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Attorneys for Plaintiff ELVIRA INES MORALES FUENTES,
on behalf of herself and current and former aggrieved employees

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

ELVIRA INES MORALES FUENTES, on behalf
of herself and current and former aggrieved
employees

Plaintiff,

vs.

COOKUNITY INC.; and DOES 1 to 100,
inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: **26STCV23610**

PAGA ACTION

**PLAINTIFF ELVIRA INES
MORALES FUENTES' COMPLAINT
FOR:**

**1. CIVIL PENALTIES PURSUANT
TO THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS
GENERAL ACT OF 2004
("PAGA"), LABOR CODE
SECTIONS 2698, ET SEQ.**

COMES NOW Plaintiff ELVIRA INES MORALES FUENTES ("Plaintiff"), who alleges
and complains against Defendants COOKUNITY INC.; and DOES 1 to 100, inclusive (collectively
"Defendants") as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This is a Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, Labor Code §§ 2698, *et seq.*
("PAGA") representative action brought by Plaintiff on behalf of the State of California, herself
and other current and former aggrieved employees of Defendants who worked as hourly non-exempt
employees in California during the relevant time period seeking civil penalties associated with

Defendants' violation of the Labor Code based on Defendants' failure to pay wages for all hours worked at minimum wage and all overtime hours worked at the overtime rate of pay; failure to authorize or permit all legally required and/or compliant meal periods or pay meal period premium wages; failure to authorize or permit all legally required and/or compliant rest periods or pay rest period premium wages; statutory penalties for failure to timely pay earned wages during employment; statutory penalties for failure to provide accurate wage statements; statutory waiting time penalties in the form of continuation wages for failure to timely pay employees all wages due upon separation of employment. Plaintiff experienced these violations personally, as well as is informed and believes other aggrieved employees did as well. Plaintiff seeks on a representative basis, following notice to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, civil penalties, reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(g)(1) and costs brought on behalf of Plaintiff, the State of California, and others aggrieved.

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. This Court has jurisdiction over the claims of Plaintiff and all other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees because Plaintiff's lawsuit seeks civil penalties on behalf of herself, all other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees, and the State of California in excess of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000); Defendants employed Plaintiff and all other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees; and the injuries to Plaintiff and all other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees occurred in locations throughout California, including but not limited to Los Angeles County, at 240 W. Ave. 26, Lincoln Heights, CA 90031.

III. PARTIES

3. Plaintiff brings this action as a representative of the Labor and Workforce Development Agency on behalf of herself and other current and former employees subject to violations of the Labor Code. The named Plaintiff and the persons on whose behalf this action is filed include current, former and/or future employees of Defendants who work, worked, or will work for Defendants as direct employees as well as temporary employees employed through temp

1 agencies as hourly non-exempt employees in California. At all times mentioned herein, the currently
2 named Plaintiff is and was domiciled and a resident and citizen of California and was employed by
3 Defendants in an hourly position at Defendants' location in Los Angeles from in or around March
4 13, 2026, through the present.

5 4. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant COOKUNITY
6 INC. is authorized to do business within the State of California and is doing business in the State of
7 California and/or that Defendants DOES 1-50 are, and at all times relevant hereto were persons
8 acting on behalf of Defendant COOKUNITY INC. in the establishment of, or ratification of, the
9 aforementioned illegal wage and hour practices or policies. Defendant COOKUNITY INC. operates
10 in Los Angeles County and employed Plaintiff and aggrieved employees in Los Angeles County,
11 including but not limited to, at 240 W. Ave. 26, Lincoln Heights, CA 90031.

12 5. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants DOES 1
13 through 50 are corporations, or are other business entities or organizations of a nature unknown to
14 Plaintiff that employed Plaintiff and aggrieved California non-exempt employees, permitted
15 Plaintiff and aggrieved employees to work, and exercised control over the wages, hours and working
16 conditions of employment of Plaintiff and aggrieved employees.

17 6. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants DOES 51
18 through 100 are individuals unknown to Plaintiff. Each of the individual defendants is sued
19 individually and in his or her capacity as an agent, shareholder, owner, representative, manager,
20 supervisor, independent contractor and/or employee of each defendant who violated or caused to be
21 violated the minimum wage and overtime provisions of the Labor Code and/or any provision of the
22 Industrial Welfare Commission's wage orders regulating hours and days of work.

23 7. Plaintiff is unaware of the true names of Defendants DOES 1 through 100. Plaintiff
24 sues said defendants by said fictitious names, and will amend this complaint when the true names
25 and capacities are ascertained or when such facts pertaining to liability are ascertained, or as
26 permitted by law or by the Court. Plaintiff is informed and believes that each of the fictitiously
27 named defendants is in some manner responsible for the events and allegations set forth in this
28 complaint.

8. Plaintiff makes the allegations in this complaint without any admission that, as to any particular allegation, Plaintiff bears the burden of pleading, proving, or persuading and Plaintiff reserves all of Plaintiff's right to plead in the alternative.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

**CIVIL PENALTIES PURSUANT TO THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT OF
2004, LABOR CODE SECTIONS 2698, ET SEQ.**

**(Against all Defendants by Plaintiff on behalf of Themselves, the State of California, and
Other Current and Former Aggrieved Employees)**

9. Plaintiff incorporates all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

10. During Plaintiff's employment and continuing through the present, Plaintiff alleges Defendants violated Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 223, 226, 226.7, 510, 512, 1194, 1197, 6401.7, 6401.9 and the applicable Wage Orders.

11. Specifically, Defendants have committed the following violations of California Labor Code:

12. **Failure to pay wages for all hours worked at the legal minimum wage:** Defendants employed many of their employees, including Plaintiff, as hourly non-exempt employees. In California, an employer is required to pay hourly employees for all “hours worked,” which includes all time that an employee is under control of the employer and all time the employee is suffered and permitted to work. This includes the time an employee spends, either directly or indirectly, performing services which inure to the benefit of the employer.

13. Labor Code sections 1194 and 1197 require an employer to compensate employees for all “hours worked” at least at a minimum wage rate of pay as established by the IWC and the Wage Orders.

14. In this case, Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees worked more minutes per shift than Defendants credited them with having worked. Specifically, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees all wages at the applicable minimum wage for all hours worked due to Defendants' policies, practices, and/or procedures including, but not limited

1 to:

2 (a) Sometimes requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-
3 based hourly non-exempt employees to don Personal Protective Equipment (“PPE”) such as gowns
4 and gloves and wash their hands prior to clocking in for the start of their shifts.

5 (b) Sometimes requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-
6 based hourly non-exempt employees to don and doff PPE and wash their hands while off-the-clock
7 during meal breaks.

8 15. Therefore, Defendants suffered, permitted, and required Plaintiff and other current
9 and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees to be subject to Defendants’
10 control without paying wages for that time. This resulted in Plaintiff and other current and former
11 aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees working time for which they were not
12 compensated any wages, in violation of Labor Code sections 1194 and 1197 and the applicable
13 Wage Order.

14 16. Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that
15 Employer’s conduct above that gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
16 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
17 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

18 17. **Failure to pay wages for overtime hours worked at the overtime rate of pay**
19 **and/or failure to pay overtime wages at the proper rate of pay:** Defendants employed many of
20 their employees, including Plaintiff, as hourly non-exempt employees. In California, an employer
21 is required to pay hourly employees for all “hours worked,” which includes all time that an employee
22 is under control of the employer and all time the employee is suffered and permitted to work. This
23 includes the time an employee spends, either directly or indirectly, performing services that inure to
24 the benefit of the employer.’

25 18. Labor Code sections 510 and 1194 require an employer to compensate employees a
26 higher rate of pay for hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a workday, in excess of forty (40)
27 hours in a workweek, and on any seventh consecutive day of work in a workweek:

28 Any work in excess of eight (8) hours in one workday, any work in excess of forty (40) hours
in any one (1) workweek, and the first eight (8) hours worked on the seventh day of work in

any one (1) workweek, shall be compensated at the rate of no less than one-and-one-half (1.5) times the regular rate of pay for an employee. Any work in excess of twelve (12) hours in one (1) day shall be compensated at the rate of no less than twice the regular rate of pay for an employee. In addition, any work in excess of eight (8) hours on any seventh day of a workweek shall be compensated at the rate of no less than twice the regular rate of pay of an employee.

Labor Code section 510.

19. In this case, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees overtime wages for all overtime hours worked due to Defendants' policies, practices, and/or procedures including, but not limited to:

(a) Sometimes requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees to don Personal Protective Equipment ("PPE") such as gowns and gloves and wash their hands prior to clocking in for the start of their shifts.

(b) Sometimes requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees to don and doff PPE and wash their hands while off-the-clock during meal breaks.

20. Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer's conduct above that gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive. Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

21. The foregoing policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in time during each workday that Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees were under the control of Defendants but were not compensated. To the extent that the foregoing uncompensated time occurred when Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees worked more than eight (8) hours in a workday, more than forty (40) hours in a workweek, and/or seven (7) days in a workweek, Defendants failed to pay them at their overtime rate of pay for overtime hours worked, in violation of Labor Code sections 510, 1194 and 1198, and the applicable Wage Order.

22. **Failure to pay wages to hourly non-exempt employees for workdays that Defendants failed to provide legally required and compliant meal periods and/or failure to pay period premium wages:** Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based

1 hourly non-exempt employees regularly worked shifts of more than five (5) hours in length and
2 shifts of more than ten (10) hours in length.

3 23. California law requires an employer to authorize or permit an employee an
4 uninterrupted meal period of no less than thirty (30) minutes in which the employee is relieved of
5 all duties and the employer relinquishes control over the employee's activities prior to the
6 employee's sixth hour of work. Labor Code sections 226.7, 512, and 1198; Wage Order 1 at §11;
7 *Brinker Rest. Corp. v. Super Ct. (Hohnbaum)* (2012) 53 Cal.4th 1004. An employer may not employ
8 an employee for a work period of more than ten (10) hours per day without providing the employee
9 with a second such meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the eleventh
10 hour of work. *Id.* If the employee is not relieved of all duty during a meal period, the meal period
11 shall be considered an "on duty" meal period and counted as time worked. A paid "on duty" meal
12 period is only permitted when: (1) the nature of the work prevents an employee from being relieved
13 of all duty; and (2) the parties have a written agreement agreeing to on-duty meal periods.

14 24. If an employer fails to provide an employee a meal period in accordance with the
15 law, the employer must pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of pay
16 for each workday that a legally required and compliant meal period was not provided. Labor Code
17 sections 226.7 and 1198; Wage Order 1 at §11.

18 25. In this case, Defendants failed to authorize or permit legally required and compliant
19 meal periods to Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-
20 exempt employees due to Defendants' policies, practices, and/or procedures, including but not
21 limited to:

22 (a) Sometimes requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-
23 based hourly non-exempt employees to travel to and from a designated break area during their off-
24 the-clock meal breaks. Defendants did not elongate or otherwise extend Plaintiff's and other current
25 and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees' meal break times to account
26 for travel time to and from the designated break area resulting in meal breaks that were on-duty, less
27 than thirty (30) minutes, or both.

28 (b) Sometimes requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-

1 based hourly non-exempt employees to don and doff PPE such as gowns and gloves and wash their
2 hands during their off-the-clock meal breaks. Defendants did not elongate or otherwise extend
3 Plaintiff's and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees'
4 meal break times to account for time employees spending donning and doffing PPE and washing
5 their hands resulting in meal breaks that were on-duty, less than thirty (30) minutes, or both.

6 26. Additionally, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants maintained a policy, practice, and/or
7 procedure of failing to compensate Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based
8 hourly non-exempt employees one (1) hour of pay at their regular rate of pay for each workday that
9 Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees did
10 not receive legally required and compliant meal periods, in violation of Labor Code section 226.7.

11 27. Defendants' foregoing policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in Plaintiff and
12 other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees not receiving
13 wages to compensate them for workdays during which Defendants did not provide them with meal
14 periods in compliance with California law.

15 28. Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that
16 Employer's conduct above that gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
17 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
18 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

19 29. **Failure to pay wages to hourly non-exempt employees for workdays that**
20 **Defendants failed to provide legally required and compliant rest periods and/or failure to pay**
21 **rest period premium:** Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
22 non-exempt employees regularly worked shifts of more than three-and-a-half (3.5) hours.

23 30. California law requires every employer to authorize and permit an employee a rest
24 period of ten (10) net minutes for every four (4) hours worked or major fraction thereof. Labor Code
25 section 226.7; Wage Order 1 at §12. Under California law, "[e]mployees are entitled to 10 minutes'
26 rest for shifts from three and one-half to six hours in length, 20 minutes for shifts of more than six
27 hours up to 10 hours, 30 minutes for shifts of more than 10 hours up to 14 hours, and so on." *Brinker*
28 *Restaurant Corp. v. Sup. Ct. (Hohnbaum)* (2012) 53 Cal.4th 1004, 1029; Labor Code section 226.7;

1 Wage Order 1 at §12. Rest periods, insofar as practicable, shall be in the middle of each work period.
2 Wage Order 1 at §12. Additionally, the rest period requirement ““obligates employers to permit –
3 and authorizes employees to take – off-duty rest periods.” *Augustus v. ABM Security Services, Inc.*
4 (2016) 2 Cal.5th 257, 269. That is, during rest periods employers must relieve employees of all
5 duties and relinquish control over how employees spend their time. *Id.*

6 31. If the employer fails to authorize or permit a required rest period, the employer must
7 pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee’s regular rate of pay for each workday the
8 employer did not authorize or permit a legally required rest period. Labor Code section 226.7; Wage
9 Order 1 at § 12.

10 32. In this case, Defendants failed to authorize or permit all legally required and
11 compliant rest periods to Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
12 non-exempt employees due to Defendants’ policies, practices, and/or procedures including, but not
13 limited to:

14 (a) Sometimes requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-
15 based hourly non-exempt employees to travel to and from a designated break area during their rest
16 breaks. Defendants did not elongate or otherwise extend Plaintiff’s and other current and former
17 aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees’ rest break times to account for travel
18 time to and from the designated break area resulting in rest breaks that were on-duty, less than a net
19 ten (10) minutes, or both.

20 (b) Sometimes requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-
21 based hourly non-exempt employees to don and doff PPE such as gowns and gloves and wash their
22 hands during their rest breaks. Defendants did not elongate or otherwise extend Plaintiff’s and other
23 current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees’ rest break times to
24 account for donning/doffing PPE or handwashing resulting in rest breaks that were on-duty, less
25 than a net ten (10) minutes, or both.

26 33. Additionally, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants maintained a policy, practice, and/or
27 procedure of failing to compensate Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based
28 hourly non-exempt employees with one (1) hour of pay at their regular rate of pay for each workday

1 they did not receive legally required and compliant rest periods, in violation of Labor Code section
2 226.7.

3 34. Defendants' foregoing policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in Plaintiff and
4 other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees not receiving
5 wages to compensate them for workdays in which Defendants did not provide them with rest periods
6 in compliance with California law.

7 35. Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that
8 Employer's conduct above that gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
9 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
10 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

11 36. **Failure to timely pay earned wages during employment:** In California, wages
12 must be paid at least twice during each calendar month on days designated in advance by the
13 employer as regular paydays, subject to some exceptions. Labor Code section 204(a). Wages earned
14 between the 1st and 15th days, inclusive, of any calendar month must be paid between the 16th and
15 the 26th day of that month and wages earned between the 16th and the last day, inclusive, of any
16 calendar month must be paid between the 1st and 10th day of the following month. *Id.* Other payroll
17 periods such as those that are weekly, biweekly, or semimonthly, must be paid within seven (7)
18 calendar days following the close of the payroll period in which wages were earned. Labor Code
19 section 204(d).

20 37. As a derivative of Plaintiff's claims above, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants failed to
21 timely pay Plaintiff's and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt
22 employees' earned wages (including minimum wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages
23 and/or rest period premium wages), in violation of Labor Code section 204. Defendants'
24 aforementioned policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in their failure to pay Plaintiff's and
25 other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees' their earned
26 wages within the applicable time frames outlined in Labor Code section 204.

27 38. Plaintiff also believes these failures were malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
28 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section

1 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

2 39. **Secret payment of lower wages than designated by statute:** Labor Code section
3 223 provides that, where any statute or contract requires an employer to maintain the designated
4 wage scale, it shall be unlawful to secretly pay a lower wage while purporting to pay the wage
5 designated by statute or contract. By engaging in the unlawful conduct alleged herein, including by
6 failing to: pay overtime wages at the applicable legal overtime rate, meal break premiums and lawful
7 sick pay at the employees' regular rate of pay, as established by Labor Code sections 226.7, 246,
8 510, 1194 and sections 11 and 12 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders, as incorporated by Labor
9 Code section 1198, the Defendant secretly paid a lower wage than designated by statute while
10 purporting to pay the wages designated by statute, in violation of Labor Code section 223.

11 40. Plaintiff also believes these failures were malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
12 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
13 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

14 41. **Failure to Establish, Implement, and Maintain a Workplace Violence and**
15 **Injury Prevention Program in Compliance with Labor Code Sections 6401.7 and 6401.9:**
16 California Labor Code Section 6401.7 requires every employer to establish, implement, and
17 maintain an effective injury prevention program. California Labor Code Section 6401.9 requires
18 California employers to adopt a comprehensive Workplace Violence Prevention Plan (WVPP), train
19 employees on workplace violence, log safety incidents, and conduct periodic inspections to evaluate
20 workplace violence hazards.

21 Plaintiff alleges that Defendant did not comply with Defendant's responsibilities and duties
22 under Labor Code sections 6401.7 and 6401.9. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges
23 that Defendant (1) failed to establish, implement, and maintain an effective injury prevention
24 program; (2) failed to adopt a compliant Workplace Violence Prevention Plan; (3); failed to train
25 Employee and other aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees in workplace
26 violence and injury prevention; (4) failed to log safety incidents; and (5) failed to conduct compliant
27 periodic inspections. Plaintiff believes these failures were willful and intentional. Plaintiff also
28 believes these failures were malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive. Defendant would further be liable

1 for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

2 42. **Failure to provide complete and accurate wage statements:** Labor Code section
3 226, subdivision (a). Labor Code section 226(a) provides, *inter alia*, that, upon paying an employee
4 his or her wages, the employer must “furnish each of his or her employees ... an itemized statement
5 in writing showing (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the employee, except for any
6 employee whose compensation is solely based on a salary and who is exempt from payment of
7 overtime under subdivision (a) of Section 515 or any applicable order of the Industrial Welfare
8 Commission, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee
9 is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions, provided, that all deductions made on written orders
10 of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive
11 dates of the pay period for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee and his or her
12 social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and (9) all
13 applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours
14 worked at each hourly rate by the employee.”

15 43. As a derivative of Plaintiff’s allegations above, Defendants’ failure to pay Plaintiff
16 and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees all wages
17 earned (including minimum wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages, and/or rest period
18 premium wages) rendered Plaintiff’s and other current and former aggrieved California-based
19 hourly non-exempt employees’ wage statements inaccurate, in violation of Labor Code section
20 226(a)(1, 2, 5 & 9).

21 44. Plaintiff believes these failures were willful and intentional.

22 45. Plaintiff also believes these failures were malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
23 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
24 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

25 46. **Failure to pay employees all wages due at time of termination/resignation:** An
26 employer is required to pay all unpaid wages timely after an employee’s employment ends. The
27 wages are due immediately upon termination (Labor Code section 201) or within seventy-two (72)
28 hours of resignation (Labor Code section 202).

1 47. As a derivative of Plaintiff's allegations above, because Defendants failed to pay
2 Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees all
3 their earned wages (including minimum wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages,
4 and/or rest period premium wages), Defendants failed to pay those employees timely after each
5 employee's termination and/or resignation, in violation of Labor Code sections 201, 202, and 203.

6 48. Plaintiff believes these failures were willful and intentional.

7 49. Plaintiff also believes these failures were malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
8 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
9 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

10 50. Labor Code sections 2699, subdivisions (a) and (g) authorize an aggrieved employee,
11 on behalf of himself or herself and other current or former employees, to bring a civil action to
12 recover civil penalties against all Defendants pursuant to the procedures specified in Labor Code
13 section 2699.3.

14 51. Plaintiff has complied with the procedures for bringing suit specified in Labor Code
15 section 2699.3. On May 21, 2026, Plaintiff filed a PAGA Claim Notice with the LWDA and
16 provided notice to Defendants by certified mail which provided notice of the specific provisions of
17 the Labor Code alleged to have been violated, including the facts and theories to support the
18 violations alleged.

19 52. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, the LWDA must give written notice by
20 certified mail to the parties that it intends to investigate the alleged violations of the Labor Code
21 within 60 days of the date of the complainant's written notice. The LWDA failed to provide the
22 parties notice within 60 days of the date of Plaintiff's PAGA Claim Notice that the LWDA intends
23 to investigate Plaintiff's claims.

24 53. Pursuant to Labor Code sections 2699(a) and (f), Plaintiff is entitled to recover civil
25 penalties for Defendants' violations of Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 223, 226(a), 226.7,
26 510, 512, 1194, 6401.7 and 6401.9: During Plaintiff's employment and continuing through the
27 present, preceding Plaintiff sending the initial PAGA Claim Notice to the LWDA to the present, in
28 the following amounts:

a. For violations of Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 226(a), and 226.7; one hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial violation and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation [penalty amounts established by Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)].

b. For violations of Labor Code section 226(a), alternatively, two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each employee for each pay period for the initial violation, and for each subsequent violation, one thousand dollars (\$1000) for each underpaid employee for each pay period [penalty amounts established by Labor Code section 226.3].

c. For violations of Labor Code section 510 and 512, fifty dollars (\$50) for each employee for each pay period for the initial violation, and for each subsequent violation, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each underpaid employee for each pay period [penalty amounts established by Labor Code section 558].

d. For violations of Labor Code section 204, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each failure to pay each employee in any initial violation, and for each subsequent violation, or any willful or intentional violation, two hundred dollars (\$200) for each failure to pay each employee, plus 25 percent of the amount unlawfully withheld [penalty amounts established by Labor Code section 210].

e. For violations of Labor Code section 223, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each failure to pay each employee in any initial violation, and for each subsequent violation, or any willful or intentional violation, two hundred dollars (\$200) for each failure to pay each employee, plus 25 percent of the amount unlawfully withheld [penalty amounts established by Labor Code section 225.5].

54. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(g), Plaintiff is entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs in connection with her claims for civil penalties.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF, ON BEHALF OF HERSELF AND ON OTHER AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES, PRAYS AS FOLLOWS:

ON THE FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION:

1 1. That Defendants be found to have violated the provisions of the Labor Code and the
2 IWC Wages Orders as to the Plaintiff and aggrieved employees;

3 2. For any and all legally applicable penalties during the relevant statute of limitations
4 subject to any permissible tolling, including but not limited to those recoverable under the California
5 Labor Code, including but not limited to sections 210, 225.5, 226.3, 558, 2699(f);

6 3. For attorneys' fees and costs of suit, including but not limited to those recoverable
7 under California Labor Code section 2699(g); and

8 4. For such and other further relief, in law and/or equity, as the Court deems just or
9 appropriate.

10
11 Dated: July 27, 2026

Respectfully submitted,
LAVI & EBRAHIMIAN, LLP

12
13 By:



Joseph Lavi, Esq.
Vincent C. Granberry, Esq.
Jeffrey D. Klein, Esq.
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Attorneys for Plaintiff
ELVIRA INES MORALES FUENTES,
on behalf of herself and current and former aggrieved
employees