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**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF KINGS**

SERGIO ALVAREZ, an individual, on behalf of
himself, the State of California as a private
attorney general, and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

MILK FLOW DAIRY, a business of unknown
formation; TOP LINE DAIRY, a business of
unknown formation; VACA LINDA DAIRY, a
business of unknown formation; FLAVIO
MARTINS, an individual; CRISTIANO
MARTINS, an individual; ROBERTO
MARTINS, an individual and DOES 1 TO 50,

Defendants.

Case Number: 23CU0419

**First Amended Class and PAGA
Representative Action Complaint For:**

1. Failure to Pay All Minimum Wages,
2. Failure to Pay All Overtime Wages,
3. Failure to Provide Rest Periods and Pay Missed Rest Period Premiums,
4. Failure to Provide Meal Periods and Pay Missed Meal Period Premiums,
5. Failure to Maintain Accurate Employment Records,
6. Failure to Pay Wages Timely during Employment,
7. Failure to Pay All Wages Earned and Unpaid at Separation,
8. Failure to Furnish Accurate Itemized Wage Statements,
9. Violations of California's Unfair Competition Law (Bus. & Prof. Code, §§ 17200–17210), and
10. Civil Penalties Under the Private Attorney General Act (Labor Code § 2699 *et seq.*).

ELECTRONICALLY

FILED

BY SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF KING'S COUNTY

01/16/2024

NOCONA SOBOLESKI, CLERK OF THE COURT
JULIENNE DE SANTOS, DEPUTY

Demand for Jury Trial

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1 Plaintiff Sergio Alvarez (“Plaintiff”), on behalf of himself, the State of California as a private
2 attorney general, and all other similarly situated employees within the State of California, complains
3 and alleges of defendants Milk Flow Dairy, Top Line Dairy, Vaca Linda Dairy, Flavio Martins,
4 Cristiano Martins, Roberto Martina, and Does 1 to 50 (collectively, “Defendants”), and each of them,
5 as follows:

6 **I. INTRODUCTION**

7 1. This is a class action complaint brought pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure
8 section 382.

9 2. The “Class Period” as used herein, is defined as the period from October 23, 2019 and
10 continuing into the present and ongoing. Defendants’ violations of California’s laws as described more
11 fully below have been ongoing throughout the Class Period and are still ongoing.

12 3. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of himself and the following class: *All*
13 *individuals who are or were employed by Defendants as non-exempt employees in California during*
14 *the Class Period* (the “Class Members”). (Code Civ. Proc., § 382.)

15 4. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and the Class Members, as a class action,
16 against Defendants for:

- 17 A. Failure to pay all minimum wages,
- 18 B. Failure to pay all overtime wages,
- 19 C. Failure to provide rest periods and pay missed rest period premiums,
- 20 D. Failure to provide meal periods and pay missed meal period premiums,
- 21 E. Failure to maintain accurate employment records,
- 22 F. Failure to pay wages timely during employment,
- 23 G. Failure to pay all wages earned and unpaid at separation,
- 24 H. Failure to furnish accurate itemized wage statements, and
- 25 I. Violations of California’s Unfair Competition Law (“UCL”) (Bus. & Prof.
26 Code, §§ 17200–17210).

27 5. This action is also a representative action brought pursuant to the California Labor Code
28 Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (“PAGA”), codified at California Labor Code sections 2698

1 through 2699.6.

2 6. The “PAGA Period” as used herein, is defined as the period from October 23, 2022, and
3 continuing into the present and ongoing.

4 7. This PAGA action is brought on behalf of Plaintiff, the State of California as private
5 attorney general, and on behalf of the following aggrieved employees: *All individuals who are or were*
6 *employed by Defendants as non-exempt employees in California during the PAGA Period* (the
7 “Aggrieved Employees”).

8 8. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that the California Industrial
9 Welfare Commission (“IWC”) Wage Orders applicable to the facts of this case are IWC Wage Orders
10 8-2001, 13-2001, and/or 14-2001 (the “Applicable Wage Orders”) and possibly others that may be
11 applicable. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 8, §§ 11080, 11130, 11140.) Plaintiff reserves the right to amend
12 or modify the definition of “Applicable Wage Orders” with greater specificity or add additional IWC
13 Wage Orders if additional applicable wage orders are discovered in litigation.

14 **II. JURISDICTION & VENUE**

15 9. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over all causes of action asserted herein
16 pursuant to Article VI, section 10, of the California Constitution and Code of Civil Procedure section
17 410.10 because this is a civil action in which the matter in controversy, exclusive of interest, exceeds
18 \$25,000, and because each cause of action asserted arises under the laws of the State of California or
19 is subject to adjudication in the courts of the State of California.

20 10. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because Defendants have caused
21 injuries in the County of Kings and the State of California through their acts, and by their violation of
22 the California Labor Code and California state common law. Defendants transact millions of dollars of
23 business within the State of California. Defendants own, maintain offices, transact business, have an
24 agent or agents within the County of Kings, and/or otherwise are found within the County of Kings,
25 and Defendants are within the jurisdiction of this Court for purposes of service of process.

26 11. Venue as to Defendants is proper in this judicial district, pursuant to section 395 of the
27 Code of Civil Procedure. Defendants operate within California and do business within Kings County,
28 California. The unlawful acts alleged herein have a direct effect on Plaintiff and all of Defendants’

1 employees identified above within Kings County and surrounding counties where Defendants may
2 remotely operate.

3 12. This matter is not appropriate for removal under the Class Action Fairness Act (28
4 U.S.C. § 1332) as the amount in controversy for Plaintiff's and the Class Members' claims, in
5 aggregate, is less than \$5 million. Additionally, all the allegations herein occurred in the State of
6 California. As such, even if the amount in controversy did exceed \$5 million this matter would still not
7 be appropriate for removal under the "local controversy" exception to the Class Action Fairness Act.
8 (28 U.S.C. § 1332, subd. (d)(4)(A).)

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10 **III. THE PARTIES**

11 **A. PLAINTIFF**

12 13. At all relevant times, Plaintiff, who is over the age of 18, was and currently is a citizen
13 of California residing in the State of California. Defendants employed Plaintiff as a non-exempt hourly
14 employee in the County of Kings.

15 14. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and the following class pursuant to
16 section 382 of the Code of Civil Procedure as follows: *All individuals who are or were employed by*
17 *Defendants as non-exempt employees in California during the Class Period* (the "Class Members").

18 15. The Class Members, at all times pertinent hereto, are or were employees of Defendants
19 during the relevant statutory period.

20 **B. DEFENDANTS**

21 16. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants were authorized
22 to and doing business in Kings County and is and/or was the legal employer of Plaintiff, the Class
23 Members, and the Aggrieved Employees during the applicable statutory periods. Plaintiff, the Class
24 Members, and the Aggrieved Employees were, and are, subject to Defendants' policies and/or practices
25 complained of herein and have been deprived of the rights guaranteed to them by: California Labor
26 Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 256, 510, 512, 1174, 1185, 1194, 1194.2,
27 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, and others that may be applicable; California Business and
28 Professions Code sections 17200 through 17210 ("UCL"); and the Applicable Wage Orders (Cal. Code

1 of Regs., tit. 8, §§ 11080, 11130, 11140).

2 17. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that during the Class
3 Period, Defendants did (and continue to do) business in the State of California, County of Kings.
4 Defendants' operations are headquartered in Kings County.

5 18. Plaintiff does not know the true names or capacities, whether individual, partner, or
6 corporate, of the defendants sued herein as Does 1 to 50, inclusive, and for that reason, said defendants
7 are sued under such fictitious names, and Plaintiff will seek leave from this Court to amend this
8 complaint when such true names and capacities are discovered. Plaintiff is informed, and believes, and
9 thereon alleges, that each of said fictitious defendants, whether individual, partners, or corporate, were
10 responsible in some manner for the acts and omissions alleged herein, and proximately caused Plaintiff,
11 the Class Members, and the Aggrieved Employees to be subject to the unlawful employment practices,
12 wrongs, injuries, and damages complained of herein.

13 19. Plaintiff is informed, and believes, and thereon alleges, that at all times mentioned
14 herein, Defendants were and/or are the employers of Plaintiff, the Class Members, and the Aggrieved
15 Employees. At all times herein mentioned, each of said Defendants participated in the doing of the acts
16 hereinafter alleged to have been done by the named Defendants. Furthermore, the Defendants, and each
17 of them, were the agents, servants, and employees of each and every one of the other Defendants, as
18 well as the agents of all Defendants, and at all times herein mentioned were acting within the course
19 and scope of said agency and employment. Defendants, and each of them, approved of, condoned, or
20 otherwise ratified every one of the acts or omissions complained of herein.

21 20. At all relevant times, Defendants, and each of them, were members of and engaged in a
22 joint venture, partnership, and common enterprise, and acting within the course and scope of and in
23 pursuance of said joint venture, partnership, and common enterprise. Further, Plaintiff is informed, and
24 believes, and thereon alleges, that all Defendants were joint employers for all purposes of Plaintiff, the
25 Class Members, and the Aggrieved Employees.

26 **IV. COMMON FACTS & ALLEGATIONS**

27 21. Plaintiff, the Class Members, and the Aggrieved Employees are, and were at all relevant
28 times, employed by the Defendants within the State of California.

1 22. Plaintiff, the Class Members, and the Aggrieved Employees are, and were, at all relevant
2 times, non-exempt employees for the purposes of minimum wages, overtime, rest breaks, meal periods,
3 and the other claims alleged in this complaint.

4 23. Specifically, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants within the statutory Class Period,
5 working as an hourly, non-exempt dairy farm worker for Defendants.

6 **A. MINIMUM WAGE VIOLATIONS**

7 24. Labor Code section 1197 requires employees to be paid at least the minimum wage fixed
8 by the IWC, and any payment of less than the minimum wage is unlawful. Similarly, Labor Code
9 section 1194 entitles “any employee receiving less than the legal minimum wage . . . to recover in a
10 civil action the unpaid balance of the full amount of this minimum wage.” Likewise, the Applicable
11 Wage Orders also obligate employers to pay each employee minimum wages for all hours worked.
12 (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 8, §§ 11080, 11130, 11140.) Labor Code section 1198 makes unlawful the
13 employment of an employee under conditions that the IWC Wage Orders prohibit.

14 25. These minimum wage standards apply to each hour that employees work. Therefore, an
15 employer’s failure to pay for any particular time worked by an employee is unlawful, even if averaging
16 an employee’s total pay over all hours worked, paid or not, results in an average hourly wage above
17 minimum wage. (*Armenta v. Osmose, Inc.* (2005) 135 Cal.App.4th 314, 324.)

18 26. Here, Defendants failed to fully conform their pay practices to the requirements of the
19 law during the relevant statutory periods. Plaintiff, the Class Members, and the Aggrieved Employees
20 were not compensated for all hours worked including, but not limited to, all hours they were subject to
21 the control of Defendants and/or suffered or permitted to work under the California Labor Code and
22 the Applicable Wage Orders. Among other violations, Plaintiff, the Class Members, and the Aggrieved
23 Employees were subject to the control of Defendants while off-the-clock and did not receive minimum
24 wage for each hour worked.

25 27. Labor Code sections 1194, subdivision (a), and 1194.2, subdivision (a), provide that an
26 employer who has failed to pay its employees the legal minimum wage is liable to pay those employees
27 the unpaid balance of the unpaid wages as well as liquidated damages in an amount equal to the wages
28 due and interest thereon.

1 28. When employees, such as Plaintiff, the Class Members, and the Aggrieved Employees,
2 are not paid for all hours worked under Labor Code section 1194, they are entitled to recover minimum
3 wages for the time which they received no compensation. (See *Sillah v. Command International*
4 *Security Services* (N.D. Cal. 2015) 154 F.Supp.3d 891 [employees suing for failure to pay overtime
5 could recover liquidated damages under Labor Code section 1194.2 if they also showed they were paid
6 less than minimum wage].)

7 29. Labor Code section 1197.1 authorizes employees who are paid less than the minimum
8 wage fixed by an applicable state or local law, or by an order of the IWC, a civil penalty, among other
9 damages, as follows:

10 (1) “For any initial violation that is intentionally committed, one
11 hundred dollars (\$100) for each underpaid employee for each pay period
12 for which the employee is underpaid.”

13 (2) “For each subsequent violation for the same specific offense, two
14 hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each underpaid employee for each pay
15 period for which the employee is underpaid regardless of whether the
16 initial violation is intentionally committed.” (Lab. Code, § 1197.1, subd.

17 (a).)

18 30. As set forth above, Defendants failed to fully compensate Plaintiff, the Class Members,
19 and the Aggrieved Employees for all minimum wages. Accordingly, Plaintiff, the Class Members, and
20 the Aggrieved Employees are entitled to recover liquidated damages for violations of Labor Code
21 section 1197.1.

22 31. Based upon these same factual allegations, Plaintiff, the Class Members, and the
23 Aggrieved Employees are likewise entitled to penalties under Labor Code sections 1199.

24 **B. OVERTIME VIOLATIONS**

25 32. Labor Code section 510 requires employers to compensate employees who work more
26 than eight hours in one workday, forty hours in a workweek, and for the first eight hours worked on
27 the seventh consecutive day no less than one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for an employee.
28 (Lab. Code, § 510, subd. (a).) Further, Labor Code section 510 obligates employers to compensate

1 employees at no less than twice the regular rate of pay when an employee works more than twelve
2 hours in a day or more than eight hours on the seventh consecutive day of work. (Lab. Code, § 510,
3 subd. (a).) These rules are also reflected in the Applicable Wage Orders.

4 33. IWC Wage Order 14-2001, section 3(A), is similar, but provides in pertinent part:

5 “(1) Such employees shall not be employed more than ten (10) hours
6 in any one workday or more than six (6) days in any workweek unless
7 the employee receives one and one-half (1½) times such employee’s
8 regular rate of pay for all hours worked over ten (10) hours in any
9 workday and for the first eight (8) hours on the seventh (7th) day of work
10 and double the employee’s regular rate of pay for all hours worked over
11 eight (8) on the seventh (7th) day of work in the workweek.

12 “(2) For employers of more than 25 employees:

13 “(a) Starting January 1, 2019, an employee shall not be employed
14 more than nine and one-half (9½) hours per workday or fifty-five (55)
15 hours per workweek unless the employee receives one and one-half (1½)
16 times such employee’s regular rate of pay for all hours worked over nine
17 and one-half (9½) hours in any one workday or more than fifty-five (55)
18 hours in any one workweek.

19 “(b) Starting January 1, 2020, an employee shall not be employed
20 more than nine (9) hours per workday or fifty (50) hours per workweek
21 unless the employee receives one and one-half (1½) times such
22 employee’s regular rate of pay for all hours worked over nine (9) hours
23 in any one workday or more than fifty (50) hours in any one workweek.”

24 (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 8, § 11140, subd. 3.)

25 34. In accordance with Labor Code section 1194 and the Applicable Wage Orders, Plaintiff,
26 the Class Members, and the Aggrieved Employees could not then agree and cannot now agree to work
27 for a lesser wage than the amount provided by Labor Code sections 510 or the Applicable Wage Orders.

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1 35. Here, Defendants violated their duty to accurately and completely compensate Plaintiff,
2 the Class Members, and the Aggrieved Employees for all overtime worked. Plaintiff, the Class
3 Members, and the Aggrieved Employees periodically worked hours that entitled them to overtime
4 compensation under the law but were not fully compensated for those hours.

5 36. These actions were and are in clear violation of California’s overtime laws as set forth
6 in Labor Code sections 510, 1194, 1199, and the Applicable Wage Orders. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 8,
7 §§ 11080, 11130, 11140.) As a result of Defendants’ faulty policies and practices, Plaintiff, the Class
8 Members, and the Aggrieved Employees were not compensated for all hours worked or paid accurate
9 overtime compensation.

10 **C. REST BREAK VIOLATIONS**

11 37. Pursuant to Labor Code section 226.7 and the Applicable Wage Orders, Defendants
12 were and are required to provide Plaintiff, the Class Members, and the Aggrieved Employees with
13 compensated, duty-free rest periods of not less than ten minutes for every major fraction of four hours
14 worked. Under the Applicable Wage Orders, an employer must authorize and permit all employees to
15 take ten minute duty free rest periods for every major fraction of four hours worked. (Cal. Code of
16 Regs., tit. 8, §§ 11080, 11130, 11140.)

17 38. Likewise, Labor Code section 226.7 provides that “[a]n employer shall not require an
18 employee to work during a meal or rest or recovery period mandated pursuant to an applicable statute,
19 or applicable regulation, standard, or order of the Industrial Welfare Commission” (Lab. Code, §
20 226.7, subd. (b).) Labor Code section 226.7 also provides that employers must pay their employees one
21 additional hour of pay at the employee’s regular rate for each workday that a “meal or rest or recovery
22 period is not provided.” (Lab. Code, § 226.7, subd. (c).) The “regular rate” for these purposes must
23 factor in all nondiscretionary payments for work performed by the employee, including non-
24 discretionary bonuses, commissions, and other forms of wage payments exceeding the employees’ base
25 hourly rate. (*Ferra v. Loews Hollywood Hotel, LLC* (2021) 11 Cal.5th 858, 878.) Thus, the Wage
26 Orders set when and for how long the rest period must take place and the Labor Code establishes that
27 violations of the IWC Wage Orders are unlawful and sets forth the premium pay employer must pay
28 their employees when employers fail to provide rest periods.

1 39. The California Supreme Court has held that, during required rest periods, “employers
2 must relieve their employees of all duties and relinquish any control over how employees spend their
3 break time.” (*Augustus v. ABM Security Services, Inc.* (2016) 2 Cal.5th 257, 260.) Relinquishing
4 control over employees during rest periods requires that employees be “free to leave the employer’s
5 premises” and be “permitted to attend to personal business.” (*Id.* at p. 275.) The *Brinker* Court
6 explained in the context of rest breaks that employer liability attaches from adopting an unlawful
7 policy:

8 “An employer is required to authorize and permit the amount of rest break time
9 called for under the wage order for its industry. If it does not—if, for example,
10 it adopts a uniform policy authorizing and permitting only one rest break for
11 employees working a seven-hour shift when two are required—it has violated
12 the wage order and is liable.” (*Brinker Rest. Corp. v. Superior Court* (2012) 53
13 Cal.4th 1004, 1033.)

14 40. Here, Defendants periodically did not permit the Class Members to take compliant duty-
15 free rest breaks, free from Defendants’ control as required by Labor Code section 226.7, the Applicable
16 Wage Orders, and applicable precedent. (See *Augustus v. ABM Security Services, Inc.* (2016) 2 Cal.5th
17 257, 269 [concluding that “during rest periods employers must relieve employees of all duties and
18 relinquish control over how employees spend their time.”].) At all relevant times, Plaintiff, the Class
19 Members, and the Aggrieved Employees were periodically not provided with legally-compliant and
20 timely rest periods of at least ten minutes for each four hour work period, or major fraction thereof due
21 to Defendants’ unlawful rest period policies/practices. Plaintiff, the Class Members, and the Aggrieved
22 Employees were often expected and required to continue working through rest periods to meet the
23 expectations Defendants and finish the workday. In some cases when Plaintiff, the Class Members, and
24 the Aggrieved Employees worked more than ten hours in a shift, Defendants failed to authorize and/or
25 permit a third mandated rest period. As a result, Plaintiff, the Class Members, and the Aggrieved
26 Employees were periodically unable to take compliant rest periods.

27 41. In such cases where Defendants did not offer Plaintiff, the Class Members, and the
28 Aggrieved Employees the opportunity to receive a compliant off-duty rest period, “the court may not

1 conclude employees voluntarily chose to skip those breaks.” (*Alberts v. Aurora Behavioral Health*
2 *Care* (2015) 241 Cal.App.4th 388, 410 (2015) [“If an employer fails to provide legally compliant meal
3 or rest breaks, the court may not conclude employees voluntarily chose to skip those breaks.”]; *Brinker*
4 *Rest. Corp. v. Superior Court, supra*, 53 Cal.4th at p. 1033 [“No issue of waiver ever arises for a rest
5 break that was required by law but never authorized; if a break is not authorized, an employee has no
6 opportunity to decline to take it.”].)

7 42. In addition to failing to authorize and permit compliant rest periods, Plaintiff, the Class
8 Members, and the Aggrieved Employees were not compensated with one hour’s worth of pay at their
9 regular rate of compensation when they were not provided with a compliant rest period in accordance
10 with Labor Code section 226.7, subdivision (c). Thus, Defendants have violated Labor Code section
11 226.7 and the Applicable Wage Orders.

12 43. Based on the foregoing, Plaintiff seeks to recover, on behalf of himself and other non-
13 exempt employees, rest period premiums and penalties.

14 **D. MEAL BREAK VIOLATIONS**

15 44. Labor Code section 512 and the Applicable Wage Orders require employers to provide
16 employees with a thirty-minute uninterrupted and duty-free meal period within the first five hours of
17 work. (Lab. Code, § 512, subd. (a) [“An employer shall not employ an employee for a work period of
18 more than five hours per day without providing the employee with a meal period of not less than 30
19 minutes”]; Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 8, §§ 11080, 11130, 11140 [“No employer shall employ any
20 person for a work period of more than five (5) hours without a meal period of not less than 30
21 minutes”].) Additionally, an employee who works more than ten hours per day is entitled to
22 receive a second thirty-minute uninterrupted and duty-free meal period. (Lab. Code, § 512, subd. (a)
23 [“An employer shall not employ an employee for a work period of more than 10 hours per day without
24 providing the employee with a second meal period of not less than 30 minutes”].)

25 45. “An on-duty meal period is permitted only when the nature of the work prevents an
26 employee from being relieved of all duty and the parties agree in writing to an on-duty paid meal
27 break.” (*Lubin v. The Wackenhut Corp.* (2016) 5 Cal.App.5th 926, 932.) The written agreement must
28 include a provision allowing the employee to revoke it at any time. (*Ibid.*) Generally, the California

1 Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (“DLSE”) and courts
2 have “found that the nature of the work exception applies: (1) where the work has some particular
3 external force that requires the employee to be on duty at all times, and (2) where the employee is the
4 sole employee of a particular employer.” (*Id.* at p. 945, internal quotation marks omitted; *Abdullah v.*
5 *U.S. Security Associates, Inc.* (9th Cir. 2013) 731 F.3d 952, 958–959.) “[I]t is the employer’s obligation
6 to determine whether the nature of the work prevents an employee from being relieved before requiring
7 an employee to take an on-duty meal period.” (*Lubin v. The Wackenhut Corp.*, *supra*, 5 Cal.App.5th at
8 p. 946.)

9 46. Here, the Class Members were never asked to sign any enforceable document agreeing
10 to an on-duty meal period. Moreover, nothing in the nature of their work involved the kind of “external
11 force” that might justify on-duty meal breaks. (*Lubin v. The Wackenhut Corp.*, *supra*, 5 Cal.App.5th at
12 p. 945.) Nevertheless, Defendants periodically did not provide compliant off-duty meal periods within
13 the first five hours of work for Plaintiff, the Class Members, and the Aggrieved Employees.

14 47. As with rest breaks, meal breaks must be duty-free. (*Brinker Restaurant Corp. v.*
15 *Superior Court* (2012) 53 Cal.4th 1004, 1035 [“The IWC’s wage orders have long made a meal period’s
16 duty-free nature its defining characteristic.”].) Relinquishing control over employees during meal
17 periods requires that employees be “free to leave the employer’s premises” and be “permitted to attend
18 to personal business.” (*Augustus v. ABM Security Services, Inc.*, *supra*, 2 Cal.5th at p. 275.) Under
19 Labor Code section 512, if an employer maintains a uniform policy that does not authorize and permit
20 the amount of meal time called for under the law (as specified in the Labor Code and/or applicable
21 IWC Wage Order), “it has violated the wage order and is liable.” (*Brinker Restaurant Corp. v. Superior*
22 *Court*, *supra*, 53 Cal.4th at p. 1033.)

23 48. During the applicable statutory periods here, Plaintiff, the Class Members, and the
24 Aggrieved Employees were periodically denied legally-compliant and timely off-duty meal periods of
25 at least thirty minutes due to Defendants’ unlawful meal period policy and practices. As a result of
26 Defendants’ uniform meal period policies and practices, Plaintiff, the Class Members, and the
27 Aggrieved Employees were often not permitted to take compliant first meal periods before the end of
28 the fifth hour of work. Plaintiff, the Class Members, and the Aggrieved Employees were also

1 periodically not permitted to take second meal periods for shifts in excess of ten hours. Defendants thus
2 violated Labor Code section 512 and the Applicable Wage Orders by failing to advise, authorize, or
3 permit the Class Members to receive thirty-minute, off-duty meal periods within the first five hours of
4 their shifts.

5 49. Labor Code section 226.7 provides that “[a]n employer shall not require an employee
6 to work during a meal or rest or recovery period mandated pursuant to an applicable statute, or
7 applicable regulation, standard, or order of the Industrial Welfare Commission.” (Lab. Code, § 226.7,
8 subd. (b).) Labor Code section 226.7, subdivision (c), and the Applicable Wage Orders further obligate
9 employers to pay employees one additional hour of pay at the employee’s regular rate of compensation
10 for each workday that the meal period is not provided. (Lab. Code, § 226.7, subd. (c); Cal. Code of
11 Regs., tit. 8, §§ 11080, 11130, 11140 [“If an employer fails to provide an employee a meal period in
12 accordance with the applicable provisions of this order, the employer shall pay the employee one (1)
13 hour of pay at the employee’s regular rate of compensation for each workday that the meal period is
14 not provided.”].) The “regular rate” for these purposes must factor in all nondiscretionary payments for
15 work performed by the employee, including non-discretionary bonuses, commissions, and other forms
16 of wage payments exceeding the employees’ base hourly rate. (*Ferra v. Loews Hollywood Hotel, LLC*
17 (2021) 11 Cal.5th 858, 878.)

18 50. Accordingly, for each day that Plaintiff, the Class Members, and the Aggrieved
19 Employees did not receive compliant meal periods, they were and are entitled to receive meal period
20 premiums pursuant to Labor Code section 226.7 and the Applicable Wage Orders. Defendants,
21 however, failed to pay Plaintiff, the Class Members, and the Aggrieved Employees applicable meal
22 period premiums for many workdays that the employees did not receive a compliant meal period. Thus,
23 Defendants have violated Labor Code section 226.7 and the Applicable Wage Orders.

24 51. Based on the foregoing, Plaintiff seeks to recover, on behalf of himself and other non-
25 exempt employees, meal period premiums and penalties.

26 **E. UNTIMELY WAGES DURING EMPLOYMENT**

27 52. Labor Code section 204 expressly requires employers who pay employees on a weekly,
28 biweekly, or semimonthly basis to pay all wages “not more than seven calendar days following the

1 close of the payroll period.” Labor Code section 210, subdivision (a), makes employers who violate
2 Labor Code section 204 subject to a penalty of:

3 “(1) For any initial violation, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each
4 failure to pay each employee.

5 “(2) For each subsequent violation, or any willful or intentional
6 violation, two hundred dollars (\$200) for each failure to pay each
7 employee, plus 25 percent of the amount unlawfully withheld.” (Lab.
8 Code, § 210, subd. (a).)

9 53. Notably, the penalty provided by Labor Code section 210 is “[i]n addition to, and
10 entirely independent and apart from, any other penalty provided in this article . . .” (Lab. Code, § 210,
11 subd. (a).)

12 54. Due to Defendants’ failure to pay Plaintiff, the Class Members, and the Aggrieved
13 Employees the wages described above, along with rest and meal break premiums, Defendants failed to
14 timely pay Plaintiff, the Class Members, and the Aggrieved Employees within seven calendar days
15 following the close of payroll in accordance with Labor Code section 204 on a regular and consistent
16 basis. (See *Parson v. Golden State FC, LLC* (N.D. Cal., May 2, 2016, No. 16-CV-00405-JST) 2016
17 WL 1734010, at p. *3–5, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 58299 [finding that a failure to pay rest period
18 premiums can support claims under Labor Code sections 203 and 204].)

19 **F. UNTIMELY WAGES AT SEPARATION**

20 55. Labor Code section 203 provides “if an employer willfully fails to pay . . . any wages
21 of an employee who is discharged or who quits, the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty”
22 for up to thirty days. (Lab. Code § 203; *Mamika v. Barca* (1998) 68 Cal.App.4th 487, 492.) As a result
23 of Defendants’ failure to pay the Class Members for the wages described above, along with rest and
24 meal break premiums, Defendants violated and continue to violate Labor Code section 203.

25 56. Due to Defendants’ faulty pay policies, those Class Members whose employment with
26 Defendants concluded were not compensated for each and every hour worked at the appropriate rate.
27 Defendants have failed to pay formerly-employed Class Members whose sums were certain at the time
28 of termination within at least seventy-two hours of their resignation and have failed to pay those sums

1 for thirty days thereafter.

2 **G. WAGE STATEMENT VIOLATIONS**

3 57. Defendants also failed to provide accurate itemized wage statements in accordance with
4 Labor Code sections 226, subdivisions (a)(1), (2), (5), and (9). Labor Code section 226, subdivision
5 (a), obligates employers, semi-monthly or at the time of each payment to furnish an itemized wage
6 statement in writing showing:

- 7 (1) The gross wages earned;
- 8 (2) The total hours worked by the employee;
- 9 (3) The number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece
10 rate if the employee is paid on a piece rate basis;
- 11 (4) All deductions, provided that all deductions made on written
12 orders of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item;
- 13 (5) The net wages earned;
- 14 (6) The inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid;
- 15 (7) The name of the employee and only the last four digits of his or
16 her social security number or an employee identification number other
17 than a social security number;
- 18 (8) The name and address of the legal entity that is the employer; and
- 19 (9) All applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the
20 corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the
21 employee.

22 58. Due to Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff, the Class Members, and the Aggrieved
23 Employees properly as described above, the wage statements issued do not indicate the correct amount
24 of gross wages earned, total hours worked, or the net wages earned, or the applicable hourly rates in
25 effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate. Thus,
26 Defendants have violated Labor Code section 226, subdivisions (a)(1), (2), (5), and (9).

27 59. In addition to Labor Code section 226, subdivision (a), Defendants also knowingly and
28 intentionally failed to provide Plaintiff, the Class Members, and the Aggrieved Employees with

1 accurate itemized wage statements in violation of Labor Code section 226, subdivision (e). Defendants
2 knew that they were not providing Plaintiff, the Class Members, and the Aggrieved Employees with
3 wage statements required by California law but nevertheless failed to correct their unlawful practices
4 and policies. (See *Garnett v. ADT LLC* (E.D. Cal. 2015) 139 F.Supp.3d 1121, 1134 [finding the
5 defendant knowingly and intentionally violated Labor Code section 226 because the “[d]efendant knew
6 that it was not providing total hours worked to plaintiff or other employees paid on commission” even
7 though it believed that employees paid solely on commission or commission and salary “are exempt
8 and therefore we do not record hours on a wage statement.”].)

9 **H. RECORDKEEPING VIOLATIONS**

10 60. Labor Code section 226, subdivision (a), requires employers to keep an accurate record
11 of, among other things, all hours worked by employees. Labor Code section 226.3 provides, in pertinent
12 part, as follows:

13 “Any employer who violates subdivision (a) of Section 226 shall be subject to a
14 civil penalty in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per employee per
15 violation in an initial citation and one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per employee
16 for each violation in a subsequent citation, for which the employer fails to
17 provide the employee a wage deduction statement or fails to keep the records
18 required in subdivision (a) of Section 226. The civil penalties provided for in
19 this section are in addition to any other penalty provided by law.” (Lab. Code, §
20 226.3, emphasis added.)

21 61. Likewise, Labor Code section 1174, subdivision (d), requires every employer, including
22 Defendants, to:

23 “Keep, at a central location in the state or at the plants or establishments at which
24 employees are employed, payroll records showing the hours worked daily by
25 and the wages paid to, and the number of piece-rate units earned by and any
26 applicable piece rate paid to, employees employed at the respective plants or
27 establishments. These records shall be kept in accordance with rules established
28 for this purpose by the commission, but in any case shall be kept on file for not

1 less than three years. An employer shall not prohibit an employee from
2 maintaining a personal record of hours worked, or, if paid on a piece-rate basis,
3 piece-rate units earned.” (Lab. Code, § 1174, subd. (d), emphasis added.)

4 62. As explained in detail above, Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff, the Class Members,
5 and the Aggrieved Employees with accurate itemized wage statements. Defendants did so, in part,
6 because they failed to accurately track hours worked by Plaintiff, the Class Members, and the
7 Aggrieved Employees. Defendants have thus failed to keep accurate records of the “total hours worked
8 by the employee[s]” in violation of Labor Code section 226, subdivision (a), and are therefore subject
9 to the penalties provided by Labor Code section 226.3. These penalties are “in addition to any other
10 penalty provided by law.” (Lab. Code, § 226.3.)

11 63. The failure to accurately track hours worked also resulted in a failure of Defendants to
12 keep a record of all “payroll records showing the hours worked daily by” Defendants’ employees,
13 including Plaintiff, the Class Members, and the Aggrieved Employees, in violation of Labor Code
14 section 1174, subdivision (d).

15 **V. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

16 64. As mentioned above, Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and the Class
17 Members pursuant to section 382 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

18 65. **Numerosity/Ascertainability:** The Class Members are so numerous that joinder of all
19 members would be unfeasible and not practicable. The membership of the class is unknown to Plaintiff
20 at this time; however, it is estimated that the number of Class Members is greater than 100 individuals.
21 The identity of such membership is readily ascertainable via inspection of Defendants’ employment
22 records.

23 66. **Common Questions of Law and Fact Predominate/Well Defined Community of**
24 **Interest:** There are common questions of law and fact as to Plaintiff and all other similarly situated
25 non-exempt employees, which predominate over questions affecting only individual members
26 including, without limitation to:

27 A. Whether Defendants’ pay policies/practices resulted in a failure to pay the Class
28 Members for all hours worked, including all minimum wages;

1 B. Whether Defendants' pay policies/practices resulted in a failure to pay the Class
2 Members for all required overtime wages at the Class Members' regular rate of pay;

3 C. Whether Defendants' rest period policies and practices afforded legally
4 compliant rest periods or compensation in lieu thereof;

5 D. Whether Defendants' meal period policies and practices afforded legally
6 compliant meal periods or compensation in lieu thereof;

7 E. Whether Defendants maintained accurate employment records;

8 F. Whether Defendants timely paid all wages during employment;

9 G. Whether Defendants timely paid all wages earned and unpaid at separation;

10 H. Whether Defendants furnished legally-compliant wage statements to the Class
11 Members pursuant to Labor Code section 226; and

12 I. Whether Defendants' violations of the Labor Code and the Applicable Wage
13 Orders amounted to a violation of California's UCL.

14 67. **Predominance of Common Questions:** Common questions of law and fact
15 predominate over questions that affect only individual Class Members. The common questions of law
16 set forth above are numerous and substantial and stem from Defendants' uniform policies and practices
17 applicable to each individual class member, such as Defendants' uniform policy and practice of failing
18 to pay for all hours worked, Defendants' uniform policies and practices which failed to provide
19 compliant rest periods, Defendants' uniform policies and practices which failed to provide compliant
20 meal periods, Defendants' failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements, and others. As such,
21 the common questions predominate over individual questions concerning each individual class
22 member's showing as to his or her eligibility for recovery or as to the amount of his or her damages.

23 68. **Typicality:** The claims of Plaintiff are typical of the claims of the Class Members
24 because Plaintiff was employed by Defendants as a non-exempt employee in California during the
25 statute(s) of limitation applicable to each cause of action pleaded in this complaint. As alleged herein,
26 Plaintiff, like the other Class Members, was deprived of minimum, regular, and overtime wages
27 because of Defendants' unlawful timekeeping policies and practices, was deprived of rest periods and
28 premium wages in lieu thereof, was deprived of meal periods and premium wages in lieu thereof, was

1 subject to Defendants' uniform rest period policies and practices, was subject to Defendants' uniform
2 meal period policies and practices, was not provided accurate itemized wage statements, was not paid
3 all wages in full and on time, , and was subject to other similar policies and practices to which the Class
4 Members were subject.

5 **69. Adequacy of Representation:** Plaintiff is fully prepared to take all necessary steps to
6 represent fairly and adequately the interests of the Class Members. Moreover, Plaintiff's attorneys are
7 ready, willing, and able to fully and adequately represent the Class Members and Plaintiff. Plaintiff's
8 attorneys have prosecuted numerous wage-and-hour class actions in state and federal court in the past
9 and are committed to vigorously prosecuting this action on behalf of the Class Members.

10 **70. Superiority:** The California Labor Code is broadly remedial in nature and serves an
11 important public interest in establishing minimum working conditions and standards in California.
12 These laws and labor standards protect the average working employee from exploitation by employers
13 who have the responsibility to follow the laws and who may seek to take advantage of superior
14 economic and bargaining power in setting onerous terms and conditions of employment. The nature of
15 this action and the format of laws available to Plaintiff and the Class Members make the class action
16 format a particularly efficient and appropriate procedure to redress the violations alleged herein. If each
17 employee were required to file an individual lawsuit, Defendants would necessarily gain an
18 unconscionable advantage since they would be able to exploit and overwhelm the limited resources of
19 each individual plaintiff with their vastly superior financial and legal resources.

20 **71.** Moreover, requiring each Class Member to pursue an individual remedy would also
21 discourage the assertion of lawful claims by employees who would be disinclined to file an action
22 against their former or current employer for real and justifiable fear of retaliation and permanent
23 damages to their careers at subsequent employment. Further, the prosecution of separate actions by the
24 individual Class Members, even if possible, would create a substantial risk of inconsistent or varying
25 verdicts or adjudications with respect to the individual Class Members against Defendants herein, and
26 which would establish potentially incompatible standards of conduct for Defendants or legal
27 determinations with respect to individual Class Members which would, as a practical matter, be
28 dispositive of the interest of the other Class Members not parties to adjudications or which would

1 substantially impair or impede the ability of the Class Members to protect their interests.

2 72. Further, the claims of the individual Class Members are not sufficiently large to warrant
3 vigorous individual prosecution considering the concomitant costs and expenses attending thereto. As
4 such, the Class Members identified above are maintainable as a class under section 382 of the Code of
5 Civil Procedure.

6 **VI. CAUSES OF ACTION**

7 **First Cause of Action**

8 *Failure to Pay All Minimum Wages*

9 *(Against All Defendants)*

10 73. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.

11 74. Section 4 of the Applicable Wage Orders and Labor Code section 1197 establish the
12 right of employees to be paid minimum wages for all hours worked, in amounts set by state law. (Lab.
13 Code, § 1197; Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 8, §§ 11080, 11130, 11140.) Labor Code sections 1194,
14 subdivision (a), and 1194.2, subdivision (a), provide that an employee who has not been paid the legal
15 minimum wage as required by Labor Code section 1197 may recover the unpaid balance, together with
16 attorneys' fees and costs of suit, as well as liquidated damages in an amount equal to the unpaid wages
17 and interest accrued thereon.

18 75. Here, Defendants failed to fully conform their pay practices to the requirements of the
19 law during the relevant statutory periods. Plaintiff and the other Class Members were not compensated
20 for all hours worked including, but not limited to, all hours they were subject to the control of
21 Defendants and/or suffered or permitted to work under the Labor Code and the Applicable Wage
22 Orders.

23 76. Labor Code section 1198 makes unlawful the employment of an employee under
24 conditions that the IWC Wage Orders prohibit. Labor Code sections 1194, subdivision (a), and 1194.2,
25 subdivision (a), provide that an employer who has failed to pay its employees the legal minimum wage
26 is liable to pay those employees the unpaid balance of the unpaid wages as well as liquidated damages
27 in an amount equal to the wages due and interest thereon.

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77. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful conduct as alleged herein, Plaintiff and the other Class Members have sustained economic damages, including but not limited to unpaid wages and lost interest, in an amount to be established at trial, and they are entitled to recover economic and statutory damages and penalties and other appropriate relief because of Defendants' violations of the Labor Code and Applicable Wage Orders.

78. Defendants' practices and policies regarding illegal employee compensation are unlawful and create an entitlement to recovery by Plaintiff and the other Class Members in a civil action for the unpaid amount of minimum wages, liquidated damages, including interest thereon, statutory penalties, attorneys' fees, and costs of suit according to Labor Code sections 204, 218.5, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, and 1198, and Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5.

Second Cause of Action

Failure to Pay All Overtime Wages

(Against All Defendants)

79. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.

80. This cause of action is brought pursuant to Labor Code sections 204, 510, 1194, and 1198, which provide that non-exempt employees are entitled to overtime wages for all overtime hours worked and provide a private right of action for the failure to pay all overtime compensation for overtime work performed. At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to properly pay Plaintiff and the other Class Members for all overtime wages earned pursuant to Labor Code section 1194 and the Applicable Wage Orders. Defendants caused Plaintiff and the other Class Members to work overtime hours but did not compensate them at one and one-half times their regular rate of pay for such hours in accordance with California law. Likewise, Defendants caused Plaintiff and the other Class Members to work double-time hours but did not compensate them at twice their regular rate of pay for such hours in accordance with California law.

81. Defendants failed to fully conform their pay practices to the requirements of California law. This unlawful conduct includes but is not limited to Defendants' uniform and unlawful pay policies and practices of failing to accurately record all the time that non-exempt employees were under the supervision and control of Defendants. The foregoing policies and practices are unlawful and allow

1 Plaintiff and the other Class Members to recover in a civil action the unpaid amount of overtime
2 premiums owing, including interest thereon, statutory penalties, attorneys' fees, and costs of suit
3 according to Labor Code section 204, 510, 1194, and 1198, the Applicable Wage Orders, and Code of
4 Civil Procedure section 1021.5.

5 **Third Cause of Action**

6 *Failure to Provide Rest Periods and Pay Missed Rest Period Premiums*

7 *(Against All Defendants)*

8 82. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.

9 83. Section 12 of the Applicable Wage Orders, and Labor Code section 226.7 establish the
10 right of employees to be provided with a rest period of at least ten minutes for each four hour period
11 worked, or major fraction thereof. (See Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 8, §§ 11080, 11130, 11140.)

12 84. Due to Defendants' unlawful rest period policies and practices described in detail above,
13 Defendants did not authorize and permit Plaintiff and the other Class Members to take all rest periods
14 to which they were legally entitled. Despite Defendants' violations, Defendants have not paid an
15 additional hour of pay to Plaintiff and the other Class Members at their respective regular rates of pay
16 for each violation, in accordance with California Labor Code section 226.7.

17 85. The foregoing violations create an entitlement to recovery by Plaintiff and the other
18 Class Members in a civil action for the unpaid amount of rest period premiums owing, including interest
19 thereon, statutory penalties, and costs of suit pursuant to the Applicable Wage Orders, and California
20 Labor Code section 226.7.

21 **Fourth Cause of Action**

22 *Failure to Provide Meal Periods and Pay Missed Meal Period Premiums*

23 *(Against All Defendants)*

24 86. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.

25 87. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges, that Defendants failed in their
26 affirmative obligation to provide their hourly non-exempt employees, including Plaintiff and the other
27 Class Members, with all required meal periods in accordance with the mandates of the Labor Code and
28 the Applicable Wage Orders, for the reasons set forth herein above. Despite Defendants' violations,

1 Defendants have not paid an additional hour of pay to Plaintiff and the other Class Members at their
2 respective regular rates of pay for each violation, in accordance with California Labor Code section
3 226.7.

4 88. As a result, Defendants are responsible for paying premium compensation for meal
5 period violations, including interest thereon, statutory penalties, and costs of suit pursuant to the
6 Applicable Wage Orders and Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512, and Civil Code sections 3287,
7 subdivision (b), and 3289. (See Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 8, §§ 11080, 11130, 11140.)

8 **Fifth Cause of Action**

9 *Failure to Maintain Accurate Employment Records*

10 *(Against All Defendants)*

11 89. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.

12 90. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 1174, subdivision (d), an employer shall keep
13 at a central location in the state or at the plants or establishments at which employees are employed,
14 payroll records showing the hours worked daily by and wages paid to employees employed at the
15 respective plants or establishments. These records must be kept in accordance with rules established
16 for this purpose by the commission, but in any case shall be kept on file for not less than two years.

17 91. Labor Code section 1174.5 imposes a civil penalty of \$500 for an employer's failure to
18 maintain accurate and complete records.

19 92. Defendant has intentionally and willfully failed to keep accurate and complete records
20 showing the hours worked daily and wages paid to Plaintiff and the other Class Members. Thus,
21 Plaintiff and the other Class Members have been denied their legal right and protected interest in having
22 available at a central location at the plant or establishment where they are employed, accurate and
23 complete payroll records showing the hours worked daily by, and the wages paid to, employees at those
24 respective locations pursuant to Labor Code 1174.

25 **Sixth Cause of Action**

26 *Failure to Pay Wages Timely during Employment*

27 *(Against All Defendants)*

28 93. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.

1 94. Labor Code section 200 provides that “wages” include all amounts for labor performed
2 by employees of every description, whether the amount is fixed or ascertained by the standard of time,
3 task, pieces, commission basis, or other method of calculation. Labor Code section 204 states that all
4 wages earned by any person in any employment are payable twice during the calendar month and must
5 be paid not more than seven days following the close of the period when the wages were earned. Labor
6 Code section 210, subdivision (a), makes employers who violate Labor Code section 204 subject to a
7 penalty of \$100 for any initial failure to timely pay each employee’s full wages and \$200 for each
8 subsequent violation, plus 25% of the amount unlawfully withheld.

9 95. Labor Code section 216 establishes that it is a misdemeanor for any person, with regards
10 to wages due, to “falsely deny the amount or validity thereof, or that the same is due, with intent to
11 secure himself, his employer or other person, any discount upon such indebtedness, or with intent to
12 annoy, harass, oppress, hinder, delay, or defraud, the person to whom such indebtedness is due.”

13 96. Defendants as a matter of established company policy and procedure in the State of
14 California, scheduled, required, suffered, and/or permitted Plaintiff and the other Class Members, to
15 work without full compensation, to work without legally-compliant off-duty meal periods, to work
16 without legally-compliant off-duty rest periods, and thereby failed to fully pay Plaintiff and the other
17 Class Members within seven days of the close of payroll, as required by law.

18 97. Defendants, as a matter of established company policy and procedure in the State of
19 California, falsely deny they owe Plaintiff and the other Class Members these wages, with the intent of
20 securing for itself a discount upon its indebtedness and/or to annoy, harass, oppress, hinder, delay,
21 and/or defraud Plaintiff and the other Class Members.

22 98. Defendants’ pattern, practice, and uniform administration of its corporate policy of
23 illegally denying employees compensation, as described herein, is unlawful and entitles Plaintiff and
24 the other Class Members to recover, pursuant to Labor Code section 218, the unpaid balance of the
25 compensation owed to them in a civil action and any applicable penalties, attorney fees, and interest
26 owed to them pursuant to Labor Code sections 210 and 218.5.

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1 105. Labor Code section 226, subdivision (a), obligates employers, semi-monthly or at the
2 time of each payment to furnish an itemized wage statement in writing showing:

- 3 (1) The gross wages earned;
- 4 (2) The total hours worked by the employee;
- 5 (3) The number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece
6 rate if the employee is paid on a piece rate basis;
- 7 (4) All deductions, provided that all deductions made on written
8 orders of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item;
- 9 (5) The net wages earned;
- 10 (6) The inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid;
- 11 (7) The name of the employee and only the last four digits of his or
12 her social security number or an employee identification number other
13 than a social security number;
- 14 (8) The name and address of the legal entity that is the employer; and
- 15 (9) All applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the
16 corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the
17 employee.

18 106. As set forth above, Defendants issued and continues to issue wage statements to its non-
19 exempt employees including Plaintiff and the other Class Members that are inadequate under Labor
20 Code section 226, subdivision (a). By failing to pay Plaintiff and the other Class Members properly as
21 described above, Defendants failed to include required information on their wage statements, including,
22 but not limited to, the gross wages earned, the net wages earned in violation of Labor Code section
23 226, subdivision (a).

24 107. Defendants' failure to comply with Labor Code section 226, subdivision (a), of the
25 Labor Code was knowing and intentional. (Lab. Code, § 226, subd. (e)).

26 108. As a result of Defendants' issuance of inaccurate itemized wage statements to Plaintiff
27 and the other Class Members in violation of Labor Code section 226, subdivision (a), Plaintiff and the
28 other Class Members are each entitled to recover an initial penalty of \$50, and subsequent penalties of

1 \$100, up to an amount not exceeding an aggregate penalty of \$4,000 per Plaintiff and per each Class
2 Member from Defendants pursuant to Labor Code section 226, subdivision (e), along with costs and
3 reasonable attorneys' fees.

4 **Ninth Cause of Action**

5 *Violations of California's Unfair Competition Law*

6 *(Against All Defendants)*

7 109. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.

8 110. Defendants have engaged and continue to engage in unfair and/or unlawful business
9 practices in California in violation of California Business and Professions Code section 17200 through
10 17210, by committing the unlawful acts described above. Defendants' utilization of these unfair and
11 unlawful business practices deprived and continue to deprive Plaintiff and the other Class Members of
12 compensation to which they are legally entitled. These practices constitute unfair and unlawful
13 competition and provide an unfair advantage over Defendants' competitors who have been and/or are
14 currently employing workers and attempting to do so in honest compliance with applicable wage and
15 hour laws.

16 111. Because Plaintiff is a victim of Defendants' unfair and unlawful conduct alleged herein,
17 Plaintiff for himself and on behalf of the Class Members, seeks full restitution of monies, as necessary
18 and according to proof, to restore any and all monies withheld, acquired and/or converted by
19 Defendants pursuant to Business and Professions Code sections 17203 and 17208.

20 112. The acts complained of herein occurred within the four years prior to the initiation of
21 this action and are continuing into the present and ongoing.

22 113. Plaintiff was compelled to retain the services of counsel to file this Court action to
23 protect his interests and those of the Class Members, to obtain restitution and injunctive relief on behalf
24 of Defendants' current non-exempt employees and to enforce important rights affecting the public
25 interest. Plaintiff has thereby incurred the financial burden of attorneys' fees and costs, which Plaintiff
26 is entitled to recover under Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5.

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Tenth Cause of Action

Penalties Pursuant to the California Private Attorneys General Act of 2004

("PAGA") and Other Provisions of the California Labor Code

(Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees Against All Defendants)

114. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.

115. Based on the above allegations incorporated by reference, Defendants violated California Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 256, 510, 512, 1174, 1174.5, 1185, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, and others that may be applicable; California Business and Professions Code sections 17200 through 17210 ("UCL"); and the Applicable Wage Orders (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 8, §§ 11080, 11130, 11140). As a result of the acts alleged above, Plaintiff seeks penalties under California Labor Code §§ 2698–2699.6 because of Defendants' violation of the California Labor Code and applicable IWC Wage Orders.

116. Under California Labor Code §§ 2699(f)(2) and 2699.5, for each such violation, Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees are entitled to penalties in an amount to be shown at the time of trial subject to the following formula:

A. \$100 for the initial violation per employee per pay period; and

B. \$200 for each subsequent violation per employee per pay period.

117. These penalties shall be allocated seventy-five percent (75%) to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) and twenty-five percent (25%) to the affected employees. These penalties may be stacked separately for each of Defendants violations of the California Labor Code. *See e.g. Hernandez v. Towne Park, Ltd.*, No. CV 12-02972 MMM (JCGx) 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 86975, at *59, fn. 77 (C.D. Cal. June 22, 2012) (holding that although the plaintiff did not seek stacked PAGA penalties, that "PAGA penalties can be 'stacked,' i.e., multiple PAGA penalties can be assessed for the same pay period for different Labor Code violations."); *See Lopez v. Friant & Assocs., LLC*, No. A148849, 2017 Cal. App. LEXIS 839, at *1 (Ct. App. Sep. 26, 2017) ("hold[ing] a plaintiff seeking civil penalties under PAGA for a violation of Labor Code section 226(a) does not have to satisfy the 'injury' and 'knowing and intentional' requirements of section 226(e)(1) and acknowledging that a Plaintiff could recover separately under PAGA for violations of Labor Code §§ 226(a) and 226(e)).

1 118. In addition, to the extent permitted by law, Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff and all
2 aggrieved employees with accurate itemized wage statements in compliance with Labor Code § 226(a).
3 Plaintiff seeks separate PAGA penalties for Defendants' violations of Labor Code §§ 226(a) and
4 226(e).

5 119. For violations of Labor Code § 226(a), Plaintiff seeks the default penalty provided by
6 Labor Code § 226.3. Labor Code § 226.3 provides that "[a]ny employer who violates subdivision (a)
7 of Section 226 shall be subject to a civil penalty in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per
8 employee per violation in an initial violation and one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per employee for each
9 violation in a subsequent citation, for which the employer fails to provide the employee a wage
10 deduction statement or fails to keep the required in subdivision (a) of Section 226." Accordingly,
11 through PAGA and to the extent permitted by law Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees are entitled
12 to recover penalties for violations of Labor Code § 226.3 and seeks default PAGA penalties for each
13 of Defendants' numerous violations of Labor Code § 226(e).

14 120. Further, Plaintiff, as an Aggrieved Employee, need not demonstrate or prove that
15 Defendants' conduct in refusing to provide accurate and itemized wage statements was knowing,
16 intentional, or willful.

17 121. Labor Code § 210 provides that "in addition to, and entirely independent and apart from,
18 any other penalty provided in this article, every person who fails to pay the wages of each employee as
19 provided in Sections...204...shall be subject to a civil penalty as follows: (1) For any initial violation,
20 one hundred dollars (\$100) for each failure to pay each employee; (2) For each subsequent violation,
21 or any willful or intentional violation, two hundred dollars (\$200) for each failure to pay each
22 employee, plus 25% of the amount unlawfully withheld." As a result of the faulty compensation
23 policies and practices described in detail above, Plaintiff and the other Aggrieved Employees are
24 entitled to recover penalties under Labor Code § 210 through PAGA.

25 122. Plaintiff has complied with the procedures for bringing suit specified in California Labor
26 Code § 2699.3. and will have fully exhausted his administrative remedies under PAGA prior to
27 proceeding with the PAGA claim. On or about October 23, 2023, Plaintiff filed his PAGA Notice
28 online with the Labor Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and sent a letter by certified mail

1 to Defendant setting forth the facts and theories of the violations alleged against Defendant, as
2 prescribed by Labor Code § 2698 *et seq.* As required by PAGA, Plaintiff submitted the \$75.00 filing
3 fee with the LWDA by regular mail. Pursuant to Labor Code § 2699.3(a)(2)(A), no notice was and/or
4 will have been received by Plaintiff from the LWDA evidencing its intention to investigate within
5 sixty-five (65) calendar days of the postmark date of the PAGA notice. Plaintiff is therefore entitled to
6 commence and proceed with a civil action pursuant to Labor Code § 2699.

7 **VII. DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

8 123. Plaintiff hereby demands trial by jury of Plaintiff's and the Class Members' claims
9 against Defendants.

10 **VIII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

11 Plaintiff prays for judgment for himself and for all others on whose behalf this suit is brought
12 against Defendants, as follows:

- 13 1. For an order certifying the proposed class;
- 14 2. For an order appointing Plaintiff as representative of the class;
- 15 3. For an order appointing Plaintiff's counsel as counsel for the class;
- 16 4. For the failure to pay all minimum wages, compensatory, consequential, general, and
17 special damages according to proof pursuant to Labor Code sections 1194, 1194.2,
18 1197, and others as may be applicable;
- 19 5. For the failure to pay all overtime wages, compensatory, consequential, general, and
20 special damages according to proof pursuant to Labor Code sections 204, 510, 1194,
21 1198, and others as may be applicable;
- 22 6. For the failure to provide rest periods and pay missed rest period premiums,
23 compensatory, consequential, general, and special damages according to proof pursuant
24 to Labor Code section 226.7;
- 25 7. For the failure to provide meal periods and pay missed meal period premiums,
26 compensatory, consequential, general, and special damages according to proof pursuant
27 to Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512;

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8. For the failure to maintain accurate employment records, penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 226.3, 1174.5, and others that may be applicable;
9. For the failure to pay wages timely during employment, the unpaid balance of the compensation owed to Plaintiff and the other Class Members and any applicable penalties owed to them pursuant to Labor Code section 210;
10. For the failure to pay all wages earned and unpaid at separation, statutory waiting time penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 201 through 203, for the Class Members who quit or were fired in an amount equal to their daily wage multiplied by thirty days, as may be proven;
11. For the violations of California's Unfair Competition Law, restitution to Plaintiff and the other Class Members of all money and/or property unlawfully acquired by Defendants by means of any acts or practices declared by this Court to be in violation of Business and Professions Code sections 17200 through 17210;
12. For the claim of penalties pursuant to PAGA and other provisions of the California Labor Code, a civil penalty in the amount of \$100 for the initial violation and \$200 for each subsequent violation as specified in Labor Code section 2699, subdivision (f)(2), in the representative action brought on behalf of Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees pursuant the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, and for civil penalties available under Labor Code section 210;
13. Prejudgment interest on all due and unpaid wages pursuant to Labor Code section 218.6 and Civil Code sections 3287 and 3289;
14. On all causes of action for which attorneys' fees may be available, for attorneys' fees and costs as provided by Labor Code sections 218.5, 226, Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5, and others as may be applicable;
15. For an order enjoining Defendants, and each of them, and their agents, servants, and employees, and all persons acting under, in concert with, or for them, from acting in derogation of any rights or duties adumbrated in this complaint; and

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1 **16.** For such other and further relief, this Court may deem just and proper.

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3 Dated: January 15, 2024

MELMED LAW GROUP P.C.

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JONATHAN MELMED

6 Attorneys for Plaintiff, the Putative Class, and the
7 Aggrieved Employees