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Superior Court of California
County of Fresno
By: P. Shaeffer, Deputy

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

JAVIER MENDEZ, individually, and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

FRESNO'S CHAFFEE ZOO
CORPORATION, and DOES
1 through 10, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 23CECG04628

[Assigned for All Purposes to Hon. D. Tyler
Tharpe, Dept 501]

**FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR
CIVIL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION
OF LABOR CODE
§ 2698 *et seq.* (PRIVATE ATTORNEYS
GENERAL ACT OF 2004)**

Date Action Filed: November 6, 2023
Trial Date: Not Yet Set

1 Plaintiff JAVIER MENDEZ (“Plaintiff”) hereby submits his First Amended Complaint
2 against Defendant FRESNO’S CHAFFEE ZOO CORPORATION; and DOES 1 through 10,
3 inclusive; (collectively, “Defendants”), on behalf of himself and other current and former
4 aggrieved employees of Defendants for penalties as follows:

5 **INTRODUCTION**

6 1. Plaintiff hereby amends his original Class Complaint filed November 6,
7 2023 and dismisses Plaintiff’s Class Action Claims without prejudice, and agrees to submit his
8 individual claims to mediation and arbitration.

9 2. This representative action brought pursuant to Labor Code § 2698 *et seq.*
10 (the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (“PAGA”)) for Defendants’ violations of Labor Code
11 §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 218.5, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512(a), 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197,
12 1197.1, 1198, 2800 and 2802.

13 3. This Complaint challenges Defendants’ systemic illegal employment
14 practices resulting in violations of the stated provisions of the Labor Code against the identified
15 group of employees.

16 4. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges Defendants jointly
17 and severally acted intentionally and with deliberate indifference and conscious disregard to the
18 rights of all employees in (1) failing to pay all meal period wages and rest break wages, (2)
19 failing to properly calculate and pay all minimum and overtime wages, (3) failing to provide
20 compliant wage statements, (4) failing to pay all wages due and owed during employment and
21 upon termination of employment, and (5) failing to reimburse necessary business expenses.

22 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

23 5. This action is brought pursuant to PAGA. The civil penalties sought by
24 Plaintiff exceed the minimal jurisdiction limits of the Superior Court and will be established
25 according to proof at trial.

26 6. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to California
27 Constitution, Article VI, Section 10, which grants the Superior Court original jurisdiction in all
28 causes except those given by statute to other courts. The statutes under which this action is

brought do not specify any other basis for jurisdiction.

7. This Court has jurisdiction over the violations of PAGA and Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 218.5, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512(a), 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800 and 2802.

8. This Court has jurisdiction over all Defendants because, upon information and belief, each party has sufficient minimum contacts in California, or otherwise intentionally avails itself of California law so as to render the exercise of jurisdiction over it by the California courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

9. Venue is proper in this Court because, upon information and belief, the named Defendants transact business and/or have offices in this county, and the acts and omissions alleged herein took place in this county. Moreover, this action is brought on behalf of the State of California as a private attorney general and has jurisdiction in this venue.

PARTIES

10. Plaintiff Javier Mendez is an individual residing in the State of California. Plaintiff was employed by Defendants within the statutory time period.

11. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants are licensed to do business and actually doing business in the State of California, including the County of Fresno.

12. Plaintiff does not know the true names or capacities, whether individual, partner or corporate, of Defendants sued herein as DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, and for that reason, said Defendants are sued under such fictitious names, and Plaintiff prays for leave to amend this complaint when the true names and capacities are known. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that each of Defendants designated as a DOE was responsible in some way for the matters alleged herein and proximately caused Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved employees to be subject to the illegal employment practices, wrongs and injuries complained of herein.

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1 **13.** At all times herein mentioned, Defendants, and each of them, were agents,
2 partners, joint venturers, representatives, servants, employees, successors-in-interest, co-
3 conspirators and assigns, each of the other, and at all times relevant hereto were acting within
4 the course and scope of their authority as such agents, partners, joint venturers, representatives,
5 servants, employees, successors, co-conspirators and assigns, and that all acts or omissions
6 alleged herein were duly committed with ratification, knowledge, permission, encouragement,
7 authorization and consent of each Defendant designated herein.

8 **14.** As such, and based upon all the facts and circumstances incident to
9 Defendants' business in California, Defendants are subject to PAGA and Labor Code §§ 201,
10 202, 203, 204, 218.5, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512(a), 551, 552, 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197,
11 1197.1, 1198, 2800 and 2802.

12 **CAUSE OF ACTION**

13 **VIOLATION OF PAGA**

14 **(AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS BY PLAINTIFF)**

15 **15.** Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 14
16 as though fully set forth herein.

17 **16.** PAGA expressly establishes that any provision of the California Labor
18 Code which provides for a civil penalty to be assessed and collected by the LWDA, or any of its
19 departments, divisions, commissions, boards, agencies or employees for a violation of the
20 California Labor Code, may be recovered through a civil action brought by an aggrieved
21 employee on behalf of himself or herself, and other current or former employees.

22 **17.** On November 6, 2023, Plaintiff provided written notice to the LWDA and
23 Defendants of the specific provisions of the Labor Code he contends were violated, and the
24 theories supporting his contentions. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** and incorporated by reference
25 is a copy of the November 6, 2023, written notice to the LWDA. Plaintiff believes that on or
26 about January 30, 2024, the sixty-five (65) day notice period expired as to all Defendants, and
27 the LWDA did not take any action to investigate or prosecute this matter. Therefore, Plaintiff
28 has exhausted the statutory time period to bring this action.

1 **18.** Plaintiff and the other hourly-paid or non-exempt employees are
2 “aggrieved employees” as defined by California Labor Code § 2699(c) in that they are all current
3 or former employees of Defendants who worked for Defendants at any time during the period
4 from November 6, 2022 to the present, and one or more of the alleged violations was committed
5 against them.

6 **Failure to Pay Minimum and Overtime Wages**

7 **19.** At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to compensate their
8 non-exempt employees minimum wages for all hours worked and overtime wages for all hours
9 worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a day or forty (40) hours in a workweek, pursuant to the
10 mandate of Labor Code §§ 510, 1194, 1197, and 1198.

11 **20.** As a pattern and practice, Defendants failed to compensate Plaintiff and
12 other aggrieved current and former employees for all hours worked, resulting in a failure to pay
13 all minimum wages and overtime wages, where applicable.

14 **Failure to Provide Meal Periods and Rest Breaks**

15 **21.** In accordance with the mandates of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512,
16 Defendants were required to authorize and permit their non-exempt employees to take a 10-
17 minute rest break for every four (4) hours worked or major fraction thereof and were further
18 required to provide their non-exempt employees with a 30-minute meal period for every five (5)
19 hours worked.

20 **22.** As a pattern and practice, Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff and other
21 aggrieved current and former employees with legally-mandated meal periods and rest breaks and
22 failed to pay proper compensation for this failure.

23 **Failure to Timely Pay Wages During Employment**

24 **23.** At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to pay their
25 employees within a specified time period pursuant to the mandate of Labor Code § 204.

26 **24.** As a pattern and practice, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and other
27 aggrieved current and former employees all wages due and owing them within the required time
28 period.

1 **Failure to Timely Pay Wages Upon Termination**

2 **25.** At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to pay their
3 employees all wages owed in a timely fashion at the end of employment pursuant to California
4 Labor Code §§ 201 to 204.

5 **26.** As a result of Defendants' Labor Code violations alleged above,
6 Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and the other aggrieved former employees their final wages
7 pursuant to Labor Code §§ 201 to 204 and accordingly owe waiting time penalties pursuant to
8 Labor Code § 203.

9 **Failure to Provide Complete and Accurate Wage Statements**

10 **27.** At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to keep *accurate*
11 records regarding their California employees pursuant to the mandate of Labor Code §§ 226 and
12 1174.

13 **28.** As a result of Defendants' various Labor Code violations, Defendants
14 failed to keep accurate records regarding Plaintiff and other aggrieved current and former
15 employees. For example, Defendants failed in their affirmative obligation to keep accurate
16 records regarding Plaintiff and other aggrieved current and former employees' gross wages
17 earned, total hours worked, all deductions, net wages earned, and all applicable hourly rates and
18 the number of hours worked at each hourly rate.

19 **Failure to Reimburse Business Expenses**

20 **30.** At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to reimburse its
21 employees for any and all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employees in direct
22 consequences of the discharge or his or her duties pursuant to the mandate of Labor Code §§
23 2800 and 2802.

24 **31.** As a pattern and practice, Defendants regularly failed to pay Plaintiff and
25 other aggrieved current and former employees all business expenses incurred and owing them
26 within the required time period.

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Penalties

32. Pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699, Plaintiff, individually, and on behalf of other current and former aggrieved employees, requests and is entitled to recover from Defendants, and each of them, civil penalties, interest, attorneys' fees and costs pursuant, against Defendants, and each of them, including but not limited to:

33. Penalties under California Labor Code § 2699 in the amount of a 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;

34. Penalties under California Code of Regulations Title 8 § 11040 in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial violation, and one hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation;

35. Penalties under California Labor Code § 210 in addition to, and entirely independent and apart from, any other penalty provided in the California Labor Code in the amount of a 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;

36. Penalties under Labor Code § 1197.1 in the amount of a hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial violation, and two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation;

37. Any and all additional penalties as provided by the Labor Code and/or other statutes; and

38. Attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code §§ 210, 1194, and 2699, and any other applicable statute.

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1 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

2 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on her own behalf and as representative of other current
3 and former aggrieved employees pursuant to PAGA, prays for judgment as follows:

- 4 1. Upon the Cause of Action, for civil penalties pursuant to statute as set forth in
5 Labor Code § 2698 *et seq.*, for Defendants' violations of Labor Code §§ 201, 202,
6 203, 204, 218.5, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512(a), 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197,
7 1197.1, 1198, and 2802.
- 8 2. Upon the Cause of Action, for costs and attorneys' fees pursuant to Labor Code
9 §§ 210, 218.5, 1194, and 2699, and any other applicable statute; and
- 10 3. For such other and further relief the court may deem just and proper.

11
12 Dated: December 17, 2025

MOON LAW GROUP

13
14 By: 

15 Kane Moon
16 Daniel J. Park
17 Attorneys for Plaintiff
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EXHIBIT 1

MOON LAW GROUP, PC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
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Kane Moon, Esq.
Kmoon@moonlawgroup.com

November 5, 2023

VIA ONLINE SUBMISSION

Labor & Workforce Development Agency
Attn. PAGA Administrator
1515 Clay Street, Ste. 801
Oakland, CA 94612

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Fresno's Chaffee Zoo Corporation
1250 W. Olive Avenue
Fresno, CA 93728

Notice of Labor Code Violations and PAGA Penalties

Re: ***Javier Mendez v. Fresno's Chaffee Zoo Corporation***

To Whom It May Concern:

Please be advised that my office has been retained by Javier Mendez ("Plaintiff") to pursue a Labor Code Private Attorney General Act (PAGA) representative action (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 2699, *et seq.*) against his former employer, Fresno's Chaffee Zoo Corporation ("Defendant"). The purpose of this letter is to comply with PAGA and set forth the facts and theories of California Labor Code violations which we allege Defendant engaged in with respect to Plaintiff and all of Defendant's aggrieved employees.

Plaintiff wishes to pursue a PAGA representative action on behalf of Plaintiff as an aggrieved employee, on behalf of the State of California, and on behalf of all other current and former aggrieved employees who worked for Defendant in California as an hourly paid, non-exempt employee at any time within the applicable statutory period (hereafter, the "Aggrieved Employees").

Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees of Defendant suffered the Labor Code violations described below.

Factual Background Regarding Plaintiff's Employment with Defendant

Defendant owns and operates an industry, business, and establishment within the State of California, including Fresno County. As such, Defendant is subject to the California Labor Code and the Wage Orders issued by the Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC").

Plaintiff worked for Defendant as a veterinary technician from approximately October 2018 to February 2023, primarily in Fresno County. Defendant classified Plaintiff as non-exempt from overtime. During the time period that Plaintiff was employed by Defendant, Plaintiff typically worked 5 to 6 days per week, and in excess of 8 hours each workday.

Throughout Plaintiff's employment, Defendant committed numerous labor code violations under state law. As discussed below, Plaintiff's experience working for Defendant was typical and illustrative.

Failure to Pay for All Hours Worked, Including Overtime

Under California law, an employer must pay for all hours worked by an employee. "Hours worked" is the time during which an employee is subject to the control of an employer, and includes all the time the employee is suffered or permitted to work, whether or not required to do so.

In addition, Labor Code § 510 provides that employees in California shall not be employed more than eight (8) hours in any workday or forty (40) hours in a workweek unless they receive additional compensation beyond their regular wages in amounts specified by law.

Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1198 also provide that employees in California shall not be employed more than eight hours in any workday unless they receive additional compensation beyond their regular wages in amounts specified by law. Additionally, Labor Code § 1198 states that the employment of an employee for longer hours than those fixed by the Industrial Welfare Commission is unlawful.

Throughout the statutory period, Defendants maintained a policy and practice of not paying Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for all hours worked, including all overtime wages. Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees were required to work "off the clock" and uncompensated. For example, Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees were required to wait in line in order to clock into work, off the clock and uncompensated. Also, Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees were required to don and doff prior to clocking into work, off the clock and uncompensated. Also throughout the statutory period, Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees received non-discretionary bonuses, memberships to the zoo, and other remuneration. However, Defendants failed to incorporate all remuneration when calculating the correct overtime rate of pay, sick day rate of pay, and meal break premium rate of pay, leading to underpayment to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees. Also, Defendants failed to include all compensation in wage statements, such as memberships to the zoo.

As a result, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for the civil penalties provided for in Labor Code §§ 210, 558, 1197.1, and 2699(f)(2) for failing to pay for all hours worked, including overtime.

Failure to Provide Meal Periods

Under California law, employers have an affirmative obligation to relieve employees of all duty in order to take their first 30-minute, duty-free meal periods no later than the start of sixth hour of work in a workday, and to allow employees to take their second 30-minute, duty-free meal period no later than the start of the eleventh hour of work in the workday. Further, employees are entitled to be paid one hour of additional wages for each workday they were not provided with all required meal period(s).

Despite these legal requirements, Defendant wrongfully failed to provide Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees with legally compliant meal periods. Defendant regularly required Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees to work in excess of five consecutive hours a day without providing a 30-minute, continuous and uninterrupted, duty-free meal period for every five hours of work, or without compensating Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for meal periods that were not provided by the end of the fifth hour of work or tenth hour of work. Defendant did not adequately inform Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees of their right to take a meal period by the end of the fifth hour of work, or, for shifts greater than 10 hours, by the end of the tenth hour of work. Moreover, Defendant did not have adequate written policies or practices providing meal periods for Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees, nor did Defendant have adequate policies or practices regarding the timing of meal periods. Defendant also did not have adequate policies or practices to verify whether Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees were taking their required meal periods. Accordingly, Defendant's policy and practice was to not provide meal periods to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees in compliance with California law.

Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees are thus entitled to be paid one hour of additional wages for each workday he or she was not provided with all required meal period(s). Defendant, however, regularly failed to pay Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees the additional wages to which they were entitled for meal periods and that were not provided.

As a result, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for the civil penalties provided for in Labor Code §§ 210, 558, and 2699(f)(2) for failing to provide meal periods and pay meal period premium wages.

Failure to Authorize and Permit Rest Periods

Employers are required by California law to authorize and permit breaks of 10 uninterrupted minutes for each four hours of work or major fraction of four hours (i.e. more than two hours).

Thus, for example, if an employee's work time is 6 hours and ten minutes, the employee is entitled to two rest breaks. Each failure to authorize rest breaks as so required is itself a violation of California's rest break laws.

Defendant, however, wrongfully failed to authorize and permit Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees to take timely and duty-free rest periods. Defendant regularly required Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees to work in excess of four consecutive hours a day without Defendant authorizing and permitting them to take a 10 minute, continuous and uninterrupted, rest period for every four hours of work (or major fraction of four hours), or without compensating Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for rest periods that were not authorized or permitted. Defendant did not adequately inform Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees of their right to take a rest period. Moreover, Defendant did not have adequate policies or practices permitting or authorizing rest periods for Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees, nor did Defendant have adequate policies or practices regarding the timing of rest periods. Defendant also did not have adequate policies or practices to verify whether Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees were taking their required rest periods. Further, Defendant did not maintain accurate records of employee work periods, and therefore Defendant cannot demonstrate that Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees took rest periods during the middle of each work period. Accordingly, Defendant's policy and practice was for Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees to work through rest periods and to not authorize or permit them to take any rest periods.

Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees are thus entitled to be paid one hour of additional wages for each workday he or she was not authorized and permitted to take all required rest period(s). Defendant, however, regularly failed to pay Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees the additional wages to which they were entitled for rest periods and that they were not authorized and permitted to take.

As a result, Defendant are liable to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for the civil penalties provided for in Labor Code §§ 210, 558, and 2699(f)(2) for failing to authorize and permit rest periods and pay rest period premium wages.

Failure to Maintain Accurate Records of Hours Worked and Meal Periods

Plaintiff seeks penalties under Labor Code § 1174(d). Pursuant to Labor Code § 1174.5, any person, including any entity, employing labor who willfully fails to maintain accurate and complete records required by Labor Code § 1174 is subject to a penalty under § 1174.5. Pursuant to the applicable IWC Order § 7(A)(3), every employer shall keep time records showing when the employee begins and ends each work period. Meal periods and total hours worked daily shall also be recorded.

Defendant, however, failed to maintain accurate records of hours worked and all meal periods taken or missed by Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees.

Defendant's failure to provide and maintain records required by the Labor Code IWC Wage Orders deprived Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees the ability to know, understand and question the accuracy and frequency of meal periods, and the accuracy of their hours worked stated in Defendant's records. Therefore, Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees had no way to dispute the resulting failure to pay wages, all of which resulted in an unjustified economic enrichment to Defendant. As a direct result, Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees have suffered and continue to suffer, substantial losses related to the use and enjoyment of such wages, lost interest on such wages and expenses and attorney's fees in seeking to compel Defendant to fully perform its obligation under state law, all to their respective damage in amounts according to proof at trial. As a result of Defendant's knowing failure to comply with the Labor Code and applicable IWC Wage Orders, Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees have also suffered an injury in that they were prevented from knowing, understanding, and disputing the wage payments paid to them.

As a result, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for the civil penalties provided for in Labor Code § 1174.5 for failing to maintain accurate records of hours worked and meal periods.

Failure to Reimburse and Indemnify Expenses

California Labor Code § 2802 requires employers to reimburse employees for their necessary expenditures and losses incurred in direct consequence of the discharge of their duties or of their obedience to directions of the employer.

Throughout the statutory period, Defendant wrongfully required Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees to pay expenses that they incurred in direct discharge of their duties for Defendant without reimbursement, which included the maintenance of uniforms, and the occasional use of personal cellular telephones for work purposes. Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees incurred these substantial expenses as a direct result of performing their job duties for Defendant, and Defendant has failed to indemnify Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for these employment-related expenses.

Failure to Pay All Accrued Vacation Wages at Termination

Labor Code § 227.3 requires employers to pay employees for all unused vested vacation time at their final rate of pay upon termination of their employment.

During the statutory period, Defendant maintained a policy and practice of failing to pay Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees the correct amount of vacation pay owed at the termination of

employment. For instance, when Plaintiff's employment with Defendant terminated, he was owed vacation wages at his true final wage rate on his final pay check from Defendant even though he had accrued unused vacation time. On information and belief, Defendant's failure to pay Plaintiff the correct amount of vacation pay was not a single, isolated incident, but was instead part of Defendant's policy and practice that applied to the Aggrieved Employees.

As a result, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for the civil penalties provided for in Labor Code § 2699(f)(2) for failing to pay all accrued vacation wages at termination.

Failure to Timely Pay All Wages at Termination

Labor Code §§ 201 and 202 provide that if an employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately, and that if an employee voluntarily leaves his or her employment, his or her wages shall become due and payable not later than seventy-two (72) hours thereafter, unless the employee has given seventy-two (72) hours previous notice of his or her intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting.

Within the applicable statute of limitations, the employment of Plaintiff and many other Aggrieved Employees ended, i.e. was terminated by quitting or discharge, and the employment of others will be. However, during the relevant time period, Defendant failed, and continues to fail to pay Plaintiff and terminated Aggrieved Employees, without abatement, all wages required to be paid by Labor Code sections 201 and 202 either at the time of discharge, or within seventy-two (72) hours of their leaving Defendant's employ. These unpaid wages include wages for unpaid work time (including minimum and straight time wages), missed meal periods, and missed rest periods.

Defendant's conduct violates Labor Code §§ 201 and 202. Labor Code § 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to pay wages owed, in accordance with sections 201 and 202, then the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty wage from the due date, and at the same rate until paid or until an action is commenced; but the wages shall not continue for more than thirty (30) days.

Accordingly, Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees are entitled to recover from Defendant their additionally accruing wages for each day they were not paid, at their regular hourly rate of pay, up to 30 days maximum pursuant to Labor Code § 203.

Moreover, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for the civil penalties provided for in Labor Code § 2699(f)(2) for failing to timely pay all wages at termination.

Failure to Furnish Accurate Itemized Wage Statements

Labor Code § 226(a) provides that every employer shall furnish each of his or her employees an accurate itemized wage statement in writing showing nine pieces of information, including: (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the employee, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee and the last four digits of his or her social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee. An employee is presumed to suffer an injury if this information is missing. (Lab. Code § 226(e)(2)(B)(iii).)

The statute further provides: “An employee suffering injury as a result of a knowing and intentional failure by an employer to comply with subdivision (a) is entitled to recover the greater of all actual damages or fifty dollars (\$50) for the initial pay period in which a violation occurs and one hundred dollars (\$100) per employee for each violation in a subsequent pay period, not to exceed an aggregate penalty of four thousand dollars (\$4,000), and is entitled to an award of costs and reasonable attorney’s fees.” (Lab. Code § 226(e)(1).)

Defendant intentionally and willfully failed to provide employees with complete and accurate wage statements. The deficiencies include, among other things, the failure to correctly identify hourly rates, the failure to correctly list gross wages earned, and the failure to list the true net wages earned, including wages for meal periods that were not provided in accordance with California law, wages for rest periods that were not authorized and permitted to take in accordance with California law, and correct wages earned for all hours worked.

As a result of Defendant violating Labor Code § 226, Plaintiff and similarly Aggrieved Employees suffered injury and damage to their statutorily protected rights.

Accordingly, Plaintiff and similarly Aggrieved Employees are entitled to recover from Defendant the greater of their actual damages caused by Defendant’s failure to comply with Labor Code § 226(a), or an aggregate penalty not exceeding \$4,000 dollars per employee.

Moreover, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for the civil penalties provided for in Labor Code § 226.3 for failing to furnish accurate itemized wage statements.

Failure to Pay All Earned Wages Twice Per Month

Based on its failure to pay Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for all wages as discussed above, Defendant also violated Labor Code § 204.

Labor Code § 204 requires employers to pay employees all earned wages two times per month. Throughout the statute of limitations period applicable to this cause of action, employees were entitled to be paid twice a month at their regular rates, including all meal period premium wages owed, rest period premium wages owed, and wages owed for hours worked. However, during all such times, Defendant systematically failed and refused to pay the employees all wages due, and failed to pay those wages twice a month, in that employees were not paid all wages for all meal periods not provided by Defendant, all wages for all rest periods not authorized and permitted by Defendant, and all wages for all hours worked. As a result, Defendant owes employees the legally required wages for unpaid wages, and Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees suffered damages in those amounts.

Moreover, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for the civil penalties provided for in Labor Code § 210 for failing to pay all earned wages twice per month.

Action for Civil Penalties Under PAGA

In light of the above, Plaintiff alleges that Defendant violated the following provisions of the Labor Code with respect to the Aggrieved Employees:

1. Labor Code § 204, 510, 1194, 1197, and 1198 by failing to pay for all hours worked, including minimum wages, straight time wages and overtime wages;
2. Labor Code § 226.7, 512 and applicable Wage Orders by failing to provide meal periods;
3. Labor Code § 226.7 and applicable Wage Orders by failing to authorize and permit rest periods;
4. Labor Code § 1174.5 and applicable Wage Orders by failing to maintain accurate records of hours worked and meal periods taken or missed;
5. Labor Code § 2802 by failing to reimburse and indemnify employees for expenses and losses in the direct consequence and discharge of their duties;
6. Labor Code § 227.3 by failing to pay all vacation wages at termination;
7. Labor Code §§ 201 to 203 by willfully failing to pay all wages owed at termination;
8. Labor Code § 226 by failing to provide accurate itemized wage statements; and
9. Labor Code § 204 by failing to pay all earned wages two times per month.

Therefore, on behalf of all Aggrieved Employees, Plaintiff seeks applicable penalties related to the violations alleged above pursuant to the PAGA. These include, but are not limited to, penalties under Labor Code §§ 210, 226.3, 558, 1174.5, 1197.1, 2802, and 2699(f)(2).

Plaintiff has placed Defendant on notice by mailing a certified copy of this correspondence to its corporate address, as indicated on the first page.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

MOON LAW GROUP, PC



Kane Moon, Esq.
Attorney at Law

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PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

I am employed in the county of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action; my business address is 725 S. Figueroa St., 31st Floor, Los Angeles, California 90017.

On the date indicated below, I served the document described as: **FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE § 2698 et seq. (PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT OF 2004)** on the interested parties in this action by sending ☐ the original [or] ☒ a true copy thereof ☒ to interested parties as follows [or] ☐ as stated on the attached service list:

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Counsel for Defendant

☒ **BY E-MAIL:** I hereby certify that this document was served from Los Angeles, California, by e-mail delivery on the parties listed herein at their most recent known e-mail address or e-mail of record in this action.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California and the United States that the foregoing is true and correct, and that I am employed in the office of a member of the bar of this court at whose direction the service was made, or I am a member of the bar of this court. Executed on **December 17, 2025**, at Los Angeles, California.

Jill Eaton

Name

Jill Eaton
Signature