

JUSTICE FOR WORKERS, P.C.
 Young K. Park, SB# 287589
 E-Mail: young@justiceforworkers.com
 William C. Sung, SB# 280792
 E-Mail: william@justiceforworkers.com
 3600 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1815
 Los Angeles, CA 90010
 Tel: 323-922-2000
 Fax: 323-922-2000

Attorneys for Plaintiff MUSHFIQUR CHOWDHURY

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CENTRAL DISTRICT**

MUSHFIQUR CHOWDHURY, an individual
 and on behalf of all others similarly situated;

Plaintiff,

vs.

CWT US, LLC, a Delaware limited liability
 company; and DOES 1 through 50,

Defendants.

Case No.: 23STCV25373

**FIRST AMENDED CLASS ACTION
 COMPLAINT:**

- (1) **MINIMUM WAGE VIOLATIONS**
 (LABOR CODE §§ 1182.12, 1194,
 1194.2, 1197);
- (2) **OVERTIME WAGE VIOLATIONS**
 (LABOR CODE §§ 204, 510, 1194,
 1198);
- (3) **MEAL PERIOD VIOLATIONS**
 (LABOR CODE §§ 226.7, 512, 558);
- (4) **REST PERIOD VIOLATIONS**
 (LABOR CODE §§ 226.7, 516, 558);
- (5) **WAGE STATEMENT PENALTIES**
 (LABOR CODE § 226);
- (6) **WAITING TIME PENALTIES**
 (LABOR CODE §§ 201-203);
- (7) **FAILURE TO REIMBURSE**
NECESSARY BUSINESS EXPENSES
 (LABOR CODE § 2802);
- (8) **UNLAWFUL DEDUCTION OF**
WAGES (LABOR CODE §§ 221, 222,
 224);
- (9) **UNFAIR COMPETITION (BUS &**
PROF CODE §§ 17200, et seq.); and
- (10) **CIVIL PENALTIES UNDER THE**
CALIFORNIA PRIVATE

FILED
 Superior Court of California
 County of Los Angeles

12/21/2023

David W. Slayton, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court

By: R. Lozano Deputy

**ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT
(LABOR CODE §§ 2698, *et seq.***

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff MUSHFIQUR CHOWDHURY (“Plaintiff”), on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, hereby brings this First Amended Class Action Complaint (“Complaint”) against Defendants CWT US, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, f/k/a Carlson Wagonlit Travel, Inc. and DOES 1 to 50 inclusive (collectively “Defendants”), and on information and belief alleges as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, hereby brings this Complaint for recovery of unpaid wages and penalties under California Business and Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.*, Labor Code §§ 201-204, 212, 221, 222, 224, 226, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 516, 558, 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198, 2802, 2698, *et seq.*, and Industrial Welfare Commission (“IWC”) Wage Order 4-2001 (“Wage Order 4”), in addition to seeking injunctive relief, declaratory relief, and restitution. This Complaint is brought pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 382. This Court has jurisdiction over Defendants’ violations of the Labor Code because the amount in controversy exceeds \$25,000.

2. Venue is proper in this judicial district because Defendants employed Plaintiff in Los Angeles County.

PARTIES

3. Plaintiff is, and at all times relevant herein was, an individual over the age of eighteen (18) and is a California resident. Within the statute of limitations periods applicable to each cause of action pled herein, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants as a non-exempt employee. Plaintiff was, and is, a victim of Defendants’ policies, practices, and/or customs complained of herein and has been deprived of the rights guaranteed by Business and Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.*, Labor Code §§ 201-204, 212, 221, 222, 224, 226, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 516, 558, 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198, 2802, 2698, *et seq.*, and Wage Order 4.

1 4. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that during the
2 applicable statute of limitations for each cause of action pled herein and continuing to the present,
3 Defendants engaged in, and continue to engage in, business, and employed Plaintiff and other,
4 similarly-situated non-exempt employees within Los Angeles County, and the State of California
5 and, therefore, were (and are) doing business in Los Angeles County and the State of California.

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

15 6. At all times herein mentioned, each of said Defendants participated in the doing of
16 the acts hereinafter alleged to have been done by the named Defendant; and furthermore,
17 Defendants, and each of them, were the agents, servants, and employees of each of the other
18 defendants, as well as the agents of all Defendants, and at all times herein mentioned, were acting
19 within the course and scope of said agency and employment.

20 7. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that at all times
21 material hereto, each of the Defendants named herein was the agent, employee, alter ego and/or
22 joint venturer of, or working in concert with each of the other co-Defendants and was acting within
23 the course and scope of such agency, employment, joint venture, or concerted activity. To the extent
24 said acts, conduct, and omissions were perpetrated by certain Defendants, each of the remaining
25 Defendants confirmed and ratified said acts, conduct, and omissions of the acting Defendants.

26 8. At all times herein mentioned, Defendants, and each of them, were members of, and
27 engaged in, a joint venture, partnership, and common enterprise, and acting within the course and
28 scope of, and in pursuance of, said joint venture, partnership, and common enterprise.

1 9. At all times herein mentioned, the acts and omissions of various Defendants, and
2 each of them, concurred and contributed to the various acts and omissions of each and all of the
3 other Defendants in proximately causing the injuries and damages as herein alleged.

4 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

5 10. Defendants own and operate a travel management company that manages business
6 travel, meetings, incentives, conferencing, exhibitions, and event management in the State of
7 California. Plaintiff was employed by Defendants as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from
8 approximately January 3, 2023 to approximately September 1, 2023 as a Travel Experience
9 Counselor in Los Angeles.

10 11. Throughout Plaintiff's employment with Defendants, Defendants' timekeeping
11 and/or payroll policies and practices resulted in Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees not being
12 compensated for all hours actually worked. Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees regularly
13 worked more than eight hours in a workday or 40 hours in a workweek. Upon information and
14 belief, on occasion Defendants required Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees to perform work
15 before their scheduled shifts, after their scheduled shifts, and/or during off-the-clock meal breaks,
16 and failed to compensate employees for this time. Upon information and belief, Defendants also
17 failed to properly incorporate multiple rates of pay and/or all non-discretionary remuneration into
18 the regular rate of pay. As a result, Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees were not compensated
19 for all earned minimum and overtime wages.

20 12. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees with all
21 legally compliant meal periods due to Defendants' meal period policies/practices, which have
22 frequently resulted in late (commencing after the fifth hour of work), short (less than 30 minutes),
23 and/or missed meal periods. Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees were not able to take their
24 legally compliant meal breaks due to work demands imposed by Defendants. Upon information and
25 belief, Defendants do not keep accurate records of Plaintiff's and other non-exempt employees'
26 hours worked, including accurate time records showing when employees take their meal periods.
27 On those occasions when Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees were not provided with all
28 legally compliant meal periods to which they were entitled, Defendants failed to compensate

1 Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees with the required meal period premium(s) for each
2 workday there was a meal period violation as mandated by Labor Code § 226.7. Upon information
3 and belief, Defendants maintained no mechanism for the payment of meal period premium
4 payments as required by Labor Code § 226.7 in the event that a legally compliant meal period was
5 not provided to their non-exempt employees and/or failed to properly incorporate multiple rates of
6 pay and/or all non-discretionary remuneration into the regular rate of compensation.

7 13. Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees were not authorized and permitted to take
8 all required rest periods due to Defendants' unlawful rest period policies/practices, which failed to
9 authorize and permit a net 10-minute rest period for every four hours worked, or major fraction
10 thereof. Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees were not able to take their legally compliant rest
11 breaks due to work demands imposed by Defendants. On those occasions when Plaintiff and other
12 non-exempt employees were not authorized and permitted to take all legally compliant rest periods
13 to which they were entitled, Defendants failed to compensate them with the required rest period
14 premium(s) for each workday there was a rest period violation as mandated by Labor Code § 226.7.
15 Upon information and belief, Defendants maintained no mechanism for the payment of rest period
16 premium payments as required by Labor Code § 226.7, in the event that a legally compliant rest
17 period was not authorized and permitted to their non-exempt employees.

18 14. Additionally, upon information and belief, Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff and
19 other non-exempt employees with a written notice that set forth the amount of paid sick leave
20 available for use in violation of Labor Code § 246. Additionally, upon information and belief,
21 Defendants violated Labor Code § 246 by failing to incorporate multiple rates of pay and/or all non-
22 discretionary remuneration into the paid sick leave pay rate.

23 15. Labor Code sections 221, 222, and 224 prohibit an employer from making
24 deductions from an employee's wages without the employee's express written consent. During
25 Plaintiff's employment, Defendant made deductions from the wages of Plaintiff and other non-
26 exempt employees without their written consent for purported overpayment of wages. For example,
27 on July 14, 2023, Defendants deducted \$2,796.02 from Plaintiff's wages for purported
28 overpayments, resulting in Plaintiff being paid only \$489.13 for 58.50 regular hours, 17.58 overtime

1 hours, and 4.67 double time hours of work, which also resulted in underpayment of minimum wage
2 and overtime for that pay period. Upon information and belief, Defendants made similar deductions
3 from the wages of other non-exempt employees in California.

4 16. As a result of Defendants' failure to pay all minimum and overtime wages, failure to
5 pay all meal and rest period premium wages, and unlawful timekeeping and payroll practices as
6 alleged above, Defendants maintained inaccurate payroll records and issued inaccurate wage
7 statements to Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees. Defendants also issued wage statement
8 which stated the incorrect total hours worked, such as showing that Plaintiff regularly worked more
9 than 200 hours in a biweekly pay period.

10 17. As a further result of Defendants' failure to pay all minimum and overtime wages,
11 sick leave wages, and meal and rest period premium wages, Defendants failed to timely pay all final
12 wages to Plaintiff and other former non-exempt employees upon their separation of employment
13 from Defendants.

14 18. Additionally, Defendants required Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees to work
15 from home and use their home internet to perform their job duties. Despite requiring employees to
16 incur these necessary business expenses, Defendants failed to reimburse Plaintiff and other non-
17 exempt employees for the cost of their home internet.

18 19. Labor Code section 212 provides: "No person, or agent or officer thereof, shall issue
19 in payment of wages due, or to become due, or as an advance on wages to be earned: (1) Any order,
20 check, draft, note, memorandum, or other acknowledgment of indebtedness, unless it is negotiable
21 and payable in cash, on demand, without discount, at some established place of business in the state,
22 the name and address of which must appear on the instrument, and at the time of its issuance and for
23 a reasonable time thereafter, which must be at least 30 days, the maker or drawer has sufficient
24 funds in, or credit, arrangement, or understanding with the drawee for its payment. Defendants
25 violated Labor Code section 212 by paying Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees through
26 direct deposit only and failing to provide Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees the option of
27 receiving their wages via an actual paycheck.

28 ///

1 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

2 20. **Class Definitions:** Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and the following
3 Classes pursuant to § 382 of the California Code of Civil Procedure:

- 4 a. Minimum Wage Class: All current and former non-exempt employees of Defendants
5 in the State of California who were subject to Defendants' timekeeping and payroll
6 policies and/or practices, during the four years immediately preceding the filing of
7 this action through the present.
- 8 b. Overtime Class: All current and former non-exempt employees of Defendants in the
9 State of California who worked more than eight hours per day and/or 40 hours per
10 week and were subject to Defendants' timekeeping policies and/or practices, during
11 the four years immediately preceding the filing of this action through the present.
- 12 c. Meal Period Class: All current and former non-exempt employees of Defendants in
13 the State of California who: (i) worked at least one shift in excess of 5.0 hours;
14 and/or (ii) worked at least one shift in excess of 10.0 hours, during the four years
15 immediately preceding the filing of this action through the present.
- 16 d. Rest Period Class: All current and former non-exempt employees of Defendants in
17 the State of California who worked at least one shift of 3.5 or more hours, during the
18 four years immediately preceding the filing of this action through the present.
- 19 e. Wage Statement Class: All current and former non-exempt employees of Defendants
20 in the State of California who received a wage statement, during the one year
21 immediately preceding the filing of this action through the present.
- 22 f. Waiting Time Penalty Class: All of Defendants' formerly employed members of the
23 Minimum Wage Class, Overtime Class, Rest Period Class, and/or Meal Period Class
24 during the three years immediately preceding the filing of this action through the
25 present.
- 26 g. Expense Reimbursement Class: All current and former non-exempt employees of
27 Defendants in the State of California who were not reimbursed for all necessary
28 business expenses, during the four years immediately preceding the filing of this

1 action through the present.

- 2 h. Unlawful Deduction Class: All current and former non-exempt employees of
3 Defendants in the State of California against whom Defendants made deductions for
4 overpayments without first securing their written approval, during the four years
5 immediately preceding the filing of this action through the present.

6 21. **Numerosity/Ascertainability**: The members of the Classes are so numerous that
7 joinder of all members would be impractical, if not impossible. The membership of the Classes is
8 unknown to Plaintiff at this time; however, it is estimated that the members of the Classes number
9 greater than 50 individuals. The identity of such membership is readily ascertainable via inspection
10 of Defendants' employment records, including payroll records.

11 22. **Common Questions of Law and Fact Predominate/Well-Defined Community of**
12 **Interest**: There are predominant common questions of law and fact as to Plaintiff and members of
13 the Classes, which predominate over questions affecting only individual members including,
14 without limitation to:

- 15 a. Whether Defendants properly paid all overtime wages to members of the Overtime
16 Class;
17 b. Whether Defendants paid at least the minimum wage for all hours worked to
18 members of the Minimum Wage Class;
19 c. Whether Defendants provided all legally compliant meal periods or paid meal period
20 premium wages due to members of the Meal Period Class pursuant to Labor Code §§
21 226.7 and 512;
22 d. Whether Defendants authorized and permitted all legally compliant rest periods or
23 paid all rest period premium wages due to members of the Rest Period Class
24 pursuant to Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 516;
25 e. Whether Defendants furnished legally compliant wage statements to members of the
26 Wage Statement Class pursuant to Labor Code § 226;
27 f. Whether Defendants unlawfully deducted wages from members of the Unlawful
28 Deduction Class in violation of Labor Code §§ 221, 222, and 224;

- 1 g. Whether Defendants reimbursed members of the Expense Reimbursement Class for
2 all necessary business expenses pursuant to Labor Code § 2802; and
- 3 h. Whether Defendants timely paid all final wages to members of the Waiting Time
4 Class at the time of their separation of employment pursuant to Labor Code §§ 201
5 and 202.

6 These common questions of law and fact set forth above are numerous and substantial and
7 stem from Defendants' policies and/or practices applicable to each individual class member. As
8 such, the common questions predominate over individual questions concerning each individual
9 class member's showing as to their eligibility for recovery or as to the amount of their damages.

10 23. **Typicality:** The claims of Plaintiff are typical of the claims of the Classes because
11 Plaintiff was employed by Defendants as a non-exempt employee in California during the statute(s)
12 of limitations period applicable to each cause of action pled in the Complaint. As alleged herein,
13 Plaintiff, like the members of the Classes, was not paid all minimum and overtime wages owed due
14 to Defendants' timekeeping and payroll policies/practices, was not provided all required meal
15 periods, was not authorized and permitted all rest periods, did not receive premium pay for non-
16 compliant meal and rest periods, was not paid all final wages upon separation of employment, was
17 not provided with accurate, compliant, itemized wage statements, was subject to unlawful
18 deductions, and was not reimbursed for all necessary business expenses.

19 24. **Adequacy of Representation:** Plaintiff is fully prepared to take all necessary steps
20 to represent fairly and adequately the interests of the members of the Classes. Moreover, Plaintiff's
21 attorneys are ready, willing and able to fully and adequately represent the members of the Classes
22 and Plaintiff. Plaintiff's attorneys have litigated numerous wage-and-hour class actions in state and
23 federal courts in the past and are committed to vigorously prosecuting this action on behalf of the
24 members of the Classes.

25 25. **Superiority:** The Labor Code is broadly remedial in nature and serves an important
26 public interest in establishing minimum working conditions and standards in California. These laws
27 and labor standards protect the average working employee from exploitation by employers who
28 have the responsibility to follow the laws and who may seek to take advantage of superior economic

1 and bargaining power in setting onerous terms and conditions of employment. The nature of this
2 action and the format of laws available to Plaintiff and members of the Classes make the class
3 action format a particularly efficient and appropriate procedure to redress the violations alleged
4 herein. If each employee were required to file an individual lawsuit, Defendants would necessarily
5 gain an unconscionable advantage since they would be able to exploit and overwhelm the limited
6 resources of each individual plaintiff with their vastly superior financial and legal resources.

7 26. Moreover, requiring each member of the Class(es) to pursue an individual remedy
8 would also discourage the assertion of lawful claims by employees who would be disinclined to file
9 an action against their former and/or current employer for real and justifiable fear of retaliation and
10 permanent damages to their careers at subsequent employment. The claims of the individual
11 members of the Class are not sufficiently large to warrant vigorous individual prosecution
12 considering all of the concomitant costs and expenses attending hereto.

13 27. Furthermore, the prosecution of separate actions by the individual class members,
14 even if possible, would create a substantial risk of inconsistent or varying verdicts or adjudications
15 with respect to the individual class members against Defendants herein; and which would establish
16 potentially incompatible standards of conduct for Defendants; and/or legal determinations with
17 respect to individual class members which would, as a practical matter, be dispositive of the interest
18 of the other class members not parties to adjudications or which would substantially impair or
19 impede the ability of the class members to protect their interests. As such, the Classes identified
20 hereinabove are maintainable as classes under § 382 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

21 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

22 **MINIMUM WAGE VIOLATIONS**

23 **(Against All Defendants)**

24 28. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though
25 fully set forth herein.

26 29. Labor Code §§ 1182.12, 1197, and Wage Order 4, § 4 establish the right of
27 employees to be paid minimum wages for all hours worked, in amounts set by state or local law.
28 Labor Code §§ 1194(a) and 1194.2(a) provide that an employee who has not been paid the legal

1 minimum wage as required by Labor Code § 1197 may recover the unpaid balance together with
2 attorneys' fees and costs of suit, as well as liquidated damages in an amount equal to the unpaid
3 wages and interest accrued thereon. At all relevant times herein, Defendants failed to conform its
4 pay practices to the requirements of the law by failing to pay Plaintiff and members of the
5 Minimum Wage Class for all hours worked, including, but not limited to, all hours they were
6 subject to the control of Defendants and/or suffered or permitted to work under the Labor Code and
7 Wage Order 4.

8 30. Labor Code § 1198 makes unlawful the employment of an employee under
9 conditions that the IWC prohibits. California Labor Code § 1194(a) and 1194.2(a) provide that an
10 employer who has failed to pay its employees the legal minimum wage is liable to pay those
11 employees the unpaid balance of the unpaid wages as well as liquidated damages in an amount
12 equal to the wages due and interest thereon.

13 31. As a consequence of Defendants' non-payment of minimum wages, Plaintiff and
14 members of the Minimum Wage Class seek recovery of the balance of unpaid wages, including
15 interest thereon, statutory penalties, attorneys' fees, and costs of suit according to Labor Code §§
16 218.6, 558, 1194, 1194.2, and 1199, Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5; and Civil Code §§ 3287 and
17 3289.

18 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**
19 **OVERTIME WAGE VIOLATIONS**
20 **(Against All Defendants)**

21 32. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though
22 fully set forth herein.

23 33. This cause of action is brought pursuant to Labor Code §§ 204, 510, 1194, 1198, and
24 Wage Order 4, § 3, which provide that non-exempt employees are entitled to all overtime wages
25 and compensation for all overtime hours worked and provide a private right of action for the failure
26 to pay all overtime compensation for overtime work performed.

27 34. At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to properly compensate non-
28 exempt employees, including Plaintiff and members of the Overtime Class, for all overtime hours

1 worked pursuant to Labor Code § 1194 and Wage Order 4. Wage Order 4, § 3 requires an employer
2 to pay an employee one and one-half (1½) times and two times the employee's regular rate of pay
3 for overtime and double time hours work. Defendants caused Plaintiff and members of the Overtime
4 Class to work overtime hours but failed to compensate these employees for all overtime hours
5 actually worked.

6 35. As a consequence of Defendants' non-payment of overtime wages, Plaintiff and
7 members of the Overtime Class seek recovery of the balance of unpaid overtime wages, including
8 interest thereon, statutory penalties, attorneys' fees, and costs of suit according to Labor Code §§
9 204, 210, 216, 218.6, 510, 1194, and 1198; Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5; and Civil Code §§
10 3287 and 3289.

11 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

12 **MEAL PERIOD VIOLATIONS**

13 **(Against All Defendants)**

14 36. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though
15 fully set forth herein.

16 37. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants failed
17 in their affirmative obligation to provide all of their non-exempt employees in California, including
18 Plaintiff and members of the Meal Period Class, with all legally compliant meal periods in
19 accordance with the mandates of the Labor Code and Wage Order 4, § 11.

20 38. Despite Defendants' violations, Defendants did not pay an additional hour of pay to
21 Plaintiff and members of the Meal Period Class at their respective regular rates of compensation, in
22 accordance with California Labor Code §§ 204, 210, 226.7, and 512.

23 39. As a consequence of Defendants' unlawful meal period practices, Plaintiff and
24 members of the Meal Period Class seek recovery of unpaid premium wages for meal period
25 violations including interest thereon, statutory penalties, and costs of suit, pursuant to Labor Code
26 §§ 226.7, 512, 558, Wage Order 4, and Civil Code §§ 3287 and 3289.

27 ///

28 ///

1 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **REST PERIOD VIOLATIONS**

3 **(Against All Defendants)**

4 40. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though
5 fully set forth herein.

6 41. Labor Code §§ 226.7, 516, 558, and Wage Order 4, § 12 and establish the right of
7 employees to be provided with a rest period of at least 10 minutes for each four-hour period
8 worked, or major fraction thereof. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that
9 despite Defendants' failure to authorize and permit Plaintiff and members of the Rest Period Class
10 to take all legally compliant rest periods as alleged herein, Defendants did not pay these individuals
11 an additional hour of pay at their respective regular rate for the rest periods that they failed to
12 authorize and permit them to take, as required by Labor Code § 226.7.

13 42. As a consequence of Defendants' unlawful rest period practices, Plaintiff and
14 members of the Rest Period Class seek recovery of unpaid premium wages for rest period violations
15 including interest thereon, statutory penalties, and costs of suit, statutory penalties, attorneys' fees,
16 and costs of suit according to Labor Code §§ 226.7, 516, 558, Wage Order 4, and Civil Code §§
17 3287 and 3289.

18 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

19 **WAGE STATEMENT PENALTIES**

20 **(Against All Defendants)**

21 43. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though
22 fully set forth herein.

23 44. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants
24 knowingly and intentionally, as a matter of uniform policy and practice, failed to furnish Plaintiff
25 and members of the Wage Statement Class with accurate and complete, itemized wage statements
26 that included, among other requirements, all hours worked, total gross wages earned, all rates of pay
27 and corresponding number of hours worked, total net wages earned, the inclusive dates of the pay
28 period, and/or the correct name and address of the legal entity that is the employer in violation of

1 Labor Code § 226.

2 45. Defendants' failure to furnish Plaintiff and members of the Wage Statement Class
3 with accurate and complete, itemized wage statements resulted in actual injury, as said failures led
4 to, among other things, the non-payment of minimum and overtime wages and meal and rest period
5 premium wages owed and deprived them of the information necessary to identify the discrepancies
6 in Defendants' reported payroll data.

7 46. As a consequence of Defendants' unlawful wage statement practices, Plaintiff and
8 members of the Wage Statement Class seek damages and/or statutory penalties, reasonable
9 attorneys' fees, and costs of suit according to California Labor Code § 226.

10 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

11 **WAITING TIME PENALTIES**

12 **(Against All Defendants)**

13 47. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though
14 fully set forth herein.

15 48. This cause of action is brought pursuant to Labor Code §§ 201-203, which require an
16 employer to pay all wages immediately at the time of separation of employment in the event the
17 employer discharges the employee or the employee provides at least 72 hours of notice of their
18 intent to quit. In the event the employee provides less than 72 hours of notice of their intent to quit,
19 said employee's wages become due and payable not later than 72 hours upon said employee's last
20 date of employment.

21 49. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants failed
22 to timely pay Plaintiff and members of the Waiting Time Class all final wages due to them at their
23 separation from employment, including unpaid minimum and overtime wages as well as unpaid
24 meal and rest period premium wages.

25 50. Furthermore, Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that as a
26 matter of uniform policy and practice, Defendants continue to fail to pay Plaintiff and members of
27 the Waiting Time Class all earned wages at the end of employment in a timely manner pursuant to
28 the requirements of Labor Code §§ 201-202.

51. Defendants' failure to pay all final wages was willful within the meaning of Labor Code § 203. Defendants' willful failure to timely pay Plaintiff and the members of the Waiting Time Class their earned wages upon separation from employment results in continued payment of daily wages up to thirty days from the time the wages were due.

52. As a consequence of Defendants' unlawful practices, Plaintiff and members of the Waiting Time Class seek statutory penalties, and costs of suit according to California Labor Code § 203.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

FAILURE TO REIMBURSE NECESSARY BUSINESS EXPENSES

(Against All Defendants)

53. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

54. At all relevant times herein, Defendants were subject to Labor Code § 2802, which states that “an employer shall indemnify his or her employees for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of his or her duties, or of his or obedience to the directions of the employer.”

55. Defendants violated Labor Code § 2802 by failing to reimburse Plaintiff and members of the Expense Reimbursement Class all necessary business expenses they incurred in the performance of their job duties.

56. As a consequence of Defendants' unlawful practices, Plaintiff and members of the class seek recovery of unreimbursed business expenses, including interest thereon, reasonable attorneys' fees, and costs of suit pursuant to Labor Code § 2802.

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION

UNLAWFUL DEDUCTIONS

(Against All Defendants)

57. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

/ / /

1 58. Labor Code § 221 make it “unlawful for any employer to collect or receive from an
2 employee any part of wages theretofore paid by said employer to said employee.”

3 59. Labor Code § 222 make it unlawful to “either willfully or unlawfully or with intent
4 to defraud an employee, a competitor, or any other person, to withhold from said employee any part
5 of the wage agreed upon.”

6 60. Labor Code § 224 provides: “The provisions of Sections 221, 222 and 223 shall in
7 no way make it unlawful for an employer to withhold or divert any portion of an employee's wages
8 when the employer is required or empowered so to do by state or federal law or when a deduction is
9 expressly authorized in writing by the employee to cover insurance premiums, hospital or medical
10 dues, or other deductions not amounting to a rebate or deduction from the standard wage arrived at
11 by collective bargaining or pursuant to wage agreement or statute, or when a deduction to cover
12 health and welfare or pension plan contributions is expressly authorized by a collective bargaining
13 or wage agreement.”

14 61. Defendants violated Labor Code §§ 221, 222, and 224 by making deductions from
15 the wages of Plaintiff and members of the Unlawful Deduction Class for purported overpayments
16 without their express written consent.

17 62. As a result, Plaintiff and members of the Unlawful Deductions Class seeks recovery
18 of their wages unlawful deducted, penalties under Labor Code § 225.5, as well as accrued interest,
19 attorney’s fees, and costs.

20 **NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

21 **UNFAIR COMPETITION**

22 **(Against All Defendants)**

23 63. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though
24 fully set forth herein.

25 64. Defendants have engaged and continue to engage in unfair and/or unlawful business
26 practices in California in violation of Business and Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.*, by:

- 27 a. failing to pay Plaintiff and members of the Minimum Wage Class all minimum
28 wages due;

- 1 b. failing to pay Plaintiff and members of the Overtime Class all overtime wages due;
2 c. failing to provide Plaintiff and members of the Meal Period Class with all meal
3 periods to which they are entitled, and failing to pay them all meal period premium
4 wages due;
5 d. failing to authorize and permit Plaintiff and members of the Rest Period Class all rest
6 periods to which they are entitled, and failing to pay them all rest period premium
7 wages due;
8 e. failing to issue accurate and itemized wage statements to Plaintiff and members of
9 the Wage Statement Class;
10 f. failing to timely pay all final wages to Plaintiff and members of the Waiting Time
11 Penalty Class;
12 g. making unlawful deductions from the wages of Plaintiff and members of the
13 Unlawful Deductions class; and
14 h. failing to reimburse all necessary business expenses to Plaintiff and members of the
15 Expense Reimbursement Class.

16 65. Defendants' utilization of these unfair and/or unlawful business practices deprived
17 Plaintiff and continues to deprive members of the Classes of compensation to which they are legally
18 entitled, constitutes unfair and/or unlawful competition, and provides an unfair advantage over
19 Defendants' competitors who have been and/or are currently employing workers and attempting to
20 do so in honest compliance with applicable wage and hour laws.

21 66. Because Plaintiff is a victim of Defendants' unfair and/or unlawful conduct alleged
22 herein, Plaintiff for himself and on behalf of the members of the Classes, seeks full restitution of
23 monies, as necessary and according to proof, to restore any and all monies withheld, acquired
24 and/or converted by Defendants pursuant to Business and Professions Code §§ 17203 and 17208.

25 67. The acts complained of herein occurred within the last four years immediately
26 preceding the filing of the Complaint in this action.

27 ///

28 ///

TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION
PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT
(Against All Defendants)

68. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

69. Plaintiff, an “aggrieved employee” within the meaning of Labor Code § 2698, *et seq.*, acting on behalf of himself and other aggrieved employees (collectively, “Aggrieved Employees”), brings this representative action against Defendants to recover the civil penalties due to Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees, and the State of California according to proof pursuant to Labor Code § 558 and § 2699(a) and (f) including, but not limited to: (1) \$100.00 for each initial violation for each failure to pay each employee and \$200 for each subsequent violation or willful or intentional violation pursuant to Labor Code §§ 210 and/or 225.5 for each failure to pay each employee, plus 25% of the amount unlawfully withheld; (2) \$50.00 for each initial violation and \$100 for each subsequent violation pursuant to Labor Code § 558 per employee per pay period; (3) \$100 for each initial violation and \$250 for each subsequent violation pursuant to Labor Code § 1197.1 per employee per pay period; (4) \$250 for each initial violation and \$1,000 for each subsequent violation pursuant to Labor Code § 226.3 per employee per pay period; (5) pursuant to Labor Code section 256, a civil penalty in an amount not exceeding 30 days per former employee as waiting time under the terms of Labor Code § 203; and/or (6) \$100 for each initial violation and \$200 for each subsequent violation per employee per pay period for those violations of the Labor Code for which no civil penalty is specifically provided, based on the following Labor Code violations:

- a. Failing to pay minimum wages for all hours worked to Aggrieved Employees in violation of Labor Code § 558, 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, and 1198;
- b. Failing to pay Aggrieved Employees all earned overtime compensation in violation of Labor Code §§ 204, 510, 558, 1194, and 1198;
- c. Failing to provide all legally required meal periods, and failure to pay meal period premium wages, to Aggrieved Employees at the regular rate of compensation in

violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, 558, and 1198;

- d. Failing to authorize and permit all legally required rest periods, and failure to pay rest period premium wages, to Aggrieved Employees at the regular rate of compensation in violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7, 516, 558, and 1198;
- e. Failing to furnish Aggrieved Employees with complete, accurate, itemized wage statements in violation of Labor Code § 226;
- f. Failing to timely pay all final wages and compensation earned by Aggrieved Employees at the time of separation in violation of Labor Code §§ 201-202;
- g. Failure to reimburse Aggrieved Employees for all necessary business expenses in violation of Labor Code § 2802;
- h. Failing to pay Aggrieved Employees all earned wages at least twice during each calendar month in violation of Labor Code § 204;
- i. Unlawfully deducting the wages of Aggrieved Employees in violation of Labor Code §§ 221, 222, and 224;
- j. Violating Labor Code section 212 by paying Aggrieved Employees through direct deposit only and failing to provide Aggrieved Employees with the option of receiving their wages via an actual paycheck; and
- k. Failing to maintain accurate records on behalf of Aggrieved Employees in violation of Labor Code §§ 1174 and 1198.

70. On or about October 17, 2023, Plaintiff notified Defendants via certified mail, and notified the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”) via its website, of Defendants’ violations of the Labor Code and Plaintiff’s intent to bring a claim for civil penalties under Labor Code § 2698, *et seq.* with respect to the violations of the Labor Code identified in the preceding paragraph. Now that sixty-five (65) days have passed from Plaintiff notifying Defendants and the LWDA of these violations, and the LWDA has not provided notice that it intends to investigate the violations, Plaintiff has exhausted administrative requirements for bringing a claim under the Private Attorneys General Act with respect to these violations.

///

71. Plaintiff has incurred attorneys' fees and costs, which Plaintiff is entitled to receive under California Labor Code § 2699(g).

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

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

1. For an order certifying the proposed Classes;
2. For an order appointing Plaintiff as representative of the Classes;
3. For an order appointing Counsel for Plaintiff as Counsel for the Classes;
4. Upon the First Cause of Action, for payment of minimum wages, liquidated damages, and penalties according to proof pursuant to Labor Code §§ 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, and 1197;
5. Upon the Second Cause of Action, for payment of overtime wages and penalties according to proof pursuant to Labor Code §§ 204, 510, 558, 1194, and 1198;
6. Upon the Third Cause of Action, for meal period premium wages according to proof pursuant to Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, and 558;
7. Upon the Fourth Cause of Action, for rest period premium wages according to proof pursuant to Labor Code §§ 226.7, 516, and 558;
8. Upon the Fifth Cause of Action, for statutory penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 226;
9. Upon the Sixth Cause of Action, for statutory penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 203;
10. Upon the Seventh Cause of Action, for unreimbursed business expenses according to proof pursuant to Labor Code § 2802;
11. Upon the Eighth Cause of Action, for wages unlawfully withheld and penalties according to proof pursuant to Labor Code §§ 221, 222, 224, and 225.5;
12. Upon the Ninth Cause of Action, for restitution to Plaintiff and members of the Classes 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 §§ 17200, *et*

1 *seq.*;

2 13. Upon the Tenth Cause of Action, for civil penalties due to Plaintiff, other Aggrieved
3 Employees, and the State of California according to proof pursuant to Labor Code §§ 558 and
4 2699(a) and (f) including, but not limited to: (1) \$100.00 for each initial violation for each failure to
5 pay each employee and \$200 for each subsequent violation or willful or intentional violation
6 pursuant to Labor Code §§ 210 and/or 225.5 for each failure to pay each employee, plus 25% of the
7 amount unlawfully withheld; (2) \$50.00 for each initial violation and \$100 for each subsequent
8 violation pursuant to Labor Code § 558 per employee per pay period; (3) \$100.00 for each initial
9 violation and \$250.00 for each subsequent violation pursuant to Labor Code § 1197.1 per employee
10 per pay period; (4) \$250.00 for each initial violation and \$1,000.00 for each subsequent violation
11 pursuant to Labor Code § 226.3 per employee per pay period; (5) pursuant to Labor Code section
12 256, a civil penalty in an amount not exceeding 30 days per former employee as waiting time under
13 the terms of Labor Code § 203; and/or (6) \$100.00 for each initial violation and \$200 for each
14 subsequent violation per employee per pay period for those violations of the Labor Code for which
15 no civil penalty is specifically provided;

16 14. Prejudgment interest on all due and unpaid wages pursuant to Labor Code § 218.6
17 and Civil Code §§ 3287 and 3289;

18 15. On all causes of action, for attorneys' fees and costs as provided by Labor Code §§
19 218.5, 226, 1194, 2699(g), and Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5; and

20 16. For such other and further relief, the Court may deem just and proper.

21 ///

22 ///

23 ///

24 ///

25 ///

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

- 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

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

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

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

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

7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28