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Attorneys for Plaintiff MARIA SOLEDAD LOPEZ,
on behalf of herself and current and former aggrieved employees

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

MARIA SOLEDAD LOPEZ, on behalf of herself
and current and former aggrieved employees,

Plaintiff,

vs.

NATIONWIDE THEATRES CORP., a California
Corporation; and DOES 1 to 100, inclusive,
Defendants.

Case No.: **26STCV30540**

PAGA ACTION

**PLAINTIFF MARIA SOLEDAD
LOPEZ'S COMPLAINT FOR:**

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

COMES NOW Plaintiff MARIA SOLEDAD LOPEZ ("Plaintiff"), who alleges and
complains against Defendant NATIONWIDE THEATRES CORP., a California corporation; 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 employees of Defendants who worked as hourly non-exempt employees in
California ("aggrieved employees") at any time since July 24, 2025 and continuing into perpetuity
("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

1 overtime hours worked at the overtime rate of pay; failure to pay overtime wages at the proper
2 overtime rate of pay; failure to authorize or permit all legally required and/or compliant meal periods
3 or pay meal period premium wages; failure to authorize or permit all legally required and/or
4 compliant rest periods or pay rest period premium wages; statutory penalties for failure to timely
5 produce requested employment records; indemnification for all necessary expenditures or losses
6 incurred by employees in direct consequence of discharging their duties; failure to pay wages for
7 accrued paid sick time at the regular rate of pay; failure to pay accrued and vested vacation and/or
8 paid-time-off (PTO) wages; statutory penalties for failure to provide accurate wage statements;
9 statutory waiting time penalties in the form of continuation wages for failure to timely pay
10 employees all wages due upon separation of employment.
11

12 2. Plaintiff is an “aggrieved employee” under PAGA, as Plaintiff was employed by
13 Defendants during the relevant time period and suffered the Labor Code violations set forth herein,
14 even if not the exact same manner as other aggrieved employees. Plaintiff experienced these
15 violations personally, as well as is informed and believes other aggrieved employees did as well.
16 Plaintiff seeks civil penalties, reasonable attorneys’ fees pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(g)(1)
17 and costs brought on behalf of Plaintiff, the State of California, and others aggrieved for Defendants’
18 violations of the aggrieved employees’ rights during the relevant time period.
19

20 **II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

21 3. This Court has jurisdiction over the claims of Plaintiff and all other current and
22 former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees because Plaintiff’s lawsuit seeks
23 civil penalties on behalf of herself, all other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
24 non-exempt employees, and the State of California in excess of thirty-five thousand dollars
25 (\$35,000); Defendants employed Plaintiff and all other current and former aggrieved California-
26 based hourly non-exempt employees; and the injuries to Plaintiff and all other current and former
27 aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees occurred in locations throughout
28 California, including but not limited to Los Angeles County.

1 4. Labor Code section 2699, subdivisions (a) and (g), authorizes aggrieved employees,
2 such as Plaintiff, on behalf of Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved employees within the
3 relevant time period to bring a civil action to recover civil penalties pursuant to the procedures
4 specified in the Labor Code section 2699.3.

5 5. On or around July 24, 2026, Plaintiff provided written notice pursuant to Labor Code
6 section 2699.3 online and by certified mail, with return receipt requested, of Defendants' violations
7 of various, including the herein-described, provisions of the Labor Code, to the LWDA, as well as
8 to Defendants.

9
10 6. To the extent Defendants previously used the notice and cure provisions of Labor
11 Code section 2699.3 within the last twelve (12) months, under section 2699.3(d), then Defendants,
12 or those who have availed themselves of the cure provisions validly, are not eligible to cure the
13 violations discussed herein under section 2699.3 or otherwise use the early evaluation conference
14 process pursuant to section 2699.3(f).

15 7. To the extent Defendants, or either of them, previously used the notice and cure
16 provision of Labor Code section 2699.3 within the last twelve months, under section 2699.3(d), then
17 Defendants, or those who have availed themselves of the cure provisions validly, are not eligible to
18 cure the violations discussed herein under section 2699.3 or otherwise use the early evaluation
19 conference process pursuant to section 2699.3(f).

20 8. In the event that Defendants, or either of them, is/are determined to have satisfied
21 sections 2699(g), 2699(h), or otherwise 2699(d)(1), Defendants, or any that is determined to have
22 satisfied sections 2699(g), 2699(h), is also, in the alternative, liable for civil penalties pursuant to
23 Labor Code sections 2699(j), 2699(e)(2), and 2699(f)(2).

24
25 9. In the event that Defendants, or either of them, is/are determined to have, prior to
26 this notice or a request for records pursuant to Labor Code section 226, 432, or 1198.5, from Plaintiff
27 and/or her counsel, adequately taken all reasonable steps to be in compliance with all provisions
28

1 identified in this notice, said defendant(s) is/are still liable for civil penalties pursuant to section
2 2699(g)(1)-(3).

3 10. In the event that Defendants, or either of them is/are deemed to have adequately taken
4 all reasonable steps to be in compliance with all provisions identified in this notice within sixty (60)
5 days of receiving this notice, said defendant(s) is/are still liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor
6 Code section 2699(h)(1)-(3).

7 11. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subdivision (a)(2)(A), the LWDA did not
8 provide notice of its intention to investigate Defendants' alleged violations within sixty-five (65)
9 calendar days of the July 24, 2026, postmarked date of the herein-described notice sent by Plaintiff
10 to the LWDA and Defendants.

11
12 **III. PARTIES**

13 1. Plaintiff brings this action as a representative of the Labor and Workforce
14 Development Agency on behalf of herself and other current and former employees subject to
15 violations of the Labor Code. The named Plaintiff and the persons on whose behalf this action is
16 filed include current, former and/or future employees of Defendants who work, worked, or will work
17 for Defendants as direct employees as well as temporary employees employed through temp
18 agencies as hourly non-exempt employees in California. At all times mentioned herein, the currently
19 named Plaintiff is and was domiciled and a resident and citizen of California and was employed by
20 Defendants in an hourly position for Defendants from around 1990 until May of 2026.

21 2. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant NATIONWIDE
22 THEATRES CORP. is authorized to do business within the State of California and is doing business
23 in the State of California and/or that Defendants DOES 1-100 are, and at all times relevant hereto
24 were persons acting on behalf of Defendant NATIONWIDE THEATRES CORP. in the
25 establishment of, or ratification of, the aforementioned illegal wage and hour practices or policies.
26 Defendant NATIONWIDE THEATRES CORP. operates in Los Angeles County and employed
27 Plaintiff and putative class members in Los Angeles County, including but not limited to, at 585
28

1 Glenoaks Blvd., San Fernando, CA 91340.

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

8 4. Plaintiff makes the allegations in this complaint without any admission that, as to
9 any particular allegation, Plaintiff bears the burden of pleading, proving, or persuading and Plaintiff
10 reserves all of Plaintiff's right to plead in the alternative.
11

12 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

13 **CIVIL PENALTIES PURSUANT TO THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT OF**
14 **2004, LABOR CODE SECTIONS 2698, ET SEQ.**

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

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

18 6. During Plaintiff's employment and continuing through the present, Plaintiff alleges
19 Defendants violated Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 226, 226.7, 227.3, 246, 510, 512, 1194,
20 1197, 1198, 1198.5, 2802, and the applicable Wage Orders.

21 7. Specifically, Defendants have committed the following violations of California
22 Labor Code:
23

24 8. **Failure to pay wages for all hours worked at the legal minimum wage:**
25 Defendants employed many of their employees, including Plaintiff, as hourly non-exempt
26 employees. In California, an employer is required to pay hourly employees for all "hours worked,"
27 which includes all time that an employee is under control of the employer and all time the employee
28 is suffered and permitted to work. This includes the time an employee spends, either directly or

1 indirectly, performing services which inure to the benefit of the employer.

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

5 10. In this case, Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
6 non-exempt employees worked more minutes per shift than Defendants credited them with having
7 worked. Specifically, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved
8 California-based hourly non-exempt employees all wages at the applicable minimum wage for all
9 hours worked due to Defendants’ policies, practices, and/or procedures including, but not limited
10 to:
11

12 (a) At times, failing to pay Plaintiff and similarly aggrieved employees all minimum
13 wages as Plaintiff and similarly aggrieved employees were unable to take off duty,
14 thirty- minute, uninterrupted meal periods, often being forced to work through part
15 or all their unpaid meal periods, resulting in significant unpaid wages for time spent
16 working for Defendants.

17 (b) At times, failing to pay Plaintiff and similarly situated aggrieved employees all
18 minimum wages as Defendants implemented a time-rounding system that, as applied,
19 systematically deprived Plaintiff and similarly situated aggrieved employees of
20 compensable time because the time-rounding system implemented by Defendants
21 understated the actual compensable work time. At times, Defendants adjusted
22 Plaintiff’s and similarly aggrieved employees’ time entries and/or instructed them to
23 record only scheduled beginning and end times of their shifts rather than the actual
24 times they began and stopped working, resulting in understating the actual time
25 worked and the underpayment of minimum wages owed to Plaintiff and similarly
26 situated aggrieved employees.
27

28 11. Therefore, Defendants suffered, permitted, and required Plaintiff and other current

1 and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees to be subject to Defendants'
2 control without paying wages for that time. This resulted in Plaintiff and other current and former
3 aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees working time for which they were not
4 compensated any wages, in violation of Labor Code sections 1194 and 1197 and the applicable
5 Wage Order.

6 12. Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that
7 Employer's conduct above that gave rise to such violations was 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

11 13. **Failure to pay wages for overtime hours worked at the overtime rate of pay**
12 **and/or failure to pay overtime wages at the proper rate of pay:** Defendants employed many of
13 their employees, including Plaintiff, as hourly non-exempt employees. In California, an employer
14 is required to pay hourly employees for all "hours worked," which includes all time that an employee
15 is under control of the employer and all time the employee is suffered and permitted to work. This
16 includes the time an employee spends, either directly or indirectly, performing services that inure to
17 the benefit of the employer.'

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

21 Any work in excess of eight (8) hours in one workday, any work in excess of forty (40) hours
22 in any one (1) workweek, and the first eight (8) hours worked on the seventh day of work in
23 any one (1) workweek, shall be compensated at the rate of no less than one-and-one-half
24 (1.5) times the regular rate of pay for an employee. Any work in excess of twelve (12) hours
25 in one (1) day shall be compensated at the rate of no less than twice the regular rate of pay
26 for an employee. In addition, any work in excess of eight (8) hours on any seventh day of a
27 workweek shall be compensated at the rate of no less than twice the regular rate of pay of an
28 employee.

26 Labor Code section 510.

27 15. In this case, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved
28 California-based hourly non-exempt employees overtime wages for all overtime hours worked due

1 to Defendants' policies, practices, and/or procedures including, but not limited to:

2 (a) At times, failing to pay Plaintiff and similarly aggrieved employees all overtime
3 wages as Plaintiff and similarly aggrieved employees were consistently unable to take off
4 duty, thirty-minute, uninterrupted meal periods, often being forced to work through part or
5 all their unpaid meal periods, resulting in significant unpaid wages for time spent working
6 for Defendant.

7 (b) At times, failing to pay Plaintiff and similarly aggrieved employees all overtime
8 wages as Defendants implemented a time-rounding system that, as applied, systemically
9 deprived Plaintiff and similarly aggrieved employees of compensable time because the
10 time-rounding system implemented by Defendants understated actual compensable work
11 time. Defendants adjusted Plaintiff's and similarly aggrieved employees' time entries and
12 or instructed them to record only the scheduled beginning and end times of their shifts rather
13 than the actual times they began and stopped working, resulting in understating actual time
14 worked and the underpayment of overtime owed to Plaintiff and similarly aggrieved
15 employees.
16

17 (c) At times, failing to incorporate all non-discretionary remuneration into the regular
18 rate of pay used to calculate the owed overtime rate, resulting in the miscalculation and
19 underpayment of overtime wages owed to Plaintiff and similarly aggrieved employees.
20

21 16. Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that
22 Employer's conduct above that gave rise to such violations was 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 17. The foregoing policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in time during each
26 workday that Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt
27 employees were under the control of Defendants but were not compensated. To the extent that the
28 foregoing uncompensated time occurred when Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved

1 California-based hourly non-exempt employees worked more than eight (8) hours in a workday,
2 more than forty (40) hours in a workweek, and/or seven (7) days in a workweek, Defendants failed
3 to pay them at their overtime rate of pay for overtime hours worked, in violation of Labor Code
4 sections 510, 1194 and 1198, and the applicable Wage Order.

5 18. **Failure to pay wages to hourly non-exempt employees for workdays that**
6 **Defendants failed to provide legally required and compliant meal periods and/or failure to**
7 **pay period premium wages:** Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based
8 hourly non-exempt employees regularly worked shifts of more than five (5) hours in length and
9 shifts of more than ten (10) hours in length.
10

11 19. California law requires an employer to authorize or permit an employee an
12 uninterrupted meal period of no less than thirty (30) minutes in which the employee is relieved of
13 all duties and the employer relinquishes control over the employee's activities prior to the
14 employee's sixth hour of work. Labor Code sections 226.7, 512, and 1198; Wage Order 5 at §11;
15 *Brinker Rest. Corp. v. Super Ct. (Hohnbaum)* (2012) 53 Cal.4th 1004. An employer may not employ
16 an employee for a work period of more than ten (10) hours per day without providing the employee
17 with a second such meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the eleventh
18 hour of work. *Id.* If the employee is not relieved of all duty during a meal period, the meal period
19 shall be considered an "on duty" meal period and counted as time worked. A paid "on duty" meal
20 period is only permitted when: (1) the nature of the work prevents an employee from being relieved
21 of all duty; and (2) the parties have a written agreement agreeing to on-duty meal periods.
22

23 20. If an employer fails to provide an employee a meal period in accordance with the
24 law, the employer must pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of pay
25 for each workday that a legally required and compliant meal period was not provided. Labor Code
26 sections 226.7 and 1198; Wage Order 5 at §11.

27 21. In this case, Defendants failed to authorize or permit legally required and compliant
28 meal periods to Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-

1 exempt employees due to Defendants' policies, practices, and/or procedures, including but not
2 limited to:

3 (a) At times, Plaintiff and similarly aggrieved employees were unable to take
4 timely, off duty, thirty-minute, uninterrupted meal periods, often being forced to take
5 late meal periods and/or work through part or all their meal periods due to the nature
6 and constraints of their job duties/lack of relief workers available and or commentary
7 from supervisors pressuring them to take non-compliant breaks or skip breaks
8 completely.

9 (b) At times, Plaintiff and similarly aggrieved employees were instructed by their
10 supervisors to take late meal periods and or work through part or all of their meal
11 periods when the plant was busy. Plaintiff and similarly aggrieved employees were
12 instructed to clock out thirty minutes for these missed or improper meal periods but
13 to continue working/remain on duty.

14 (c) At times, Plaintiff and similarly aggrieved employees were not provided
15 second meal periods despite regularly working shifts of at least ten hours (10) hours
16 and thus being entitled to a second 30-minute, duty free, uninterrupted meal period
17 before the end of the tenth hour of work. Per Defendants' unlawful meal period
18 policy and practice, Defendants only provided a single meal period per shift,
19 regardless of the number of hours worked, and even this single meal period would
20 often be cut short, interrupted, late, worked through, and or on duty due to the nature
21 and constraints of Plaintiff's and similarly aggrieved employees' job duties, lack of
22 relief workers available and or pressure from supervisors to take non-compliant meal
23 breaks or skip meal breaks completely.

24 (d) At times, Defendants failed to permit Plaintiff and similarly aggrieved
25 employees to leave Defendants' premises during their meal periods in violation of
26 California law.
27
28

1 (e) At times, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and similarly aggrieved
2 employees all meal period premiums earned for noncompliant meal periods.

3 (f) At times, failing to incorporate all non-discretionary remuneration into the
4 regular rate of pay used to calculate Plaintiff and similarly aggrieved employees'
5 meal period premium rates, resulting in miscalculation and underpayment of meal
6 period premium rates owed to Plaintiff and similarly aggrieved employees.

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

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

16 24. Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that
17 Employer's conduct above that gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
18 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
19 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).
20

21 25. **Failure to pay wages to hourly non-exempt employees for workdays that**
22 **Defendants failed to provide legally required and compliant rest periods and/or failure to pay**
23 **rest period premium:** Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
24 non-exempt employees regularly worked shifts of more than three-and-a-half (3.5) hours.
25

26 26. California law requires every employer to authorize and permit an employee a rest
27 period of ten (10) net minutes for every four (4) hours worked or major fraction thereof. Labor Code
28 section 226.7; Wage Order 5 at §12. Under California law, "[e]mployees are entitled to 10 minutes'

1 rest for shifts from three and one-half to six hours in length, 20 minutes for shifts of more than six
2 hours up to 10 hours, 30 minutes for shifts of more than 10 hours up to 14 hours, and so on.” *Brinker*
3 *Restaurant Corp. v. Sup. Ct. (Hohnbaum)* (2012) 53 Cal.4th 1004, 1029; Labor Code section 226.7;
4 Wage Order 5 at §12. Rest periods, insofar as practicable, shall be in the middle of each work period.
5 Wage Order 5 at §12. Additionally, the rest period requirement ““obligates employers to permit –
6 and authorizes employees to take – off-duty rest periods.” *Augustus v. ABM Security Services, Inc.*
7 (2016) 2 Cal.5th 257, 269. That is, during rest periods employers must relieve employees of all
8 duties and relinquish control over how employees spend their time. *Id.*
9

10 27. If the employer fails to authorize or permit a required rest period, the employer must
11 pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee’s regular rate of pay for each workday the
12 employer did not authorize or permit a legally required rest period. Labor Code section 226.7; Wage
13 Order 5 at § 12.

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

18 (a) At times, Defendants failed to authorize Plaintiff and similarly aggrieved employees
19 to take rest periods at a rate of every four (4) hours worked or major fraction thereof.

20 (b) At times, Plaintiff and similarly aggrieved employees were not adequately informed,
21 authorized, instructed about, nor permitted an opportunity to take proper rest breaks
22 per California law.

23 (c) At times, Plaintiff’s and similarly aggrieved employees’ rest periods were
24 interrupted, cut short, on duty, and/or late due to the nature and constraints of
25 Plaintiff’s and similarly aggrieved employees’ job duties or commentary from
26 supervisors pressuring them to skip rest breaks completely or take non-compliant rest
27 breaks.
28

1 (d) At times, Defendants pressured Plaintiff and similarly aggrieved employees to
2 complete their work duties according to a designed schedule such that rest breaks
3 were only taken once jobs were completed/as time permitted.

4 (e) At times, Plaintiff and similarly aggrieved employees were not provided third rest
5 periods despite consistently working shifts of ten hours or more and thus being
6 entitled to a third duty-free, paid rest period per each shift of more than ten hours.
7 Plaintiff and similarly aggrieved employees were not always provided compliant
8 first, second nor third rest periods. Per Defendants' unlawful rest period policy and
9 practice, Plaintiff and similarly aggrieved employees were only permitted two rest
10 periods per shift, regardless of the number of hours worked, and even those
11 purportedly allowed rest periods were typically worked through/on duty or otherwise
12 noncompliant with California law.

13
14 (f) Defendants had no policy in place nor instruction as to the taking, timing, or duty-
15 free nature of rest periods.

16 (g) At times, Defendants did not permit Plaintiff and similarly aggrieved employees to
17 leave Defendants' premises during their rest periods in violation of California law.

18 (h) Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and similarly aggrieved employees a rest period
19 premium for missed/improper rest period in violation of California law.

20 (i) At times, failing to incorporate all non-discretionary remuneration, including but not
21 limited to, multiple base rate of pay and/or other non-discretionary pay into the
22 regular rate of pay used to calculate Plaintiff's and similarly aggrieved employees'
23 rest period premium rates owed to Plaintiff and similarly aggrieved employees.

24
25 29. Additionally, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants maintained a policy, practice, and/or
26 procedure of failing to compensate Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based
27 hourly non-exempt employees with one (1) hour of pay at their regular rate of pay for each workday
28 they did not receive legally required and compliant rest periods, in violation of Labor Code section

1 226.7.

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

6 31. Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that
7 Employer's conduct above that gave rise to such violations was 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

11 32. **Failure to provide sick pay wages:** Defendants had a policy and/or procedure where
12 Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees
13 accrued paid sick time.

14 33. Labor Code section 246, subdivision (a), states in relevant part "[a]n employee
15 who...works in California for the same employer for 30 or more days within a year from the
16 commencement of employment is entitled to paid sick days." Additionally, an employee accrues
17 paid sick days at the rate of no-less-than one (1) hour per every thirty (30) hours worked, beginning
18 at the commencement of employment. Labor Code section 246(b).

19 34. Here, Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-
20 exempt employees were employed by Defendants for 30 or more days and were entitled to paid sick
21 days. Defendants, however, lacked a policy, practice, and/or procedure whereby Plaintiffs and other
22 current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees who were employed
23 by Defendants for 30 days or more could accrue paid sick days at the rate of no-less-than one (1)
24 hour per every thirty (30) hours worked, beginning at the commencement of employment as required
25 by Labor Code section 246(b).
26

27 35. In this case, Plaintiff alleges that when she and other current and former aggrieved
28 California-based hourly non-exempt employees elected to use paid sick time, Defendants failed to

1 pay them sick time wages at the proper sick time rate of pay due to Defendants' failure to include
2 all remuneration when calculating the sick time rate of pay. Specifically, Defendants maintained a
3 policy, practice, and/or procedure of failing to include all remuneration when calculating Plaintiff
4 and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees' regular rate
5 of pay for the purpose of paying sick time. Plaintiff also believes these failures were malicious,
6 fraudulent, or oppressive. Defendants would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor
7 Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

8
9 36. Defendants' foregoing policy, practice, and/or procedure resulted in Defendants
10 failing to provide Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-
11 exempt employees' paid sick days, in violation of Labor Code section 246.

12 37. Plaintiff also believes these failures were malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
13 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
14 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

15 38. **Failure to pay accrued and vested vacation and/or PTO wages upon separation:**
16 Defendants had a policy and/or procedure where Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved
17 California-based hourly non-exempt employees accrued paid vacation time and/or personal time off
18 ("PTO").

19 39. Labor Code section 227.3 states in relevant part "...whenever a contract of
20 employment or employer policy provides for paid vacations, and an employee is terminated without
21 having taken off his vested vacation time, all vested vacation shall be paid to her as wages at his
22 final rate in accordance with such contract of employment or employer policy respecting eligibility
23 or time served...." Given this, vacation/PTO wages are deferred wages that vest once accrued and
24 an employer must pay its employees all unused vested vacation/PTO at the time of termination at
25 the employees' final rate of pay.
26

27 40. In this case, Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
28 non-exempt employees regularly worked enough hours to accrue vested vacation/PTO wages.

1 Nevertheless, Defendants employed policies, practices, and/or procedures that resulted in their
2 failure to pay accrued and vested vacation/PTO wages upon separation of employment, in violation
3 of Labor Code section 227.3.

4 41. Plaintiff also believes these failures were malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
5 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
6 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

7 42. **Failure to produce requested employment records:** An employer must afford
8 current and former employees the right to inspect or receive a copy of records pertaining to their
9 employment, upon reasonable request to the employer. Labor Code section 226(b). An employer
10 who receives a request to inspect or receive a copy of records pertaining to a current or former
11 employee must comply with the request as soon as practicable, but no later than twenty-one (21)
12 calendar days from the date of the request. Labor Code section 226(c). Additionally, every current
13 and former employee, or his or her representative, has the right to inspect and receive a copy of the
14 personnel records that the employer maintains relating to the employee's performance or to any
15 grievance concerning the employee. Labor Code section 1198.5(a). Upon written request from a
16 current or former employee or his or her representative, an employer must make the contents of
17 those personnel records available for inspection or provide a copy of the personnel records to the
18 current or former employee, or his or her representative, not later than thirty (30) calendar days from
19 the date the employer receives the written request, subject to some limited exceptions. Labor Code
20 §1198.5(b)(1). Failure to comply with these requests allows for a civil penalty seven hundred fifty
21 dollars (\$750), pursuant to Labor Code sections 1198.5(k) and 226(f).
22

23 43. On June 11, 2026, Plaintiff sent a written request through her counsel to Defendants
24 for her payroll records, timecards, and personnel records pursuant to Labor Code sections 226 and
25 1198.5. However, Defendants failed to timely produce the requested employment records, in
26 violation of Labor Code sections 226 and 1198.5. Defendants have not produced any of the
27 requested employment records as of the date of this Complaint.
28

1 44. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that other similarly situated
2 employees also sent written requests for their employment records, but Defendants failed to timely
3 produce the required and requested records, in violation of Labor Code sections 226 and 1198.5.

4 45. Plaintiff also believes these failures were malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
5 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
6 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

7 46. **Failure to provide complete and accurate wage statements:** Labor Code section
8 226, subdivision (a). Labor Code section 226(a) provides, *inter alia*, that, upon paying an employee
9 his or her wages, the employer must “furnish each of his or her employees ... an itemized statement
10 in writing showing (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the employee, except for any
11 employee whose compensation is solely based on a salary and who is exempt from payment of
12 overtime under subdivision (a) of Section 515 or any applicable order of the Industrial Welfare
13 Commission, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee
14 is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions, provided, that all deductions made on written orders
15 of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive
16 dates of the pay period for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee and his or her
17 social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and (9) all
18 applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours
19 worked at each hourly rate by the employee.”
20

21 47. As a derivative of Plaintiff’s allegations above, Defendants’ failure to pay Plaintiff
22 and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees all wages
23 earned (including minimum wages, overtime wages, reporting time pay, meal period premium
24 wages, and/or rest period premium wages) rendered Plaintiff’s and other current and former
25 aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees’ wage statements inaccurate, in violation
26 of Labor Code section 226(a)(1, 2, 5 & 9).
27

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

1 49. Plaintiff also believes these failures were malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
2 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
3 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

4 50. **Failure to pay employees all wages due at time of termination/resignation:** An
5 employer is required to pay all unpaid wages timely after an employee's employment ends. The
6 wages are due immediately upon termination (Labor Code section 201) or within seventy-two (72)
7 hours of resignation (Labor Code section 202).

8 51. As a derivative of Plaintiff's allegations above, because Defendants failed to pay
9 Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees all
10 their earned wages (including minimum wages, overtime wages, reporting time pay, meal period
11 premium wages, and/or rest period premium wages), Defendants failed to pay those employees
12 timely after each employee's termination and/or resignation, in violation of Labor Code sections
13 201, 202, and 203.

14 52. Plaintiff believes these failures were willful and intentional.

15 53. Plaintiff also believes these failures were 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 54. Labor Code sections 2699, subdivisions (a) and (g) authorize an aggrieved employee,
19 on behalf of himself or herself and other current or former employees, to bring a civil action to
20 recover civil penalties against all Defendants pursuant to the procedures specified in Labor Code
21 section 2699.3.

22 55. Plaintiff has complied with the procedures for bringing suit specified in Labor Code
23 section 2699.3. On April 29, 2026, Plaintiff filed a PAGA Claim Notice with the LWDA and
24 provided notice to Defendants by certified mail which provided notice of the specific provisions of
25 the Labor Code alleged to have been violated, including the facts and theories to support the
26 violations alleged.

1 56. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, the LWDA must give written notice by
2 certified mail to the parties that it intends to investigate the alleged violations of the Labor Code
3 within 60 days of the date of the complainant's written notice. The LWDA failed to provide the
4 parties notice within 60 days of the date of Plaintiff's PAGA Claim Notice that the LWDA intends
5 to investigate Plaintiff's claims.

6 57. Pursuant to Labor Code sections 2699(a) and (f), Plaintiff is entitled to recover civil
7 penalties for Defendants' violations of Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 226, 226.7, 510, 512,
8 1194, 1197, 2802, During Plaintiff's employment and continuing through the present, preceding
9 Plaintiff sending the initial PAGA Claim Notice to the LWDA to the present, in the following
10 amounts:

11 a. For violations of Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 226, 226.7, 1194, 1197,
12 and 2802; one hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial
13 violation and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each
14 subsequent violation [penalty amounts established by Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)].

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

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

23 d. For violations of Labor Code section 204, one hundred dollars (\$100) for
24 each failure to pay each employee in any initial violation, and for each subsequent violation, or any
25 willful or intentional violation, two hundred dollars (\$200) for each failure to pay each employee,
26 plus 25 percent of the amount unlawfully withheld [penalty amounts established by Labor Code
27
28

1 section 210].

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

7 58. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(g), Plaintiff is entitled to an award of
8 reasonable attorneys' fees and costs in connection with her claims for civil penalties.
9

10 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

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

13 **ON THE FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION:**

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

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

19 3. For attorneys' fees and costs of suit, including but not limited to those recoverable
20 under California Labor Code section 2699(g); and
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1 4. For such and other further relief, in law and/or equity, as the Court deems just or
2 appropriate.

3 Dated: September 28, 2026,

Respectfully submitted,
THE WORK JUSTICE FIRM

4
5 By: /s/ Saima Gipson
6 Sepideh Ardestani, Esq.
7 Saima Gipson, Esq.
8 Attorneys for PLAINTIFF
9 MARIA SOLEDAD LOPEZ, on behalf of herself
10 and current and former aggrieved employees.
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