

BLUMENTHAL NORDREHAUG BHOWMIK DE BLOUW LLP

Norman B. Blumenthal (State Bar #068687)
Kyle R. Nordrehaug (State Bar #205975)
Aparajit Bhowmik (State Bar #248066)
Nicholas J. De Blouw (State Bar #280922)
Piya Mukherjee (State Bar #274217)
2255 Calle Clara
La Jolla, CA 92037
Telephone: (858) 551-1223
Facsimile: (858) 551-1232
Website: www.bamlawca.com

ELECTRONICALLY FILED
Merced Superior Court
1/5/2024 3:07 PM
Amanda Toste
Clerk of the Superior Court
By: Brandon Chow, Deputy

Attorneys for Plaintiff

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MERCED

24CV-00191

JUSTIN FARRELL, on behalf of the State of
California, as a private attorney general,

Case No. _____

**REPRESENTATIVE ACTION
COMPLAINT FOR:**

Plaintiff,

vs.

GLOBAL EQUIPMENT COMPANY INC.,
a Corporation; and DOES 1 through 50,
inclusive,

Defendants.

1. Civil Penalties Pursuant to Labor Code
§ 2699, *et seq.* for violations of Labor
Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204 *et seq.*, 210,
218, 221, 226(a), 226.7, 227.3, 246, 510,
512, 558(a)(1)(2), 1194, 1197, 1197.1,
1198, 2802, California Code of
Regulations, Title 8, Section 11040,
Subdivision 5(A)-(B), and the applicable
Wage Order(s).

1 Plaintiff Justin Farrell (“PLAINTIFF”), on behalf of the people of the State of California
2 and as an “aggrieved employee” acting as a private attorney general under the Labor Code
3 Private Attorney General Act of 2004, § 2699, *et seq.* (“PAGA”) only, alleges on information
4 and belief, except for his own acts and knowledge which are based on personal knowledge, the
5 following:

6 **INTRODUCTION**

7 1. PLAINTIFF brings this action against Defendant Global Equipment Company
8 Inc. (referred to as “DEFENDANT”) seeking only to recover PAGA civil penalties for himself,
9 and on behalf of all current and former aggrieved employees that worked for DEFENDANT.
10 PLAINTIFF does **not seek to recover anything other than penalties as permitted by**
11 **California Labor Code § 2699**. To the extent that statutory violations are mentioned for wage
12 violations, PLAINTIFF does not seek underlying general and/or special damages for those
13 violations, but simply the civil penalties permitted by California Labor Code § 2699.

14 2. California has enacted the PAGA to permit an individual to bring an action on
15 behalf of himself and on behalf of others for PAGA penalties *only*, which is the precise and sole
16 nature of this action.

17 3. Accordingly, PLAINTIFF seeks to obtain all applicable relief for
18 DEFENDANT’s violations under PAGA and solely for the relief as permitted by PAGA – that
19 is, penalties and any other relief the Court deems proper pursuant to the PAGA. Nothing in this
20 complaint should be construed as attempting to obtain any relief that would not be available in
21 a PAGA-only action.

22
23 **THE PARTIES**

24 4. Global Equipment Company Inc. (“DEFENDANT”) is a Corporation that at all
25 relevant times mentioned herein conducted and continues to conduct substantial business in
26 California.

27 5. DEFENDANT offers wholesale distribution of miscellaneous industrial supplies.

28 6. PLAINTIFF has been employed by DEFENDANT in California since June of

1 2022. PLAINTIFF has been at all times classified by DEFENDANT as a non-exempt employee,
2 paid on an hourly basis, and entitled to the legally required meal and rest periods and payment
3 of minimum and overtime wages due for all time worked.

4 7. PLAINTIFF, and such persons that may be added from time to time who satisfy
5 the requirements and exhaust the administrative procedures under the Private Attorney General
6 Act, brings this Representative Action on behalf of the State of California with respect to
7 himself and all individuals who are or previously were employed by DEFENDANT in
8 California, including any employees staffed with DEFENDANT by a third party, and classified
9 as non-exempt employees ("AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES") during the time period of October
10 25, 2022 until a date as determined by the Court (the "PAGA PERIOD").

11 8. PLAINTIFF, on behalf of himself and all AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES
12 presently or formerly employed by DEFENDANT during the PAGA PERIOD, brings this
13 representative action pursuant to Labor Code § 2699, *et seq.* seeking fixed civil penalties for
14 DEFENDANT's violation of California Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204 *et seq.*, 210, 218,
15 221, 226(a), 226.7, 227.3, 246, 510, 512, 558(a)(1)(2), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2802,
16 California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 11040, Subdivision 5(A)-(B), and the
17 applicable Wage Order(s). Based upon the foregoing, PLAINTIFF and all AGGRIEVED
18 EMPLOYEES are aggrieved employees within the meaning of Labor Code § 2699, *et seq.*

19 9. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, subsidiary,
20 partnership, associate or otherwise of defendants DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are
21 presently unknown to PLAINTIFF who therefore sues these Defendants by such fictitious
22 names pursuant to Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 474. PLAINTIFF will seek leave to amend this
23 Complaint to allege the true names and capacities of Does 1 through 50, inclusive, when
24 they are ascertained. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and based upon that information
25 and belief alleges, that the Defendants named in this Complaint, including DOES 1 through
26 50, inclusive, are responsible in some manner for one or more of the events and happenings
27 that proximately caused the injuries and damages hereinafter alleged.
28

11. Pursuant to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, DEFENDANT was required to pay PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for all their time worked, meaning the time during which an employee is subject to the control of an employer, including all the time the employee is suffered or permitted to work. DEFENDANT requires PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES to work without paying them for all the time they are under DEFENDANT's control. Among other things, DEFENDANT requires PLAINTIFF to work while clocked out during what is supposed to be PLAINTIFF's off-duty meal break. PLAINTIFF was from time to time interrupted by work assignments while clocked out for what should have been PLAINTIFF's off-duty meal break. DEFENDANT, as a matter of established company policy and procedure, administers a uniform practice of rounding the actual time worked and recorded by PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES, always to the benefit of DEFENDANT, so that during the course of their employment, PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES are paid less than they would have been paid had they been paid for actual recorded time rather than "rounded" time. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES forfeit minimum wage, overtime wage compensation, and off-duty meal breaks by working without their time being correctly recorded and without compensation at the applicable rates. DEFENDANT's policy and practice not to pay PLAINTIFF and the

1 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for all time worked, is evidenced by DEFENDANT’s business
2 records.

3 12. State law provides that employees must be paid overtime and meal and rest
4 break premiums at one-and-one-half times their “regular rate of pay.” PLAINTIFF and the
5 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES are compensated at an hourly rate plus incentive pay that is
6 tied to specific elements of an employee’s performance.

7 13. The second component of PLAINTIFF’s and the AGGRIEVED
8 EMPLOYEES’ compensation is DEFENDANT’s non-discretionary incentive program that
9 paid PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES incentive wages based on their
10 performance for DEFENDANT. The non-discretionary incentive program provided all
11 employees paid on an hourly basis with incentive compensation when the employees met the
12 various performance goals set by DEFENDANT. However, when calculating the regular
13 rate of pay in order to pay overtime and meal and rest break premiums to PLAINTIFF and
14 the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES, DEFENDANT failed to include the incentive
15 compensation as part of the employees’ “regular rate of pay” for purposes of calculating
16 overtime pay and meal and rest break premium pay. Management and supervisors described
17 the incentive program to potential and new employees as part of the compensation package.
18 As a matter of law, the incentive compensation received by PLAINTIFF and the
19 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES must be included in the “regular rate of pay.” The failure to
20 do so has resulted in a underpayment of overtime compensation and meal and rest break
21 premiums to PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES by DEFENDANT.

22 14. As a result of their rigorous work schedules, PLAINTIFF and the
23 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were from time to time unable to take thirty (30) minute off
24 duty meal breaks and were not fully relieved of duty for their meal periods. PLAINTIFF
25 and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were required from time to time to perform work as
26 ordered by DEFENDANT for more than five (5) hours during some shifts without receiving
27 a meal break. Further, DEFENDANT from time to time failed to provide PLAINTIFF and
28 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES with a second off-duty meal period for some workdays in

1 which these employees were required by DEFENDANT to work ten (10) hours of work.
2 DEFENDANT also engaged in the practice of rounding the meal period times to avoid
3 paying penalties to PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES. PLAINTIFF and the
4 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES therefore forfeit meal breaks without additional compensation
5 and in accordance with DEFENDANT's corporate policy and practice.

6 15. During the PAGA PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED
7 EMPLOYEES were also required from time to time to work in excess of four (4) hours
8 without being provided ten (10) minute rest periods. Further, these employees were denied
9 their first rest periods of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of at least two (2)
10 to four (4) hours from time to time, a first and second rest period of at least ten (10) minutes
11 for some shifts worked of between six (6) and eight (8) hours from time to time, and a first,
12 second and third rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of ten (10)
13 hours or more from time to time. PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were
14 also not provided with one hour wages in lieu thereof. Additionally, the applicable
15 California Wage Order requires employers to provide employees with off-duty rest periods,
16 which the California Supreme Court defined as time during which an employee is relieved
17 from all work related duties and free from employer control. In so doing, the Court held that
18 the requirement under California law that employers authorize and permit all employees to
19 take rest period means that employers must relieve employees of all duties and relinquish
20 control over how employees spend their time which includes control over the locations
21 where employees may take their rest period. Employers cannot impose controls that prohibit
22 an employee from taking a brief walk - five minutes out, five minutes back. Here,
23 DEFENDANT's policy restricted PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES from
24 unconstrained walks and is unlawful based on DEFENDANT's rule which states
25 PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES cannot leave the work premises during
26 their rest period.

27 16. During the PAGA PERIOD, DEFENDANT failed to accurately record and
28 pay PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for the actual amount of time these

1 employees worked. Pursuant to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders,
2 DEFENDANT was required to pay PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for
3 all time worked, meaning the time during which an employee was subject to the control of
4 an employer, including all the time the employee was permitted or suffered to permit this
5 work. DEFENDANT required these employees to work off the clock without paying them
6 for all the time they were under DEFENDANT's control. As such, DEFENDANT knew or
7 should have known that PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were under
8 compensated for all time worked. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED
9 EMPLOYEES forfeited time worked by working without their time being accurately
10 recorded and without compensation at the applicable minimum wage and overtime wage
11 rates. To the extent that the time worked off the clock does not qualify for overtime
12 premium payment, DEFENDANT failed to pay minimum wages for the time worked off-
13 the-clock in violation of Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194, 1197, and 1197.1.

14 17. From time to time, DEFENDANT also failed to provide PLAINTIFF and the
15 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES with complete and accurate wage statements which failed to
16 show, among other things, the correct gross and net wages earned. Cal. Lab. Code § 226
17 provides that every employer shall furnish each of his or her employees with an accurate
18 itemized wage statement in writing showing, among other things, gross wages earned and all
19 applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding amount of time
20 worked at each hourly rate. PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were paid on
21 an hourly basis. As such, the wage statements should reflect all applicable hourly rates
22 during the pay period and the total hours worked, and the applicable pay period in which the
23 wages were earned pursuant to California Labor Code Section 226(a). The wage statements
24 DEFENDANT provided to PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES failed to
25 identify such information. More specifically, the wage statements failed to identify the
26 accurate total hours worked each pay period. When the hours shown on the wage statements
27 were added up, they did not equal the actual total hours worked during the pay period in
28 violation of Cal. Lab. Code 226(a)(2). Aside, from the violations listed above in this

1 paragraph, DEFENDANT failed to issue to PLAINTIFF an itemized wage statement that
2 lists all the requirements under California Labor Code 226 *et seq.* As a result, DEFENDANT
3 from time to time provided PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES with wage
4 statements which violated Cal. Lab. Code § 226.

5 18. Cal. Lab. Code § 204(d) provides, the requirements of this section shall be
6 deemed satisfied by the payment of wages for weekly, biweekly, or semimonthly payroll if
7 the wages are paid not more than seven (7) calendar days following the close of the payroll
8 period. Cal. Lab. Code § 210 provides:

9 in [I]n addition to, and entirely independent and apart from, any other penalty provided
10 this article, every person who fails to pay the wages of each employee as provided in
11 Sections. . . 204. . . shall be subject to a civil penalty as follows: (1) For any initial
12 violation, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each failure to pay each employee; (2) For
each subsequent violation, or any willful or intentional violation, two hundred dollars
(\$200) for each failure to pay each employee, plus 25 percent of the amount
unlawfully withheld.

13 19. DEFENDANT from time to time failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the
14 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES within seven (7) days of the close of the payroll period in
15 accordance with Cal. Lab. Code § 204(d), including but not limited to the “Hourly” regular
16 wage payments.

17 20. DEFENDANT underpaid sick pay wages to PLAINTIFF and the
18 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES by failing to pay such wages at the regular rate of pay in
19 violation of Cal. Lab. Code Section 246. Specifically, PLAINTIFF and other non-exempt
20 employees earn non-discretionary remuneration, including, but not limited to, incentives,
21 shift differential pay, and bonuses. Rather than pay sick pay at the regular rate of pay,
22 DEFENDANT underpays sick pay to PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES at
23 their base rates of pay.

24 21. Cal. Lab. Code Section 246(1)(2) requires that paid sick time for nonexempt
25 employees be calculated by dividing the employee’s total wages, not including overtime
26 premium pay, by the employee’s total hours worked in the full pay periods of the prior 90
27 days of employment.

1 22. DEFENDANT violated Cal. Lab. Code Section 246 by failing to pay sick pay
2 at the regular rate of pay. PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES routinely
3 earned non-discretionary incentive wages which increased their regular rate of pay.
4 However, when sick pay was paid, it was paid at the base rate of pay for PLAINTIFF and
5 the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES, as opposed to the correct, higher regular rate of pay, as
6 required under Cal. Lab. Code Section 246.

7 23. As a pattern and practice, DEFENDANT regularly failed to pay PLAINTIFF
8 and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES their correct wages and accordingly owe waiting time
9 penalties pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code Section 203. Further, PLAINTIFF is informed and
10 believes and based thereon alleges that such failure to pay sick pay at regular rate was
11 willful, such that the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES whose employment has separated are
12 entitled to waiting time penalties pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code Sections 201-203.

13 24. Pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code Section 221, "It shall be unlawful for any employer
14 to collect or receive from an employee any part of wages theretofore paid by said employer
15 to said employee." DEFENDANT failed to pay all compensation due to PLAINTIFF and
16 the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES, made unlawful deductions from compensation payable to
17 PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES, failed to disclose all aspects of the
18 deductions from compensation payable to PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED
19 EMPLOYEES, and thereby failed to pay these employees all wages due at each applicable
20 pay period and upon termination.

21 25. DEFENDANT intentionally and knowingly failed to reimburse and indemnify
22 PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for required business expenses incurred
23 by the PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES in direct consequence of
24 discharging their duties on behalf of DEFENDANT. Under California Labor Code Section
25 2802, employers are required to indemnify employees for all expenses incurred in the course
26 and scope of their employment. Cal. Lab. Code § 2802 expressly states that "an employer
27 shall indemnify his or her employee for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the
28 employee in direct consequence of the discharge of his or her duties, or of his or her

1 obedience to the directions of the employer, even though unlawful, unless the employee, at
2 the time of obeying the directions, believed them to be unlawful."

3 26. In the course of their employment PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED
4 EMPLOYEES as a business expense, were required by DEFENDANT to use their own
5 personal cellular phones as a result of and in furtherance of their job duties as employees for
6 DEFENDANT but are not reimbursed or indemnified by DEFENDANT for the cost
7 associated with the use of their personal cellular phones for DEFENDANT's benefit.
8 Specifically, PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were required by
9 DEFENDANT to use their personal cellular phones. As a result, in the course of their
10 employment with DEFENDANT, PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES
11 incurred unreimbursed business expenses which included, but were not limited to, costs
12 related to the use of their personal cellular phones all on behalf of and for the benefit of
13 DEFENDANT.

14 27. The employment of some AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES has terminated and
15 DEFENDANT has not tendered payment of all wages owed as required by law.
16 Additionally, at all times during the term of PLAINTIFF's employment with DEFENDANT,
17 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES earned and accrued vested vacation and holiday time on the
18 date of their termination pursuant to DEFENDANT's uniform vacation policies and
19 applicable California law. The amount of vacation pay PLAINTIFF and the other
20 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES earned and accumulated is evidenced by DEFENDANT's
21 business records. Additionally, DEFENDANT also underpaid accrued vested vacation
22 wages to AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES by failing to pay such wages at the regular rate of
23 pay and more specifically the final rate of pay that included all non-discretionary incentive
24 compensation. Rather than pay vacation wages at the regular rate of pay, DEFENDANT
25 underpaid vacation wages to AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES at their base rates of pay, instead
26 of including all of the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES' non-discretionary incentive
27 compensation into the vacation wage payment calculations. DEFENDANT failed to specify
28 in DEFENDANT's written vacation policy the rate at which AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES

1 would be paid vacation upon leaving employment with DEFENDANT. As a result of
2 DEFENDANT's unlawful practice, policy and procedure to deny paying the AGGRIEVED
3 EMPLOYEES all of their vested vacation and holiday time, DEFENDANT failed to pay the
4 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES all vested vacation time as wages due upon employment
5 termination, in violation of the California Labor Code, Sections 201, 202, 203 and 227.3.
6 Similarly, DEFENDANT underpaid waiting time penalties to AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES
7 at their base rates of pay, instead of including all of the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES' non-
8 discretionary compensation into the waiting time penalty calculations. This failure by
9 DEFENDANT is believed to be the result of DEFENDANT's unlawful, unfair and deceptive
10 refusal to provide compensation for earned, accrued and vested vacation and holiday time, as
11 well as the corresponding waiting time penalties that were paid. DEFENDANT perpetrated
12 this unlawful, unfair and deceptive practice to the detriment of AGGRIEVED
13 EMPLOYEES. DEFENDANT's uniform practice and policy of failing to pay the
14 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for all vested vacation and holiday time accumulated at
15 employment termination violated and continues to violate Section 227.3 of the California
16 Labor Code.

17 28. All of the conduct and violations alleged herein occurred during the PAGA
18 PERIOD. To the extent that any of the conduct and violations alleged herein did not affect
19 PLAINTIFF during the PAGA PERIOD, PLAINTIFF seeks penalties for those violations
20 that affected the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES pursuant to *Carrington v. Starbucks Corp.*
21 2018 AJDAR 12157 (Certified for Publication 12/19/18).

22
23 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

24 29. This Court has jurisdiction over this Action pursuant to California Code of
25 Civil Procedure, Section 410.10.

26 30. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure,
27 Sections 395 and 395.5, because PLAINTIFF worked in this County for DEFENDANT and
28 DEFENDANT (i) currently maintains and at all relevant times maintained offices and

1 facilities in this County and/or conducts substantial business in this County, and (ii)
2 committed the wrongful conduct herein alleged in this County against PLAINTIFF and other
3 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES.

4
5 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

6 **For Violation of the Private Attorneys General Act**

7 **[Cal. Lab. Code §§ 2698, *et seq.*]**

8 **(By PLAINTIFF and Against All Defendants)**

9 31. PLAINTIFF realleges and incorporates by this reference, as though fully set
10 forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this Complaint.

11 32. PAGA is a mechanism by which the State of California itself can enforce state
12 labor laws through the employee suing under the PAGA who do so as the proxy or agent of
13 the state's labor law enforcement agencies. An action to recover civil penalties under
14 PAGA is fundamentally a law enforcement action designed to protect the public and not to
15 benefit private parties. The purpose of the PAGA is not to recover damages or restitution,
16 but to create a means of "deputizing" citizens as private attorneys general to enforce the
17 Labor Code. In enacting PAGA, the California Legislature specified that "it was ... in the
18 public interest to allow aggrieved employees, acting as private attorneys general to recover
19 civil penalties for Labor Code violations ..." Stats. 2003, ch. 906, § 1. Accordingly, PAGA
20 claims cannot be subject to arbitration.

21 33. PLAINTIFF, and such persons that may be added from time to time who
22 satisfy the requirements and exhaust the administrative procedures under the Private
23 Attorney General Act, brings this Representative Action on behalf of the State of California
24 with respect to himself and all individuals who are or previously were employed by
25 DEFENDANT in California, including any employees staffed with DEFENDANT by a third
26 party, and classified as non-exempt employees ("AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES") during the
27 time period of October 25, 2022 until a date as determined by the Court (the "PAGA
28 PERIOD").

1 34. On October 25, 2023, PLAINTIFF gave written notice by electronic mail to
2 the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (the "Agency") and by certified mail to the
3 employer of the specific provisions of this code alleged to have been violated as required by
4 Labor Code § 2699.3. See **Exhibit #1**, attached hereto and incorporated by this reference
5 herein (*PAGA Notice only without draft complaint*). The statutory waiting period for
6 PLAINTIFF to add these allegations to the Complaint has expired. As a result, pursuant to
7 Section 2699.3, PLAINTIFF may now commence a representative civil action under PAGA
8 pursuant to Section 2699 as the proxy of the State of California with respect to all
9 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES as herein defined.

10 35. The policies, acts and practices heretofore described were and are an unlawful
11 business act or practice because DEFENDANT (a) failed to provide PLAINTIFF and the
12 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES accurate itemized wage statements, (b) failed to properly
13 record and provide legally required meal and rest periods, (c) failed to pay minimum wages,
14 (d) failed to pay overtime wages and sick pay wages, (e) failed to reimburse employees for
15 required expenses, and (f) failed to provide wages when due, all in violation of the
16 applicable Labor Code sections listed in Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204 *et seq.*, 210, 218,
17 221, 226(a), 226.7, 227.3, 246, 510, 512, 558(a)(1)(2), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2802,
18 California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 11040, Subdivision 5(A)-(B), and the
19 applicable Wage Order(s), and thereby gives rise to civil penalties as a result of such
20 conduct.¹ PLAINTIFF hereby seeks recovery of only civil penalties as prescribed by the
21 Labor Code Private Attorney General Act of 2004 as the representative of the State of
22 California for the illegal conduct perpetrated on PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED
23 EMPLOYEES.

24 ///

25 ///

26 ///

27
28 ¹Plaintiff specifically excludes and/or does not allege any claims under California Labor
Code §558(a)(3).

WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF prays for judgment against each Defendant, jointly and severally, as follows:

A) Recovery of civil penalties as prescribed by the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004; and,

B) An award of attorneys' fees and cost of suit, as allowable under the law, including, but not limited to, pursuant to Labor Code §2699.

Dated: January 5, 2024 BLUMENTHAL NORDREHAUG BHOWMIK DE BLOUW
LLP

By: /s/ Nicholas De Blouw
Norman B. Blumenthal
Nicholas J. De Blouw
Attorneys for Plaintiff

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

EXHIBIT 1

BLUMENTHAL NORDREHAUG BHOWMIK DE BLOUW LLP

2255 CALLE CLARA

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92037

Web Site: www.bamlawca.com

San Diego | San Francisco | Sacramento | Los Angeles | Riverside | Santa Clara | Orange | Chicago

Phone: (858) 551-1223

Fax: (858) 551-1232

WRITERS E-MAIL:

Nick@bamlawca.com

WRITERS EXT:

1004

October 25, 2023

CA3046

VIA ONLINE FILING TO LWDA AND CERTIFIED MAIL TO DEFENDANT

Labor and Workforce Development Agency
Online Filing

Global Equipment Company Inc.
Certified Mail #9589071052700182377256
CSC - LAWYERS INCORPORATING
SERVICE
BECKY DEGEORGE
2710 GATEWAY OAKS DRIVE, Suite
150N
SACRAMENTO, CA 95833

Re: Notice Of Violations Of California Labor Code Sections §§ 201, 202, 203, 204 *et seq.*, 210, 218, 221, 226(a), 226.7, 227.3, 246 *et seq.*, 510, 512, 558(a)(1)(2), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2802, California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 11040, Subdivision 5(A)-(B), California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 1 1070(14) (Failure to Provide Seating), Violation of Applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order(s), and Pursuant To California Labor Code Section 2699.5.

Dear Sir/Madam:

“Aggrieved Employees” refers to all individuals who are or previously were employed by Global Equipment Company Inc. in California, including any employees staffed with Global Equipment Company Inc. by a third party, and classified as non-exempt employees during the time period of October 25, 2022 until a date as determined by the Court. Our offices represent Plaintiff Justin Farrell (“Plaintiff”) and other Aggrieved Employees in a lawsuit against Global Equipment Company Inc. (“Defendant”). Plaintiff has been employed by Defendant in California since June of 2022. Plaintiff has been at all times classified by Defendant as a non-exempt employee, paid on an hourly basis, and entitled to the legally required meal and rest periods and payment of minimum and overtime wages due for all time worked. Defendant, however, unlawfully failed to record and pay Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees for, including but not limited to, all of their time worked, including minimum and overtime wages and sick pay wages at the correct rate, for all of their missed meal and rest breaks at the correct regular rates, and for all of their time spent working off the clock. Moreover, when Defendant required Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees to report for work, but “furnished less than half said employee’s usual or scheduled day’s work,” Defendant violated Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8 § 11040, subd. 5(A) by failing to pay Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees for at least two (2) hours’ worth of work at their regular rate of pay. In addition, when Defendant required Plaintiff and

Aggrieved Employees to respond to and engage in additional work, this resulted in a second reporting for work in a single workday, and Defendant failed to pay these employees reporting time pay as required by Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8, § 11040, subd. 5(B). Further, Defendant failed to advise Plaintiff and the other Aggrieved Employees of their right to take separately and hourly paid duty-free ten (10) minute rest periods. *See Vaquero v. Stoneledge Furniture, LLC*, 9 Cal. App. 5th 98, 110 (2017). Additionally, pursuant to Labor Code § 204 *et seq.*, Defendant failed to timely provide Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees with their wages. Plaintiff further contends that Defendant failed to provide accurate wage statements to her, and other Aggrieved Employees, in violation of California Labor Code section 226(a). Specifically, PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were paid on an hourly basis. As such, the wage statements should reflect all applicable hourly rates during the pay period and the total hours worked, and the applicable pay period in which the wages were earned pursuant to California Labor Code Section 226(a). The wage statements Defendant provided to PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES failed to identify such information. More specifically, the wage statements failed to identify the accurate total hours worked each pay period in violation of Cal. Lab. Code Section 226(a)(2). Additionally, Plaintiff contends that Defendant failed to comply with Industrial Wage Order 7(A)(3) in that Defendant failed to keep time records showing when Plaintiff began and ended each shift and meal period. Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees perform tasks that reasonably permit sitting, and a seat would not interfere with their performance of any of their tasks that may require them to stand. Defendant failed to provide Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees with suitable seats. Said conduct, in addition to the foregoing, as well as the conduct alleged in the incorporated Complaint, violates Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204 *et seq.*, 210, 218, 221, 226(a), 226.7, 227.3, 246, 510, 512, 558(a)(1)(2), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2802, California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 11040, Subdivision 5(A)-(B), California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 1 1070(14) (Failure to Provide Seating), Violation of the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order(s), and is therefore actionable under California Labor Code section 2699.3.

A true and correct copy of the Complaint by Plaintiff against Defendant, which (i) identifies the alleged violations, (ii) details the facts and theories which support the alleged violations, (iii) details the specific work performed by Plaintiff, (iii) sets forth the people/entities, dates, classifications, violations, events, and actions which are at issue to the extent known to Plaintiff, and (iv) sets forth the illegal practices used by Defendant, is attached hereto. This information provides notice to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency of the facts and theories supporting the alleged violations for the agency's reference. Plaintiff therefore incorporates the allegations of the attached Complaint into this letter as if fully set forth herein. If the agency needs any further information, please do not hesitate to ask.

This notice is provided to enable Plaintiff to proceed with the Complaint against Defendant as authorized by California Labor Code section 2699, *et seq.* The lawsuit consists of other Aggrieved Employees. As counsel, our intention is to vigorously prosecute the claims as alleged in the Complaint, and to procure civil penalties as provided by the Private Attorney General Statute of 2004 on behalf of Plaintiff and all Aggrieved Employees.

Your earliest response to this notice is appreciated. If you have any questions of concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above number and address.

Respectfully,

/s/ Nicholas J. De Blouw

Nicholas J. De Blouw, Esq.