to be encountered in managing this case as a class action.

11. **Relevant Time Period:** The relevant time period is defined as the time period beginning four years prior to the filing of this action until judgment is entered.

- a. **Hourly Employee Class:** All persons employed by Defendants, collectively or separately, and/or any staffing agencies and/or any other third parties in hourly or non-exempt positions in California four years prior to the filing of this action and ending on the date that final judgment is entered in this action (“Hourly Employee Class”).
- b. **Meal Period Sub-Class:** All **Hourly Employee Class** members who worked in a shift in excess of five hours during the four years prior to the filing of this action and ending on the date that final judgment is entered in this action.
- c. **Rest Period Sub-Class:** All **Hourly Employee Class** members who worked a shift of at least three and one-half (3.5) hours the four years prior to the filing of this action and ending on the date that final judgment is entered in this action.
- d. **Waiting Time Penalties Sub-Class:** All **Hourly Employee Class** members who separated from their employment with Defendants during the period beginning three years before the filing of this action and ending when final judgment is entered.
- e. **Wage Statement Class:** All persons employed by Defendants in California during the period beginning one year before the filing of this action and ending when final judgment is entered.
- f. **Expense Reimbursement Class:** All persons employed by Defendants in California who incurred business expenses during the **Relevant Time Period**.
- g. **UCL Class:** All **Hourly Employee Class** and **Expense Reimbursement Class** members employed by Defendants in California during the four years prior to the filing of this action and ending on the date that final judgment is entered in this action.

12. **Reservation of Rights:** Pursuant to Rule of Court 3.765(b), Plaintiff reserves the right to amend or modify the class definitions with greater specificity, by further division into sub-classes and/or by limitation to particular issues.

13. **Numerosity:** The class members are so numerous that the individual joinder of each individual class member is impractical. While Plaintiff does not currently know the exact number of class members, Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges that the actual number exceeds the minimum required for numerosity under California law.

1 14. **Commonality and Predominance:** Common questions of law and fact exist as to all
2 class members and predominate over any questions which affect only individual class members.

3 These common questions include, but are not limited to:

- 4 a. Whether Defendants maintained a policy or practice of failing to provide
5 employees with their rest periods;
- 6 b. Whether Defendants maintained a policy or practice of failing to provide
7 employees with their meal periods;
- 8 c. Whether Defendants failed to pay premium wages to class members when they
9 have not been provided with meal and rest periods at the appropriate rates of pay;
- 10 d. Whether Defendants failed to pay minimum and/or overtime wages to class
11 members for all time worked;
- 12 e. Whether Defendants failed to provide class members with accurate written wage
13 statements as a result of providing them with written wage statements with
14 inaccurate entries for, among other things, amounts of gross and net wages, and
15 total hours worked;
- 16 f. Whether Defendants applied policies or practices that result in late and/or
17 incomplete final wage payments;
- 18 g. Whether Defendants failed to reimburse class members for all necessary business
19 expenses incurred during the discharge of their duties;
- 20 h. Whether Defendants are liable to class members for waiting time penalties under
21 Labor Code section 203; and
- 22 i. Whether class members are entitled to restitution of money or property that
23 Defendants may have acquired from them through unfair competition;

24 15. **Typicality:** Plaintiff's claims are typical of the other class members' claims. Plaintiff
25 is informed and believes and thereupon alleges that Defendants have a policy or practice of failing to
26 comply with the California Labor Code and Business and Professions Code as alleged in this
27 Complaint.

28 16. **Adequacy of Class Representative:** Plaintiff is an adequate class representative in

1 that she has no interests that are adverse to, or otherwise conflict with, the interests of absent class
2 members and is dedicated to vigorously prosecuting this action on their behalf. Plaintiff will fairly
3 and adequately represent and protect the interests of the other class members.

4 17. **Adequacy of Class Counsel:** Plaintiff's counsel are adequate class counsel in that
5 they have no known conflicts of interest with Plaintiff or absent class members, are experienced in
6 wage and hour class action litigation, and are dedicated to vigorously prosecuting this action on behalf
7 of Plaintiff and absent class members.

8 18. **Superiority:** A class action is vastly superior to other available means for fair and
9 efficient adjudication of the class members' claims and would be beneficial to the parties and the
10 Court. Class action treatment will allow a number of similarly situated persons to simultaneously and
11 efficiently prosecute their common claims in a single forum without the unnecessary duplication of
12 effort and expense that numerous individual actions would entail. In addition, the monetary amounts
13 due to many individual class members are likely to be relatively small and would thus make it difficult,
14 if not impossible, for individual class members to both seek and obtain relief. Moreover, a class
15 action will serve an important public interest by permitting class members to effectively pursue the
16 recovery of monies owed to them. Further, a class action will prevent the potential for inconsistent
17 or contradictory judgments inherent in individual litigation.

18 **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

19 19. Plaintiff worked for Defendants as a non-exempt employee during the relevant and
20 statutory periods.

21 20. Defendants had a common policy and practice of systemically failing to pay Plaintiff
22 and Class members proper wages and overtime for all hours worked, at the proper rates of pay.
23 Plaintiff and Class Members were consistently required to perform work, off-the-clock, for which
24 they were not paid wages. Specifically, Plaintiff and Class Members were systemically required to
25 undergo mandatory temperature checks when arriving to work, and prior to clocking in. Once the
26 temperature checks were complete, and due to a shortage of time clocks, Plaintiff and Class Members
27 were required to wait in long lines to clock in to work. Additionally, Plaintiff and
28 Class Members were required to perform various work-related tasks, including having to attend

1 mandatory work meetings, prepare various reports for Defendants, conduct vehicle inspections, and
2 respond to and make work-related calls, all off-the-clock and outside of their scheduled shifts.

3 21. The forgoing and uncompensated working time was under the direction and control of
4 Defendants, for which no wages were paid.

5 22. This uncompensated time caused Plaintiff and Class Members to work in excess of
6 eight (8), ten (10) and/or twelve(12) hours a day and/or forty (40) hours a week, entitling Plaintiff
7 and Class Members to minimum and overtime wages, which they were systemically denied.

8 23. Defendants had a common policy and practice of systemically denying Plaintiff and
9 Class Members the opportunity to take meal periods in compliance with California Law. Specifically,
10 the uncompensated pre-shift duties delayed the commencement of Plaintiff and Class Members' meal
11 periods, in violation of California Law.

12 24. Plaintiff and Class Members were not provided with meal periods of at least thirty (30)
13 minutes for each five (5) hour work period due to (1) Defendants' policy of not scheduling compliant
14 meal periods for each work shift; (2) no formal written meal policy that encouraged employees to
15 take their meal periods, or that advised Class Members of their meal and rest period rights in
16 compliance with California Law; and (3) Defendants' practice of requiring Plaintiff and Class
17 Members to delay the commencement of the meal periods to which they were entitled.

18 25. Defendants had a common policy and practice of systemically denying Plaintiff and
19 Class Members the opportunity to take rest breaks in compliance with the California Law. Plaintiff
20 and Class Members were not provided with rest periods of at least ten (10) minutes for each four (4)
21 hour work period, or major fraction thereof, due to (1) Defendants' policy of not scheduling each rest
22 period as part of each work shift, including second rest breaks for shifts of six (6) hours or more; (2)
23 no formal compliant written rest period policy that encouraged employees to take their rest periods,
24 or that properly advised Plaintiff and Class Members of their rest period rights; (3) Defendants' policy
25 and practice of delaying the commencement of Plaintiff and Class Members' rest breaks due to the
26 mandatory and uncompensated pre-shift duties discussed above.

27 26. Furthermore, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and Class Members premium pay
28 wages at their appropriate regular rates of pay for each meal and rest period denied.

1 27. Plaintiff and Class Members were not provided with accurate wage statements as
2 mandated by law pursuant to Labor Code section 226. Specifically, Defendants failed to issue wage
3 statements as “a detachable part of the check, draft, or voucher paying the employee’s wages, or
4 separately if wages are paid by personal check or cash, an accurate itemized statement in writing.”
5 Additionally, the wage statements issued to Plaintiff and Class Members were not recorded in “ink
6 or other indelible form.”

7 28. Defendants failed to comply with Labor Code section 226(a)(1) as “gross wages
8 earned” were not accurately reflected in that: all hours worked, including overtime, were not included.

9 29. Defendants failed to comply with Labor Code section 226(a)(2) as “total hours worked
10 by the employee” were not accurately reflected in that: all hours worked, including overtime, were
11 not included.

12 30. Defendants failed to comply with Labor Code section 226(a)(5) as “net wages earned”
13 were not accurately reflected in that: all hours worked, including overtime, were not included.

14 31. Defendants failed to comply with Labor Code section 226(a)(9) as “all applicable
15 hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each
16 hourly rate by the employee” were not accurately reflected in that: all hours worked, including
17 overtime, were not included.

18 32. Furthermore, Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff and Class Members with paper pay
19 stubs as required by Labor Code § 226, applicable Wage Orders, and DLSE Opinion Letters.
20 Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ wage statement were only provided in electronic format in violation
21 of Labor Code § 226.

22 33. Finally, the wage statements issued to Plaintiff and Class Members failed to state the
23 full and correct name and address of the legal entity that is the employer as required by Labor Code
24 § 226(a)(8).

25 34. Plaintiff and Class Members were not reimbursed for business expenses incurred in
26 executing their duties under Defendant’s employ. Specifically, Plaintiff and Class Members were
27 required to pay the costs of maintaining and cleaning their work uniforms. Additionally, Plaintiff and
28 Class Members were required to purchase non-slip shoes, safety vests, a cellular phone, and cellular

1 phone service, all necessary to perform, their duties under Defendants' employ. Plaintiff and Class
2 members were not reimbursed for these necessary work-related expenses.

3 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

4 **FAILURE TO PROVIDE MEAL PERIODS**

5 **(Lab. Code §§ 226.7, 512, 1174, and 1198)**

6 **(Plaintiff and Meal Period Sub-Class)**

7 35. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if
8 fully alleged herein.

9 36. At all relevant times, Plaintiff and the **Meal Period Sub-Class** members have been
10 non-exempt employees of Defendant entitled to the full meal period protections of both the Labor
11 Code and the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order.

12 37. Labor Code section 512 and Section 11 of the applicable Industrial Welfare
13 Commission Wage Order impose an affirmative obligation on employers to provide non-exempt
14 employees with uninterrupted, duty-free meal periods of at least thirty minutes for each work period
15 of five hours, and to provide them with two uninterrupted, duty-free meal periods of at least thirty
16 minutes for each work period of ten hours.

17 38. Labor Code section 226.7 and Section 11 of the applicable Industrial Welfare
18 Commission Wage Order ("Wage Order") both prohibit employers from requiring employees to work
19 during required meal periods and require employers to pay non-exempt employees an hour of
20 premium wages on each workday that the employee is not provided with the required meal period.

21 39. Compensation for missed meal periods constitutes wages within the meaning of Labor
22 Code section 200.

23 40. Labor Code section 1198 makes it unlawful to employ a person under conditions that
24 violate the applicable Wage Order.

25 41. Section 11 of the applicable Wage Order states:

26 "No employer shall employ any person for a work period of more than five (5) hours
27 without a meal period of not less than 30 minutes, except that when a work period of
28 not more than six (6) hours will complete the day's work the meal period may be
waived by mutual consent of the employer and employee. Unless the employee is
relieved of all duty during a 30 minute meal period, the meal period shall be considered

1 an 'on duty' meal period and counted as time worked. An 'on duty' meal period shall
2 be permitted only when the nature of the work prevents an employee from being
3 relieved of all duty and when by written agreement between the parties an on-the-job
paid meal period is agreed to. The written agreement shall state that the employee
may, in writing, revoke the agreement at any time."

4 42. At all relevant times, Plaintiff was not subject to a valid on-duty meal period
5 agreement. Plaintiff is informed and believes that, at all relevant times, **Meal Period Sub-Class**
6 members were not subject to valid on-duty meal period agreements with Defendants.

7 43. Plaintiff alleges that, at all relevant times during the applicable limitations period,
8 Defendants maintained a policy or practice of not providing Plaintiff and members of the **Meal Period**
9 **Sub-Class** the opportunity to take uninterrupted, duty-free meal periods for at least thirty (30) minutes
10 for each five (5) hour work period, as required by Labor Code section 512 and the applicable Wage
11 Order. Specifically, the commencement of Plaintiff and **Meal Period Sub-Class** Members' meal
12 periods were delayed by the pre-shift and uncompensated duties, discussed above.

13 44. Plaintiff alleges that, at all relevant times during the applicable limitations period,
14 Defendants maintained a policy or practice of failing to pay premium wages to **Meal Period Sub-**
15 **Class** members when they worked five (5) hours without clocking out for any meal period.

16 45. Plaintiff alleges that, at all relevant times during the applicable limitations period,
17 Defendants maintained a policy or practice of not providing Plaintiff and members of the **Meal Period**
18 **Sub-Class** with a second meal period when they worked shifts of ten or more hours and failed to pay
19 them premium wages as required by Labor Code 512 and the applicable Wage Order.

20 46. Moreover, Defendants written policies fail to inform Meal period Class Members of
21 their meal period rights under the Labor Code and applicable Wage Orders.

22 47. At all relevant times, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and the **Meal Period Sub-**
23 **Class** members additional premium wages, and/or were not paid premium wages at the employees'
24 regular rates of pay when required meal periods were not provided.

25 48. Pursuant to Labor Code section 204, 218.6, 226.7 and 512, Plaintiff, on behalf of
26 herself and the **Meal Period Sub-Class** members, seek to recover unpaid premium wages, interest
27 thereon, and costs of suit.

28 49. Pursuant to Labor Code section 1194, Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5, the

substantial benefit doctrine, and/or the common fund doctrine, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the **Meal Period Sub-Class** members, seek to recover reasonable attorneys' fees.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

FAILURE TO PROVIDE REST PERIODS

(Lab. Code §§ 204, 223, 226.7 and 1198)

(Plaintiff and Rest Period Sub-Class)

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

51. At all relevant times, Plaintiff and the **Rest Period Sub-Class** members have been non-exempt employees of Defendants entitled to the full rest period protections of both the Labor Code and the applicable Wage Order.

52. Section 12 of the applicable Wage Order imposes an affirmative obligation on employers to permit and authorize employees to take required rest periods at a rate of no less than ten minutes of net rest time for each four hour work period, or major fraction thereof, that must be in the middle of each work period insofar as practicable.

53. Labor Code section 226.7 and Section 12 of the applicable Wage Order both prohibit employers from requiring employees to work during required rest periods and require employers to pay non-exempt employees an hour of premium wages at the employees' regular rates of pay, on each workday that the employee is not provided with the required rest period(s).

54. Compensation for missed rest periods constitutes wages within the meaning of Labor Code section 200.

55. Labor Code section 1198 makes it unlawful to employ a person under conditions that violate the Wage Order.

56. Plaintiff alleges that, at all relevant times during the applicable limitations period, Defendants maintained a policy or practice of not providing members of the **Rest Period Sub-Class** the opportunity to take net rest periods of at least ten uninterrupted minutes for each four-hour work period, or major fraction thereof, as required by the applicable Wage Order.

57. Plaintiff and **Rest Period Sub-Class** members were not provided with rest periods of

1 at least ten (10) minutes for each four (4) hour work period, or major fraction thereof, due to (1)
2 Defendants' policy of not scheduling each rest period as part of each work shift, including second
3 rest breaks for shifts of six (6) hours or more; (2) no formal compliant written rest period policy that
4 encouraged employees to take their rest periods, or that properly advised Plaintiff and **Rest Period**
5 **Sub-Class** members of their rest period rights; (3) Defendants' policy and practice of delaying the
6 commencement of Plaintiff and **Rest Period Sub-Class** members' rest breaks due to the mandatory
7 and uncompensated pre-shift duties discussed above.

8 58. At all relevant times, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and the **Rest Period Sub-Class**
9 members additional premium wages when required rest periods were not provided.

10 59. Pursuant to Labor Code section 204, 218.6 and 226.7, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself
11 and **Rest Period Sub-Class** members, seek to recover unpaid premium wages, interest thereon, and
12 costs of suit.

13 60. Pursuant to Labor Code section 1194, Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5, the
14 substantial benefit doctrine, and/or the common fund doctrine, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and **Rest**
15 **Period Sub-Class** members, seek to recover reasonable attorneys' fees.

16 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

17 **FAILURE TO PAY HOURLY AND OVERTIME WAGES**

18 **(Lab. Code §§ 223, 510, 1194, 1197 and 1198)**

19 **(Plaintiff and Hourly Employee Class)**

20 61. Plaintiff incorporates the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if fully alleged
21 herein.

22 62. At all relevant times, Plaintiff and **Hourly Employee Class** members are or have been
23 non-exempt employees of Defendants entitled to the full protections of the Labor Code and the
24 applicable Wage Order.

25 63. Section 2 of the applicable Wage Order defines "hours worked" as "the time during
26 which an employee is subject to the control of the employer, and includes all the time the employee
27 is suffered or permitted to work, whether or not required to do so."

28 64. Section 4 of the applicable Wage Order requires an employer to pay non-exempt

1 employees at least the minimum wage set forth therein for all hours worked, which consist of all hours
2 that an employer has actual or constructive knowledge that employees are working.

3 65. Labor Code section 1194 invalidates any agreement between an employer and an
4 employee to work for less than the minimum or overtime wage required under the applicable Wage
5 Order.

6 66. Labor Code section 1194.2 entitles non-exempt employees to recover liquidated
7 damages in amounts equal to the amounts of unpaid minimum wages and interest thereon in addition
8 to the underlying unpaid minimum wages and interest thereon.

9 67. Labor Code section 1197 makes it unlawful for an employer to pay an employee less
10 than the minimum wage required under the applicable Wage Order for all hours worked during a
11 payroll period.

12 68. Labor Code section 1197.1 provides that it is unlawful for any employer or any other
13 person acting either individually or as an officer, agent or employee of another person, to pay an
14 employee, or cause an employee to be paid, less than the applicable minimum wage.

15 69. Labor Code section 1198 makes it unlawful for employers to employ employees under
16 conditions that violate the applicable Wage Order.

17 70. Labor Code section 204 requires employers to pay non-exempt employees their earned
18 wages for the normal work period at least twice during each calendar month on days the employer
19 designates in advance and to pay non-exempt employees their earned wages for labor performed in
20 excess of the normal work period by no later than the next regular payday.

21 71. Labor Code section 223 makes it unlawful for employers to pay their employees lower
22 wages than required by contract or statute while purporting to pay them legal wages.

23 72. Labor Code section 510 and Section 3 of the applicable Wage Order require employees
24 to pay non-exempt employees overtime wages of no less than one and one-half times their respective
25 regular rates of pay for all hours worked in excess of eight hours in one workday, all hours worked in
26 excess of forty hours in one workweek, and/or for the first eight hours worked on the seventh
27 consecutive day of one workweek.

28 73. Labor Code section 510 and Section 3 of the applicable Wage Order also require

1 employers to pay non-exempt employees overtime wages of no less than two times their respective
2 regular rates of pay for all hours worked in excess of twelve hours in one workday and for all hours
3 worked in excess of eight hours on a seventh consecutive workday during the workweek.

4 74. Plaintiff is informed and believes that, at all relevant times, Defendants have applied
5 centrally devised policies and practices to her and **Hourly Employee Class** members with respect to
6 working conditions and compensation arrangements.

7 75. At all relevant times, Defendants failed to pay hourly wages to Plaintiff and **Hourly**
8 **Employee Class** members for all time worked, including but not limited to, overtime hours at
9 statutory and/or agreed rates.

10 76. Plaintiff and **Hourly Employee Class** members were not paid proper wages and
11 overtime for all hours worked, at the proper rates of pay. Plaintiff and **Hourly Employee Class**
12 members were consistently required to perform work, off-the-clock, for which they were not paid
13 wages. Specifically, Plaintiff and **Hourly Employee Class** members were systemically required to
14 undergo mandatory temperature checks when arriving to work, and prior to clocking in. Once the
15 temperature checks were complete, and due to a shortage of time clocks, Plaintiff and **Hourly**
16 **Employee Class** members were required to wait in long lines to clock in to work. Additionally,
17 Plaintiff and **Hourly Employee Class** members were required to perform various work-related tasks,
18 including having to attend mandatory work meetings, prepare various reports for Defendants, conduct
19 vehicle inspections, and respond to and make work-related calls, all off-the-clock and outside of their
20 scheduled shifts.

21 77. The forgoing and uncompensated working time was under the direction and control of
22 Defendants, for which no wages were paid.

23 78. This uncompensated time caused Plaintiff and **Hourly Employee Class** members to
24 work in excess of eight (8), ten (10), and twelve (12) hours a day and/or forty (40) hours a week,
25 entitling Plaintiff and **Hourly Employee Class** members to minimum and overtime wages, which
26 they were systemically denied.

27 79. As a result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiff and **Hourly Employee Class**
28 members have suffered damages in an amount, subject to proof, to the extent they were not paid the

1 full amount of wages earned during each pay period during the applicable limitations period,
2 including overtime wages.

3 80. Pursuant to Labor Code sections 204, 218.6, 223, 510, 1194 and 1194.2, Plaintiff, on
4 behalf of herself and **Hourly Employee Class** members, seek to recover unpaid straight time and
5 overtime wages, interest thereon and costs of suit.

6 81. Pursuant to Labor Code section 1194, Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5, the
7 substantial benefit doctrine, and/or the common fund doctrine, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and
8 **Hourly Employee Class** members, seek to recover reasonable attorneys' fees.

9 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

10 **FAILURE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE WRITTEN WAGE STATEMENTS**

11 **(Lab. Code § 226)**

12 **(Plaintiff and Wage Statement Penalties Sub-Class)**

13 82. Plaintiff incorporates the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if fully alleged
14 herein.

15 83. Labor Code section 226(a) states:

16 "An employer, semimonthly or at the time of each payment of wages, shall furnish to
17 his or her employee, either as a detachable part of the check, draft, or voucher paying
18 the employee's wages, or separately if wages are paid by personal check or cash, an
19 accurate itemized statement in writing showing (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours
20 worked by the employee, except as provided in subdivision (j), (3) the number of
21 piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-
22 rate basis, (4) all deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of
23 the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item, (5) net wages earned, (6) the
24 inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the
25 employee and only the last four digits of his or her social security number or an
26 employee identification number other than a social security number, (8) the name and
27 address of the legal entity that is the employer and, if the employer is a farm labor
28 contractor, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 1682, the name and address of the
legal entity that secured the services of the employer, and (9) all applicable hourly
rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at
each hourly rate by the employee and, beginning July 1, 2013, if the employer is a
temporary services employer as defined in Section 201.3, the rate of pay and the total
hours worked for each temporary services assignment. The deductions made from
payment of wages shall be recorded in ink or other indelible form, properly dated,
showing the month, day, and year, and a copy of the statement and the record of the
deductions shall be kept on file by the employer for at least three years at the place of
employment or at a central location within the State of California. For purposes of
this subdivision, 'copy' includes a duplicate of the itemized statement provided to an
employee or a computer-generated record that accurately shows all of the information
required by this subdivision."

1 84. The Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (“DLSE”) has sought to harmonize the
2 “detachable part of the check” provision and the “accurate itemized statement in writing” provision
3 of Labor Code section 226(a) by allowing for electronic wage statements so long as each employee
4 retains the right to elect to receive a written paper stub or record and that those who are provided with
5 electronic wage statements retain the ability to easily access the information and convert the electronic
6 statements into hard copies at no expense to the employee. (DLSE Opinion Letter July 6, 2006).

7 85. Plaintiff is informed and believes that, at all relevant times during the applicable
8 limitations period, Defendants have failed to provide **Wage Statement Class** members with written
9 wage statements as described above. Additionally, the wage statements issued to class members
10 failed to account for the unpaid minimum wages, overtime, and premium pay wages described
11 above.

12 86. Furthermore, Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff and **Wage Statement Class**
13 Members with paper pay stubs as required by Labor Code § 226, applicable Wage Orders, and DLSE
14 Opinion Letters. Plaintiff’s and **Wage Statement Class** members’ wage statement were only
15 provided in electronic format in violation of Labor Code § 226.

16 87. Finally, the wage statements issued to Plaintiff and **Wage Statement Class** Members
17 failed to state the full and correct name and address of the legal entity that is the employer as required
18 by Labor Code § 226(a)(8).

19 88. Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendants’ failure to provide her and **Wage**
20 **Statement Class** members with accurate written wage statements were intentional in that Defendants
21 have the ability to provide them with accurate wage statements but have intentionally provided them
22 with written wage statements that Defendants have known do not comply with Labor Code section
23 226(a).

24 89. Plaintiff and **Wage Statement Class** members have suffered injuries, in that
25 Defendants have violated their legal rights to receive accurate wage statements and have misled them
26 about their actual rates of pay and wages earned. In addition, inaccurate information on their wage
27 statements have prevented immediate challenges to Defendants’ unlawful pay practices, has required
28

1 discovery and mathematical computations to determine the amount of wages owed, has caused
2 difficulty and expense in attempting to reconstruct time and pay records, and/or has led to the
3 submission of inaccurate information about wages and deductions to federal and state government
4 agencies.

5 90. Pursuant to Labor Code section 226(e), Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and **Wage**
6 **Statement Class** members, seek the greater of actual damages or \$50.00 for the initial pay period in
7 which a violation of Labor Code section 226(a) occurred, and \$100.00 for each subsequent pay period
8 in which a violation of Labor Code section 226(a) occurred, not to exceed an aggregate penalty of
9 \$4000.00 per class member, as well as awards of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

10 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

11 **FAILURE TO TIMELY PAY ALL FINAL WAGES**

12 **(Lab. Code §§ 201-203)**

13 **(Plaintiff and Waiting Time Penalties Sub-Class)**

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

16 92. At all relevant times, Plaintiff and **Waiting Time Penalties Sub-Class** members have
17 been entitled, upon the end of their employment with Defendants, to timely payment of all wages
18 earned and unpaid before termination or resignation.

19 93. At all relevant times, pursuant to Labor Code section 201, employees who have been
20 discharged have been entitled to payment of all final wages immediately upon termination.

21 94. At all relevant times, pursuant to Labor Code section 202, employees who have
22 resigned after giving at least seventy-two (72) hours notice of resignation have been entitled to
23 payment of all final wages at the time of resignation.

24 95. Plaintiff is informed and believes that, at all relevant time during the applicable
25 limitations period, Defendants have failed to timely pay **Waiting Time Penalties Sub-Class**
26 members all of their final wages in accordance with the Labor Code.

27 96. Plaintiff is informed and believes that, at all relevant times during the applicable
28 limitations period, Defendants have maintained a policy or practice of paying **Waiting Time**

1 **Penalties Sub-Class** members their final wages without regard to the requirements of Labor Code
2 sections 201 or 202 by failing to timely pay them all final wages.

3 97. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereupon alleges that Defendants' failure to
4 timely pay all final wages to her and **Waiting Time Penalties Sub-Class** members have been willful
5 in that Defendants have the ability to pay final wages in accordance with Labor Code sections 201
6 and/or 202 but have intentionally adopted policies or practices that are incompatible with those
7 requirements.

8 98. Pursuant to Labor Code sections 203 and 218.6, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and
9 **Waiting Time Penalties Sub-Class** members, seek waiting time penalties from the dates that their
10 final wages have first become due until paid, up to a maximum of thirty days, and interest thereon.

11 99. Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5, the substantial benefit doctrine
12 and/or the common fund doctrine, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and **Waiting Time Penalties Sub-**
13 **Class** members, seek awards of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

14 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

15 **FAILURE TO INDEMNIFY**

16 **(Lab. Code § 2802)**

17 **(Plaintiff and Reimbursement Class)**

18 100. Plaintiff incorporates the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if fully alleged
19 herein.

20 101. Labor Code section 2802(a) states:

21 "An employer shall indemnify his or her employee for all necessary expenditures or
22 losses incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of his or her
23 duties, or of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer, even though
unlawful, unless the employee, at the time of obeying the directions, believed them to
be unlawful."

24 102. Plaintiff and **Expense Reimbursement Class** members were not reimbursed for
25 business expenses incurred in executing their duties under Defendant's employ. Specifically, Plaintiff
26 and **Expense Reimbursement Class** members were required to pay the costs of maintaining and
27 cleaning their work uniforms. Additionally, Plaintiff and **Expense Reimbursement Class** members
28 were required to purchase non-slip shoes, safety vests, a cellular phone, and cellular phone service,

1 all necessary to perform, their duties under Defendants' employ. Plaintiff and **Expense**
2 **Reimbursement Class** members were not reimbursed for these necessary work-related expenses.

3 103. Accordingly, Plaintiff and **Expense Reimbursement Class** members are entitled to
4 restitution for all unpaid amounts due and owing to within four years of the date of the filing of the
5 Complaint and until the date of entry of judgment.

6 104. Plaintiff, on behalf of herself, and **Expense Reimbursement Class** members, seeks
7 interest thereon and costs pursuant to Labor Code section 218.6, and reasonable attorneys' fees
8 pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5.

9 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

10 **UNFAIR COMPETITION**

11 **(Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 *et seq.*)**

12 **(Plaintiff and UCL Class)**

13 105. Plaintiff incorporates the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if fully alleged
14 herein.

15 106. Business and Professions Code section 17200 defines "unfair competition" to include
16 any unlawful business practice.

17 107. Business and Professions Code section 17203-17204 allow a person who has lost
18 money or property as a result of unfair competition to bring a class action in accordance with Code
19 of Civil Procedure section 382 to recover money or property that may have been acquired from
20 similarly situated persons by means of unfair competition.

21 108. California law requires employers to pay hourly, non-exempt employees for all hours
22 they are permitted or suffered to work, including hours that the employer knows or reasonable should
23 know that employees have worked.

24 109. Plaintiff and the **UCL Class** members re-alleges and incorporates the FIRST,
25 SECOND, THIRD, and SIXTH causes of action herein.

26 110. Plaintiff lost money or property as a result of the aforementioned unfair competition.

27 111. Defendants have or may have acquired money by means of unfair competition.

28 112. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereupon alleges that by committing the Labor

1 Code violations described in this Complaint, Defendants violated Labor Code sections 215, 216, 225,
2 226.6, 226.7, 246, 354, 408, 512, 510, 553, 1175, 1174, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1199, and
3 2802 as well as applicable Wag Orders, which make it a misdemeanor to commit the violations
4 alleged herein.

5 113. Defendants have committed criminal conduct through their policies and practices of,
6 *inter alia*, failing to comport with their affirmative obligations as an employer to: provide non-exempt
7 employees with compliant meal and rest periods; pay for all hours worked at the proper rates of pay;
8 and reimbursement for necessary business expenditures.

9 114. Defendants' unlawful conduct as alleged in this Complaint amounts to and constitutes
10 unfair competition within the meaning of Business and Professions Code section 17200 *et seq.*
11 Business and Professions Code sections 17200 *et seq.* protects against unfair competition and allows
12 a person who has suffered an injury-in-fact and has lost money or property as a result of an unfair,
13 unlawful or fraudulent business practice to seek restitution on his own behalf and on behalf of
14 similarly situated persons in a class action proceeding.

15 115. As a result of Defendants' violations of the Labor Code during the applicable
16 limitations period, Plaintiff has suffered an injury-in-fact and has lost money or property in the form
17 of earned wages. Specifically, Plaintiff has lost money or property as a result of Defendants' conduct.

18 116. Plaintiff is informed and believes that other similarly situated persons have been
19 subject to the same unlawful policies or practices of Defendants.

20 117. Due to the unfair and unlawful business practices in violation of the Labor Code,
21 Defendants have gained a competitive advantage over other comparable companies doing business in
22 the State of California that comply with their legal obligations.

23 118. California's Unfair Competition Law ("UCL") permits civil recovery and injunctive
24 for "any unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business act or practice," including if a practice or act violates
25 or is considered unlawful under any other state or federal law.

26 119. Accordingly, pursuant to Business and Professions Code sections 17200 and 17203,
27 Plaintiffs request the issuance of temporary, preliminary and permanent injunctive relief enjoining
28 Defendants, and each of them, and their agents and employees, from further violations of the Labor

1 Code and applicable Wage Orders.

2 120. Accordingly, pursuant to Bus. & Prof. Code sections 17200 and 17203, Plaintiff
3 requests the issuance of temporary, preliminary and permanent injunctive relief enjoining
4 Defendants, and each of them, and their agents and employees, from further violations of the Labor
5 Code and applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders; and upon a final hearing seek an
6 order permanently enjoining Defendants, and each of them, and their respective agents and
7 employees, from further violations of the Labor Code and applicable Industrial Welfare Commission
8 Wage Orders.

9 121. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 17203, Plaintiff, on behalf of
10 herself and **UCL Class** members, seek declaratory relief and restitution of all monies rightfully
11 belonging to them that Defendants did not pay them or otherwise retained by means of its unlawful
12 and unfair business practices.

13 122. Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5, the substantial benefit doctrine
14 and/or the common fund doctrine, Plaintiff and **UCL Class** members are entitled to recover
15 reasonable attorneys' fees in connection with their unfair competition claims.

16 123. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 17203, Plaintiff, on behalf of
17 herself and **UCL Class** members, seek declaratory relief and restitution of all monies rightfully
18 belonging to them that Defendants did not pay them or otherwise retained by means of its unlawful
19 and unfair business practices.

20 124. Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5, the substantial benefit doctrine
21 and/or the common fund doctrine, Plaintiff and **UCL Class** members are entitled to recover
22 reasonable attorneys' fees in connection with their unfair competition claims.

23 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

24 **CIVIL PENALTIES**

25 **(Lab. Code §§ 2698, *et seq.*)**

26 125. Plaintiff incorporates the preceding paragraphs as if fully alleged herein.

27 126. During the applicable limitations period, Defendants have violated Labor Code §§
28 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512, 515, 558, 558.1, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1185,

1 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198, 1199, 2698, 2699, *et seq.*, and 2802.¹

2 127. Labor Code §§ 2699(a) and (g) authorize an aggrieved employee, on behalf of herself
3 and other current and former employees, to bring a representative civil action to recover civil penalties
4 pursuant to the procedures set forth in Labor Code § 2699.3 that may, but need not, be brought or
5 maintained as a class action pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 382.

6 128. Plaintiff, a former employee against whom Defendants committed one or more of the
7 alleged Labor Code violations during the applicable limitations period, is an aggrieved employee
8 within the meaning of Labor Code § 2699(c). Plaintiff was employed by Defendants as a non-exempt
9 hourly employee in California. Aggrieved Employees include all non-exempt hourly employees of
10 Defendants within the state of California from one year prior to the date of this letter and continuing
11 through the present (Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees are collectively referred to herein as
12 “Aggrieved Employees”)

13 129. Plaintiff has complied with the procedures for bringing suit specified in Labor Code §
14 2699.3. Notice was provided to the California Labor & Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”)
15 and 65 days have elapsed without the LWDA providing Plaintiff with any notice of an intent to
16 investigate.

17 130. Pursuant to Labor Code sections 2699(a) and (f), Plaintiff seeks the following civil
18 penalties for Defendants’ violations of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 223, 226.7, 226(a), 510,
19 512, 1174, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, and 2802:

- 20 i. For violations of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 226.7, 1174, 1194, 1198 and
21 2802, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each employee per pay period for each
22 initial violation and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each employee per pay
23 period for each subsequent violation (penalties set by Labor Code §
24 2699(f)(2));

26 ¹ Plaintiff hereby reserves the right to seek penalties on behalf of all Aggrieved Employees, for
27 Defendants’ violations of the applicable provisions of the Labor Code, suffered by Aggrieved
28 Employees, but not directly suffered by Plaintiff under *Huff v. Securitas Security Services USA, Inc.*
(2018) 23 Cal.App.5th 745.

- 1 ii. For violations of Labor Code § 203, a penalty in an amount not exceeding thirty
2 (30) days' pay as waiting time (penalties set by Labor Code § 256);
- 3 iii. For violations of Labor Code § 204, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each
4 employee for each initial violation that was neither willful nor intentional, two
5 hundred dollars (\$200) for each employee, plus 25% of the amount unlawfully
6 withheld from each employee, for each initial violation that was either willful
7 or intentional, and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each employee, plus twenty-
8 five percent (25%) of the amount unlawfully withheld from each employee,
9 for each subsequent violation, regardless of whether the subsequent violation
10 was either willful or intentional (penalties set by Labor Code § 210);
- 11 iv. For violations of Labor Code § 223, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each
12 employee for each initial violation that was neither willful nor intentional, two
13 hundred dollars (\$200) for each employee, plus twenty-five percent (25%) of
14 the amount unlawfully withheld from each employee, for each initial violation
15 that was either willful or intentional, and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each
16 employee, plus twenty-five percent (25%) of the amount unlawfully withheld
17 from each employee, for each subsequent violation, regardless of whether the
18 subsequent violation was either willful or intentional (penalties set by Labor
19 Code § 225.5);
- 20 v. For violations of Labor Code § 226(a), if this action is deemed to be an initial
21 citation, two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) for each employee for each
22 violation. Alternatively, if an initial citation or its equivalent occurred before
23 the filing of this action, one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each employee for
24 each violation (penalties set by Labor Code § 226.3);
- 25 vi. For violation of Labor Code §§ 510 and 512, fifty dollars (\$50) for each
26 employee for each initial pay period for which the employee was underpaid,
27 and one hundred dollars (\$100) for each employee for each subsequent pay
28 period for which the employee was underpaid (penalties set by Labor Code §

558);

vii. For violations of Labor Code § 1197, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee for each initial violation of Labor Code § 1197 that was intentional and two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation of Labor Code § 1197, regardless of whether the initial violation was intentional (penalties set by Labor Code § 1197.1);

viii. Pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g), Plaintiff seeks an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs in connection with Plaintiff's claims for civil penalties.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself, all others similarly situated, and the general public, prays for relief and judgment against Defendants as follows:

- a. An order that the action be certified as a class action;
- b. An order that Plaintiff be appointed class representative;
- c. An order that counsel for Plaintiff be appointed class counsel;
- d. Unpaid wages and overtime;
- e. Actual damages;
- f. Liquidated damages;
- g. Unreimbursed expenses;
- h. Restitution;
- i. Declaratory relief;
- j. Pre-judgment interest;
- k. Statutory penalties;
- l. Civil penalties;

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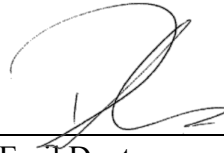
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- 1 m. Costs of suit;
2 n. Reasonable attorneys' fees; and
3 o. Such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.
4

5 Dated: November 16, 2023

D.LAW, INC.

6
7
8 

9 _____
10 Emil Davtyan
11 David Yeremian
12 David Keledjian
13 David Arakelyan
14 Attorneys for Plaintiff
15 BERNETTIA CLARA WILLIAMS , and the
16 putative class
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DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff, on behalf of herself, all other similarly situated, and the general public, hereby demands a jury trial on all issues so triable.

Dated: November 16, 2023

D.LAW, INC.



Emil Davtyan
David Yeremian
David Keledjian
David Arakelyan
Attorneys for Plaintiff
BERNETTIA CLARA WILLIAMS , and the
putative class

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I am employed in the aforesaid county, State of California; I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the within action; my business address is 880 E Broadway, Glendale, CA 91205.

Cynthia Emry
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[] (BY MAIL) I placed such envelope with postage thereon fully paid in the United States mail at Glendale, California. I am "readily familiar" with this firm's practice of collecting and processing correspondence for mailing. It is deposited with U.S. Postal Service on that same day in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more than 1 day after date of deposit for mailing in affidavit.

[] (BY OVERNIGHT DELIVERY) I enclosed the documents in an envelope or package provided by an overnight delivery carrier and addressed to the persons at the address above. I placed the envelope or package for collection and overnight delivery at an office or a regularly utilized drop box of the overnight delivery carrier.

[X] (BY ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION) by use of email by scanning the documents and any and all documents and emailing them to email addresses above.

[X] (STATE) I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on November 16, 2023, at Glendale, California.


Jordan Floyd