

1 **JUSTICE FOR WORKERS, P.C.**

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8
9 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
10 **FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CENTRAL DISTRICT**

11 JONATHAN COLQUITT, SR., an individual
12 and on behalf of all others similarly situated;

13 Plaintiff,

14 vs.

15 GOLDEN STATE FOODS CORP., a
16 Delaware corporation; and DOES 1 through
50,

17 Defendants.

Case No.: 23STCV29902

[Assigned for All Purposes to:
Hon. Timothy Patrick Dillon, Dept. 15]

**DECLARATION OF WILLIAM C. SUNG
IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR
APPROVAL OF PAGA SETTLEMENT
AND ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS**

(Filed Concurrently with Notice of Motion
and Motion for Approval of PAGA
Settlement; Supporting Declarations and
[Proposed] Judgment and Order)

DATE: March 25, 2026

TIME: 11:00 a.m.

DEPT: 15

Action Filed: December 17, 2023

Trial Date: Not Set

1 I, William C. Sung, hereby declare as follows:

2 1. I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the state of California and have been
3 admitted to practice before this Court. I am an attorney with the law firm of Justice for Workers,
4 P.C., counsel of record for Plaintiff Jonathan Colquitt (“Plaintiff”) in this action. I am lead counsel
5 for Plaintiff in this case and I have personal knowledge of the matters stated herein and if called and
6 sworn as a witness, I would and could competently testify under oath thereto.

7 **ATTORNEY QUALIFICATIONS**

8 2. My qualifications are as follow: I received my J.D. from the University of Southern
9 California Gould School of Law in 2011. During law school, I served as the Senior Content Editor
10 on the Southern California Law Review where I published the article: *Taking the Fight Back to Title*
11 *VII: A Case for Redefining “Because of Sex” to Include Gender Stereotypes, Sexual Orientation,*
12 *and Gender Identity*, Southern California Law Review, Volume 84:2 (Jan. 2011). During law
13 school, I also served as a judicial extern to U.S. Ninth Circuit Judge, Hon. Kim M. Wardlaw, and
14 U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge, Hon. Ernest M. Robles; served as a law clerk to the General Counsel
15 of JM Eagle; and participated in the law school’s Employer Legal Advice Clinic.

16 3. After passing the California Bar in December 2011, I began practicing management-
17 side employment law at the Los Angeles office of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP. In 2013, I
18 began focusing my practice at Lewis Brisbois on representing employers in wage and hour class and
19 PAGA action lawsuits. In January 2017, I was elevated to the position of Partner and Vice Chair of
20 Lewis Brisbois’ Wage & Hour Class Action Practice Group. In November 2020, I was elevated as
21 the Co-Chair of Lewis Brisbois Wage & Hour Class Action Practice Group, becoming one of the
22 youngest attorneys to chair a practice group at the firm. In January 2022, I was voted in as an equity
23 partner, becoming one of the youngest equity partners and the third Asian-American equity partner
24 in the history of this 1,500-attorney firm. During my tenure as a wage and hour class action defense
25 attorney, I have represented employers in over 80 wage and hour class and/or PAGA action
26 lawsuits.

27 4. In July 2023, I joined Justice for Workers, P.C. (“JFW”) and began heading its
28 Complex Litigation Practice Group where I focus my practice on representing employees in wage

1 and hour class and PAGA action lawsuits. In my current practice at JFW, I serve as the lead
2 plaintiff's counsel on over 100 pending class and/or PAGA actions. In addition to this matter, my
3 team and I have resolved over 50 other class and/or PAGA actions at mediation. The following are
4 cases in which I have received final approval of class action and/or PAGA settlement and I was
5 appointed as class and/or PAGA counsel: *Irene Eunhee Ikuta v. TAKEE International, Inc.*, Los
6 Angeles Superior Court, Case No. 23STCV21120, final approval of class/PAGA settlement granted
7 on January 22, 2026; *Amourafina Burton v. Trove Recommerce, Inc.*, San Mateo Superior Court,
8 Case No. 23-CIV-06108, final approval of class/PAGA settlement granted on January 9, 2026;
9 *Shayne Werber v. Teleferic Barcelona*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV25517, final
10 approval of class/PAGA settlement granted on December 17, 2025; *Linda Salazar Ayala v. Applied*
11 *Membranes, Inc.*, San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2023-00054420-CU-OE-CTL, final
12 approval of class/PAGA settlement granted on December 5, 2025; *Hai Luu v. Cambro*
13 *Manufacturing Co.*, Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2024-01389852-CU-OE-CXC,
14 approval of PAGA settlement granted on November 7, 2025; *Justin Le, et al. v. Dragonfly Tea Bar*
15 *LLC, et al.*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV26247, final approval of class/PAGA
16 settlement granted on October 29 2025; *Ryan Lukman v. Safe Haven Security Services, LLC*,
17 Riverside County Superior Court, Case No. CVRI2400777, final approval of class/PAGA
18 settlement granted on October 1, 2025; *Amaya Nelson v. Clair Global Corp.*, Los Angeles Superior
19 Court, Case No. 24STCV14597, final approval of class/PAGA settlement granted on May 22, 2025;
20 *Jose Regalado v. United Markets*, Marin County Superior Court Case No. CV0001169, final
21 approval of class/PAGA settlement granted on August 29, 2025; *Mushfiquir Chowdhury v. CWT US,*
22 *LLC*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV25373, final approval of class/PAGA
23 settlement granted on August 22, 2025; *Pedro Hernandez v. Edmund A. Gray Co.*, Los Angeles
24 Superior Court Case No. 24STCV04118, final approval of class/PAGA settlement granted on
25 August 19, 2025; *Pedro Hernandez v. Steps Apparel Group, Inc., et al.*, Los Angeles Superior Court
26 Case No. 23STCV27883, approval of PAGA settlement granted on August 13, 2025; *Doelisha*
27 *Kelly v. Pan American Properties, Inc.*, Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2023-
28 01362739-CU-OE-CXC, approval of PAGA settlement granted on July 11, 2025; *Alexis Bartram v.*

1 *Lakeshore Learning Materials, LLC*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV21174, final
2 approval of class/PAGA settlement granted on July 3, 2025; *Randall Bachman v. Geodis Logistics*
3 *LLC*, Riverside Superior Court, Case No. CVRI2400956, final approval of class/PAGA settlement
4 granted on June 25, 2025; *Chinyere Ezekwesili v. Vermont HealthCare Center LLC*, Los Angeles
5 Superior Court Case No. 24STCV17871, approval of PAGA settlement granted on June 11, 2025;
6 *Jorge Nieto v. Pick-Your-Part Auto Wrecking*, Riverside Superior Court Case No. CVRI2402255,
7 approval of PAGA settlement granted on May 29, 2025; *Ted Kim v. Hyundai America Technical*
8 *Center, Inc.*, San Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CIVSB2326861, approval of PAGA
9 settlement granted on May 21, 2025; *Eric Echeverria v. Fireclay Tile Inc.*, San Benito Superior
10 Court Case No. CU-23-00249, final approval of class/PAGA settlement granted on May 7, 2025;
11 *Isaias Velasco v. Nature's Produce*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 23STCV23811,
12 approval of PAGA settlement granted on April 29, 2025; *Norma Borquez v. Smart Metals Recycling*
13 *LLC*, Yolo Superior Court Case No. CV2024-0050, final approval of class/PAGA settlement
14 granted on April 4, 2025; *Juan Hinojos Campos v. Applied Technology Group, Inc.*, Kern Superior
15 Court Case No. BCV-23-103067, final approval of class/PAGA settlement granted on March 11,
16 2025; *Dennisha Lampkin v. Sunstates Security, Inc.*, Riverside Superior Court Case No.
17 CVRI2305600, final approval of class/PAGA settlement granted on December 18, 2024.

18 5. Tiffany L. Luu, Esq.'s primary practice has been employment law throughout her
19 entire legal career. Ms. Luu handled a number of wage and hour matters, including individual
20 actions and class and/or PAGA actions, on behalf of plaintiffs and defendants. Ms. Luu received her
21 J.D., cum laude, along with her Master of Dispute Resolution, from the Pepperdine University Rick
22 J. Caruso School of Law in 2020. Ms. Luu practiced as a labor and employment associate for the
23 next 3 years representing employers in wage and hour class and/or PAGA actions, including at
24 Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP and Fisher & Phillips LLP. In January 2024, Ms. Luu joined
25 JFW and as an associate in the Complex Litigation Practice Group, where she focuses her practice
26 on representing employees in wage and hour class and PAGA action lawsuits.

27 6. Joseph C. Ramli, Esq.'s primary practice has been employment law throughout his
28 entire legal career. Mr. Ramli received his J.D. from the Pepperdine University Rick J. Caruso

1 School of Law in 2021. Shortly after passing the California State Bar, Mr. Ramli practiced as a
2 labor and employment associate starting in March 2022 representing employers in wage and hour
3 class and/or PAGA actions, including at Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP and O'Hagan Meyer
4 LLP. In January 2025, Mr. Ramli joined JFW and as an associate in the Complex Litigation Practice
5 Group, where he focuses his practice on representing employees in wage and hour class and PAGA
6 action lawsuits.

7 SUMMARY OF THE LITIGATION AND SETTLEMENT

8 7. As counsel for Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees, I have been intimately
9 involved in this case since its inception and I believe that the proposed PAGA settlement is a fair
10 and equitable result for Aggrieved Employees and the State. Enclosed as **Exhibit 1** is a true and
11 correct copy of the parties' fully executed PAGA Settlement Agreement (the "Settlement" or
12 "Agreement"). The proposed explanatory letter regarding the Settlement to be mailed to Aggrieved
13 Employees along with their settlement checks is attached to the Agreement as **Exhibit A**.

14 8. Defendant owns and operates a food product logistics company with distribution
15 centers in California.

16 9. On December 7, 2023, Plaintiff submitted the LWDA Letter of alleged Labor Code
17 violations to Defendant and the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (the
18 "LWDA"). Enclosed as **Exhibit 2** is a true and correct copy of the LWDA Letter.

19 10. On December 17, 2023, Plaintiff filed the Class Action Complaint alleging causes of
20 action for: (1) Minimum Wage Violations, (2) Overtime Wage Violations, (3) Meal Period
21 Violations, (4) Rest Period Violations, (5) Wage Statement Penalties, (6) Waiting Time Penalties,
22 (7) Failure To Reimburse Necessary Business Expenses, and (8) Unfair Competition.

23 11. On February 9, 2024, Plaintiff filed the operative First Amended Complaint
24 ("Operative Complaint") adding a cause of action for Civil Penalties Under the California Private
25 Attorneys General Act. Plaintiff's counsel has uploaded the Operative Complaint with the LWDA.
26 Enclosed as **Exhibit 3** is a true and correct copy of the Operative Complaint.

27 12. On July 31, 2024, the Court granted Defendant's Motion to Compel Arbitration, and
28 ordered Plaintiff to arbitrate his individual claims, dismissal of the class claims, and stay of

1 representative PAGA claims pending arbitration. During the pending of arbitration, the Parties
2 agreed to mediate this Action on a PAGA representative basis

3 **DISCOVERY, INVESTIGATION, AND MEDIATION**

4 13. Prior to mediation, the Parties engaged in informal discovery which allowed the
5 Parties to meaningfully mediate this matter. Specifically, Defendant produced: (1) PAGA
6 demographics including the number of Aggrieved Employees and PAGA Pay Periods, and
7 breakdown between driver and non-driver employees; (2) time and payroll records for a 25%
8 random sampling of Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period; (3) Defendant's employee
9 handbook, standalone policies and procedures, and collective bargaining agreements between
10 Quality Custom Distributions Services, Inc. and Teamsters Local Union No. 630 and between
11 Teamsters Union Local 63 and Golden State Foods City of Industry Food Processing Division
12 (collectively, the "CBAs"); and (4) Plaintiff's personnel records and wage statements.

13 14. Plaintiff's counsel retained and worked with an expert data scientist with prior wage
14 and hour class action experience to analyze and review the documents regarding Defendant's wage
15 and hour policies and practices, the Aggrieved Employees' time and pay records, and other
16 information provided by Defendant and Plaintiff. Plaintiff's counsel was able to evaluate the
17 probability of success on the merits and Defendant's maximum and risk-adjusted monetary
18 exposure and prepare a damage analysis prior to mediation. The time and pay records of a sampling
19 of Aggrieved Employees allowed Plaintiff's counsel and their expert to prepare an analysis with a
20 high degree of certainty. In conjunction with their extensive factual investigation, Plaintiff's counsel
21 also investigated the applicable law regarding the claims and defenses asserted in the litigation.
22 Thus, Plaintiff and Plaintiff's counsel's familiarity with the facts of the case and the legal issues
23 raised by the pleadings allowed them to act intelligently in negotiating the Settlement.

24 15. On August 27, 2025, the Parties participated in private mediation before Hon. Daniel
25 Buckley (Ret.), an experienced, neutral, class action and PAGA mediator. The settlement
26 negotiations were at arm's length and, although conducted in a professional manner, were
27 adversarial. The Parties went into the mediation willing to explore the potential for a settlement of
28 the dispute, but each side was also prepared to litigate their position through trial and appeal if a

1 settlement had not been reached.

2 16. After extensive negotiations and discussions regarding the strengths and weaknesses
3 of Plaintiff's claims and Defendant's defenses, the Parties reached a settlement of this Action, the
4 material terms of which are encompassed within the Agreement. The Parties recognized that the
5 issues presented in the Action are likely only to be resolved with extensive and costly pretrial and
6 trial proceedings, and that further litigation will lead to inconvenience, distraction, disruption, delay,
7 and expense disproportionate to the potential benefits of litigation. Plaintiff considered the risk and
8 uncertainty of the outcome inherent in any litigation when determining whether this Settlement was
9 the correct option.

10 **KEY TERMS OF THE PROPOSED PAGA SETTLEMENT**

11 17. Plaintiff's litigation costs are approximately \$26,334.65, including estimated future
12 costs in filing this Motion and supporting papers (\$77.97), supplemental filings for this Motion
13 (\$16.17), Case Anywhere System Access Fee from February to March 2026 (\$149.00), and filing of
14 the Settlement Administrator's declaration of compliance re settlement administration (\$16.17).
15 Enclosed as **Exhibit 4** is a true and correct itemized list of costs incurred to date and estimated
16 future costs.

17 18. The Parties jointly selected Apex Class Action LLC as the neutral entity to
18 administer this Settlement based on its bid of \$9,990.00.

19 19. The amount estimated in the Net Settlement Amount for the LWDA payment and the
20 Aggrieved Employee payment is \$273,675.35. Accordingly, approximately \$68,418.84 (25% of the
21 Net Settlement Amount) will be paid to the estimated 636 Aggrieved Employees on a pro-rata basis
22 based on the number of pay periods each Aggrieved Employee worked during the PAGA Period,
23 and the raw average payment to Aggrieved Employees is estimated at \$107.58.

24 **THE SETTLEMENT WARRANTS APPROVAL**

25 20. Plaintiff's counsel has conducted a thorough investigation into the facts of this case.
26 Based on the foregoing discovery and on their own independent investigation and evaluation,
27 Plaintiff's counsel is of the opinion that the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate.
28 Furthermore, considering all known facts and circumstances, the risk of significant delay, trial risk,

1 appellate risk, the defenses that could be asserted by Defendant on the merits, the Settlement is in
2 the best interests of the Aggrieved Employees and the State. The Settlement avoids the risks,
3 burdens, and the accompanying expense of further litigation. Although the Parties have engaged in
4 a significant amount of investigation, informal discovery, and employee data analysis, they have not
5 participated in substantial formal discovery procedures, including depositions and expert discovery.
6 Moreover, preparation for trial would remain for the Parties, as well as the prospect of appeals in
7 the wake of any summary judgment ruling. As a result, the Parties would incur considerably more
8 attorneys' fees and costs through trial.

9 21. Based on Plaintiff's counsel's analysis of the time and payroll records provided by
10 Defendant and on information from Plaintiff, Plaintiff's counsel evaluated Defendant's maximum
11 and risk-adjusted potential exposure. Based on Defendant's disclosures, there were approximately
12 636 Aggrieved Employees who collectively worked approximately 90,003 pay periods.

13 22. Plaintiff's assessment of potential recovery of PAGA penalties in this Motion is
14 limited to \$100 initial penalties because, to Plaintiff's knowledge, Defendant has not been subject to
15 any prior court judgments or Labor Commissioner order placing it on notice of any violation
16 pertaining to the claims Plaintiff asserted and the heightened subsequent violation penalty should
17 not apply.

18 23. As a preliminary matter, as to all of Plaintiff's PAGA claims, Defendant argued that
19 Aggrieved Employees were either covered by the CBAs and were exemption from California's
20 overtime and paid sick leave laws or were transportation delivery drivers exempt from California's
21 overtime and meal and rest period premiums under the Motor Carrier Exemption. Based on
22 Plaintiff's expert's analysis of the records, the expert estimates 657 unionized Class Members
23 working 62,126 Pay Periods earned an hourly rate of more than 30% the minimum wage and are
24 exempt from California's overtime and paid sick leave requirements; 156 Class Members working
25 13,400 pay periods were drivers exempt from California's overtime and meal and rest period
26 requirements; and only 87 Class Members working 2,202 pay periods earned less than 30% more
27 than the minimum wage and are not subject to any exemption.

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1 24. Aas to all of Plaintiff's PAGA claims, Defendant argued that the Court will exercise
2 its discretion to reduce PAGA penalties. Here, Defendant argued that based on their compliant
3 policies and practices, their defenses on Plaintiff's theories of liability on the merits, and the hyper
4 technical nature of the regular rate claims, the Court will significantly reduce any award of PAGA
5 penalties based on its good-faith compliance with the Labor Code

6 25. Plaintiff alleges that he frequently worked off the clock without pay during his meal
7 breaks and post-shift because Defendant only permitted him and his coworkers to work up to 11.5
8 hours in a shift. Any off-the-clock work would not be reflected in the records. Estimating that non-
9 driver Class Members worked off the clock in approximately 25% of pay periods, Plaintiff's expert
10 estimates Defendant's maximum penalty exposure for off the clock work to be approximately
11 \$1,635,720. In response and in addition to the penalty reduction and exemption defenses, Defendant
12 argues it has compliant policies that prohibit working off the clock and require all employees to
13 receive wages for all hours worked. The sampling shows that Defendant paid over 330,000
14 overtime hours and overtime premiums (i.e., 0.5 premium rate) of over \$6,300,000 and over 41,000
15 double time hours and double time premiums (i.e., 1.0 premium rate) of over \$1,000,000. Defendant
16 thus contends that Plaintiff's off-the-clock work claim is individualized and not manageable as there
17 is no evidence of a common policy or practice forcing Aggrieved Employees to work off the clock
18 and numerous individual inquiries would be needed to assess which Aggrieved Employees, if any,
19 worked off the clock, how often, the reasons why a particular Aggrieved Employees worked off the
20 clock, and whether Defendant knew or should have known that Aggrieved Employee worked off the
21 clock for the imposition of classwide liability. Thus, Plaintiff discounted Defendant's maximum
22 exposure by 80% to account for the risk of the Court reducing penalties and further discounted the
23 exposure by 50% to account for the risk of being unsuccessful on the merits or failure to recover the
24 full amount sought, to arrive at a realistic exposure of \$163,572.50.

25 26. Plaintiff alleges that he and other employees frequently worked off the clock during
26 their meal breaks and did not receive compliant meal breaks. Any instances of such meal period
27 violations would be not reflected in the records. Estimating that non-driver Class Members worked
28 off the clock in approximately 25% of pay periods, Plaintiff's expert estimates Defendant's

1 maximum penalty exposure for meal period violations to be approximately \$1,608,200. In response
2 and in addition to the penalty reduction and exemption defenses, Defendant counters that it has
3 maintained compliant meal period policies and practices throughout the PAGA Period and always
4 provided compliant meal periods in line with those policies. Defendant points to the fact that the
5 sampling time records showed superior meal period compliance rate (Plaintiff's expert found less
6 than 2% of shifts had a facial meal period violation) and that it paid approximately over 400 meal
7 period premiums, including to Plaintiff, as evidence of its superior meal period compliance
8 practices. As such, Defendant maintains Plaintiff's meal period claim is unmanageable since
9 individual inquiries would be needed to assess which employees, if any, took non-compliant meal
10 periods, how many meal periods were non-compliant, and the reasons why a particular employee
11 did not take a meal period on a particular shift and a meal period premium was not paid. Thus,
12 Plaintiff discounted Defendant's maximum exposure by 80% to account for the risk of the Court
13 reducing penalties and further discounted the exposure by 50% to account for the risk of being
14 unsuccessful on the merits or failure to recover the full amount sought, to arrive at a realistic
15 exposure of \$160,820.

16 27. Plaintiff alleges that he and other employees frequently were unable to take their rest
17 breaks. Any rest period violations would not be reflected in the time or payroll records. Any
18 instances of such meal period violations would be not reflected in the records. Estimating that non-
19 driver Class Members worked off the clock in approximately 25% of pay periods, Plaintiff's expert
20 estimates Defendant's maximum penalty exposure for meal period violations to be approximately
21 \$1,608,200. In response, Defendant counters that it has maintained compliant rest period policies
22 and practices throughout the PAGA Period and always provided compliant rest periods in line with
23 those policies. As such, Defendant maintains Plaintiff's rest period claim is unmanageable since
24 individual inquiries would be needed to assess which employees, if any, took non-compliant rest
25 periods, how many rest periods were non-compliant, and the reasons why a particular employee did
26 not take a rest period on a particular shift. Thus, Plaintiff discounted Defendant's maximum
27 exposure by 80% to account for the risk of the Court reducing penalties and further discounted the
28 exposure by 50% to account for the risk of being unsuccessful on the merits or failure to recover the

1 full amount sought, to arrive at a realistic exposure of \$160,820.

2 28. Here, Plaintiff claims that Defendant failed to incorporate non-discretionary
3 incentive compensation, including shift differentials, into the paid sick leave rate of pay. Sung
4 Excluding unionized Aggrieved Employees who are exempt from Labor Code § 246, Plaintiff
5 expert estimates Defendant's maximum exposure for paid sick leave regular rate violations to be
6 approximately \$115,300. In response, Defendant argues that any underpayment of paid sick leave is
7 "pennies and cents" and grossly disproportionate to a \$100 penalty per pay period. Thus, Plaintiff
8 discounted Defendant's maximum exposure by 80% to account for the risk of the Court reducing
9 penalties to arrive at a realistic exposure of \$23,060.

10 29. Plaintiff states he was required to use his personal cellphone for work because Union
11 Pacific would contact him on his cellphone. In response, Defendant argues that only a handful of
12 employees worked in Plaintiff's positions where contact with railroad is needed and in any event,
13 Defendant provided employees in this position, including Plaintiff, with radios, and any cellphone
14 use was strictly out of Plaintiff's own convenience. In light of Defendant's defenses, Plaintiff does
15 not assign any value to this claim.

16 30. As a result of the unpaid wages and meal and rest period premium wages described
17 above, Plaintiff contends that Defendant failed to comply with its final pay obligations set forth in
18 Labor Code §§ 201 to 202 to former employees and failed to issue accurate itemized wage
19 statements to Class Members as set forth in Labor Code § 226(a). Thus, the claims for waiting time
20 and wage statement penalties are derivative of the underlying claims. Estimating a 25% violation
21 rate for non-driver Aggrieved Employees and the same paid sick leave regular rate violation rate for
22 driver Aggrieved Employees, Plaintiff's expert estimates Defendant's maximum exposure for
23 derivative wage statement penalties to be approximately \$1,716,900. In response, Defendant
24 advances the same defenses as for the underlining claims. Thus, Plaintiff discounted Defendant's
25 maximum exposure by 80% to account for the risk of the Court reducing penalties and further
26 discounted the exposure by 50% to account for the risk of being unsuccessful on the merits or
27 failure to recover the full amount sought, to arrive at a realistic exposure of \$171,690. Estimating
28 every single formerly employed Aggrieved Employee experienced at least one violation, and at

1 \$100 per former employee, Plaintiff's expert estimates Defendant's maximum exposure for
2 derivative waiting time penalties to be approximately \$24,600 and Plaintiff does not apply any
3 further discount to this claim.

4 31. Based on the foregoing, Plaintiff's counsel believes the realistic recovery at trial on
5 these claims to be \$704,562.50. The \$465,000.00 settlement is a fair result and amounts to "genuine
6 and meaningful" relief "consistent with the underlying purpose of the statute to benefit the public"
7 as it represents approximately 66.00% of Plaintiff's realistic recovery. This is a fair and equitable
8 result, particularly because, under the Settlement, Aggrieved Employees will receive timely,
9 guaranteed relief and will avoid the risk of not being able to recover anything.

10 **THE REQUESTED ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COST AWARD SHOULD BE APPROVED**

11 32. This Settlement is beneficial in that it limits the risk of continued expenses and
12 consumption of time, energy, and resources facing Defendant while at the same time rewarding
13 Plaintiff's counsel for their decision to assume risk by taking on this matter. In fact, prosecution of
14 this action involved significant financial risk for Plaintiff's counsel. Plaintiff's counsel undertook
15 this matter solely on a contingent basis, with no guarantee of recovery. Once Plaintiff's counsel
16 undertook this litigation on behalf of the Aggrieved Employees, they committed to pursue it to its
17 conclusion, placing their fiduciary duty to the Aggrieved Employees ahead of all other concerns.

18 33. Plaintiff's counsels' experience in wage and hour class and representative actions
19 was integral in evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the case against Defendant and the
20 reasonableness of this Settlement. Practice in the narrow field of wage and hour litigation requires
21 skill and knowledge concerning the rapidly evolving substantive law (state and federal), as well as
22 the procedural law of representative action litigation. Based on these and other factors, Plaintiff's
23 counsel have recently received fee awards based on a percentage of the gross recovery

24 34. As of the filing of this Motion, Justice for Workers, P.C. incurred a total lodestar of
25 \$97,800.00 for 137.50 hours worked by attorneys successfully litigating this matter, which
26 represents a 1.58 lodestar multiplier. I have reviewed my firm's lodestar in this matter and believe
27 the charges are reasonable and were reasonably necessary to the conduct of the case.

28 ///

1 35. The work conducted include, but are not limited to opposing Defendant's motion to
2 compel arbitration; initiating the arbitration proceedings; meetings with the Plaintiff and review of
3 documents provided by him; legal research and investigation regarding the Defendant's practices at
4 various points in the litigation; preparation and submission of Plaintiff's PAGA notice letter;
5 drafting pleadings and preparation for case management conferences; extensive meet and confer
6 correspondence and discussions with Defendant's counsel regarding case management, mediation,
7 and informal discovery for mediation; analysis of the informal discovery production and preparation
8 of a damages model with the aid of an expert data scientist; research and preparation of Plaintiff's
9 mediation brief and participation in mediation; drafting, negotiating, and reviewing multiple drafts
10 of the Agreement and attachments thereto; preparation, finalization, and filing of the motion for
11 approval and accompanying filings; anticipated preparation for and attendance at the hearing on
12 motion for approval; anticipated monitoring approval of the Settlement and requested award;
13 anticipated overseeing the administration process and distribution of funds; and communications
14 with Plaintiff regarding the case.

15 36. In assessing the reasonableness of the billing rates for the attorneys at Justice for
16 Workers, P.C., I referred to the "Laffey Matrix" to set our hourly billing rates. *See*
17 <http://www.laffeymatrix.com/>. The Laffey Matrix is a fee schedule used by many courts throughout
18 the United States, including some California state courts and California Federal District Courts. The
19 Laffey Matrix is a well-established objective source that California courts have relied on in
20 assessing hourly rates since 2005. *See In Re HPL Technologies, Inc. Securities Litigation* (N.D. Cal.
21 2005) 366 F.Supp.2d 912, 921 (confirming use of the Laffey Matrix adjusted to account for locality
22 pay differentials); *Rubalcaba v. Albertson's, LLC* (Cal. Super. Ct. May 25, 2017) No. BC528755,
23 2017 WL 4330597, at *4 reversed on other grounds.)

24 37. My associates and I at Justice for Workers, P.C. have extension experience providing
25 class action services, both as defense attorneys and now as plaintiff's attorneys. When comparing
26 the billing rates for attorneys at my firm with the Laffey Matrix, my associates and I bill **below** the
27 rate for similarly skilled and tenured legal professionals:

28 ///

Name	Laffey Matrix Fee	Actual Billing Rate	Hours Billed	Lodestar
William C. Sung (14 th Year Attorney)	\$948	\$850	83.00	\$70,550.00
Tiffany L. Luu (5 th Year Attorney)	\$581	\$500	54.50	\$27,250.00
		Total:	137.50	\$97,800.00

38. Our fee requests based on a percentage of the gross settlement amount and a lodestar hourly rate of \$850 per hour to me and \$500 to my associates have been approved by multiple courts identified in Paragraph 4, *supra*.

39. Additionally, I estimate my associates and I will devote no less than 10 hours, although likely more time, to additional tasks, which are hours not included in the foregoing lodestar total. These additional hours will include time spent to obtain and monitor approval of the Settlement and requested awards, oversee the settlement administration process and distribution of funds, respond to inquiries, and communicate with Plaintiff regarding the case.

40. On February 17, 2026, I gave notice of this Settlement to the LWDA by filing a copy of the fully executed Agreement, Motion for Approval of PAGA Settlement, supporting declarations, and Proposed Judgment and Order with the LWDA via uploading through its website. Enclosed as **Exhibit 5** is a true and correct copy of the LWDA's filing confirmation.

I declare, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 17, 2026 at Los Angeles, California.

William C. Sung

EXHIBIT 1

PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This PAGA Settlement Agreement (“Settlement” or “Agreement”) is made and entered into between Plaintiff Jonathan Colquitt, Sr. (“Plaintiff”), acting in a Private Attorney General capacity, and Defendant Golden State Foods Corp. (“Defendant”).

I. DEFINITIONS

The following terms, when used in this Settlement, shall have the following meanings:

1. “Action” means the matter entitled *Jonathan Colquitt, Sr. v. Golden State Foods Corp.*, filed on December 7, 2023, in the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 23STCV29902 and as set forth in Plaintiff’s correspondences to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA Letter”) dated on or about December 7, 2023, case number LWDA-CM- 998506-23.

2. “Aggrieved Employees” all non-exempt or hourly paid employees who worked for Defendant in California during the PAGA Period. Defendant represents that there were approximately 1,063 Aggrieved Employees at the time of mediation.

3. “Complaint” means the operative First Amended Complaint in the Action filed on February 9, 2024.

4. “Court” means the Superior Court of California for the County of Los Angeles.

5. “Effective Date” means the date the Court enters an order approving the Settlement and entering judgment thereon.

6. “Individual PAGA Payment” means the amount to be paid to each Aggrieved Employee based on the formula described herein.

7. “LWDA” means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

8. “Gross Settlement Amount” is the non-reversionary sum of Four Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$465,000.00), which represents the total all-in amount payable under this Settlement by Defendant, including, without limitation, payments to all Aggrieved Employees, payment to the LWDA, payment of Plaintiff’s Counsel’s fees and costs, and payment to the Settlement Administrator for administration costs.

9. “Net Settlement Amount” is the amount remaining to distribute to the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees after the following amounts (if approved by the Court) are subtracted from the Gross Settlement Amount: (a) Plaintiff’s Counsel’s fees up to one-third (33 1/3%) of the Gross Settlement Amount, currently estimated at \$155,000.00; (b) Plaintiff’s verified costs up to \$25,000.00; and (c) verified administration costs up to \$9,990.00.

10. “PAGA” means the California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act, California Labor Code §§ 2698, *et seq.*

11. “PAGA Period” means the time period from December 7, 2022 through December 31, 2025.

12. “PAGA Released Claims” means any and all claims for civil penalties pursuant to PAGA that were alleged or reasonably could have been alleged based on the facts set forth in the Complaint and/or LWDA Letter which arose during the PAGA Period, including alleged violations of California Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226, 226.7, 246, 256, 510, 512, 516, 558, 558.1, 1174, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, and 2802, and the applicable Wage Order and/or claims for attorneys’ fees under Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5 and/or claims for interest under Civil Code Sections 3287(b) and 3289.

13. “Parties” means Plaintiff and Defendant, collectively.

14. “Pay Period” means any pay period during which an Aggrieved Employee worked for Defendant for at least one day during the PAGA Period.

15. “Plaintiff” means Jonathan Colquitt, Sr.

16. “Plaintiff’s Counsel” means William C. Sung, Tiffany L. Luu, and Joseph C. Ramli of Justice for Workers, P.C.

17. “Released Parties” means Defendant Golden State Foods Corp., Defendant Golden State Foods LLC, Quality Custom Distribution Services, Inc., a Golden State Foods Company, and their past, present, and future respective subsidiaries, dba’s, affiliates, parents, predecessors, successors, investors, and their current and former employees, agents, directors, officers, members, and attorneys.

18. “Settlement Administrator” or “Administrator” means Apex Class Action LLC.

II. RECITALS

1. Plaintiff alleges that with regard to the Aggrieved Employees, Defendant: (1) failed to pay all minimum, overtime, and paid sick leave wages due; (2) failed to provide meal and rest periods or payment of all meal or rest period premiums due; (3) failed to pay all wages due upon separation of employment; (4) failed to timely pay wages; (5) failed to furnish accurate, itemized wage statements; (6) failed to maintain accurate employment records; and (7) failed to reimburse all necessary business expenses, all of which result in liability for civil penalties under the PAGA. Defendant denies all allegations and asserts that it has always complied with the California Labor Code and labor laws.

2. On December 7, 2023, Plaintiff provided the LWDA Letter to the LWDA and Defendant asserting claims for civil penalties pursuant to PAGA stemming from alleged violations of the California Labor Code described in Paragraph II.1 above.

3. On December 7, 2023, Plaintiff initiated the Action by filing a Class Action Complaint alleging class action claims for (1) Minimum Wage Violations; (2) Overtime Wage Violations; (3) Meal Period Violations; (4) Rest Period Violations; (5) Wage Statement Penalties; (6) Failure to Reimburse Necessary Business Expenses; and (7) Unfair Competition. On February

9, 2024, Plaintiff filed the operative First Amended Complaint (the “Complaint”) adding a cause of action for violation of PAGA.

4. On or around July 31, 2024, the Court granted Defendant’s Motion to Compel Arbitration and ordered Plaintiff to arbitrate his individual claims, dismissed class claims, and stayed representative PAGA claims pending arbitration.

5. During the pendency of the Action, the Parties engaged in an informal discovery exchange prior to mediation. In response to Plaintiff’s Counsel’s informal discovery requests, Defendant provided Plaintiff’s Counsel with information and documents pertaining to Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees and the claims in the Action in order for Plaintiff’s Counsel to investigate Plaintiff’s allegations and value the PAGA claim, including but not limited to timekeeping and payroll data.

6. On August 27, 2025, the Parties mediated with Hon. Daniel Buckley (Ret.). With the assistance of Judge Buckley, the Parties agreed to fully and finally resolve, subject to Court approval, the PAGA Released Claims as to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees.

III. OPERATIVE TERMS OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

The Parties agree as follows:

1. **Non-Admission.** Nothing in this Settlement shall be construed to be an admission by Plaintiff that Plaintiff’s claims do not have merit or by Defendant of any liability or wrongdoing as to Plaintiff, Aggrieved Employees, or any other person, and Defendant specifically disclaims any such liability or wrongdoing. The Parties have entered into this Settlement with the intention to avoid further disputes and litigation with the attendant inconvenience, expenses and risks. This Settlement and any related court documents or orders are not and may not be cited or admitted as evidence of liability.

2. **Gross Settlement Amount.** Defendant shall pay Four Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$465,000.00) as the **non-reversionary** Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant will not pay more than the Gross Settlement Amount (subject to the Escalator Clause below). The payment of the Gross Settlement Amount shall be made within thirty (30) calendar days of the Effective Date. Defendant shall make the payment to the Settlement Administrator who will then distribute all payments.

3. **Escalator Clause.** Defendant represents that as of mediation there are no more than approximately 90,003 Pay Periods worked during the PAGA Period. In the event the number of Pay Periods worked increases by more than 10%, or more than 99,000 Pay Periods, then Defendant shall, at its option, either (a) increase the Gross Settlement Amount proportionally by the Pay Periods in excess of 99,000; or (b) cap the end date of the PAGA Period as of the date the number of Pay Periods reaches but does exceed 10% (the “Escalator Clause”). For example, if the number of Pay Periods increase by 11% through the PAGA Period, and Defendant elects option (a) set forth above, then the Gross Settlement Amount shall increase by 1%. No later than 21 days before the hearing on Plaintiff’s motion for approval of PAGA settlement, Defendant shall verify the total number of Pay Periods during the PAGA Period by either submitting a declaration to Plaintiff’s counsel stating the total number of Pay Periods during the PAGA Period or providing

the number of Pay Periods and/or dates of employment of Aggrieved Employees to the Administrator who will calculate Pay Periods. If the Escalator Clause is triggered, no later than 7 days prior to the hearing on the motion for approval of PAGA settlement, Defendant shall choose to either change the end date of the PAGA Period or increase the Gross Settlement Amount in accordance with the Escalator Clause such that there is a date certain on the PAGA Period for settlement approval.

4. **Net Settlement Amount.** The Parties agree that the following amounts should be subtracted from the Gross Settlement Amount, if approved by the Court, resulting in a Net Settlement Amount to distribute to the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees:

a. **Plaintiffs Counsel's Fees and Costs.** Defendant will not oppose Plaintiff's request for attorneys' fees in the amount up to one-third (33 1/3%) of the Gross Settlement Amount (currently estimated at \$155,000.00), and costs incurred in prosecuting this Action up to \$25,000.00. In the event the Court approves a payment of less than these amounts, the difference will be added to the Net Settlement Amount. Defendant, via the Settlement Administrator, will report these payments on IRS Form 1099 issued to Plaintiff's Counsel.

b. **Administration Costs.** Defendant will not oppose the Settlement Administrator's costs in the amount up to \$9,990.00 for administering the Settlement. In the event the Court approves a payment of less than this amount, the difference will be added to the Net Settlement Amount. Defendant, via the Settlement Administrator, will report this payment on IRS Form 1099 issued to the Settlement Administrator.

5. **Allocation of Net Settlement Amount.** The Net Settlement Amount shall be distributed pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(i) as follows:

a. 75% of the Net Settlement Amount shall be distributed to the LWDA.

b. 25% of the Net Settlement Amount shall be paid to Aggrieved Employees. This portion of the Net Settlement Amount shall be paid to all Aggrieved Employees pro rata based on the proportional number of Pay Periods worked by each Aggrieved Employee for Defendant in California during the PAGA Period.

c. The Parties agree that should the Court deny approval of the Settlement based on the allocation of the Gross Settlement Amount or the Net Settlement Amount, the Parties agree to re-negotiate the allocation of funds in good faith in an effort to obtain approval of the Settlement.

6. **PAGA Released Claims.** Plaintiff agrees that upon entry of an Order approving the Settlement and full payment by Defendant of the Gross Settlement Amount, all Aggrieved Employees, including Plaintiff, and the State of California, will release any and all PAGA Released Claims against the Released Parties that arose during the PAGA Period. Upon entry of the Order approving the Settlement and judgment entered thereon, as well as full payment by Defendant of the Gross Settlement Amount, Plaintiff and all Aggrieved Employees will be forever barred from pursuing any and all of the PAGA Released Claims that arose during the PAGA Period against the Released Parties.

7. **No Right to Opt-Out.** Aggrieved Employees do not have the right to object or opt out of or otherwise exclude themselves from the settlement of claims for civil penalties under PAGA, and upon approval of the Settlement by the Court, each Aggrieved Employee will have released Defendant and each of the Released Parties of and for claims for civil penalties under PAGA released herein and each Aggrieved Employee will be entitled to receive payment, in conformity with the Settlement.

8. **Covenants and Representations by Plaintiff and Plaintiff's Counsel.**

a. Plaintiff represents and warrants that Plaintiff has not assigned or transferred or purported to assign or transfer to any person or entity, any claim or portion thereof, or interest therein, which is or may be subject to this Settlement.

b. Plaintiff acknowledges that Plaintiff has read this Settlement, that Plaintiff fully understands Plaintiff's rights, privileges and duties under the Settlement, and enters into this Settlement freely and voluntarily, and without duress. Plaintiff further acknowledges that Plaintiff had the opportunity to consult with Plaintiff's attorneys to explain the terms of this Settlement and the consequences of signing this Settlement.

9. **Notification to LWDA.** Plaintiff's counsel will notify the LWDA of the settlement at the time the settlement is submitted to the court for approval, seek approval of the settlement, and perform any and all statutory tasks as required by law.

10. **Termination of Settlement.** If the Court does not approve the Settlement, or if the Court does not enter judgment as provided for in this Settlement, or if the Court makes or orders material changes to the Basic Settlement Terms (defined as amount of the Gross Settlement Amount; the PAGA Period; the Escalator Clause; and/or the Parties' respective right to terminate the settlement as provided herein), or if appellate review is sought and, on such review, the Court's decision is materially modified or reversed, or, except as otherwise set forth herein, if one or more of the material terms of the Settlement is not approved or is materially modified or reversed or found to be invalid, then either of the Parties shall have the right within ten (10) days of written notice thereof to elect to terminate the Settlement, in which case the Settlement shall have no force or effect, and the Parties shall be deemed to have reverted to their respective status as of the date and time immediately prior to the execution of this Settlement. However, before exercising this option, a Party contemplating terminating the Settlement will attempt to work with the other Party in good faith to modify the Settlement in order to obtain Court approval or to otherwise cure any defect in the Settlement.

11. **Judgment.** As part of the Motion to approve the Settlement, Plaintiff shall submit a proposed order and judgment which enters judgment in the Action in accordance with the terms of the Settlement, and the Court retains jurisdiction over the Action for the purpose of enforcing the terms of the Settlement following approval of the Settlement pursuant to Cal. Code Civ. Proc. § 664.6. This Settlement is expressly conditioned upon the Court entering judgment as set forth herein. The judgment will not release or bar any claims other than the PAGA Released Claims as to Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees.

IV. ADMINISTRATION OF SETTLEMENT

1. **Settlement Administrator.** The Parties agree to use Apex Class Action LLC to handle the administration of this Settlement.

2. **Provision of Information for Aggrieved Employees.** Within five (5) business days of the Effective Date, Defendant shall provide the Settlement Administrator with information for Aggrieved Employees. Defendant will in good faith compile from its records a list of Aggrieved Employees that will be in a computer-readable format, such as a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, and shall include each Aggrieved Employee's full name, last known mailing address, total number of Pay Periods or dates of employment, and Social Security number. Because Social Security numbers are included in the list, the Settlement Administrator will maintain the list in confidence, and access shall be limited to those with a need to use the list as part of the administration of the Settlement.

Within seven (7) business days of receiving the Aggrieved Employees' information from Defendant, the Settlement Administrator will circulate to counsel for both Parties an anonymized spreadsheet containing the estimated individual settlement payments to each Aggrieved Employee and the data used to calculate said payments. The Settlement Administrator shall obtain approval from all counsel of the calculations before mailing Individual PAGA Payments.

3. **Explanatory Letter and Individual PAGA Payments.** Upon receipt of the information for Aggrieved Employees, the Settlement Administrator will perform a search on the National Change of Address database to update the Aggrieved Employees' addresses.

Within twenty-one (21) calendar days of the Settlement being fully funded as provided above in Section III.2, the Settlement Administrator shall mail copies of the explanatory letter, which has been mutually approved by the Parties and is attached hereto as **Exhibit A** and to be translated into Spanish by the Settlement Administrator, along with Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees via regular First-Class U.S. Mail.

The Settlement Administrator will calculate the amount to be received by each Aggrieved Employee, which will be based on the formula set forth in Section III.5., *supra*. The Settlement Administrator will send each Aggrieved Employee a check for his or her Individual PAGA Payment along with the explanatory letter. Checks will remain negotiable for 180 days. Each Individual PAGA Payment shall be deemed penalties/interest and reported using IRS Form 1099.

4. **Undeliverable Notices.** The Settlement Administrator shall exercise its best judgment to determine the current mailing address for each Aggrieved Employee. The address identified by the Settlement Administrator as the current mailing address shall be presumed to be the best mailing address for each Aggrieved Employee.

Any checks returned as non-deliverable on or before the check cashing deadline will be sent promptly via regular First-Class U.S. Mail to the forwarding address affixed thereto. If no forwarding address is provided, the Settlement Administrator will promptly attempt to determine the correct address, using a skip-trace or other similar search, using the name, address and/or Social Security number of the Aggrieved Employee involved and will perform a single re-mailing if a new address is located.

Defendant fully discharges its obligations to those Aggrieved Employees to whom they will pay an Individual PAGA Payment through the mailing of a check, regardless of whether such checks are actually received and/or negotiated by Aggrieved Employees. Funds represented by checks returned as undeliverable after a re-mailing, and funds represented by checks remaining un-cashed for more than 180 days after issuance, will be tendered to the State Controller's Office under the unclaimed property fund laws in the names of the Aggrieved Employees to whom the checks were issued.

5. **Payment of Remainder.** Within twenty-one (21) calendar days of the Settlement being fully funded, the Settlement Administrator will distribute the following additional payments: (1) the 75% share of the Net Settlement Amount to the LWDA; (2) Court-approved attorney's fees and costs to Plaintiff's Counsel; and (3) Court-approved administration costs to the Settlement Administrator.

6. **Accounting.** No later than ten (10) business days prior to the Court's Final Accounting Hearing, the Settlement Administrator will provide an accounting under oath to the Parties of the amounts paid from the Settlement and/or uncashed.

7. **Tax Consequences.** Individual PAGA Payments made under this Settlement will be attributed 100% as penalties and interest and paid via IRS Form 1099 issued to each Aggrieved Employee. Neither Plaintiff nor Defendant, nor counsel for either of the Parties, makes any representations or warranties with respect to tax consequences of any payment under this Settlement.

V. **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

1. **Mutual Preparation and Drafting.** The Parties have had a full opportunity to negotiate the terms and conditions of this Settlement. The Parties agree that the terms and conditions of this Settlement are the result of lengthy, intensive, arm's-length negotiations between the Parties and that neither Plaintiff nor Defendant shall be considered the "drafter" of this Settlement for purposes of having terms construed against that Party. This Settlement will not be construed more strictly against one Party merely by virtue of the fact that it may have been prepared by counsel for one of the Parties, it being recognized that, because of the arm's-length negotiations between the Parties, all Parties have contributed to the preparation of this Settlement.

2. **Successors.** This Settlement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the Parties hereto and their respective heirs, trustees, executors, assigns, administrators and successors.

3. **Costs and Fees.** The Parties shall each bear their own costs, attorneys' fees, expert fees, mediator fees and other fees incurred in connection with this Settlement and Plaintiff's PAGA claim, except as otherwise set forth specifically herein.

4. **Governing Law.** This Settlement shall be construed under and governed by the laws of the state of California. This Settlement shall be deemed to have been entered into in the County of Los Angeles, California, and all questions of validity, interpretation or performance of any of its terms or of any rights or obligations of the Parties to this Settlement shall be governed by California law. If any legal or equitable action is necessary to enforce the terms of this Settlement, it shall be brought in the State of California, County of Los Angeles.

5. **Complete Agreement.** The Parties each acknowledge and represent that this Settlement contains the entire understanding between them and contains all terms and conditions pertaining to the compromise and settlement of the PAGA Released Claims in the Action. This Settlement cannot be amended or modified except by a writing signed by counsel for the Parties hereto.

6. **Nullification of Settlement.** In the event that: (i) the Court does not approve the Settlement as provided herein; or (ii) the Settlement does not become final for any other reason, then this Settlement and any documents generated to bring it into effect, will be null and void, and the Parties will be returned to their original respective positions unless otherwise required under this Agreement.

7. **Judgment and Continued Jurisdiction.** After approval of this Settlement, the Court will have continuing jurisdiction solely for purposes of addressing: (i) the interpretation and enforcement of the terms of the Settlement, (ii) settlement administration matters, and (iii) such post-Judgment matters as may be appropriate under court rules or as set forth in this Settlement. Plaintiff will submit a proposed judgment in conformity with this Agreement to be entered by the Court, which shall constitute a final and binding resolution of the PAGA claim in the Action.

8. **Authorization to Enter into Settlement.** Counsel for all Parties warrant and represent that they are expressly authorized by the Parties whom they represent to negotiate this Settlement and to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Settlement to effectuate its terms, and to execute any other documents required to effectuate the terms of this Settlement. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts to effect the implementation of the Settlement. If the Parties are unable to reach agreement on the form or content of any document needed to implement the Settlement, or on any supplemental provisions that may become necessary to effectuate the terms of this Settlement, the Parties may seek the assistance of the Court to resolve such disagreement.

9. **Execution and Counterparts.** This Settlement is subject only to the execution of all Parties. However, the Settlement may be executed in one or more counterparts. All executed counterparts, and each of them, including facsimile and scanned copies of the signature page, will be deemed to be one and

10. **Acknowledgement that the Settlement is Fair and Reasonable.** The Parties believe this Settlement is a fair, adequate and reasonable settlement of the PAGA claim in the Action, and, have arrived at this Settlement after arm's-length negotiations by experienced counsel and with the assistance of an experienced mediator. The Parties further acknowledge that they are each represented by competent counsel and that they have had an opportunity to consult with their counsel regarding the fairness and reasonableness of this Settlement. the same instrument.

11. **Invalidity of Any Provision.** Before declaring any provision of this Settlement invalid, the Court will first attempt to construe the provision as valid to the fullest extent possible consistent with applicable precedents, so as to define all provisions of this Settlement valid and enforceable.

12. **Severability.** If any term or provision of this Settlement is held to be invalid or

unenforceable, the remaining portions of this Settlement will continue to be valid and will be performed, construed and enforced to the fullest extent permitted by law, and the invalid or unenforceable term will be deemed amended and limited in accordance with the intent of the Parties, as determined from the face of the Agreement, to the extent necessary to permit the maximum enforceability or validation of the term or provision.

13. **Waiver.** No waiver of any condition or covenant contained in this Settlement or failure to exercise a right or remedy by any of the Parties hereto will be considered to imply or constitute a further waiver by such Party of the same or any other condition, covenant, right or remedy.

14. **Representation by Counsel.** The Parties acknowledge that they have been represented by counsel throughout all negotiations that preceded the execution of this Settlement, and this Settlement has been executed with the consent and advice of counsel and reviewed in full.

15. **Binding Agreement.** The Parties warrant that they understand and have full authority to enter into this Settlement, and further intend that this Settlement will be fully enforceable and binding on all Parties and agree that it will be admissible and subject to disclosure in any proceeding to enforce its terms under California Code of Civil Procedure § 664.6 and any other applicable statute or law, notwithstanding any mediation confidentiality provisions that otherwise might apply under federal or state law.

16. **Denial of Liability.** The Parties expressly recognize that the making of this Settlement does not in any way constitute an admission or concession of wrongdoing on the part of Defendant. Nothing in this Settlement, nor any action taken in implementation thereof, nor any statements, discussions or communications, nor any materials prepared, exchanged, issued or used during the course of this Action, is intended by the Parties to, nor will any of the foregoing constitute, be introduced, be used or be admissible in any way in any other judicial, arbitral, administrative, investigative or other forum or proceeding, as evidence of any violation of any federal, state or local law, statute, ordinance, regulation, rule or executive order, or any obligation or duty at law or in equity. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this Settlement may be used in any Court proceeding that has as its purpose the interpretation, implementation or enforcement of the Settlement or any orders or judgments of the Court entered into in connection therewith.

17. **Confidential.** To the extent permitted by law, all agreements made and orders entered during Action and in this Agreement relating to the confidentiality of information shall survive the execution of this Agreement.

18. **Enforcement Action.** In the event that one or more of the Parties institutes any legal action, motion, or other proceeding against any other Party or Parties to enforce the provisions of this Settlement Agreement or to declare rights and/or obligations under this Settlement Agreement, the prevailing Party or Parties will be entitled to recover from the non-prevailing Party or Parties reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, including expert witness fees incurred in connection with any action, motion, or other proceeding.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the Parties each acknowledge that they have read the foregoing Settlement, accept and agree to the provisions contained in this Settlement and hereby execute it

voluntarily and with full understanding of its consequences.

ACCEPTED AND AGREED:

Dated: 1/20, 2026



Plaintiff Jonathan Colquitt, Sr.

Dated: 1/21/, 2026

Melissa McDonald
Defendant Golden State Foods Corp.
Melissa McDonald

Printed Name
Associate General Counsel

Title

AGREED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT:

Dated: January 20, 2026



William C. Sung
Tiffany L. Luu
JUSTICE FOR WORKERS P.C
Attorneys for Plaintiff

Dated: February 11, 2026



Nicole M. Shaffer
JACKSON LEWIS, P.C.
Attorneys for Defendant

EXHIBIT A

Re: *Payment from Jonathan Colquitt, Sr. v. Golden State Foods Corp.*
Superior Court of California for County of Los Angeles
Case No. 23STCV29902

SIMID
Name
Address

Dear **NAME**:

Enclosed, please find a check made payable to you. This is your payment from the settlement of the lawsuit titled *Jonathan Colquitt, Sr. v. Golden State Foods Corp.*, Case No. 23STCV29902, pending in the Superior Court of California for the County of Los Angeles (the “Action”).

The Action was filed against Golden State Foods Corp. (“Defendant”) and includes a claim pursuant to the California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, California Labor Code § 2698, *et seq.* (“PAGA”). The Action was brought by Plaintiff Jonathan Colquitt, Sr. (“Plaintiff”), a former employee of Defendant, on behalf of the State of California and other alleged aggrieved employees. You have been identified as one of the employees on whose behalf the case was brought.

Plaintiff claimed that Defendant owed civil penalties under PAGA for alleged violations of the California Labor Code. The parties have reached a settlement of Plaintiff’s claims, and on **DATE**, the Court approved the settlement, including the amount of civil penalties to be paid under the settlement. A portion of the civil penalty settlement amount goes to the State of California’s Labor and Workforce Development Agency. Another portion of the civil penalty settlement amount goes to employees of Defendant who were allegedly affected by the alleged violations of the Labor Code. By agreeing to this settlement, Defendant does not admit that it is liable in any way to current or former employees for any violations of the California Labor Code or any penalties. The Court has not decided the merits of Plaintiff’s claims.

Pursuant to the settlement, enclosed is a check for your share of a portion of the civil penalties. This check will remain valid for 180 days from the date of issuance. If you do not cash your check within 180 days of issuance, the funds will be deposited by the Settlement Administrator with the California State Controller’s Unclaimed Property Fund in your name. If you are still employed by Defendant, your decision to cash the check will not affect your employment.

While you were not a party to the Action, you and the State of California have been bound by the settlement entered in this matter and approved by the Court, including the release contained in the settlement. The release pertains to civil penalties under PAGA only. The release includes all claims for civil penalties under the PAGA that were alleged or reasonably could have been alleged based on the facts alleged in Plaintiff’s complaint in the Action and/or notice submitted to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency which arose from December 7, 2022 through December 31, 2025 (the “PAGA Period”), including claims for (1) failure to pay all minimum, overtime, and paid sick leave wages due; (2) failure to provide meal and rest periods or

payment of all meal or rest period premiums due; (3) failure to pay all wages due upon separation of employment; (4) failure to timely pay wages; (5) failure to furnish accurate, itemized wage statements; (6) failure to maintain accurate employment records; and (7) failure to reimburse all necessary business expenses in violation of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226, 226.7, 246, 256, 510, 512, 516, 558, 558.1, 1174, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, and 2802, California Industrial Commission Wage Orders, and all claims for attorneys' fees and costs and statutory interest in connection therewith.

If you have any questions, you can contact Apex Class Action LLC, the Settlement Administrator, at (____) ____ - ____.

EXHIBIT 2



JUSTICE FOR WORKERS

3600 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SUITE 1815, LOS ANGELES, CA 90010

TEL: (323) 922-2000

FAX: (323) 922-2000

www.JusticeForWorkers.com

December 7, 2023

VIA PAGA ONLINE FILING ONLY

California Labor and Workforce Development Agency

Attn: PAGA Administrator

455 Golden Gate Avenue, 9th Floor

San Francisco, CA 94102

<https://dir.tfaforms.net/308>

**Re: *Jonathan Colquitt, Sr. v. Golden State Foods Corp.*
Notice of Private Attorneys General Act Claim**

Dear PAGA Administrator:

This office has been retained by aggrieved employee Jonathan Colquitt, Sr. ("Plaintiff") concerning a representative action pursuant to the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, California Labor Code §§ 2698, *et seq.* ("PAGA") against Golden State Foods Corp. (including any and all affiliates, subsidiaries, parents, directors, officers, managing agents, and executive employees) (collectively referred to as "Defendants") for violations of California wage and hour laws. Plaintiff seeks civil penalties for violations of the Labor Code and all other remedies available under PAGA.

Plaintiff seeks these remedies on behalf of the State of California and "aggrieved employees," as defined herein. This letter is sent in compliance with the notice requirements of Labor Code § 2699.3.

Defendants own and operate a food service company with locations in Irvine, Los Angeles, Fontana, and City of Industry, California. Defendants have employed Plaintiff as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee since approximately May 2002 as a bulk receiver at Defendant's City of Industry location. The "aggrieved employees" that Plaintiff seeks civil penalties on behalf of are all current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees who worked for any of the above-referenced entities within the State of California.

Based on the following facts and theories, Defendants violated and/or continue to violate, among other provisions of the Labor Code and applicable wage law, California Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226, 226.7, 246, 256, 510, 512, 516, 558, 558.1, 1174, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, and 2802, and IWC Wage Orders including Wage Order 1-2001.

Labor Code §§ 1194, 1197, and 1197.1 provide the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a lesser wage than the minimum so fixed is unlawful. The applicable Wage Order defines "hours worked" as "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." See §2 of all applicable Wage Orders. Therefore, employers are required to pay employees for all time spent subject to the control of the employer and all time the employee is suffered or permitted to work. During the relevant time period, Defendants required Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees to perform work before clocking in, after clocking out, and/or during off-the-clock meal breaks, and failed to compensate aggrieved employees for this time. For example, Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees were only permitted to record 11.50 hours of work per day and had to work off the clock past the 11.50-hour mark to perform their job duties.

Labor Code §§ 510 and 1198 require employers to pay time-and-a-half or double time overtime wages, and make it unlawful to work employees for hours longer than eight hours in one day and/or over forty hours in one week without paying the premium overtime rates at one-and-one-half times or double the regular rate of pay, including additional remuneration. During the relevant time period, Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees worked in excess of 8 hours in a day and 40 hours in a week but were not paid for all hours worked before clocking in, after clocking out, and/or during off-the-clock meal breaks. Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees were not paid overtime compensation at the regular rate of pay because Defendants failed to incorporate multiple rates of pay and/or all non-discretionary remuneration, including shift premiums, into the regular rate of pay.

Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, 516, and the Wage Orders require employers to pay an employee one additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each meal or rest period that is not provided. During the relevant time period, Defendants required Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees to work during meal and rest periods and failed to compensate them properly and at the regular rate of compensation for non-compliant meal and rest periods including, *inter alia*, short, late, interrupted, and missed meal and rest periods and by failing to incorporate multiple rates of pay and/or all non-discretionary remuneration, including shift premiums, into the regular rate of compensation. Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees were often required to clock out for their meal periods but were not provided with compliant, off-duty meal periods. They were not authorized and permitted to take compliant rest periods either.

Labor Code § 246 mandates employers to comply with various requirements with respect to the provision of paid sick leave to employees. During the relevant time period, Defendants improperly calculated the sick leave rate of pay owed to Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees by failing to incorporate multiple rates of pay and/or all non-discretionary remuneration, including shift premiums, into the sick leave pay rate calculation.

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 if an employee quits 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' 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. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees all wages due to them within any time period specified by Labor Code §§ 201 and 202, including earned and unpaid minimum, overtime, and premium wages as discussed above.

Labor Code § 204 requires that all wages earned by any person in any employment between the 1st and the 15th days, inclusive, of any calendar month, other than those wages due upon termination of an employee, are due and payable between the 16th and the 26th day of the month during which the labor was performed, and that all wages earned by any person in any employment between the 16th and the last day, inclusive, of any calendar month, other than those wages due upon termination of an employee, are due and payable between the 1st and the 10th day of the following month. Labor Code § 204 also requires that all wages earned for labor in excess of the normal work period shall be paid no later than the payday for the next regular payroll period. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees all wages due to them within any time period specified by Labor Code § 204, including earned and unpaid minimum, overtime, and premium wages as discussed above.

Labor Code § 226 requires employers to make, keep and provide complete and accurate itemized wage statements to their employees. During the relevant time period, Defendants did not provide Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees with complete and accurate itemized wage statements. The wage statements they received from Defendants were in violation of Labor Code § 226(a). The violations include, but are not limited to, the failure to include the total hours worked, including time spent working off the clock and during meal and rest periods, failure to state the correct gross and net wages earned for all time worked, and failure to state all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.

Labor Code § 1174 requires an employer to keep, at a central location in the state or at the plants or establishments at which employees are employed, payroll records showing the hours worked daily by and the wages paid to, and the number of piece-rate units earned by and any applicable piece rate paid to, employees employed at the respective plants or establishments. These records shall be kept with rules established for this purpose by the commission, but in any case shall be kept on file for not less than two years. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to keep accurate and complete payroll records showing the actual hours worked daily and the wages earned by Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees, including earned and unpaid minimum, overtime, and premium wages as discussed above.

Labor Code § 2802 requires an employer to reimburse its employee for all necessary expenditures incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of his or her job duties or in direct consequence of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer. During the relevant time period, Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees incurred necessary business-related expenses and costs that were not fully reimbursed by Defendants, including, but not limited to, required use of their personal cellphones to perform their job duties.

Therefore, on behalf of all aggrieved employees, Plaintiff seeks all applicable penalties arising out of the above-referenced wage, hour, and payroll practices, or which could be assessed and collected by the LWDA, for violation of the Labor Code pursuant to PAGA. Labor Code §

2699.3 requires that a claimant send a certified letter (i.e. this letter) to the employer in question and file an online claim to the LWDA setting forth the claims and the basis for the claims, thereby giving the LWDA and employer an opportunity to investigate the claims and/or take any action they deem appropriate. If the LWDA and Defendants elect not to take any action with respect to any of the foregoing claims, Plaintiff will seek these penalties in a civil action on behalf of all aggrieved employees within one year of the date of this letter as allowed by law.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the phone number or address below:

William C. Sung
JUSTICE FOR WORKERS, P.C.
3600 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 1815
Los Angeles, CA 90010
Office: 323-922-2000
Fax: 323-922-2000
Email: william@justiceforworkers.com

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,



William C. Sung
JUSTICE FOR WORKERS, P.C.

Cc: Via USPS Certified Mail – Return Receipt Requested

Golden State Foods Corp.
c/o CSC Lawyers Incorporating Service
Agent for Service of Process
2710 Gateway Oaks Dr., Ste. 150
Sacramento, CA 95833

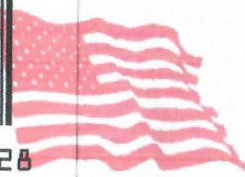
JUSTICE FOR WORKERS, P.C.
3600 Wilshire Blvd Ste 1815
Los Angeles, CA 90010

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Golden State Foods Corp.
c/o CSC Lawyers Incorporating Service
Agent for Service of Process
2710 Gateway Oaks Dr.,
Ste. 150
Sacramento, CA 95833



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Golden State Foods Corp.
2710 Gateway Oaks Dr., Ste. 150
Sacramento, CA 95833
City, State, ZIP+4®
PS Form 3800, January 2023 PSN 7530-02-000-9047 See Reverse for Instructions

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OF THE RETURN ADDRESS, FOLD AT DOTTED LINE

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

Golden State Foods Corp.
c/o CSC Lawyers Incorporating Services
Agent for Service of Process
2710 Gateway Oaks Dr Ste. 150
Sacramento, CA 95833



9590 9402 8354 3156 2631 78

2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

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PS Form 3811, July 2020 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

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A. Signature

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☐ Agent

☐ Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name)

C. Date of Delivery

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes

If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

3. Service Type

☒ Adult Signature

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Subject: Thank you for submission of your PAGA Case.

Date: Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 2:02:49 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: noreply@salesforce.com on behalf of LWDA DO NOT REPLY

To: William Sung

12/7/2023

LWDA Case No. LWDA-CM-998506-23

Law Firm : Justice for Workers, P.C.

Plaintiff Name : Jonathan Colquitt, Sr.

Employer: Golden State Foods Corp.

Filing Fee : \$75.00

IFP Claimed : No

Item submitted: Initial PAGA Notice

Thank you for your submission to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency. Please make a note of the LWDA Case No. above as you may need this number for future reference when filing any subsequent documents for this Case.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this submission or your case, please send an email to pagainfo@dir.ca.gov.

DIR PAGA Unit on behalf of
Labor and Workforce Development Agency

Website: http://labor.ca.gov/Private_Attorneys_General_Act.htm

EXHIBIT 3

JUSTICE FOR WORKERS, P.C.
William C. Sung SB# 280792
E-Mail: william@justiceforworkers.com
Tiffany L. Luu SB# 335127
E-Mail: tluu@justiceforworkers.com
3600 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1815
Los Angeles, CA 90010
Tel: 323-922-2000
Fax: 323-922-2000

Attorneys for Plaintiff JONATHAN COLQUITT, SR.

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

JONATHAN COLQUITT, SR., an individual
and on behalf of all others similarly situated;

Plaintiff,

vs.

GOLDEN STATE FOODS CORP., a
Delaware corporation; and DOES 1 through
50,

Defendants.

Case No.: 23STCV29902

**FIRST AMENDED CLASS AND
REPRESENTATIVE ACTION
COMPLAINT:**

- (1) **MINIMUM WAGE VIOLATIONS**
(LABOR CODE §§ 1182.12, 1194,
1194.2, 1197);
- (2) **OVERTIME WAGE VIOLATIONS**
(LABOR CODE §§ 204, 510, 1194,
1198);
- (3) **MEAL PERIOD VIOLATIONS**
(LABOR CODE §§ 226.7, 512, 558);
- (4) **REST PERIOD VIOLATIONS**
(LABOR CODE §§ 226.7, 516, 558);
- (5) **WAGE STATEMENT PENALTIES**
(LABOR CODE § 226);
- (6) **FAILURE TO REIMBURSE
NECESSARY BUSINESS EXPENSES**
(LABOR CODE § 2802);
- (7) **UNFAIR COMPETITION (BUS &
PROF CODE §§ 17200, *et seq.*); and**
- (8) **CIVIL PENALTIES UNDER THE
CALIFORNIA PRIVATE
ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT**
(LABOR CODE §§ 2698, *et seq.*)

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

FILED
Superior Court of California
County of Los Angeles

02/09/2024

David W. Slayton, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court

By: M. Arellanes Deputy

1 Plaintiff JONATHAN COLQUITT, SR. ("Plaintiff"), on behalf of himself and all others
2 similarly situated, hereby brings this First Amended Class and Representative Action Complaint
3 ("Complaint") against Defendants GOLDEN STATE FOODS CORP., a Delaware corporation, and
4 DOES 1 to 50 inclusive (collectively "Defendants"), and on information and belief alleges as
5 follows:

6 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

7 1. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, hereby brings this
8 Complaint for recovery of unpaid wages and penalties under California Business and Professions
9 Code § 17200, *et seq.*, Labor Code §§ 201-204, 226, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 516, 558, 1182.12, 1194,
10 1194.2, 1197, 1198, 2802, 2698, *et seq.*, and Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") Wage Orders
11 1-2001 and 7-2001 (the "Wage Orders"), in addition to seeking injunctive relief, declaratory relief,
12 and restitution. This Complaint is brought pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 382.
13 This Court has jurisdiction over Defendants' violations of the Labor Code because the amount in
14 controversy exceeds \$25,000.

15 2. Venue is proper in this judicial district because Defendants maintain offices, have
16 agents, and/or transact business in the State of California, including Los Angeles County, and some
17 of the acts and omissions complained of herein occurred in Los Angeles County. Furthermore,
18 Plaintiff was employed by Defendants within Los Angeles County.

19 **PARTIES**

20 3. Plaintiff is, and at all times relevant herein was, an individual over the age of
21 eighteen (18) and is a California resident. Within the statute of limitations periods applicable to
22 each cause of action pled herein, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants as a non-exempt employee.
23 Plaintiff was, and is, a victim of Defendants' policies, practices, and/or customs complained of
24 herein and has been deprived of the rights guaranteed by Business and Professions Code § 17200, *et*
25 *seq.*, Labor Code §§ 201-204, 226, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 516, 558, 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1197,
26 1198, 2802, 2698, *et seq.*, and Wage Orders.

27 4. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that during the
28 applicable statute of limitations for each cause of action pled herein and continuing to the present,

1 Defendants engaged in, and continue to engage in, business, and employed Plaintiff and other,
2 similarly-situated non-exempt employees within Los Angeles County, and the State of California
3 and, therefore, were (and are) doing business in Los Angeles County and the State of California.

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

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

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

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

27 9. At all times herein mentioned, the acts and omissions of various Defendants, and
28 each of them, concurred and contributed to the various acts and omissions of each and all of the

1 other Defendants in proximately causing the injuries and damages as herein alleged.

2 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

3 10. Defendants own and operate a food service company with locations in Irvine, Los
4 Angeles, Fontana, and City of Industry, California. Defendants have employed Plaintiff as an
5 hourly-paid, non-exempt employee since approximately May 2002 as a bulk receiver at Defendant's
6 City of Industry location.

7 11. Throughout Plaintiff's employment with Defendants, Defendants' timekeeping
8 and/or payroll policies and practices resulted in Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees not being
9 compensated for all hours actually worked. Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees regularly
10 worked more than eight hours in a workday or 40 hours in a workweek. Upon information and
11 belief, Defendants required Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees to perform work before their
12 scheduled shifts, after their scheduled shifts, and/or during off-the-clock meal breaks, and failed to
13 compensate employees for this time. For example, Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees were
14 only permitted to record 11.50 hours of work per day and had to work off the clock past the 11.50-
15 hour mark to perform their job duties. Upon information and belief, Defendants also failed to
16 incorporate multiple rates of pay and/or all non-discretionary remuneration, including shift
17 premiums, into the regular rate of pay. As a result, Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees were
18 not compensated for all earned minimum and overtime wages.

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

1 with all legally compliant meal periods to which they were entitled, Defendants failed to
2 compensate Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees with the required meal period premium(s)
3 for each workday there was a meal period violation as mandated by Labor Code § 226.7. On the
4 rare occasions when Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees were paid meal period premiums,
5 they were underpaid because Defendants failed to incorporate multiple rates of pay and/or all non-
6 discretionary remuneration, including shift premiums, into the regular rate of compensation.

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

21 14. Additionally, upon information and belief, Defendants violated Labor Code § 246 by
22 failing to incorporate multiple rates of pay and/or all non-discretionary remuneration, including shift
23 premiums, into the paid sick leave pay rate.

24 15. As a result of Defendants' failure to pay all minimum and overtime wages, failure to
25 pay all meal and rest period premium wages, and unlawful timekeeping and payroll practices as
26 alleged above, Defendants maintained inaccurate payroll records and issued inaccurate wage
27 statements to Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees. As a further result of Defendants' failure to
28 pay all minimum and overtime wages, sick leave wages, and meal and rest period premium wages,

1 Defendants failed to timely pay all final wages to Plaintiff and other former non-exempt employees
2 upon their separation of employment from Defendants.

3 16. Additionally, Defendants required Plaintiff and other non-exempt employees to
4 required use of their personal cellphones to perform their job duties. Despite requiring employees to
5 incur these necessary business expenses, Defendants failed to reimburse Plaintiff and other non-
6 exempt employees for the cost of these expenses.

7 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

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

- 10 a. Minimum Wage Class: All current and former non-exempt employees of Defendants
11 in the State of California who were subject to Defendants' timekeeping and payroll
12 policies and/or practices, during the four years immediately preceding the filing of
13 this action through the present.
- 14 b. Overtime Class: All current and former non-exempt employees of Defendants in the
15 State of California who worked more than eight hours per day and/or 40 hours per
16 week and were subject to Defendants' timekeeping policies and/or practices, during
17 the four years immediately preceding the filing of this action through the present.
- 18 c. Meal Period Class: All current and former non-exempt employees of Defendants in
19 the State of California who: (i) worked at least one shift in excess of 5.0 hours;
20 and/or (ii) worked at least one shift in excess of 10.0 hours, during the four years
21 immediately preceding the filing of this action through the present.
- 22 d. Rest Period Class: All current and former non-exempt employees of Defendants in
23 the State of California who worked at least one shift of 3.5 or more hours, during the
24 four years immediately preceding the filing of this action through the present.
- 25 e. Wage Statement Class: All current and former non-exempt employees of Defendants
26 in the State of California who received a wage statement, during the one year
27 immediately preceding the filing of this action through the present.

28 ///

f. Expense Reimbursement Class: All current and former non-exempt employees of Defendants in the State of California who were not reimbursed for all necessary business expenses, during the four years immediately preceding the filing of this action through the present.

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

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

- a. Whether Defendants properly paid all overtime wages to members of the Overtime Class;
- b. Whether Defendants paid at least the minimum wage for all hours worked to members of the Minimum Wage Class;
- c. Whether Defendants provided all legally compliant meal periods or paid meal period premium wages due to members of the Meal Period Class pursuant to Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512;
- d. Whether Defendants authorized and permitted all legally compliant rest periods or paid all rest period premium wages due to members of the Rest Period Class pursuant to Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 516;
- e. Whether Defendants furnished legally compliant wage statements to members of the Wage Statement Class pursuant to Labor Code § 226; and
- f. Whether Defendants reimbursed members of the Expense Reimbursement Class for all necessary business expenses pursuant to Labor Code § 2802.

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

16 **MINIMUM WAGE VIOLATIONS**

17 **(Against All Defendants)**

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

20 26. Labor Code §§ 1182.12, 1197, and Wage Orders, § 4 establish the right of
21 employees to be paid minimum wages for all hours worked, in amounts set by state or local law.
22 Labor Code §§ 1194(a) and 1194.2(a) provide that an employee who has not been paid the legal
23 minimum wage as required by Labor Code § 1197 may recover the unpaid balance together with
24 attorneys' fees and costs of suit, as well as liquidated damages in an amount equal to the unpaid
25 wages and interest accrued thereon. At all relevant times herein, Defendants failed to conform its
26 pay practices to the requirements of the law by failing to pay Plaintiff and members of the
27 Minimum Wage Class for all hours worked, including, but not limited to, all hours they were
28 subject to the control of Defendants and/or suffered or permitted to work under the Labor Code and

1 Wage Orders.

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

7 28. As a consequence of Defendants' non-payment of minimum wages, Plaintiff and
8 members of the Minimum Wage Class seek recovery of the balance of unpaid wages, including
9 interest thereon, statutory penalties, attorneys' fees, and costs of suit according to Labor Code §§
10 218.6, 558, 1194, 1194.2, and 1199, Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5; and Civil Code §§ 3287 and
11 3289.

12 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**
13 **OVERTIME WAGE VIOLATIONS**
14 **(Against All Defendants)**

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

17 30. This cause of action is brought pursuant to Labor Code §§ 204, 510, 1194, 1198, and
18 Wage Orders, § 3, which provide that non-exempt employees are entitled to all overtime wages and
19 compensation for all overtime hours worked and provide a private right of action for the failure to
20 pay all overtime compensation for overtime work performed.

21 31. At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to properly compensate non-
22 exempt employees, including Plaintiff and members of the Overtime Class, for all overtime hours
23 worked pursuant to Labor Code § 1194 and Wage Orders. Wage Orders, § 3 requires an employer
24 to pay an employee one and one-half (1½) times and two times the employee's regular rate of pay
25 for overtime and double time hours work. Defendants caused Plaintiff and members of the Overtime
26 Class to work overtime hours but failed to compensate these employees for all overtime hours
27 actually worked.

28 ///

1 32. As a consequence of Defendants' non-payment of overtime wages, Plaintiff and
2 members of the Overtime Class seek recovery of the balance of unpaid overtime wages, including
3 interest thereon, statutory penalties, attorneys' fees, and costs of suit according to Labor Code §§
4 204, 210, 216, 218.6, 510, 1194, and 1198; Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5; and Civil Code §§
5 3287 and 3289.

6 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

7 **MEAL PERIOD VIOLATIONS**

8 **(Against All Defendants)**

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

11 34. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants failed
12 in their affirmative obligation to provide all of their non-exempt employees in California, including
13 Plaintiff and members of the Meal Period Class, with all legally compliant meal periods in
14 accordance with the mandates of the Labor Code and Wage Orders, § 11.

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

18 36. As a consequence of Defendants' unlawful meal period practices, Plaintiff and
19 members of the Meal Period Class seek recovery of unpaid premium wages for meal period
20 violations including interest thereon, statutory penalties, and costs of suit, pursuant to Labor Code
21 §§ 226.7, 512, 558, Wage Orders, and Civil Code §§ 3287 and 3289.

22 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

23 **REST PERIOD VIOLATIONS**

24 **(Against All Defendants)**

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

27 38. Labor Code §§ 226.7, 516, 558, and Wage Orders, § 12 and establish the right of
28 employees to be provided with a rest period of at least 10 minutes for each four-hour period

1 worked, or major fraction thereof. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that
2 despite Defendants' failure to authorize and permit Plaintiff and members of the Rest Period Class
3 to take all legally compliant rest periods as alleged herein, Defendants did not pay these individuals
4 an additional hour of pay at their respective regular rate for the rest periods that they failed to
5 authorize and permit them to take, as required by Labor Code § 226.7.

6 39. As a consequence of Defendants' unlawful rest period practices, Plaintiff and
7 members of the Rest Period Class seek recovery of unpaid premium wages for rest period violations
8 including interest thereon, statutory penalties, and costs of suit, statutory penalties, attorneys' fees,
9 and costs of suit according to Labor Code §§ 226.7, 516, 558, Wage Orders, and Civil Code §§
10 3287 and 3289.

11 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

12 **WAGE STATEMENT PENALTIES**

13 **(Against All Defendants)**

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

16 41. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants
17 knowingly and intentionally, as a matter of uniform policy and practice, failed to furnish Plaintiff
18 and members of the Wage Statement Class with accurate and complete, itemized wage statements
19 that included, among other requirements, all hours worked, total gross wages earned, all rates of pay
20 and corresponding number of hours worked, total net wages earned, the inclusive dates of the pay
21 period, and/or the correct name and address of the legal entity that is the employer in violation of
22 Labor Code § 226.

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

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1 43. As a consequence of Defendants’ unlawful wage statement practices, Plaintiff and
2 members of the Wage Statement Class seek damages and/or statutory penalties, reasonable
3 attorneys’ fees, and costs of suit according to California Labor Code § 226.

4 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

5 **FAILURE TO REIMBURSE NECESSARY BUSINESS EXPENSES**

6 **(Against All Defendants)**

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

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

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

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

19 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

20 **UNFAIR COMPETITION**

21 **(Against All Defendants)**

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

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

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

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- 1 b. failing to pay Plaintiff and members of the Overtime Class all overtime wages due;
2 c. failing to provide Plaintiff and members of the Meal Period Class with all meal
3 periods to which they are entitled, and failing to pay them all meal period premium
4 wages due;
5 d. failing to authorize and permit Plaintiff and members of the Rest Period Class all rest
6 periods to which they are entitled, and failing to pay them all rest period premium
7 wages due;
8 e. failing to issue accurate and itemized wage statements to Plaintiff and members of
9 the Wage Statement Class; and
10 f. failing to reimburse all necessary business expenses to Plaintiff and members of the
11 Expense Reimbursement Class.

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

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

21 52. The acts complained of herein occurred within the last four years immediately
22 preceding the filing of the Complaint in this action.

23 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

24 **PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT**

25 **(Against All Defendants)**

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

28 ///

1 54. Plaintiff, an “aggrieved employee” within the meaning of Labor Code §§ 2698, *et*
2 *seq.*, acting on behalf of himself and other aggrieved employees (collectively, “Aggrieved
3 Employees”), brings this representative action against Defendants to recover the civil penalties due
4 to Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees, and the State of California according to proof pursuant
5 to Labor Code §§ 558 and 2699(a) and (f) including, but not limited to: (1) \$100.00 for each initial
6 violation for each failure to pay each employee and \$200 for each subsequent violation or willful or
7 intentional violation pursuant to Labor Code §§ 210 and/or 225.5 for each failure to pay each
8 employee, plus 25% of the amount unlawfully withheld; (2) \$50.00 for each initial violation and
9 \$100 for each subsequent violation pursuant to Labor Code § 558 per employee per pay period; (3)
10 \$100 for each initial violation and \$250 for each subsequent violation pursuant to Labor Code §
11 1197.1 per employee per pay period; (4) \$250 for each initial violation and \$1,000 for each
12 subsequent violation pursuant to Labor Code § 226.3 per employee per pay period; (5) pursuant to
13 Labor Code § 256, a civil penalty in an amount not exceeding 30 days per former employee as
14 waiting time under the terms of Labor Code § 203; and/or (6) \$100 for each initial violation and
15 \$200 for each subsequent violation per employee per pay period for those violations of the Labor
16 Code for which no civil penalty is specifically provided, based on the following Labor Code
17 violations:

- 18 a. Failing to pay minimum wages for all hours worked to Aggrieved Employees in
19 violation of Labor Code § 558, 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, and 1198;
- 20 b. Failing to pay Aggrieved Employees all earned overtime compensation in violation
21 of Labor Code §§ 204, 510, 558, 1194, and 1198;
- 22 c. Failing to provide all legally required meal periods, and failure to pay meal period
23 premium wages, to Aggrieved Employees at the regular rate of compensation in
24 violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, 558, and 1198;
- 25 d. Failing to authorize and permit all legally required rest periods, and failure to pay
26 rest period premium wages, to Aggrieved Employees at the regular rate of
27 compensation in violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7, 516, 558, and 1198;

28 ///

- e. Failing to furnish Aggrieved Employees with complete, accurate, itemized wage statements in violation of Labor Code § 226;
- f. Failing to timely pay all final wages and compensation earned by Aggrieved Employees at the time of separation in violation of Labor Code §§ 201-202;
- g. Failure to reimburse Aggrieved Employees for all necessary business expenses in violation of Labor Code § 2802;
- h. Failing to pay Aggrieved Employees all paid sick leave wages in violation of Labor Code § 246;
- i. Failing to pay Aggrieved Employees all earned wages at least twice during each calendar month in violation of Labor Code § 204; and
- j. Failing to maintain accurate records on behalf of Aggrieved Employees in violation of Labor Code §§ 1174 and 1198.

55. On or about December 7, 2023, Plaintiff notified Defendants via certified mail, and notified the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”) via its website, of Defendants’ violations of the Labor Code and Plaintiff’s intent to bring a claim for civil penalties under Labor Code §§ 2698, *et seq.* with respect to the violations of the Labor Code identified in the preceding paragraph. Now that 33 days and 65 days have passed from Plaintiff notifying Defendants and the LWDA of these violations, Defendants have not cured any curable violations, and the LWDA has not provided notice that it intends to investigate the violations, Plaintiff has exhausted administrative requirements for bringing a claim under the Private Attorneys General Act with respect to these violations.

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

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

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

1. For an order certifying the proposed Classes;
2. For an order appointing Plaintiff as representative of the Classes;

- 1 3. For an order appointing Counsel for Plaintiff as Counsel for the Classes;
- 2 4. Upon the First Cause of Action, for payment of minimum wages, liquidated
3 damages, and penalties according to proof pursuant to Labor Code §§ 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, and
4 1197;
- 5 5. Upon the Second Cause of Action, for payment of overtime wages and penalties
6 according to proof pursuant to Labor Code §§ 204, 510, 558, 1194, and 1198;
- 7 6. Upon the Third Cause of Action, for meal period premium wages according to proof
8 pursuant to Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, and 558;
- 9 7. Upon the Fourth Cause of Action, for rest period premium wages according to proof
10 pursuant to Labor Code §§ 226.7, 516, and 558;
- 11 8. Upon the Fifth Cause of Action, for statutory penalties pursuant to Labor Code §
12 226;
- 13 9. Upon the Sixth Cause of Action, for unreimbursed business expenses according to
14 proof pursuant to Labor Code § 2802;
- 15 10. Upon the Seventh Cause of Action, for restitution to Plaintiff and members of the
16 Classes of all money and/or property unlawfully acquired by Defendants by means of any acts or
17 practices declared by this Court to be in violation of Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et*
18 *seq.*;
- 19 11. Upon the Eighth Cause of Action, for civil penalties due to Plaintiff, other Aggrieved
20 Employees, and the State of California according to proof pursuant to Labor Code §§ 558 and
21 2699(a) and (f) including, but not limited to: (1) \$100.00 for each initial violation for each failure to
22 pay each employee and \$200 for each subsequent violation or willful or intentional violation
23 pursuant to Labor Code §§ 210 and/or 225.5 for each failure to pay each employee, plus 25% of the
24 amount unlawfully withheld; (2) \$50.00 for each initial violation and \$100 for each subsequent
25 violation pursuant to Labor Code § 558 per employee per pay period; (3) \$100.00 for each initial
26 violation and \$250.00 for each subsequent violation pursuant to Labor Code § 1197.1 per employee
27 per pay period; (4) \$250.00 for each initial violation and \$1,000.00 for each subsequent violation
28 pursuant to Labor Code § 226.3 per employee per pay period; (5) pursuant to Labor Code § 256, a

1 civil penalty in an amount not exceeding 30 days per former employee as waiting time under the
2 terms of Labor Code § 203; and/or (6) \$100.00 for each initial violation and \$200 for each
3 subsequent violation per employee per pay period for those violations of the Labor Code for which
4 no civil penalty is specifically provided;

5 12. Prejudgment interest on all due and unpaid wages pursuant to Labor Code § 218.6
6 and Civil Code §§ 3287 and 3289;

7 13. On all causes of action, for attorneys' fees and costs as provided by Labor Code §§
8 218.5, 226, 1194, 2699(g), and Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5; and

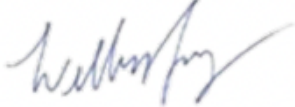
9 14. For such other and further relief, the Court may deem just and proper.

10 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

11 Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all claims.

12
13 DATED: February 9, 2024

JUSTICE FOR WORKERS, P.C.

14
15 By: 

16 William C. Sung, Esq.

17 Tiffany L. Luu, Esq.

18 Attorneys for Plaintiff JONATHAN COLQUITT,
19 SR.
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EXHIBIT 4



Jonathan Colquitt, Sr. v. Golden State Foods Corps
Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No.: 23STCV29902

Date	Description of Cost Item	Invoice #	Amount
12/7/23	LWDA Filing Fee for Initial PAGA Notice	LWDA-CM-998506-23	\$75.00
12/7/23	Certified Mail Cost for Mailing PAGA Letter to Def.		\$8.53
12/7/23	e-Filing, Initial Appearance, and Complex Filing Fees for Complaint	8717783	\$1,492.62
12/9/23	Court Filing Fee for Peremptory Challenge	8721799	\$128.75
2/9/24	e-Filing Fee for Amended Complaint	9064485	\$14.57
2/12/24	Service of Process Fee to Serve Def.	9064376	\$89.87
2/13/24	e-Filing Fee for Proof of Personal Service	9080002	\$14.57
3/28/24	e-Filing Fee for Status Conference Statement	9356977	\$14.57
4/12/24	Document Download Fee - LASC Docs	PA-2024-268743057	\$2.00
7/1/24	Case Anywhere System Access Fee	332506	\$124.95
7/19/24	e-Filing Fee for Opposition to Def. Motion to Compel Arbitration and Stay	10038543	\$14.57
10/1/24	Case Anywhere System Access Fee	343813	\$171.00
1/6/25	Case Anywhere System Access Fee	355540	\$147.00
1/24/25	e-Filing Fee for Joint Status Conference Report	11193781	\$16.17
2/6/25	Case Anywhere System Access Fee	364022	\$55.00
3/6/25	Case Anywhere System Access Fee	369180	\$49.00
4/4/25	Case Anywhere System Access Fee	381165	\$49.00
5/6/25	Case Anywhere System Access Fee	393100	\$49.00
6/18/25	Case Anywhere System Access Fee	405069	\$49.00
7/1/25	Case Anywhere System Access Fee	417200	\$49.00
7/16/25	Plaintiff's Share of Mediation Fee - Signature Resolution, LLC	PR52279	\$13,250.00
8/7/25	Case Anywhere System Access Fee	429751	\$49.00
8/24/25	Mediation Data Analysis - AttorneyTalk	3681	\$9,855.00
9/3/25	Case Anywhere System Access Fee	442180	\$49.00
10/1/25	e-Filing Fee for Joint Status Conference Report	12997392	\$16.17
10/1/25	Case Anywhere System Access Fee	454792	\$55.00
11/3/25	Case Anywhere System Access Fee	467585	\$49.00

12/1/25	Case Anywhere System Access Fee	480575	\$49.00
1/2/26	Case Anywhere System Access Fee	493403	\$49.00
2/2/26	Case Anywhere System Access Fee	506449	\$49.00
Estimated Future Cost	e-Filing Fee Motion for Approval of PAGA Settlement	N/A	\$77.97
Estimated Future Cost	e-Filing Fee for Supplemental Brief and/or Amended Proposed Order	N/A	\$16.17
Estimated Future Cost	Case Anywhere System Access Fee Through Final Approval (February - March 2026)	N/A	\$140.00
		TOTAL	\$26,334.65

EXHIBIT 5