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on behalf of herself and others similarly situated

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

AMBER LYNN BOCK, an individual on
behalf of herself and all others similarly
situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

BARTZ-ALTADONNA COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTER, a California Non-Profit
Corporation; and DOES 1 through 50,
inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 24STCV05513

CLASS ACTION

Assigned for All Purposes To:
Hon. Lawrence P. Riff

**DECLARATION OF NATALIE
HARITOUNIAN IN SUPPORT OF
PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR AN ORDER
(1) PRELIMINARILY APPROVING THE
CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT; (2)
APPROVING NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT;
AND (3) SETTING HEARING FOR FINAL
APPROVAL**

Date: March 25, 2025
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Dept: 7

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1. I am an attorney licensed and admitted to practice before all courts of the State of California and the United States District Courts for the Central, Southern, Eastern and Northern Districts of California. I am a senior counsel at D.Law, Inc., and attorney of record for Plaintiff Amber Lynn Bock (hereinafter “Plaintiff” or “Class Representative”) on behalf of similarly situated employees of Defendant Bartz-Altadonna Community Health Center (“Defendant”). I have personal knowledge of the facts herein, and if called as a witness I could and would competently testify to them.

QUALIFICATIONS AND ADEQUACY OF CLASS COUNSEL

3. D.Law, Inc. is well qualified because of our experience, knowledge, and resources to act as counsel and represent Plaintiff and the putative class in this action. My practice is exclusively focused on employment matters, with a substantial percentage devoted to litigating wage, hour, and working-conditions violations on a class-wide basis.

4. I received my Bachelor of Arts in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 2014. I then earned my Juris Doctorate from the University of Southern California, Gould School of Law in May of 2018. Upon graduating from law school, I have exclusively focused my practice on representing employees including in wage-and-hour class actions.

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DECLARATION OF NATALIE HARITONIAN IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY

1 lawsuits as lead or co-lead counsel, and I have obtained six and seven figure settlements against a
2 range of defendants. These cases have involved the gamut of wage-and-hour claims, including
3 claims for failure to pay minimum wages, unpaid wages and overtime, failure to provide meal
4 breaks, inaccurate pay statements, and failure to pay timely wages - similar to claims at issue in
5 the present matter.

6 6. I am experienced in prosecuting employment matters, particularly class actions. In
7 addition to the present case, I am also class counsel for dozens of other putative wage-and-hour
8 class-action lawsuits pending in various state and federal jurisdictions throughout California.

9 7. My extensive experience in litigating employment wage and hour matters has been
10 integral in identifying legal issues, evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of a case, and
11 generally negotiating fair and reasonable class action settlements. Practice in the narrow field of
12 wage and hour litigation requires skill and knowledge concerning the constantly evolving
13 substantive law (state and federal), as well as the procedural law of class action litigation. In this
14 action, I am fully equipped to use the skills and knowledge I have developed. Therefore, on the
15 account of my resources, experience, and knowledge, I am well qualified to act as Class Counsel
16 and represent Plaintiff and the putative Class Members in this action.

17 8. I recently successfully certified a case and when necessary, we pursue cases on appeal.
18 Owing to my experience, I am well qualified to evaluate the class claims in this action, to
19 evaluate settlement v. trial and defenses raised. The following are examples of some of my cases
20 that have resulted in favorable settlements for the employee Class Members and Aggrieved
21 Employees I have represented: (a) *Martinez v. Villa & Sons Enterprises, Inc.*, San Benito County
22 Superior Court, Case No. CU-19-00120 (Hon. J. Omar Rodriguez); (b) *Herrera v. Pomona*
23 *Quality Foam, LLC*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 19STCV38235 (Hon. Ann
24 Jones); (c) *Torres v. Precision Plastics Packaging Co.*, Orange County Superior Court, Case No.
25 30-2019-01063177-CU-OE-CXC (Hon. Peter Wilson); (d) *Marchbanks v. Torrid Administration,*
26 *Inc.*, et al. San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2020-00008179-CU-OE-NC (Hon.
27 Blaine K. Bowman); (e) *Becerra v. Tetra Tech, Inc.*, Sonoma County Superior Court, Case No.
28 SCV-265511 (Hon. Patrick Broderick); (f) *Foster v. Deckers Outdoor Corporation*, Santa

1 Barbara County Superior Court, Case No. 20CV03699 (Hon. Donna D. Geck); (g) *Stakely v.*
2 *Windsor Palms Care Center of Artesia*, Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No. 21STCV10507
3 (Hon. Carolyn B. Kuhl); (h) *Sosa v. Aurora World, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court,
4 Case No. 19STCV20182 (Hon. Lawrence R. Riff); (i) *Torres v. Rapid Manufacturing*, Orange
5 County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2019-01089455-CU-OE-CXC (Hon. William D. Claster); (j)
6 *Aleman v. Moonlight Packing Corporation*, Fresno County Superior Court, Case No.
7 20CECG01196 (Hon. Kristi Culver Kapetan); (k) *Salazar v. Happy FM Group, Inc.*, Los Angeles
8 Superior Court, Case No. 20STCV40294 (Hon. Stuart M. Rice); (l) *Baldwin v. Patagonia, Inc.*,
9 Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No. 20STCV40245 (Hon. Maren Nelson); (m) *Smith v. NOIA*
10 *Residential Services, Inc.*, Fresno Superior Court, Case No. 20CECG01820 (Hon. Jeffrey Y.
11 Hamilton); (n) *Alvarado v. Faro Logistics Solutions, Inc.*, San Bernardino Superior Court, Case
12 No. CIVSB2200441 (Hon. Joseph Ortiz); (o) *Hernandez v. Clark Pacific Corporation*, Yolo
13 Superior Court, Case No. CV-2019-1053 (Hon. Samuel T. McAdam); (p) *Romero v. Hydraulics*
14 *International, Inc.*, Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No. 19STCV04463 (Hon. Stuart M. Rice);
15 (q) *Broersma v. Platt College Los Angeles, LLC*, Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No.
16 20STCV47502 (Hon. Stuart M. Rice); and (r) *Cruz v. West Coast Prime Meats, LLC*, Orange
17 County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2021-01185742-CU-OE-CXC (Hon. Randall J. Sherman).

18 9. For purposes of this motion, the “Class” or “Class Members” consist of “all persons
19 employed by Defendant in California and classified as non-exempt, hourly employees who
20 worked for Defendant during the period from March 5, 2020, to December 16, 2024, except those
21 employees who negotiated a signed released of claims with Defendant at any time during the
22 period from March 5, 2020, to December 16, 2024.” I do not believe that I have any conflicts of
23 interest with the Class or with the Class Representative. I am not related to the Class
24 Representative. I have not previously represented Defendant in any matter. I respectfully submit
25 that I, and D.Law, Inc. are well suited to act as Class Counsel in this action, and we have and will
26 continue to vigorously represent the interests of the Class Members.

27 **PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

28 10. On March 5, 2024, Plaintiff filed a class action complaint in the Superior Court of the

1 State of California, Los Angeles County, Case No. 24STCV05513 against Defendant alleging the
2 following eleven (11) causes of action: (1) Failure to Pay Minimum Wages; (2) Failure to Pay
3 Wages and Overtime Under Labor Code § 510; (3) Meal Period Liability Under Labor Code §
4 226.7; (4) Rest Break Liability Under Labor Code § 226.7; (5) Violation of Labor Code § 226(a);
5 (6) Violation of Labor Code § 203; (7) Violation of Labor Code §204; (8) Failure to Keep
6 Required Payroll Records Under Labor Code §§ 1174 and 1174.5; (9) Failure to Reimburse
7 Necessary Business Expenses § 2802; (10) Failure to pay Vacation Wages; and (11) Violation of
8 Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.*

9 11. Plaintiff contends that Defendant failed to pay Class Members all wages due and
10 owing, including by requiring off the clock work, unlawfully rounding to their detriment, failing
11 to provide meal and rest breaks, failing to furnish accurate wage statements, failing to timely pay
12 wages including final wages, failing to maintain accurate records, failing to reimburse necessary
13 business expenses, and failing to pay vacation wages.

14 12. On March 5, 2024, Plaintiff submitted a PAGA Notice letter to the LWDA and served
15 Defendant. A true and correct copy of the confirmatory email and the LWDA letter submitted on
16 behalf of Plaintiff is attached hereto as **Exhibit 2**. The LWDA did not express an interest in
17 investigating Plaintiff claims within the 65-day period. Therefore, on May 9, 2024, Plaintiff filed
18 a First Amended Complaint adding a cause of action for penalties under the PAGA. The First
19 Amended Complaint is the operative complaint.

20 **INVESTIGATION AND DISCOVERY**

21 13. I have participated in all informal discovery, mediation and negotiations since the
22 inception of Plaintiff's case. Before filing the lawsuit, Class Counsel investigated and researched
23 the facts and circumstances underlying the pertinent issues and the law applicable thereto. This
24 required thorough discussions and interviews between Class Counsel and Plaintiff as well as
25 preliminary research into the various legal issues involved in the case. After conducting their
26 initial investigation, Class Counsel determined that Plaintiff's claims were well-suited for class
27 and representative action adjudication owing to what appeared to be a common course of conduct
28 affecting a similarly situated group of employees.

1 14. After filing the lawsuit, Class Counsel conducted a thorough investigation of the facts
2 and claims giving rise to the action, including: (1) conducting informal discovery and meeting
3 and conferring with defense counsel about same; (2) reviewing and analyzing a sampling of time
4 and pay records as well as employment handbooks, Plaintiff's personnel files, relevant policies
5 and other documentation; (3) researching the applicable law and potential defenses; (4)
6 constructing damage models based on interpretations of California law; and (5) reviewing
7 information provided by Defendant at the mediation. The Class enumerated in this action is
8 ascertainable because the Class Members may be readily identified by reference to Defendant's
9 records. Defendant has agreed to share the information from these records with the Settlement
10 Administrator in order to identify and contact the Class Members. I understand there are
11 approximately 361 total Class Members.

12 15. Defendant, for its part, vigorously contested liability, the amount of claimed damages,
13 and the propriety of class certification. After Class Counsel analyzed the relevant documents and
14 other gathered data, Class Counsel believed that this case was appropriate for resolution via
15 mediation. Given the high level of risk present for both sides, the parties elected to mediate
16 Plaintiff's claims and explore the possibility of settlement.

17 16. On October 15, 2024, the parties mediated this case with Brandon McKelvey, who is a
18 respected and highly experienced mediator in wage and hour class actions. During mediation,
19 Plaintiff and Defendant's counsel discussed all aspects of the case, including the risks of litigation
20 and the risks to both parties of proceeding with a motion for class certification as well as the law
21 relating to unpaid wages, meal periods, rest periods, wage statements, and final pay. As a result of
22 the mediation, the parties agreed to settle the lawsuit according to the terms set forth in the
23 Settlement Agreement.

24 17. From Class Counsel's review of the facts, strengths, and weaknesses of the case, the
25 risks and delays posed by further litigation, and Class Counsel's own prior litigation experience,
26 Class Counsel believes that the recovery for each class member is fair and reasonable taking into
27 consideration the amounts received in other wage and hour class actions, the risks inherent in
28 litigation of this genre, and the reasonable tailoring of each Class Member's claim to the

1 settlement award he or she will receive. Further, and based on the settlement negotiations, which
2 were extensive and conducted in good faith and at arm's length between attorneys with
3 substantial experience litigating class actions and wage and hour cases, the Settlement Agreement
4 was the product of a non-collusive settlement process in which the parties were forced to make
5 significant compromises in the interest of reaching a full and complete settlement of the lawsuit.

6 **SUMMARY OF SETTLEMENT**

7 18. The parties have executed a Settlement Agreement attached hereto and incorporated
8 herein as **Exhibit 1**. Defendant has agreed to pay Five Hundred Ninety-Nine Thousand Five
9 Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$599,500) ("Gross Settlement Amount") on a non-reversionary
10 basis to settle and release all claims asserted by Plaintiff in the Class Action and PAGA Action on
11 behalf of the proposed Class. (Exh. 1, §1.22)

12 19. The Settlement Agreement defines the "Class" as all persons employed by Defendant
13 in California and classified as non-exempt, hourly employee who worked for Defendant during
14 the Class Period except those employees who negotiated a signed release of claims with
15 Defendant at any time during the Class Period." (Exh. 1, §1.5) However, it does not include any
16 person who submits a timely and valid request for exclusion. (Exh. 1, §7.5) "Class Period" means
17 the period from March 5, 2020, to December 16, 2024." (Exh. 1, §1.12.)

18 20. The "Net Settlement Amount" shall be the Gross Settlement Amount, less the
19 Attorneys' Fees and Costs, the Class Representative Enhancement Payment, Settlement
20 Administration Costs, and seventy-five percent (75%) of the LWDA Payment. (Exh. 1, §1.28)
21 These amounts are detailed as follows:

- 22 • not more than One Hundred Ninety-Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty-Three
23 Dollars and Thirty-Three Cents (\$199,833.33) to Class Counsel for attorneys' fees,
24 and not more than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$25,000.00) to
25 Class Counsel for litigation costs; (Exh. 1, §3.2.2);
- 26 • not more than Six Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$6,500.00) for
27 the Settlement Administration Costs; (Exh. 1, §3.2.3);
- 28 • not more than Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$5,000.00) to Plaintiff for a

Class Representative Enhancement Payment; and (Exh. 1, §3.2.1);

- Forty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$40,000.00) for civil penalties under the PAGA, where 75% (\$30,000.00) will be paid to the LWDA and 25% (\$10,000.00) will be included in the Net Settlement Amount and distributed to Settlement Class Members). (Exh. 1, §3.2.5.)

21. The “Individual Class Payment” and the “Individual PAGA Payment” which is each Class Member’s share of the Net Settlement Amount, which will be calculated and apportioned from the Net Settlement Amount based on the number of workweeks a Class Member worked during the Class and PAGA Period as a non-exempt employee in California. (Exh. 1, §1.23 and §1.24)

22. Defendant’s corporate payroll tax obligations shall be paid in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount, and none of the Gross Settlement Amount will revert to Defendant. (Exh. 1, §3.1)

23. The settlement amount was a compromise figure, factoring in the inherent risks related to certification, liability and damages. However, taking into account all of the circumstances of the action and the defenses raised by Defendant against certification, liability and damages, Class Counsel believes that the settlement is fair and reasonable.

24. Class Members shall each receive a Notice of Settlement (“Class Notice”) via regular First-Class U.S. Mail, using the most current, known mailing addresses identified in the Class List. (Exh. 1, §7.4.2) Before mailing, the Settlement Administrator will perform a search based on the National Change of Address Database for information to update and correct for any known or identifiable address changes. (Exh. 1, §7.4.2) If the Class Notice is returned as non-deliverable on or before the Response Deadline and a new address is obtained by way of a returned Class Notice, then the Settlement Administrator will promptly forward the original Class Notice to the updated address via first-class regular U.S. mail, indicating on the original packet the date of such re-mailing. (Exh. 1, §7.4.3).

25. Class Members will have an opportunity to dispute the information provided in their Class Notice and they must timely produce evidence to support the information is inaccurate.

1 (Exh. 1, §7.6) The Settlement Administrator shall decide the dispute and may ask Defendant to
2 produce the personnel and payroll files of the Class Member disputing their credited workweeks
3 in order to resolve the dispute. (Exh. 1, §7.6)

4 26. Class Members wishing to opt-out from the Settlement Agreement must sign and
5 postmark a written request for exclusion to the Settlement Administrator within the Response
6 Deadline. (Exh. 1, §7.8.2). Class Members will also have the opportunity to object to the
7 Settlement Agreement, by serving a copy of the objection to the Settlement Administrator within
8 the Response Deadline. (Exh. 1, §7.7) The Response Deadline will be sixty (60) calendar days of
9 first mailing of the Class Notice. (Exh. 1, §1.43) Class Members who do not serve written
10 objections may not object to the settlement by way of appeal. (Exh. 1, §10.4)

11 **THE STRENGTH OF PLAINTIFF’S CASE**
12 **IN LIGHT OF THE SETTLEMENT AMOUNT**

13 27. Because the class consists of numerous employees, it was unlikely that the potential
14 monetary claims of individual Class Members would have proved viable without the class-action
15 mechanism. The Settlement Agreement should be approved in light of two California appellate
16 decisions: *Clark v. American Residential Services LLC* (2009) 175 Cal.App.4th 785 and *Kullar v.*
17 *Foot Locker Retail, Inc.* (2008) 168 Cal.App.4th 116.

18 28. The strength of the plaintiff’s case in light of the settlement amount is deemed by
19 courts to be the “most important.” *Clark v. American Residential Services, LLC* (2009) 175
20 Cal.App.4th 785, 799 (citing *Kullar*). Here, Plaintiff alleges that Defendant failed to pay
21 minimum wages and overtime, failed to provide proper meal breaks or provide premium pay in
22 lieu thereof, failed to provide proper rest breaks or provide premium pay in lieu thereof, failed to
23 provide accurate wage statements, failed to timely pay all wages upon termination, failed to
24 reimburse necessary business expenses, and failed to pay vacation wages in violation of
25 California law. Plaintiff seeks related violations of California’s Business & Professions Code, and
26 penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 2699 *et seq.* Plaintiff conducted informal discovery and
27 investigated each of the claims alleged. Specifically, Defendant produced the following: (a)
28 Plaintiff’s timekeeping and payroll records; (b) a sampling of the Class Members’ timekeeping

1 and payroll records; and (c) information on the class demographics including the total number of
2 Class Members during the Class Period, total number of Class Members during the PAGA
3 Period, total number of current employees, total number of former employees in the relevant time
4 period, average hourly rate of pay, total number of workweeks worked during the Class Period,
5 and the total number of paychecks issued during the relevant time period. The merits of each of
6 these claims will be addressed separately below.

7 29. Based on the data provided, Class Counsel estimated the following maximum
8 exposures: unpaid wage claim at \$232,661, meal period claim at \$267,123, rest period claim at
9 \$267,123, wage statement claim at \$531,200, waiting time penalties at \$797,487, reimbursement
10 of business claim at \$18,050, and on PAGA, Plaintiff estimated the maximum exposure at
11 \$542,100.

12 30. However, taking into account the difficulties of proof, the Defendant's defenses, and
13 other attendant risks, Plaintiff estimates that the total amount of damages, monetary penalties, or
14 other relief that the class could reasonably expect to be awarded at trial is significantly less than
15 the maximum exposure.

16 **Minimum Wages and Overtime**

17 31. Plaintiff alleged that Defendant failed to pay Plaintiff and Class Members minimum
18 wages for all hours worked, in violation of minimum wage laws. Plaintiff contended that Class
19 Members were not paid all wages they were owed including for all worked performed and for all
20 overtime hours worked. Specifically, Plaintiff contended Class Members had to wait in line to
21 access a time clock to be able to clock in. (*Id.*) Additionally, Plaintiff alleged Plaintiff and Class
22 Members were frequently interrupted with work demands by managers and colleagues during
23 their meal period. Moreover, Plaintiff alleged Defendant unlawfully rounded down the hours
24 Class Members worked.

25 32. Defendant contended that they paid for all reported hours worked, that Class Members
26 were trained to record all hours worked, and that they paid proper minimum wages. Defendant
27 also maintained that the allegations regarding failure to pay wages for hours worked in excess of
28 eight hours in a day did not constitute a basis for violation of Labor Code § 510. Defendant

1 argued that given their written policies and practices, any unrecorded hours were likely subject to
2 individualized inquiry and unlikely to be certified. Given the difficulty in certifying this claim,
3 Class Counsel had to apply a significant discount to damages based on this theory.

4 33. Based on the above detailed facts, Class Counsel's estimated Defendant's exposure on
5 unpaid wages claims to be approximately \$232,661. However, Class Counsel believes this
6 estimate is high given that many individualized issues would apply making certification of this
7 claim difficult to achieve.

8 **Meal Periods and Rest Breaks**

9 34. Plaintiff alleged that Defendant consistently failed to provide timely and uninterrupted
10 meal breaks to Class Members. *See Brinker Restaurant Corp. v. Super. Ct.* (2012) 53 Cal.4th
11 1004, 1040 ("[T]he wage order's meal period requirement is satisfied if the employee (1) has at
12 least 30 minutes uninterrupted, (2) is free to leave the premises, and (3) is relieved of all duty for
13 the entire period.").

14 35. Plaintiff argued that Defendant had a common practice and policy of denying
15 compliant meal periods and that Defendant's meal policies were facially defective. Specifically,
16 Plaintiff and Class Members were regularly required to work through their meal periods, never
17 being provided the opportunity to take uninterrupted thirty (30) minute meal periods in
18 accordance with California law. Moreover, what meal periods Class Members did receive were
19 provided well after their fifth consecutive hour of work. This practice of providing untimely and
20 late meal periods comports with Defendant's defective meal period policy (requiring Class
21 Members to take their meal periods after their fifth hour of work) uniformly applicable to all
22 Class Members. For each meal period missed, of less than 30 minutes, or taken late for which the
23 employee was not provided a reasonable opportunity to take a complete and timely meal period,
24 an employer must pay the employee an additional one hour of compensation. Labor Code §
25 226.7. This additional hour of compensation is referred to as "premium pay." To comply with
26 these laws, every employer must keep, for each employee, accurate time records showing when
27 the employee begins and ends each work period and takes his or her meal periods. *See Wage*
28 *Order 1-2001(7)(A)(3).*

1 36. Defendant disagreed with Class Counsel's interpretation of the law and facts.
2 Defendant contended that Class Members were given a reasonable opportunity to take their meal
3 periods, and in fact received their meal periods most of the time. Defendant argued they have a
4 high meal period compliance rate.

5 37. Class Counsel estimated Defendant's maximum total exposure on the meal break claim
6 at approximately \$267,123 (25,082 workweeks x .5 (1 meal break violation every other week) x
7 \$21.30 average hourly pay). However, Class Counsel believes this estimate is high given that
8 Defendant's meal break policy was valid and many individualized issues would apply making
9 certification of this claim difficult to achieve.

10 38. The same argument applied to rest breaks. Plaintiff contended that Defendant did not
11 provide Class Members with paid 10-minute rest breaks for every four hours or major fraction
12 thereof. Class Members consistently worked in excess of consecutive four-hour shifts and were
13 entitled to paid rest breaks of not less than ten minutes for each consecutive four-hour shift which
14 they were denied. Class Members were required to work through their rest breaks, and through
15 their entire shifts.

16 39. Defendant maintained that they did provide the reasonable opportunity for Class
17 Members to take duty-free rest breaks. Defendant also pointed out that, unlike meal periods, rest
18 breaks need not be recorded and Defendant disputes all allegations that breaks were not received.
19 As these considerations would likely depress the damages *vel non* ultimately awarded, Class
20 Counsel applied significant and appropriate discounts to the rest-break claim.

21 40. Class Counsel estimated Defendant's maximum total exposure on the rest break claim
22 at approximately \$267,123 (25,082 workweeks x .5 (1 rest break violations every other week) x
23 \$21.30 average hourly pay. However, Class Counsel believes this estimate is high given that
24 Defendant's rest break policy was valid, and many individualized issues would apply making
25 certification of this claim difficult to achieve.

26 **Paystub Violations**

27 41. Plaintiff also contended that Defendant failed to provide Class Members with accurate,
28 itemized wage statements in writing as required by California Labor Code § 226(a) because the

1 wage statements failed to accurately account for unpaid wages and overtime due to unlawful
2 rounding and underreporting of hours and off the clock work. Moreover, Plaintiff contended the
3 wage statements failed to accurately account for premium pay for deficiently provided meal and
4 rest breaks which Defendant knew or reasonably should have known were owed to Plaintiff and
5 Class Members. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendant's violation of Labor Code §
6 226(a), the Class Members suffered injuries, including among other things confusion over
7 whether they received all wages owed them. Pursuant to Labor Code §§ 226(a) and 226(e),
8 employees are entitled to recover the greater of all actual damages or fifty dollars (\$50) for the
9 initial pay period in which a violation occurs and one hundred dollars (\$100) for each violation in
10 a subsequent pay period, not exceeding an aggregate penalty of four thousand dollars (\$4,000).
11 They are also entitled to an award of costs and reasonable attorneys' fees.

12 42. Defendant contends that Plaintiff's claim for further Labor Code § 226(e) penalties
13 would depend in large part on their underlying meal period and wage claims, and thus be subject
14 to the same defenses. Additionally, Defendant argues this claim has little or no value. *See*
15 *Maldonado v. Epsilon Plastics, Inc.*, 22 Cal. App. 5th 1308, 1336-1337 (2018) (wage statements
16 that accurately report wages paid to employees do not violate Labor Code § 226, even if it is later
17 determined that employer did not properly pay all wages due). Defendant further contends that
18 Labor Code § 226(e) penalties are not automatic. Rather, the employee must show (1) that he or
19 she "suffered injury" from the employer's failure to provide compliant wage statements, *see*
20 *Elliot v. Spherion Pacific Work, LLC* (2008) 572 F.Supp.2d 1169, 1181 (applying California law)
21 (holding employee was not entitled to penalties because no injury was shown), and (2)
22 Defendant's noncompliance was "knowing and intentional." Finally, because the damages for this
23 cause of action are penalties, the statute of limitations only runs from one year prior to the filing
24 of the original complaint. *See* Cal. Civ. Pro. § 340.

25 43. Class Counsel estimated Defendant's maximum total exposure on the section 226 claim
26 at approximately \$531,200 (\$50/\$100 x 5,421 paystubs from March 5, 2023, to October 15, 2024;
27 based on 218 employees). Class Counsel believes it may be difficult to prevail on this claim
28 because Class Members would need to show that they suffered an injury and that Defendant's

1 noncompliance was knowing and intentional (on top of the challenges described above with the
2 underlying wage and break claims) which are both subject to many individualized issues making
3 certification of this claim difficult to achieve.

4 **Failure to Pay Final Wages**

5 44. In failing to pay the California Class Members their minimum wages, overtime wages,
6 and premium pay for deficiently provided meal periods and rest breaks, all discussed above,
7 Defendant willfully failed to pay these the California Class Members all wages due and certain at
8 the time of termination or within seventy-two (72) hours of resignation, as required under Labor
9 Code § 203.

10 45. Labor Code § 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to pay an employee all
11 wages due at termination or within 72 hours of resignation, then that employee's wages shall
12 continue as a penalty until paid for a period of up to thirty (30) days from the date they were due.
13 Because Class Members stopped working for Defendant but again were not paid their full
14 compensation for the reasons discussed above, Class Members did not receive all wages due upon
15 termination of employment.

16 46. Defendant argued that, under Labor Code § 203, employers are only obligated to pay
17 waiting-time penalties if they "willfully" fail to pay wages due and owing at the time of
18 termination or resignation. As Title 8, California Code of Regulations, § 13520 states:

19 A willful failure to pay wages within the meaning of Labor Code Section 203
20 occurs when an employer intentionally fails to pay wages to an employee when
21 those wages are due. However, a good faith dispute that any wages are due will
preclude imposition of waiting time penalties under Section 203.

22 A "good faith dispute" that any wages are due occurs when an employer presents
23 a defense, based in law or fact, which, if successful, would preclude any recovery
24 on the part of the employee. The fact that a defense is ultimately unsuccessful will
25 not preclude a finding that a good faith dispute did exist. Defenses presented
which, under all the circumstances, are unsupported by any evidence, are
unreasonable, or are presented in bad faith, will preclude a finding of a "good
faith dispute."

26 Defendant maintained that because they had viable defenses in both law and fact, especially in
27 light of the *Brinker* holding, that waiting-time penalties could not be awarded and, in any case,
28 such penalties were subject to a three-year limitations period under Labor Code § 203(b).

1 47. Class Counsel estimated Defendant's maximum total exposure on the section 203 claim
2 at approximately \$797,487 (157 terminated employees from March 5, 2021, to October 15, 2024,
3 x 30 days x 8 hours per shift x \$21.30 average rate of pay). Class Counsel estimates it would be
4 difficult to recover waiting time penalties given that Plaintiff would need to show willfulness on
5 top of proving the underlying wage and break claims which are both subject to many
6 individualized issues making certification of this claim difficult to achieve.

7 **Failure to Reimburse for Necessary Business Expenditures**

8 48. Labor Code § 2802 provides that an employer must reimburse employees for all
9 necessary expenditures incurred in the performance of their job duties. Plaintiff worked for
10 Defendant's and in the course of performing her job duties, incurred necessary business-related
11 expenses, including, cellular telephone expenses. Defendant maintained that Plaintiff and the
12 Class members were not required to use their personal cell phones.

13 49. Class Counsel estimated Defendant's maximum total exposure for failing to reimburse
14 business expenses at approximately \$18,050 (\$50 x 361 employees). Class Counsel believes it
15 would be difficult to recover on this claim because Defendant did not require Class Members to
16 use their personal cell phones, and it is an individualized claim that only applies to Plaintiff and it
17 would be difficult to certify in light of all the preceding arguments.

18 **PAGA Penalties**

19 50. The Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act, Labor Code § 2699 et seq., allows
20 Plaintiff to obtain civil penalties on behalf of herself and other Class Members for Defendant's
21 violation of any provision of the Labor Code enumerated under Labor Code § 2699.5. Where civil
22 penalties are provided in the statute, those civil penalties are recoverable; where no civil penalties
23 are recoverable, Labor Code § 2699(f) establishes civil penalties of one hundred dollars (\$100)
24 for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial violation and two hundred dollars
25 (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation. Pursuant to
26 Labor Code § 2699(i), seventy-five (75) percent of the penalties recovered must be allocated to
27 the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA), with the remaining twenty-five (25)
28 percent allocated to the affected employees. The limitations period as for all penalties is one year

1 prior to the filing of the complaint.

2 51. The provisions of the Labor Code potentially triggering PAGA penalties in this case
3 include but are not limited to Labor Code §§ 203, 204, 226(a), 226.2, 226.7, 510, and 1194,
4 Defendant asserted that if PAGA penalties were mandatory, an employer's PAGA liability would
5 be huge because of the possibility of collecting multiple civil penalties for a single violation, and
6 thus such penalties would almost always dwarf the damages available under the causes of action
7 proper. However, PAGA penalties are not mandatory but permissive. Labor Code § 2699(e)(2)
8 states that "a court may award a lesser amount than the maximum civil penalty amount specified
9 by this part if, based on the facts and circumstances of the particular case, to do otherwise would
10 result in an award that is unjust, arbitrary and oppressive, or confiscatory." *See, e.g., Lopez v.*
11 *Friant & Assocs., LLC*, 15 Cal. App. 5th 773, 788 (2017), *rev. denied* (2018), (recognizing
12 court's ability to reduce PAGA penalties). Courts have held that situations similar to the current
13 one (e.g. injuryless violations, technical errors, and substantial compliance) should lead to
14 reductions in penalties. *See Thurman v. Bayshore Transit Management, Inc.*, 203 Cal. App. 4th
15 1112, 1134-1135 (2012) (holding that reduction was justified when employer "attempted to
16 comply with the law"); *Fleming v. Covdien, Inc.*, No. ED CV10-01487 RGK (OPx), 2011 U.S.
17 Dist. LEXIS 154590 at *8-9 (C.D. Cal. August 12, 2011) (reducing PAGA penalties more than
18 80% – from \$2.8 million to \$500,000 – when "employees suffered no injury" employers were
19 "not aware" of the violation and "took prompt steps to correct all violations once notified").
20 Defendant here maintained that it had a strong argument that it would be unjust to award
21 maximum PAGA penalties.

22 52. Furthermore, PAGA penalties are also derivative of each and every other claim, and
23 Defendant therefore argued the PAGA claims would be subject to the same defenses to the
24 underlying claims. Finally, under *Amaral v. Cintas Corp.* (2008) 163 Cal.App.4th 1157, it can be
25 argued that penalties under PAGA could, at best, be awarded only at the rates obtainable for
26 initial violations under the applicable statutes, because Defendant has never been notified of the
27 alleged violations. *Id.* at 1208-1209. Moreover, Section 2699(e)(1) authorizes the Court to
28 exercise the same discretion as the DLSE whether to award civil penalties. *Amaral* 163 Cal. App.

1 4th 1157, 1211-12. Therefore, if Labor Commissioner - on whose behalf Plaintiff is prosecuting
2 this action for civil penalties - would not impose civil penalties in a case like this, the Court may
3 not award civil penalties. Moreover, in *Thurman v. Bayshore Transit Mgmt., Inc.* (2012) 203
4 Cal.App.4th 1112, 1136, the Court of Appeal affirmed the trial court's reduction of PAGA civil
5 penalties by 30 percent, finding that awarding the full penalties would have been "unjust" because
6 "...a court may award a lesser amount than the maximum civil penalty amount specified by this
7 part if, based on the facts and circumstances of the particular case, to do otherwise would result in
8 an award that is unjust, arbitrary and oppressive, or confiscatory."

9 53. Class Counsel estimated Defendant's maximum total exposure on the PAGA claim at
10 approximately \$542,100 (\$100 x 5,421 paystubs from March 5, 2024, to October 15, 2024).
11 However, Class Counsel notes that owing to the discretionary nature of PAGA penalties and the
12 foregoing case law it is unlikely the Court would award the full penalty and that it would be
13 substantially reduced. Class Counsel applied discounts in light of the countervailing arguments
14 with regard to the other causes of action, and moreover the Court's power to award "a lesser
15 amount than the maximum civil liability." The parties also considered that the purpose of PAGA
16 is to "achieve maximum compliance with state labor laws," *Iskanian v. CLS Transp. Los Angeles,*
17 *LLC* (2014) 59 Cal. 4th 348, 379. This makes the settlement's contemplated PAGA payment of
18 \$40,000 appropriate.

19 **Unfair Business Practices**

20 54. Plaintiff pled this cause of action in order to augment their other causes of action and
21 aid in their prosecution. Business & Professions Code § 17208 extends the statute of limitations
22 on Plaintiff's wage claims, which qualify as unfair business practices, to four years rather than the
23 three years provided by statute.

24 **Summary**

25 55. The foregoing discussion has sought to explain how the settlement amount is adequate
26 in light of the merits of Plaintiff's case. It has done this by explaining the legal basis for each of
27 Plaintiff's causes of action, summarizing the evidence that Class Counsel gathered in support of
28 those causes of action, and relating Defendant's legal and factual arguments that worked to

1 derogate from the strength of Plaintiff's case.

2 56. Class Counsel had to apply appropriate discounts in light of the facts and law as
3 discussed above. In addition, meal period liability exposure is limited by the fact that not all Class
4 Members worked on the same schedule and under the same supervisors, making the certification
5 of all Class Members across all locations less than a certainty. Thus, this settlement, like most
6 others, was the product of compromise. Because of these and other risks, a recovery of \$599,500
7 under the Settlement Agreement is an excellent result. Under the Settlement, each of the
8 approximately 361 Class Members will receive on average, assuming they worked throughout the
9 class period, \$895.20 after expenses.

10 **THE RISK, EXPENSE, AND LIKELY DURATION OF FURTHER LITIGATION,**
11 **AS WELL AS THE RISK OF MAINTAINING CLASS ACTION**
12 **STATUS THROUGH TRIAL**

13 57. The next *Clark/Kullar* factors recognize that settlements take into consideration the
14 risks and expenses posed by further litigation and, in the class-action context, the risk of non-
15 certification. Consequently, it is proper that trial courts should keep these considerations in mind
16 when judging the adequacy of class action settlements.

17 58. Further litigation of this case posed real risks for a number of reasons. First, there were
18 the risks of unfavorable rulings on the merits of the various indeterminate legal issues outlined in
19 the previous section. In that section, it was observed that almost every cause of action was subject
20 to some unique indeterminacy of its own, and that the derivative causes of action were thus
21 subject to a double indeterminacy, both their own and those of the causes of action on which they
22 were based.

23 59. The parties disputed the effect of these and other issues on class certification and
24 decertification. Class Counsel maintained that there were several legal and factual questions at
25 issue in the case that could best be decided on a class wide basis. Class Counsel contended that
26 the same policies and practices applied to all Class Members and therefore common questions
27 obtained and were likely to predominate over individual inquiries. Defendant disputed these
28 contentions and insisted that the *Brinker* decision called into question the certifiability of cases

1 such as this one. Defendant also argued that its policies were compliant with the law, while
2 Plaintiff disputed that the policies were lawful, and argued the lawfulness of such policies would
3 give rise to common questions amenable to certification. Thus, the parties had set positions on the
4 propriety of certifiability and liability that did not admit of an easy resolution.

5 60. Finally, it is always preferable to reach a relatively early resolution of a dispute
6 because, in addition to what has already been said, such resolutions save time and money that
7 would otherwise go to litigation. In light of the risk and expense of the lawsuit proceeding to trial
8 there was a need to resolve this matter soon than later. Most cases settle sooner or later. If this
9 case settled after further litigation, the settlement amount would have taken into account the
10 additional costs incurred, and there might have been less available for Class Members after all
11 was said and done. This is not just an abstract contention. The parties were moving into the phase
12 of this litigation where they would have had to depose a number of people such as managers,
13 supervisors, and employees in order to establish liability for trial. Discovery disputes would have
14 been in the offing. The parties were also aware that a class action trial would be a complicated
15 and expensive proceeding, and then there was the likelihood of a long, drawn-out appeals process.
16 In contrast, the settlement provides real benefits for Class Members in the immediate future. The
17 benefits are not insignificant for anyone, especially given the current economic climate.
18 Consequently, the risk and expense of further litigation outweighed any benefit that might have
19 been gained otherwise.

20 **NOTICE TO AND REACTION OF CLASS MEMBERS**
21 **TO THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT**

22 61. It is premature to address this factor now, at the preliminary approval stage; however,
23 some observations are in order. First, the notification procedure set out in the Settlement
24 Agreement provides the greatest likelihood that each and every Class Member will receive the
25 Notice of Settlement (“Class Notice”), attached to the Settlement Agreement as **Exhibit A**. Under
26 the Settlement Agreement, the Settlement Administrator will send the Class Notice to each Class
27 Member via First Class U.S. mail. (Exh. 1, §7.4). Before mailing, the Settlement Administrator
28 will perform a search based on the National Change of Address Database for information to

1 update and correct for any known or identifiable address changes. (Exh. 1, §7.4.2) If the Class
2 Notice is returned as non-deliverable on or before the Response Deadline and a new address is
3 obtained by way of a returned Class Notice, then the Settlement Administrator will promptly
4 forward the original Class Notice to the updated address via first-class regular U.S. mail,
5 indicating on the original packet the date of such re-mailing. (Exh. 1, §7.4.3) Thus, most, if not
6 all, Class Members will likely receive the Class Notice.

7 62. The Class Notice itself fully apprises Class Members of the nature of the lawsuit, the
8 claims involved, the terms of the settlement, and their options thereunder. They provide for a
9 specific procedure to seek exclusion from the Class, and for lodging objections to the settlement.
10 The efforts taken to ensure that Class Members receive the Class Notice and are well informed
11 about the settlement augur a favorable response rate.

12 63. All Class Members will benefit because Defendant who has been sued is generally
13 more likely to comply with the law in the future. If a Class Member disputes the number of
14 workweeks stated for that Class Member in the Class Notice, the Class Member must ask the
15 Settlement Administrator to resolve the matter by submitting in writing under penalty of perjury
16 the workweeks that the Class Member claims to have actually worked for Defendant during the
17 Class Period. (Exh. 1, §7.6). After consultation with Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel, the
18 Class Action Administrator will make a determination of the Class Member's total workweeks
19 during the applicable period. (*Id.*)

20 **CONCLUSION OF THE CLARK/KULLAR ANALYSIS**

21 64. The foregoing discussion establishes the fairness of the class-action settlement in the
22 instant case. It has done this by analyzing the settlement in light of the appellate decisions in
23 *Clark* and *Kullar*. This analysis has concluded that the settlement is fair, reasonable, and
24 adequate. Class Counsel conducted a thorough investigation of the subject wage-and-hour
25 practices and engaged in non-collusive, arm's-length negotiations in order to reach a settlement.
26 Defendant has agreed to pay fair value to settle Plaintiff's claims given the existence of legal
27 uncertainty, particularly with regard to Plaintiff's claim for failure to provide proper meal periods.
28 From Class Counsel's substantial experience with wage-and-hour class action lawsuits Class

1 Counsel believe that this case could not have settled on better terms under the circumstances.
2 Request therefore is made that the settlement be granted preliminary approval so that those
3 persons whom it was intended to benefit shall be afforded the opportunity to determine its
4 adequacy.

5 **REQUEST FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES**

6 65. Under the Settlement, Class Counsel also requests, without opposition from Defendant,
7 an award of Attorneys Fees and Costs consisting of: (1) One Hundred Ninety-Nine Thousand
8 Eight Hundred Thirty-Three Dollars and Thirty-Three Cents (\$199,833.33) in Attorneys' Fees
9 and (2) Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$25,000.00) for reimbursement of Class
10 Counsel's costs. (Exh. 1, §3.2.2). This request is fair, reasonable, and adequate to compensate
11 Class Counsel for the substantial work they have put into this case and, moreover, the risk they
12 assumed by taking it in the first place. The attorneys' fees award is intended to reimburse Class
13 Counsel for all uncompensated work that they have already done and for all the work they will
14 continue to do in carrying out and overseeing the notification to Class Members, communicating
15 with Class Members regarding their claims, and assisting in the administration of the settlement if
16 it is preliminarily approved.

17 66. D.Law, Inc. took this case on a contingent-fee basis against a business represented by a
18 reputable defense firm. When we take contingent cases, we must pay careful attention to the
19 economics involved or one bad case can destroy years of work. Accordingly, when we take
20 contingency cases, we anticipate that we shall, if successful, receive a fee that exceeds our normal
21 hourly rate; otherwise, the risk is often too great to bear. Even when we work long hours, the
22 number of hours in a day is limited. Because of this, when we take on one particular matter, we
23 are unable to take on other matters. When Class Counsel became involved in this case, we
24 realized the time commitment that it would entail and we were forced to turn down matters that
25 we otherwise should have been able to handle. In sum, this case claimed a significant portion of
26 Class Counsel's time and attention throughout its pendency.

27 67. The requested fee is reasonable for the services provided to Class Members and for the
28 benefits they are to receive. Indeed, even with a modest multiplier under the lodestar theory, *see*

1 *Bihun v. AT&T Information System* (1993) 13 Cal.App.4th 976, 997, Class Counsel's fees would
2 still be justified. Here, the lodestar may exceed the requested fees. Class Counsel will more fully
3 brief the Court on its lodestar in the motion for final approval.

4 **ENHANCEMENT TO PLAINTIFF AS THE CLASS REPRESENTATIVE**

5 68. Plaintiff herein is entitled to reasonable service payment for her efforts and initiative in
6 bringing and helping to prosecute this action. Plaintiff spent a considerable amount of time better
7 apprising herself of her rights, deciding whether remedial action should be taken, how it should
8 be taken, searching for attorneys, and finally contacting Class Counsel, who spent many hours
9 with Plaintiff discussing the case and the law. In the end, Plaintiff decided to vindicate not only
10 her own rights but also those of her co-workers by filing a class action lawsuit.

11 69. The courage it took to stand up to Defendant by filing and litigating this action in this
12 way should not be underestimated. By suing Defendant, Plaintiff increased her risk of retaliation
13 by prospective employers. Plaintiff's lawsuit has now required Defendant to expend considerable
14 resources, and Plaintiff justifiably fears the fact that she served as a class representative in a wage
15 and hour class action will not be lost on a prospective employer who has to choose between an
16 applicant who has never sued a prior employer and one who has. Plaintiff contends this risk is
17 particularly real in the information age, where employers can, more easily than ever, perform
18 background checks of prospective employees, sometimes with the stroke of a key. It is common
19 for employers to screen employee candidates to determine whether they have ever filed suit, and
20 employee candidates who might be branded "litigious" are likely to be screened out of the
21 process. In fact, an entire industry has developed for providing employers with background
22 information on employee candidates.

23 70. But Plaintiff did not allow her fear of the potential repercussions of being a class
24 representative to deter her from acting for the benefit of Class Members. To the contrary, Plaintiff
25 has been intimately involved in this case since its inception. They have devoted a substantial
26 amount of time to helping Class Counsel effectively develop and prosecute this action at every
27 stage of the litigation. Both before and after the filing of this lawsuit, Plaintiff conferred with
28 Class Counsel on numerous occasions to discuss every aspect of her case. Plaintiff has provided

1 Class Counsel with information about Defendant and about the industry generally, reviewed
2 documents, identified witnesses, consulted Class Counsel throughout the litigation repeatedly and
3 at length, participated in the mediation process, monitored the progress of the litigation with Class
4 Counsel, and reviewed and signed the Settlement Agreement.

5 71. Plaintiff has spent a significant amount of time with Class Counsel detailing her
6 knowledge of Defendant's practices and helping Class Counsel with the prosecution of this
7 action. She has diligently, adequately, and fairly represented Class Members, and has not placed
8 her interests above any member of the putative class. The payment to Plaintiff is intended to
9 recognize her time and effort on behalf of the Class. The amount requested is fair and appropriate
10 based on her contribution and involvement. For example, Plaintiff instigated the lawsuit by
11 bringing these violations to the attention of Class Counsel. They spent several hours answering
12 questions and providing information to Class Counsel throughout the pendency of this action.
13 They identified witnesses, explained to Class Counsel day to day business practices of Defendant
14 with regard to work schedules and meal breaks, etc. The parties are in agreement that Plaintiff is
15 entitled to an enhancement for her time and effort in this matter. This sort of payment to a class
16 representative has been a common feature of settlements negotiated by Class Counsel and has
17 been routinely approved by trial courts.

18 72. In light of the foregoing, Class Counsel believes that the Class Representative
19 Enhancement payment in the amount of Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents
20 (\$5,000.00) to Plaintiff is fair and reasonable. This amount is a far cry from the \$50,000 of
21 enhancement awards to the two named plaintiff approved by the trial court in *Clark*. *See Clark*,
22 *supra*, 175 Cal.App.4th at 807. Although Class Counsel appreciate that the Court has a duty to
23 ensure that class representatives are not overcompensated at the expense of the class, modest
24 incentive awards in employment class actions, such as the one here, are necessary not only to
25 compensate class representatives for the time they spend in the case, but also, and more
26 importantly, to encourage aggrieved employees to challenge questionable employment practices
27 notwithstanding the very real consequences they may face.

28 ///

1 **CRITERIA SATISFIED FOR CERTIFICATION OF SETTLEMENT CLASS**

2 73. The proposed Classes satisfy the criteria for certification of a settlement class under
3 California law, as embodied in California Code of Civil Procedure § 382. Defendant has agreed to
4 the certification of the class for settlement purposes. In general, courts may take a proposed
5 settlement into account in evaluating the propriety of class certification. *See Dunk v. Ford Motor*
6 *Co.* (1996) 48 Cal.App.4th 1794, 1807 fn. 19. Indeed, a “lesser standard” of scrutiny applies in
7 certifying classes for settlement purposes. *Ibid.* Therefore the Court should take into
8 consideration the fact that the parties have settled their claims and stipulated to certification for
9 settlement purposes when assessing typicality and adequacy.

10 a. Numerosity. The putative classes are so numerous that joinder of all members is
11 impractical. Class Members are “all persons employed by Defendant in California and classified
12 as non-exempt, hourly employees who worked for Defendant during the period from March 5,
13 2020, to December 16, 2024, except those employees who negotiated a signed released of claims
14 with Defendant at any time during the period from March 5, 2020, to December 16, 2024.” There
15 are approximately 361 persons answering to this definition. Thus, there are a sufficient number of
16 Class Members to warrant certifying this as a class action for settlement purposes.

17 b. Ascertainability. The putative classes are defined in a manner that is precise,
18 objective, and ascertainable. The Class Members have already been identified by reference to
19 Defendant’s payroll and personnel records.

20 c. Typicality. A class representative’s claims are typical when they arise from the
21 same event, practice, or course of conduct that gives rise to the claims of other putative class
22 members, and if their claims rest on the same legal theories. The class representative’s claims
23 must be “typical” but not necessarily identical to the claims of other class members. It is
24 sufficient that the representative is similarly situated so that he or she will have the motive to
25 litigate on behalf of all Class Members. *Classen v. Weller* (1983) 145 Cal.App.3d 27, 47; *B.W.I.*
26 *Custom Kitchens v. Owens-Illinois, Inc.* (1987) 191 Cal.App.3d 1341, 1347 (“[I]t has never been
27 the law in California that the class representative must have identical interests with the class
28 members.”). Thus, it is not necessary that the class representative should have personally incurred

1 all of the damages suffered by each of the other class members. *Wershba v. Apple Computer, Inc.*
2 (2001) 91 Cal.App.4th 224, 228.

3 Plaintiff's claims are typical of Class Members' claims because they arose from the same
4 factual basis and are based on the same legal theories. Plaintiff was employed by Defendant
5 during the Class Period subject to the allegedly unlawful meal and rest break policies and pay
6 practices at issue in this litigation. Accordingly, Plaintiff is a member of the class. The central
7 issues of this litigation (whether Defendant failed to pay all wages, whether Defendant failed to
8 provide meal and rest periods, etc.), which would arise if this were an individual action brought
9 by Plaintiff, apply to the other Class Members as well, and the answer to these questions would
10 determine Defendant's liability to the entire putative class. Thus, Plaintiff's claims are typical of
11 the claims of the putative class. Accordingly, the typicality requirement is satisfied.

12 d. Adequacy. A class representative must possess the same interest and suffer the
13 same injury as the class members. "To assure 'adequate' representation, the class representative's
14 personal claim must not be inconsistent with the claims of other members of the class." *J.P.*
15 *Morgan & Co., Inc. v. Sup.Ct. (Heliotrope General, Inc.)* (2003) 113 Cal.App.4th 195, 212. Thus,
16 the adequacy requirement is satisfied when the class representative's interests are not antagonistic
17 to those of the class. *McGhee v. Crocker-Citizens Nat. Bank* (1976) 60 Cal.App.3d 442, 451.

18 Plaintiff does not have any conflicts with the class and in fact their interests are aligned
19 with those of the class. Because Plaintiff's claims are identical to those that would be asserted by
20 the unnamed Class Members were they before the Court, Plaintiff has every interest in zealously
21 representing the unnamed class members. Plaintiff has not shrunk from this responsibility.
22 Indeed, Plaintiff has devoted a substantial amount of time and energy to litigating this action and
23 effecting a settlement. Furthermore, as detailed above, Class Counsel are experienced in wage-
24 and-hour litigation, especially class actions, and have zealously represented the interests of the
25 class in litigating this case. *See infra* ¶¶3-9. Accordingly, the adequacy requirement is satisfied.

26 e. Commonality. Common questions of law or fact in this case predominate over
27 individual questions. This action involves, *inter alia*, a determination about Defendant's alleged
28 failure to provide meal and rest periods, failure to pay minimum wages, failure to pay all wages

1 due to allegedly common and unlawful policies, failure to pay final wages when required, failure
2 to provide accurate wage statements, failure to pay employees on a timely basis, failure to pay
3 vacation wages, and largely derivative claims under the Business & Professions Code and PAGA.
4 Plaintiff contends these practices, including an alleged practice of failing to provide complete
5 meal periods, related meal period policies applicable to the class, and the alleged failure to
6 provide corresponding premium payments, that affected class members in the same way. All class
7 members were employed during the Class Period. Therefore, the operative complaint delineates a
8 common course of conduct applicable to all Class Members. Therefore, based on Class Counsel's
9 investigation, the review of the discovery produced by Defendant, and their discussions with
10 Plaintiff, Plaintiff contends the evidence supports her position that the employment practices and
11 policies of Defendant's business were consistent and uniform.

12 f. Predominance. Individualized issues do not predominate over the issues of law and
13 fact that are common to the class as a whole. The principal issues of controversy are whether
14 Class Members were paid for all hours worked and provided lawful meal breaks. As explained,
15 *supra*, there are common issues of law and fact given that Plaintiff and all Class Members were
16 subjected to the same policies and pay practices during the relevant time period. Plaintiff and
17 Class Members seek meal and rest break premiums, unpaid wages and overtime, and penalties for
18 work performed as non-exempt employees for Defendant. These issues are suitable for common
19 adjudication because all Class Members were subject to the same employment policies and
20 Plaintiff contends the practices applied uniformly to all Class Members.

21 g. Superiority. Class resolution is superior to other available methods for the fair and
22 efficient adjudication of the controversy. There is little interest or incentive for Class Members to
23 individually control the prosecution of separate actions. Although the injury resulting from
24 Defendant's policies and practices are real and significant, the cost of individually litigating each
25 such case against Defendant would easily exceed the value of any relief that could be obtained by
26 any one Class Member individually. If Class Members are forced to litigate their claims
27 individually this would result in about 361 individual actions against Defendant. Here, the
28 alternative methods of resolution are individual suits for relatively small amounts. Hence, an

1 individual suit would prove uneconomical for potential plaintiff because litigation costs would
2 dwarf a potential recovery.

3 h. Except for Plaintiff's case before this Court, Plaintiff is unaware of any other
4 actions by Class Members against Defendant asserting similar claims as here. Furthermore, Los
5 Angeles County is a compelling forum for this action given that Defendant's location is in Los
6 Angeles County and numerous Class Members work in this County.

7 i. There are no serious manageability difficulties presented by preliminarily
8 approving the case for settlement purposes. As this case will not go to trial if finally approved, all
9 that would remain is settlement administration and responding to possible objectors.

10 74. On January 14, 2025, Plaintiff uploaded the Settlement Agreement and the
11 Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Support of Plaintiff's Motion for an Order
12 Preliminarily Approving the Class Action Settlement, Approving Notice of Settlement, and
13 Setting Hearing for Final Approval. A true and correct copy of the confirmatory email from the
14 LWDA is attached hereto as **Exhibit 3**.

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

17 Executed this 14th day of January, at Glendale, California.

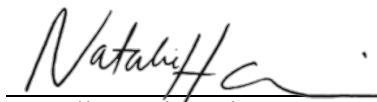
18 
19 _____
Natalie Haritonian

EXHIBIT 1

CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND CLASS NOTICE

This Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and between plaintiff Amber Lynn Bock (“Plaintiff”) and defendant Bartz-Altadonna Community Health Center (“Defendant”). The Agreement refers to Plaintiff and Defendant collectively as “Parties,” or individually as “Party.”

1. **DEFINITIONS.**

- 1.1 “Action” means the Plaintiff’s lawsuit alleging wage and hour violations against Defendant captioned *Amber Lynn Bock v. Bartz-Altadonna Community Health Center* initiated on March 5, 2024, and pending in Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles.
- 1.2 “Administrator” means Apex Class Action, the neutral entity the Parties have agreed to appoint to administer the Settlement.
- 1.3 “Administration Expenses Payment” means the amount the Administrator will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount to reimburse its reasonable fees and expenses in accordance with the Administrator’s “not to exceed” bid submitted to the Court in connection with Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.4 “Aggrieved Employee” means a person employed by Defendant in California and classified as a non-exempt, hourly employee who worked for Defendant during the PAGA Period.
- 1.5 “Class” means all persons employed by Defendant in California and classified as a non-exempt, hourly employee who worked for Defendant during the Class Period except those employees who negotiated a signed release of claims with Defendant at any time during the Class Period.
- 1.6 “Class Counsel” means Emil Davtyan, David Yeremian, and Natalie Haritounian of D.Law, Inc.
- 1.7 “Class Counsel Fees Payment” and “Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment” mean the amounts allocated to Class Counsel for reimbursement of reasonable attorneys’ fees and expenses, respectively, incurred to prosecute the Action.
- 1.8 “Class Data” means Class Member identifying information in Defendant’s possession including the Class Member’s name, last-known mailing address, Social Security number, and number of Class Period Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods.
- 1.9 “Class Member” or “Settlement Class Member” means a member of the Class, as either a Participating Class Member or Non-Participating Class Member (including a Non-Participating Class Member who qualifies as an Aggrieved Employee).

- 1.10 “Class Member Address Search” means the Administrator’s investigation and search for current Class Member mailing addresses using all reasonably available sources, methods and means including, but not limited to, the National Change of Address database, skip traces, and direct contact by the Administrator with Class Members.
- 1.11 “Class Notice” means the COURT APPROVED NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND HEARING DATE FOR FINAL COURT APPROVAL, to be mailed to Class Members in English with a Spanish translation, if applicable in the form, without material variation, attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference into this Agreement.
- 1.12 “Class Period” means the period from March 5, 2020 to December 16, 2024.
- 1.13 “Class Representative” means the named Plaintiff in the operative complaint in the Action seeking Court approval to serve as a Class Representative.
- 1.14 “Class Representative Service Payment” means the payment to the Class Representative for initiating the Action and providing services in support of the Action.
- 1.15 “Court” means the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles.
- 1.16 “Defendant” means named Defendant Bartz-Altadonna Community Health Center.
- 1.17 “Defense Counsel” means Tina M. Jacquez of Soltman & Wattles LLP.
- 1.18 “Effective Date” means the date by when both of the following have occurred: (a) the Court enters a Judgment on its Order Granting Final Approval of the Settlement; and (b) the Judgment is final. The Judgment is final as of the latest of the following occurrences: (a) if no Participating Class Member objects to the Settlement, the day the Court enters Judgment; (b) if one or more Participating Class Members objects to the Settlement, the day after the deadline for filing a notice of appeal from the Judgment; or if a timely appeal from the Judgment is filed, the day after the appellate court affirms the Judgment and issues a remittitur.
- 1.19 “Final Approval” means the Court’s order granting final approval of the Settlement.
- 1.20 “Final Approval Hearing” means the Court’s hearing on the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.21 “Final Judgment” means the Judgment Entered by the Court upon Granting Final Approval of the Settlement.

- 1.22 “Gross Settlement Amount” means \$599,500.00 which is the total amount Defendant agrees to pay under the Settlement except as provided in Paragraph 3 below. The Gross Settlement Amount will be used to pay Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, Class Counsel Fees, Class Counsel Expenses, Class Representative Service Payment and the Administrator’s Expenses.
- 1.23 “Individual Class Payment” means the Participating Class Member’s pro rata share of the Net Settlement Amount calculated according to the number of Workweeks worked during the Class Period.
- 1.24 “Individual PAGA Payment” means the Aggrieved Employee’s pro rata share of 25% of the PAGA Penalties calculated according to the number of Workweeks worked during the PAGA Period.
- 1.25 “Judgment” means the judgment entered by the Court based upon the Final Approval.
- 1.26 “LWDA” means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the agency entitled, under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.27 “LWDA PAGA Payment” means the 75% of the PAGA Penalties paid to the LWDA under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.28 “Net Settlement Amount” means the Gross Settlement Amount, less the following payments in the amounts approved by the Court: Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Administration Expenses Payment. The remainder is to be paid to Participating Class Members as Individual Class Payments.
- 1.29 “Non-Participating Class Member” means any Class Member who opts out of the Settlement by sending the Administrator a valid and timely Request for Exclusion.
- 1.30 “PAGA Pay Period” means any Pay Period during which an Aggrieved Employee worked for Defendant for at least one day during the PAGA Period.
- 1.31 “PAGA Period” means the period from March 5, 2023 to December 16, 2024.
- 1.32 “PAGA” means the Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698. et seq.).
- 1.33 “PAGA Notice” means Plaintiff’s March 5, 2024 letter to Defendant and the LWDA providing notice pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd.(a).
- 1.34 “PAGA Penalties” means the total amount of PAGA civil penalties to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, allocated 25% to the Aggrieved Employees (\$10,000.00) and the 75% to LWDA (\$30,000.00) in settlement of PAGA claims.

- 1.35 “Participating Class Member” means a Class Member who does not submit a valid and timely Request for Exclusion from the Settlement.
- 1.36 “Plaintiff” means Amber Lynn Bock, the named plaintiff in the Action.
- 1.37 “Preliminary Approval” means the Court’s Order Granting Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.38 "Preliminary Approval Order" means the proposed Order Granting Preliminary Approval and Approval of PAGA Settlement.
- 1.39 “Released Class Claims” means the claims being released as described in Paragraph 5.2 below.
- 1.40 “Released PAGA Claims” means the claims being released as described in Paragraph 5.3 below.
- 1.41 “Released Parties” means: Defendant and each of its former and present directors, officers, employees, shareholders, owners, members, attorneys, insurers, predecessors, successors, assigns, subsidiaries, and affiliates.
- 1.42 “Request for Exclusion” means a Class Member’s submission of a written request to be excluded from the Class Settlement signed by the Class Member.
- 1.43 "Response Deadline" means 60 days after the Administrator mails Notice to Class Members and Aggrieved Employees, and shall be the last date on which Class Members may: (a) fax, email, or mail Requests for Exclusion from the Settlement, or (b) fax, email, or mail his or her Objection to the Settlement. Class Members to whom Notice Packets are resent after having been returned undeliverable to the Administrator shall have an additional 14 calendar days beyond the Response Deadline has expired.
- 1.44 “Settlement” means the disposition of the Action effected by this Agreement and the Judgment.
- 1.45 “Workweek” means any week during which a Class Member worked for Defendant for at least one day, during the Class Period.

2. **RECITALS.**

- 2.1 On March 5, 2024, Plaintiff commenced this Action by filing a Complaint alleging causes of action against Defendant for violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Pay Minimum Wages, violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Pay Wages and Overtime Wages, violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Provide Meal Periods or Compensation in Lieu Thereof, violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Provide Rest Periods or Compensation

in Lieu Thereof, violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Comply with Itemized Employee Wage Statement Requirements, violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Pay All Wages Upon Termination, violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Comply With Employee Record Keeping Requirements, violation of the Labor Code for Failure to Reimburse Business Expenses, violation of the Labor Code for Failure to Pay Vacation Wages, and violation of California Business and Professions Code section 17200, et. seq. On May 9, 2024, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint adding a cause of action against Defendant for civil penalties for violation of Labor Code section 2698, et. seq., the California Private Attorneys General Act (“PAGA”), predicated on underlying violations of Labor Code sections 302, 202, 203, 204, 226, 226.2, 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 1174, 1174.5, 1185, 1194, 1194.1, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1199, and 2698, et. seq., and the applicable Wage Orders of the Industrial Welfare Commission. The First Amended Complaint is the operative complaint in the Action (the “Operative Complaint.”) Defendant expressly denies any liability or wrongdoing of any kind associated with the claims alleged in the Action and those released as part of this settlement of the Action. Defendant denies all material allegations set forth in the Operative Complaint and have asserted numerous affirmative defenses. Defendant maintains, among other things, it has complied with federal and California law in all respects. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall be deemed an admission of liability, culpability, negligence or wrongdoing on the part of Defendant. Notwithstanding, in the interest in avoiding further litigation, Defendant desires to fully and finally settle the Action, Released Class Claims, and Released PAGA Claims.

2.2 Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd.(a), Plaintiff gave timely written notice to Defendant and the LWDA by sending the PAGA Notice.

2.3 On October 15, 2024, the Parties participated in an all-day mediation presided over by Brandon McKelvey which led to this Agreement to settle the Action.

2.4 Prior to mediation, Plaintiff obtained, through informal discovery, pertinent payroll, timekeeping, and other data. Plaintiff’s investigation was sufficient to satisfy the criteria for court approval set forth in *Dunk v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.* (1996) 48 Cal.App.4th 1794, 1801 and *Kullar v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.* (2008) 168 Cal.App.4th 116, 129-130 (“Dunk/Kullar”).

2.5 The Court has not granted class certification.

2.6 The Parties, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel represent that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or affected by the Settlement.

3. **MONETARY TERMS.**

3.1 Gross Settlement Amount. Except as otherwise provided by Paragraph 9 below, Defendant promises to pay \$599,500.00 and no more as the Gross Settlement Amount

and to separately pay any and all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portions of the Individual Class Payments. Defendant has no obligation to pay the Gross Settlement Amount (or any payroll taxes) prior to the deadline stated in Paragraph 6.1 of this Agreement. The Administrator will disburse the entire Gross Settlement Amount without asking or requiring Participating Class Members or Aggrieved Employees to submit any claim as a condition of payment. None of the Gross Settlement Amount will revert to Defendant.

3.2 Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Administrator will make and deduct the following payments from the Gross Settlement Amount, in the amounts specified by the Court in the Final Approval:

3.2.1 To Plaintiff: Class Representative Service Payment to the Class Representative of not more than \$5,000.00 (in addition to any Individual Class Payment and any Individual PAGA Payment the Class Representative is entitled to receive as a Participating Class Member). Defendant will not oppose Plaintiff's request for a Class Representative Service Payment that does not exceed this amount. As part of the motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Litigation Expenses Payment, Plaintiff will seek Court approval for any Class Representative Service Payments no later than 16 court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. If the Court approves a Class Representative Service Payment less than the amount requested, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will pay the Class Representative Service Payment using IRS Form 1099. Plaintiff shall be solely and legally responsible to pay and all applicable taxes on her Class Representative Service Payment and shall hold Defendant harmless from any claim or liability for taxes, penalties, or interest arising as a result of the Class Representative Service Payment. It is understood by Plaintiff and Class Counsel that the Court has final discretion on any Class Representative Service Payment.

3.2.2 To Class Counsel: A Class Counsel Fees Payment of not more than one-third, which is currently estimated to be \$199,833.33 and a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment of not more than \$25,000.00. Defendant will not oppose requests for these payments provided they do not exceed these amounts. Plaintiff and/or Class Counsel will file a motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Litigation Expenses Payment no later than 16 court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. If the Court approves a Class Counsel Fees Payment and/or a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment less than the amounts requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. Released Parties shall have no liability to Class Counsel or any other Plaintiff's Counsel arising from any claim to any portion of any Class Counsel Fee Payment and/or Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment. The Administrator will pay the Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Expenses Payment using one or more IRS 1099 Forms. Class Counsel assumes full responsibility and liability for taxes owed on the Class Counsel Fees Payment and the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and holds Defendant harmless, and indemnifies Defendant,

from any dispute or controversy regarding any division or sharing of any of these Payments. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, if the Court should fail to award attorneys' fees to Class Counsel in the full amount provided for in this Agreement, no order of the Court or modification of any order of the Court concerning the amount of any attorneys' fees to be paid by Defendant to Class Counsel pursuant to this settlement shall constitute grounds for cancellation or termination of the Agreement or grounds for limiting any other provision of the Judgment. It is agreed that no order of the Court, including any order concerning attorneys' fees, may alter or otherwise increase the Gross Settlement Amount except for the escalation clause being triggered pursuant to Section 8.

- 3.2.3 To the Administrator: An Administrator Expenses Payment not to exceed \$6,500.00 except for a showing of good cause and as approved by the Court. To the extent the Administration Expenses are less or the Court approves payment less than \$6,500.00, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount.
- 3.2.4 To Each Participating Class Member: An Individual Class Payment calculated by (a) dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members during the Class Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Participating Class Member's Workweeks.
- 3.2.4.1 Tax Allocation of Individual Class Payments. 20% of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement of wage claims (the "Wage Portion"). The Wage Portions are subject to tax withholding and will be reported on an IRS W-2 Form. The 80% of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement of claims for interest and penalties (the "Non-Wage Portion"). The Non-Wage Portions are not subject to wage withholdings and will be reported on IRS 1099 Forms. Participating Class Members assume full responsibility and liability for any employee taxes owed on their Individual Class Payment.
- 3.2.4.2 Effect of Non-Participating Class Members on Calculation of Individual Class Payments. Non-Participating Class Members will not receive any Individual Class Payments. The Administrator will retain amounts equal to their Individual Class Payments in the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to Participating Class Members on a pro rata basis.
- 3.2.5 To the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees: PAGA Penalties in the amount of \$40,000.00 to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, with 75% (\$30,000.00) allocated to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% (\$10,000.00) allocated to the Individual PAGA Payments.
- 3.2.5.1 The Administrator will calculate each Individual PAGA Payment by (a) dividing the amount of the Aggrieved Employees' 25% share of PAGA

Penalties \$10,000.00 by the total number of PAGA Period Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Aggrieved Employee's PAGA Period Pay Periods. Aggrieved Employees assume full responsibility and liability for any taxes owed on their Individual PAGA Payment.

3.2.5.2 If the Court approves PAGA Penalties of less than the amount requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

4. **SETTLEMENT FUNDING AND PAYMENTS.**

4.1 Class Workweeks and Aggrieved Employee Pay Periods. Based on a review of its records to date, Defendant estimates there are 361 Class Members who collectively worked a total of 25,082 Workweeks, and 218 of Aggrieved Employees who worked a total 4,915 of PAGA Pay Periods.

4.2 Class Data. Not later than 15 days after the Court grants Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, Defendant will simultaneously deliver the Class Data to the Administrator, in the form of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. To protect Class Members' privacy rights, the Administrator must maintain the Class Data in confidence, use the Class Data only for purposes of this Settlement and for no other purpose, and restrict access to the Class Data to Administrator employees who need access to the Class Data to effect and perform under this Agreement. The Administrator will not provide Class Data to Class Counsel. The Class Data provided to the Settlement Administrator will be treated as confidential and will not be disclosed to anyone, except as may be required to applicable tax authorities, pursuant to Defendant's express written consent, by order of the Court, or to carry out the reasonable steps described in this Settlement to locate missing Class Members. Defendant has a continuing duty to immediately notify Class Counsel if it discovers that the Class Data omitted class member identifying information and to provide corrected or updated Class Data as soon as reasonably feasible. Without any extension of the deadline by which Defendant must send the Class Data to the Administrator, the Parties and their counsel will expeditiously use best efforts, in good faith, to reconstruct or otherwise resolve any issues related to missing or omitted Class Data.

4.3 Funding of Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant shall fully fund the Gross Settlement Amount, and also fund the amounts necessary to fully pay Defendant's share of payroll taxes by transmitting the funds to the Administrator no later than 14 days after the Effective Date.

4.4 Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. Within 14 days after Defendant funds the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will mail checks for all Individual Class Payments, all Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, the Administration Expenses Payment, the Class Counsel Fees Payment, the Class Counsel

Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Class Representative Service Payment. Disbursement of the Class Counsel Fees Payment, the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and the Class Representative Service Payment shall not precede disbursement of Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments.

- 4.4.1 The Administrator will issue checks for the Individual Class Payments and/or Individual PAGA Payments and send them to the Class Members via First Class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid. The face of each check shall prominently state the date (not less than 180 days after the date of mailing) when the check will be voided. The Administrator will cancel all checks not cashed by the void date. The Administrator will send checks for Individual Settlement Payments to all Participating Class Members (including those for whom Class Notice was returned undelivered). The Administrator will send checks for Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees including Non-Participating Class Members who qualify as Aggrieved Employees (including those for whom Class Notice was returned undelivered). The Administrator may send Participating Class Members a single check combining the Individual Class Payment and the Individual PAGA Payment. Before mailing any checks, the Settlement Administrator must update the recipients' mailing addresses using the National Change of Address Database.
- 4.4.2 The Administrator must conduct a Class Member Address Search for all other Class Members whose checks are returned undelivered without USPS forwarding address. Within 7 days of receiving a returned check the Administrator must re-mail checks to the USPS forwarding address provided or to an address ascertained through the Class Member Address Search. The Administrator need not take further steps to deliver checks to Class Members whose re-mailed checks are returned as undelivered. The Administrator shall promptly send a replacement check to any Class Member whose original check was lost or misplaced, if requested by the Class Member prior to the void date.
- 4.4.3 For any Class Member whose Individual Class Payment check or Individual PAGA Payment check is uncashed and cancelled after the void date, the Administrator shall transmit the funds represented by such checks [to the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Division in the name of the Class Member thereby leaving no "unpaid residue" subject to the requirements of California Code of Civil Procedure Section 384, subd. (b).
- 4.4.4 The payment of Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, and the Class Representative Service Payment made to Plaintiff, as well as any other payments made under this Agreement, shall not be utilized to calculate any additional benefits under any benefit plans to which any Participating Class Members or Aggrieved Employees may be eligible, including, but not limited to: profit sharing plans, bonus plans, 401(k) plans, stock purchase plans, vacation plans, sick leave plans, PTO plans, and any other benefit plans. Rather, it is the Parties' intention that this Settlement will not affect any rights, contributions, or

amounts to which any Participating Class Member or Aggrieved Employee may be entitled under any benefit plans.

5. **RELEASES OF CLAIMS.** Effective on the date when Defendant fully funds the entire Gross Settlement Amount and funds all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portion of the Individual Class Payments, Plaintiff, Class Members, and Class Counsel will release claims against all Released Parties as follows:

5.1 **Plaintiff's Release.** Plaintiff and her respective former and present spouses, representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns generally, release and discharge Released Parties from all claims, transactions, or occurrences that occurred during the Class Period, including, but not limited to: (a) all claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged, based on the facts contained, in the Operative Complaint and (b) all PAGA claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged based on facts contained in the Operative Complaint, Plaintiff's PAGA Notice, or ascertained during the Action and released under 6.2, below. ("Plaintiff's Release.") Plaintiff's Release does not extend to any claims or actions to enforce this Agreement, or to any claims for vested benefits, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, social security benefits, workers' compensation benefits that arose at any time, or based on occurrences outside the Class Period. Plaintiff acknowledges that Plaintiff may discover facts or law different from, or in addition to, the facts or law that Plaintiff now knows or believes to be true but agrees, nonetheless, that Plaintiff's Release shall be and remain effective in all respects, notwithstanding such different or additional facts or Plaintiff's discovery of them.

5.1.1 **Plaintiff's Waiver of Rights Under California Civil Code Section 1542.** For purposes of Plaintiff's Release, Plaintiff expressly waives and relinquishes the provisions, rights, and benefits, if any, of section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads:

A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, and that if known by him or her would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or Released Party.

5.2 **Release by Participating Class Members:** All Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, release Released Parties from (i) all claims that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the Class Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint (as well as Class Period facts ascertained in the course of the Action) including, but not limited to, any and all claims involving any violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Pay Minimum Wages, violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Pay Wages and Overtime Wages, violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Provide Meal Periods or Compensation in Lieu Thereof, violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Provide Rest Periods or Compensation in Lieu Thereof, violation of the Labor

Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Comply with Itemized Employee Wage Statement Requirements, violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Pay All Wages Upon Termination, violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Comply With Employee Record Keeping Requirements, violation of the Labor Code for Failure to Reimburse Business Expenses, violation of the Labor Code for Failure to Pay Vacation Wages, violation of California Business and Professions Code section 17200, et. seq. and violation of Labor Code section 2698, et. seq. Except as set forth in Section 5.3 of this Agreement, Participating Class Members do not release any other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, violation of the Fair Employment and Housing Act, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers' compensation, or claims based on facts occurring outside the Class Period.

5.3 Release by Aggrieved Employees: All Non-Participating Class Members who are Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA penalties that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the PAGA Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint, and the PAGA Notice and ascertained in the course of the Action including, but not limited to any and all claims involving any violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Pay Minimum Wages, violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Pay Wages and Overtime Wages, violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Provide Meal Periods or Compensation in Lieu Thereof, violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Provide Rest Periods or Compensation in Lieu Thereof, violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Comply with Itemized Employee Wage Statement Requirements, violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Pay All Wages Upon Termination, violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Comply With Employee Record Keeping Requirements, violation of the Labor Code for Failure to Reimburse Business Expenses, violation of the Labor Code for Failure to Pay Vacation Wages, violation of California Business and Professions Code section 17200, et. seq., and violation of Labor Code section 2698, et. seq.

6. **MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL.** The Parties agree to jointly prepare and file a motion for preliminary approval ("Motion for Preliminary Approval") that complies with the Court's current checklist for Preliminary Approvals.

6.1 Plaintiff's Responsibilities. Plaintiff will prepare and deliver to Defense Counsel all documents necessary for obtaining Preliminary Approval, including: (i) a draft of the notice, and memorandum in support, of the Motion for Preliminary Approval that includes an analysis of the Settlement under Dunk/Kullar and a request for approval of the PAGA Settlement under Labor Code Section 2699, subd. (f)(2)); (ii) a draft proposed Order Granting Preliminary Approval and Approval of PAGA Settlement; (iii) a draft proposed Class Notice; (iv) a signed declaration from the Administrator attaching its "not to exceed" bid for administering the Settlement and attesting to its willingness to serve; competency; operative procedures for protecting the security of Class Data; amounts of insurance coverage for any data breach, defalcation of funds or other misfeasance; all

facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Class Members; and the nature and extent of any financial relationship with Plaintiff, Class Counsel or Defense Counsel; (v) a signed declaration from Plaintiff confirming willingness and competency to serve and disclosing all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Class Members and/or the Administrator; (v) a signed declaration from each Class Counsel firm attesting to its competency to represent the Class Members; its timely transmission to the LWDA of all necessary PAGA documents (initial notice of violations (Labor Code section 2699.3, subd. (a)), Operative Complaint (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (1)(1)), this Agreement (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (1)(2)); (vi) a redlined version of the parties' Agreement showing all modifications made to the Model Agreement ready for filing with the Court; and (vii) all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflict of interest with Class Members and/or the Administrator. In their Declarations, Plaintiff and Class Counsel Declaration shall aver that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or adversely affected by the Settlement.

6.2 Responsibilities of Counsel. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel are jointly responsible for expeditiously finalizing and filing the Motion for Preliminary Approval no later than 30 days after the full execution of this Agreement; obtaining a prompt hearing date for the Motion for Preliminary Approval; and for appearing in Court to advocate in favor of the Motion for Preliminary Approval. Class Counsel is responsible for delivering the Court's Preliminary Approval to the Administrator.

6.3 Duty to Cooperate. If the Parties disagree on any aspect of the proposed Motion for Preliminary Approval and/or the supporting declarations and documents, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together on behalf of the Parties by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve the disagreement. If the Court does not grant Preliminary Approval or conditions Preliminary Approval on any material change to this Agreement, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together on behalf of the Parties by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to modify the Agreement and otherwise satisfy the Court's concerns.

7. SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION.

7.1 Selection of Administrator. The Parties have jointly selected Apex Class Action to serve as the Administrator and verified that, as a condition of appointment, Apex Class Action agrees to be bound by this Agreement and to perform, as a fiduciary, all duties specified in this Agreement in exchange for payment of Administration Expenses. The Parties and their Counsel represent that they have no interest or relationship, financial or otherwise, with the Administrator other than a professional relationship arising out of prior experiences administering settlements.

7.2 Employer Identification Number. The Administrator shall have and use its own Employer Identification Number for purposes of calculating payroll tax withholdings and providing reports state and federal tax authorities.

7.3 Qualified Settlement Fund. The Administrator shall establish a settlement fund that meets the requirements of a Qualified Settlement Fund (“QSF”) under US Treasury Regulation section 468B-1.

7.4 Notice to Class Members.

- 7.4.1 No later than three (3) business days after receipt of the Class Data, the Administrator shall notify Class Counsel that the list has been received and state the number of Class Members, PAGA Members, Workweeks, and Pay Periods in the Class Data.
- 7.4.2 Using best efforts to perform as soon as possible, and in no event later than 14 days after receiving the Class Data, the Administrator will send to all Class Members identified in the Class Data, via first-class United States Postal Service (“USPS”) mail, the Class Notice with Spanish translation, if applicable substantially in the form attached to this Agreement as Exhibit A. The first page of the Class Notice shall prominently estimate the dollar amounts of any Individual Class Payment and/or Individual PAGA Payment payable to the Class Member, and the number of Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods (if applicable) used to calculate these amounts. Before mailing Class Notices, the Administrator shall update Class Member addresses using the National Change of Address database.
- 7.4.3 Not later than 3 business days after the Administrator’s receipt of any Class Notice returned by the USPS as undelivered, the Administrator shall re-mail the Class Notice using any forwarding address provided by the USPS. If the USPS does not provide a forwarding address, the Administrator shall conduct a Class Member Address Search, and re-mail the Class Notice to the most current address obtained. The Administrator has no obligation to make further attempts to locate or send Class Notice to Class Members whose Class Notice is returned by the USPS a second time.
- 7.4.4 The deadlines for Class Members’ written objections, Challenges to Workweeks and/or Pay Periods, and Requests for Exclusion will be extended an additional 14 days beyond the 60 days otherwise provided in the Class Notice for all Class Members whose notice is re-mailed. The Administrator will inform the Class Member of the extended deadline with the re-mailed Class Notice.
- 7.4.5 If the Administrator, Defendant or Class Counsel is contacted by or otherwise discovers any persons who believe they should have been included in the Class Data and should have received Class Notice, the Parties will expeditiously meet and confer in person or by telephone, and in good faith, in an effort to agree on whether to include them as Class Members. If the Parties agree, such persons will be Class Members entitled to the same rights as other Class Members, and the Administrator will send, via email or overnight delivery, a Class Notice requiring

them to exercise options under this Agreement not later than 14 days after receipt of Class Notice, or the deadline dates in the Class Notice, whichever are later.

7.5 Requests for Exclusion (Opt-Outs).

7.5.1 Class Members who wish to exclude themselves (opt-out of) the Class Settlement must send the Administrator, by fax, email, or mail, a signed written Request for Exclusion not later than 60 days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed). A Request for Exclusion is a letter from a Class Member or his/her representative that reasonably communicates the Class Member's election to be excluded from the Settlement and includes the Class Member's name, last four digits of the Social Security Number of the Class Member requesting exclusion, address and email address or telephone number. To be valid, a Request for Exclusion must be timely faxed, emailed, or postmarked by the Response Deadline. At no time shall any of the Parties or their counsel seek to solicit or otherwise encourage Class Members to submit a Request for Exclusion. Class Counsel shall not represent any Class Members with any such request.

7.5.2 The Administrator may not reject a Request for Exclusion as invalid because it fails to contain all the information specified in the Class Notice. The Administrator shall accept any Request for Exclusion as valid if the Administrator can reasonably ascertain the identity of the person as a Class Member and the Class Member's desire to be excluded. If the Administrator has reason to question the authenticity of a Request for Exclusion, the Administrator may demand additional proof of the Class Member's identity.

7.5.3 Every Class Member who does not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion is deemed to be a Participating Class Member under this Agreement, entitled to all benefits and bound by all terms and conditions of the Settlement, including the Participating Class Members' Releases under Paragraphs 5.2 and 6.3 of this Agreement, regardless whether the Participating Class Member actually receives the Class Notice or objects to the Settlement.

7.5.4 Every Class Member who submits a valid and timely Request for Exclusion is a Non-Participating Class Member and shall not receive an Individual Class Payment or have the right to object to the class action components of the Settlement. Because future PAGA claims are subject to claim preclusion upon entry of the Judgment, Non-Participating Class Members who are Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release the claims identified in Paragraph 5.3 of this Agreement and are eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment.

7.6 Challenges to Calculation of Workweeks. Each Class Member shall have 60 days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed) to challenge the number of Class Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods (if any) allocated to the Class Member in the Class Notice. The Class

Member may challenge the allocation by communicating with the Administrator via fax, email or mail. The Administrator must encourage the challenging Class Member to submit supporting documentation. In the absence of any contrary documentation, the Administrator is entitled to presume, after consultation with Defendant's counsel, that the Workweeks contained in the Class Notice are correct so long as they are consistent with the Class Data. The Administrator's determination of each Class Member's allocation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods shall not be appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge by a Class Member. The Administrator shall promptly provide copies of all challenges to calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods to Defense Counsel and Class Counsel (Class Counsel's copy to have identifying information redacted) and the Administrator's determination to the challenges.

7.7 Objections to Settlement.

7.7.1 Only Participating Class Members may object to the class action components of the Settlement and/or this Agreement, including contesting the fairness of the Settlement, and/or amounts requested for the Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and/or Class Representative Service Payment.

7.7.2 Participating Class Members may send written objections to the Administrator, by fax, email, or mail. In the alternative, Participating Class Members may appear in Court (or hire an attorney to appear in Court) to present verbal objections at the Final Approval Hearing. A Participating Class Member who elects to send a written objection to the Administrator must do so not later than 60 days after the Administrator's mailing of the Class Notice (plus an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice was re-mailed). At no time shall any of the Parties or their counsel seek to solicit or otherwise encourage Class Members to submit an objection. Class Counsel shall not represent any Class Members with any such objections.

7.7.3 Non-Participating Class Members have no right to object to any of the class action components of the Settlement.

7.8 Administrator Duties. The Administrator has a duty to perform or observe all tasks to be performed or observed by the Administrator contained in this Agreement or otherwise.

7.8.1 Website, Email Address and Toll-Free Number. The Administrator will establish and maintain and use an internet website to post information of interest to Class Members including the date, time and location for the Final Approval Hearing and copies of the Settlement Agreement, Motion for Preliminary Approval, the Preliminary Approval, the Class Notice, the Motion for Final Approval, the Motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and Class Representative Service Payment, the Final Approval and the Judgment. The Administrator will also maintain and monitor an email address and a toll-free telephone number to receive Class Member calls, faxes and emails.

- 7.8.2 Requests for Exclusion (Opt-outs) and Exclusion List. The Administrator will promptly review on a rolling basis Requests for Exclusion to ascertain their validity. Not later than 5 days after the expiration of the deadline for submitting Requests for Exclusion, the Administrator shall email a list to Defense Counsel containing (a) the names and other identifying information of Class Members who have timely submitted valid Requests for Exclusion (“Exclusion List”); (b) the names and other identifying information of Class Members who have submitted invalid Requests for Exclusion; (c) copies of all Requests for Exclusion from Settlement submitted (whether valid or invalid). Not later than 5 days after the expiration of the deadline for submitting Requests for Exclusion, the Administrator shall email copies of all Requests for Exclusion from Settlement submitted (whether valid or invalid) with the Class Members’ identifying information redacted.
- 7.8.3 Weekly Reports. The Administrator must, on a weekly basis, provide written reports to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel that, among other things, tally the number of: Class Notices mailed or re-mailed, Class Notices returned undelivered, Requests for Exclusion (whether valid or invalid) received, objections received, challenges to Workweeks and/or Pay Periods received and/or resolved, and checks mailed for Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments (“Weekly Report”). The Weekly Reports must include provide the Administrator’s assessment of the validity of Requests for Exclusion.
- 7.8.4 Workweek and/or Pay Period Challenges. The Administrator has the authority to address and make final decisions consistent with the terms of this Agreement on all Class Member challenges over the calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods after consultation with Defendant’s counsel. The Administrator’s decision shall not be appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge by a Class Member.
- 7.8.5 Administrator’s Declaration. Not later than 14 days before the date by which Plaintiff is required to file the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement, the Administrator will provide to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel, a signed declaration suitable for filing in Court attesting to its due diligence and compliance with all of its obligations under this Agreement, including, but not limited to, its mailing of Class Notice, the Class Notices returned as undelivered, the re-mailing of Class Notices, attempts to locate Class Members, the total number of Requests for Exclusion from Settlement it received (both valid or invalid), and the number of written objections and attach the Exclusion List with Non-Participating Class Members identified by employee identification number only. The Administrator will supplement its declaration as needed or requested by the Parties and/or the Court. Class Counsel is responsible for filing the Administrator’s declaration(s) in Court.
- 7.8.6 Final Report by Settlement Administrator. Within 10 days after the Administrator disburses all funds in the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will

provide Class Counsel and Defense Counsel with a final report detailing its disbursements by employee identification number only of all payments made under this Agreement. At least 15 days before any deadline set by the Court, the Administrator will prepare, and submit to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel, a signed declaration suitable for filing in Court attesting to its disbursement of all payments required under this Agreement. Class Counsel is responsible for filing the Administrator's declaration in Court.

8. **CLASS SIZE ESTIMATES and ESCALATOR CLAUSE** Based on its records, Defendant estimates that, as of the date of this Settlement Agreement, (1) there are 361 Class Members and 25,082 Total Workweeks during the Class period and (2) there were 218 Aggrieved Employees who worked 4,915 Pay Periods during the PAGA Period. If the Total Workweeks increases by more than 10%, then the GSA will be increased proportionally by the number of workweeks worked in excess of 10%. For example, if the Total Workweeks increases by 11%, then the GSA will increase by 1%.
9. **DEFENDANT'S RIGHT TO RESCIND.** If the number of valid Requests for Exclusion identified in the Exclusion List exceeds 10% of the total of all Class Members, Defendant will have sole and absolute discretion to rescind/void this Settlement. The Parties agree that, if Defendant rescinds, the Settlement shall be void ab initio, have no force or effect whatsoever, and that neither Party will have any further obligation to perform under this Agreement, including, without any limitation, any obligation by Defendant to pay the Gross Settlement Amount, or any amounts that otherwise would have been owed under this Agreement; provided, however, Defendant will remain responsible for paying all Settlement Administration Expenses incurred to that point. Defendant must notify Class Counsel and the Court of its election to rescind not later than seven (7) days after the Administrator sends the final Exclusion List to Defense Counsel; late elections will have no effect. In the event the Settlement is terminated, the Parties shall proceed in all respects as if this Agreement had not been executed.
10. **MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL.** Not later than 16 court days before the calendared Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiff will file in Court, a motion for final approval of the Settlement that includes a request for approval of the PAGA settlement under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l), a Proposed Final Approval Order and a proposed Judgment (collectively "Motion for Final Approval"). Plaintiff shall provide drafts of these documents to Defense Counsel not later than seven days prior to filing the Motion for Final Approval. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously meet and confer in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve any disagreements concerning the Motion for Final Approval.
- 10.1 **Response to Objections.** Each Party retains the right to respond to any objection raised by a Participating Class Member, including the right to file responsive documents in Court no later than five court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing, or as otherwise ordered or accepted by the Court.

- 10.2 Duty to Cooperate. If the Court does not grant Final Approval or conditions Final Approval on any material change to the Settlement (including, but not limited to, the scope of release to be granted by Class Members), the Parties will expeditiously work together in good faith to address the Court's concerns by revising the Agreement as necessary to obtain Final Approval. The Court's decision to award less than the amounts requested for the Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and/or Administrator Expenses Payment shall not constitute a material modification to the Agreement within the meaning of this paragraph.
- 10.3 Continuing Jurisdiction of the Court. The Parties agree that, after entry of Judgment, the Court will retain jurisdiction over the Parties, Action, and the Settlement solely for purposes of (i) enforcing this Agreement and/or Judgment, (ii) addressing settlement administration matters, and (iii) addressing such post-Judgment matters as are permitted by law.
- 10.4 Waiver of Right to Appeal. Provided the Judgment is materially consistent with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, specifically including the Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment reflected set forth in this Settlement, the Parties, their respective counsel, and all Participating Class Members who did not object to the Settlement as provided in this Agreement, waive all rights to appeal from the Judgment, including all rights to post-judgment and appellate proceedings, the right to file motions to vacate judgment, motions for new trial, extraordinary writs, and appeals. The waiver of appeal does not include any waiver of the right to oppose such motions, writs or appeals. If an objector appeals the Judgment, the Parties' obligations to perform under this Agreement will be suspended until such time as the appeal is finally resolved and the Judgment becomes final, except as to matters that do not affect the amount of the Net Settlement Amount.
- 10.5 Appellate Court Orders to Vacate, Reverse, or Materially Modify Judgment. If the reviewing Court vacates, reverses, or modifies the Judgment in a manner that requires a material modification of this Agreement (including, but not limited to, the scope of release to be granted by Class Members), this Agreement shall be null and void. The Parties shall nevertheless expeditiously work together in good faith to address the appellate court's concerns and to obtain Final Approval and entry of Judgment, sharing, on a 50-50 basis, any additional Administration Expenses reasonably incurred after remittitur. An appellate decision to vacate, reverse, or modify the Court's award of the Class Representative Service Payment or any payments to Class Counsel shall not constitute a material modification of the Judgment within the meaning of this paragraph, as long as the Gross Settlement Amount remains unchanged.
11. **AMENDED JUDGMENT.** If any amended judgment is required under Code of Civil Procedure section 384, the Parties will work together in good faith to jointly submit and a proposed amended judgment.

12. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.

12.1 No Admission of Liability, Class Certification or Representative Manageability for Other Purposes. This Agreement represents a compromise and settlement of highly disputed claims. The Parties enter into this Agreement to resolve the dispute that has arisen between them and to avoid the burden, expense, and risk of continued litigation. In entering into this Agreement, Defendant does not admit, and specifically denies, that it has violated any federal, state, or local law; violated any regulations or guidelines promulgated pursuant to any statute or any other applicable laws, regulations, or legal requirements; breached any contract; violated or breached any duty; engaged in any misrepresentation or deception; or engaged in any other unlawful conduct with respect to its employees. Nothing in this Agreement is intended or should be construed as an admission by Defendant that any of the allegations in the Operative Complaint have merit or that Defendant has any liability for any claims asserted; nor should it be intended or construed as an admission by Plaintiff that Defendant's defenses in the Action have merit. The Parties agree that class certification and representative treatment is for purposes of this Settlement only. If, for any reason the Court does grant Preliminary Approval, Final Approval or enter Judgment, Defendant reserves the right to contest certification of any class for any reasons, and Defendant reserves all available defenses to the claims in the Action, and Plaintiff reserves the right to move for class certification on any grounds available and to contest Defendant's defenses. The Settlement, this Agreement and Parties' willingness to settle the Action will have no bearing on, and will not be admissible in connection with, any litigation or proceeding to establish any liability or admission of any nature on the part of Defendant, or to establish the existence of any condition constituting a violation of, or a non-compliance with any federal, state, local or other applicable law(except for proceedings to enforce or effectuate the Settlement and this Agreement).

12.2 Confidentiality Prior to Preliminary Approval. Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant and Defense Counsel separately agree that, until the Motion for Preliminary Approval of Settlement is filed, they and each of them will not disclose, disseminate and/or publicize, or cause or permit another person to disclose, disseminate or publicize, any of the terms of the Agreement directly or indirectly, specifically or generally, to any person, corporation, association, government agency, or other entity except: (1) to the Parties' attorneys, accountants, insurers, funders or spouses, all of whom will be instructed to keep this Agreement confidential; (2) counsel in a related matter; (3) to the extent necessary to report income to appropriate taxing authorities; (4) in response to a court order, subpoena, or as required by law; (5) in response to an inquiry or subpoena issued by a state or federal government agency; or (6) in connection with public reporting requirements. Each Party agrees to immediately notify each other Party of any judicial or agency order, inquiry, or subpoena seeking such information prior to the filing of the Motion for Preliminary Approval of Settlement. Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant and Defense Counsel separately agree not to, directly or indirectly, initiate any conversation or other communication, before the filing of the Motion for Preliminary Approval, any with third party regarding this Agreement or the matters giving rise to this Agreement except to respond only that "the matter was resolved," or words to that effect. This

paragraph does not restrict Class Counsel's communications with Class Members after preliminary approval is granted or if contacted by such Class Members in accordance with Class Counsel's ethical obligations owed to Class Members.

- 12.3 No Solicitation. The Parties separately agree that they and their respective counsel and employees will not solicit any Class Member to opt out of or object to the Settlement, or appeal from the Judgment. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to restrict Class Counsel's ability to communicate with Class Members after preliminary approval is granted or if contacted by such Class Members in accordance with Class Counsel's ethical obligations owed to Class Members.
- 12.4 Integrated Agreement. Upon execution by all Parties and their counsel, this Agreement together with its attached exhibits shall constitute the entire agreement between the Parties relating to the Settlement, superseding any and all oral representations, warranties, covenants, or inducements made to or by any Party.
- 12.5 Attorney Authorization. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel separately warrant and represent that they are authorized by Plaintiff and Defendant, respectively, to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Agreement to effectuate its terms, and to execute any other documents reasonably required to effectuate the terms of this Agreement including any amendments to this Agreement.
- 12.6 Cooperation. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts, in good faith, to implement the Settlement by, among other things, modifying the Settlement Agreement, submitting supplemental evidence and supplementing points and authorities as requested by the Court. In the event the Parties are unable to agree upon the form or content of any document necessary to implement the Settlement, or on any modification of the Agreement that may become necessary to implement the Settlement, the Parties will seek the assistance of the mediator and/or the Court for resolution.
- 12.7 No Prior Assignments. The Parties separately represent and warrant that they have not directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered, or purported to assign, transfer, or encumber to any person or entity and portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of action, or right released and discharged by the Party in this Settlement.
- 12.8 No Tax Advice. Neither Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant nor Defense Counsel are providing any advice regarding taxes or taxability, nor shall anything in this Settlement be relied upon as such within the meaning of United States Treasury Department Circular 230 (31 CFR Part 10, as amended) or otherwise. Defendant, Defense Counsel, the Settlement Administrator, and Class Counsel make no representation as to the tax treatment or legal effect of the payments called for hereunder, and Plaintiff and Participating Class Members are not relying on any statement, representation, or calculation by Defendant, Defense Counsel, Class Counsel, or by the Settlement Administrator in this regard. Plaintiff and Participating Class Members

understand and agree that they will be solely responsible for the payment of any and all taxes and penalties assessed on their respective payments described herein and will defend, indemnify, and hold Defendant, Defense Counsel, Class Counsel, and the Settlement Administrator free and harmless from and against any claims resulting from treatment of such payments as non-taxable penalties/damages.

- 12.9 Modification of Agreement. This Agreement, and all parts of it, may be amended, modified, changed, or waived only by an express written instrument signed by all Parties or their representatives, and approved by the Court.
- 12.10 Agreement Binding on Successors. This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors, heirs, or assigns of each of the Parties hereto, as previously defined.
- 12.11 Applicable Law. All terms and conditions of this Agreement and its exhibits will be governed by and interpreted according to the internal laws of the state of California, without regard to conflict of law principles.
- 12.12 Cooperation in Drafting. The Parties have cooperated in the drafting and preparation of this Agreement. This Agreement will not be construed against any Party on the basis that the Party was the drafter or participated in the drafting.
- 12.13 Confidentiality. 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.
- 12.14 Use and Return of Class Data. Information provided to Class Counsel pursuant to Cal. Evid. Code §1152, and all copies and summaries of the Class Data provided to Class Counsel by Defendant in connection with the mediation, other settlement negotiations, or in connection with the Settlement, may be used only with respect to this Settlement, and no other purpose, and may not be used in any way that violates any existing contractual agreement, statute, or rule of court. Not later than 90 days after the date when the Court discharges the Administrator's obligation to provide a Declaration confirming the final pay out of all Settlement funds, Plaintiff shall destroy, all paper and electronic versions of Class Data received from Defendant unless, prior to the Court's discharge of the Administrator's obligation, Defendant makes a written request to Class Counsel for the return, rather than the destructions, of Class Data.
- 12.15 Headings. The descriptive heading of any section or paragraph of this Agreement is inserted for convenience of reference only and does not constitute a part of this Agreement.
- 12.16 Calendar Days. Unless otherwise noted, all reference to "days" in this Agreement shall be to calendar days. In the event any date or deadline set forth in this Agreement

falls on a weekend or federal legal holiday, such date or deadline shall be on the first business day thereafter.

- 12.17 Notice. All notices, demands or other communications between the Parties in connection with this Agreement will be in writing and deemed to have been duly given as of the third business day after mailing by United States mail, or the day sent by email or messenger, addressed as follows:

To Plaintiff:

D.Law, Inc.

Emil Davtyan

emil@d.law

David Yeremian

d.yeremian@d.law

Natalie Haritounian

n.haritounian@d.law

450 N. Brand Blvd., Suite 840

Glendale, CA 91203

Telephone: (818) 962-6465

To Defendant:

Soltman & Wattles LLP

Tina M. Jacquez

tjacquez@slfesq.com

Kevin S. Wattles

kwattles@slfesq.com

- 12.18 Execution in Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts by facsimile, electronically (i.e. DocuSign), or email which for purposes of this Agreement shall be accepted as an original. All executed counterparts and each of them will be deemed to be one and the same instrument if counsel for the Parties will exchange between themselves signed counterparts. Any executed counterpart will be admissible in evidence to prove the existence and contents of this Agreement.

- 12.19 Stay of Litigation. The Parties agree that upon the execution of this Agreement the litigation shall be stayed, except to effectuate the terms of this Agreement. The Parties further agree that upon the signing of this Agreement that pursuant to CCP section 583.330 to extend the date to bring a case to trial under CCP section 583.310 for the entire period of this settlement process.

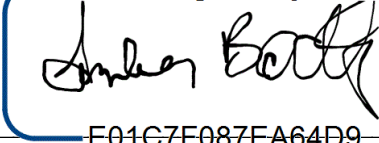
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12.20 Representation by Counsel. The Parties acknowledge that they have been represented by counsel throughout all negotiations that preceded the execution of this Agreement, and that this Agreement has been executed with the consent and advice of counsel. Further, Plaintiff and Class Counsel warrant and represent that there are no liens on the Agreement.

Dated: November 27, 2024

DocuSigned by:

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Amber Lynn Bock

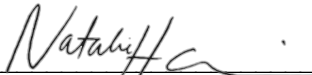
Dated: November ____, 2024

Bartz-Altadonna Community Health Center
By: _____
Its: _____

AGREED AS TO FORM

Dated: November 27, 2024

D.LAW, INC.



Natalie Haritonian

Dated: November ____, 2024

SOLTMAN & WATTLES LLP

Tina M. Jacquez

12.20 Representation by Counsel. The Parties acknowledge that they have been represented by counsel throughout all negotiations that preceded the execution of this Agreement, and that this Agreement has been executed with the consent and advice of counsel. Further, Plaintiff and Class Counsel warrant and represent that there are no liens on the Agreement.

Dated: November ____, 2024

Amber Lynn Bock

Dated: November 23, 2024

Bartz-Altadonna Community Health Center
By: MARY CUMMINES
Its: CEO

AGREED AS TO FORM

Dated: November ____, 2024

D.LAW, INC.

Natalie Haritonian

Dated: November 25, 2024

SOLTMAN & WATTLES LLP

Tina M. Jacquez

**COURT APPROVED NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND HEARING
DATE FOR FINAL COURT APPROVAL**

*Amber Lynn Bock v. Bartz-Altadonna Community Health Center,
Case No. 24STCV05513, Los Angeles County Superior Court*

The Superior Court for the State of California authorized this Notice. It's not junk mail, spam, an advertisement, or solicitation by a lawyer. You are not being sued.

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED WHETHER YOU ACT OR DO NOT ACT. PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY.

You may be eligible to receive money from an employee class action lawsuit ("Action") against Bartz-Altadonna Community Health Center ("Defendant") for alleged wage and hour violations. The Action was filed by a former employee, Amber Lynn Bock ("Plaintiff") and seeks payment of (1) back wages and other relief for a class of hourly employees ("Class Members") who worked for Defendant during the Class Period March 5, 2020 to December 16, 2024; and (2) penalties under the California Private Attorney General Act ("PAGA") for all hourly employees who worked for Defendant during the PAGA Period March 5, 2023 to December 16, 2024) ("Aggrieved Employees").

The proposed Settlement has two main parts: (1) a Class Settlement requiring Defendant to fund Individual Class Payments, and (2) a PAGA Settlement requiring Defendant to fund Individual PAGA Payments and pay penalties to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA").

Based on Defendant's records, and the Parties' current assumptions, **your Individual Class Payment is estimated to be \$_____ (less withholding) and your Individual PAGA Payment is estimated to be \$_____**. The actual amount you may receive likely will be different and will depend on a number of factors. (If no amount is stated for your Individual PAGA Payment, then according to Defendant's records you are not eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment under the Settlement because you didn't work during the PAGA Period.)

The above estimates are based on Defendant's records showing that **you worked _____ workweeks** during the Class Period and **you worked _____ pay periods** during the PAGA Period. If you believe that you worked more workweeks or pay periods during either period, you can submit a challenge by the deadline date. See Section 4 of this Notice.

The Court has already preliminarily approved the proposed Settlement and approved this Notice. The Court has not yet decided whether to grant final approval. Your legal rights are affected whether you act or do not act. Read this Notice carefully. You will be deemed to have carefully read and understood it. At the Final Approval Hearing, the Court will decide whether to finally approve the Settlement and how much of the Settlement will be paid to Plaintiff and Plaintiff's attorneys ("Class Counsel"). The Court will also decide whether to enter a judgment that requires Defendant to make payments under the Settlement and require Class Members and Aggrieved Employees to give up their rights to assert certain claims against Defendant.

If you worked for Defendant during the Class Period and/or the PAGA Period, you have two basic options under the Settlement:

- (1) **Do Nothing.** You don't have to do anything to participate in the proposed Settlement and be eligible for an Individual Class Payment and/or an Individual PAGA Payment. As a Participating Class Member, though, you will give up your right to assert Class Period wage claims and PAGA Period penalty claims against Defendant.
- (2) **Opt-Out of the Class Settlement.** You can exclude yourself from the Class Settlement (opt-out) by submitting the written Request for Exclusion or otherwise notifying the Administrator in writing. If you opt-out of the Settlement, you will not receive an Individual Class Payment. You will, however, preserve your right to personally pursue Class Period wage claims against Defendant, and, if you are an Aggrieved Employee, remain eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment. You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement.

Defendant will not retaliate against you for any actions you take with respect to the proposed Settlement.

SUMMARY OF YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT

You Don't Have to Do Anything to Participate in the Settlement	If you do nothing, you will be a Participating Class Member, eligible for an Individual Class Payment and an Individual PAGA Payment (if any). In exchange, you will give up your right to assert the wage claims against Defendant that are covered by this Settlement (Released Claims).
You Can Opt-out of the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement The Opt-out Deadline is _____	If you don't want to fully participate in the proposed Settlement, you can opt-out of the Class Settlement by sending the Administrator a written Request for Exclusion. Once excluded, you will be a Non-Participating Class Member and no longer eligible for an Individual Class Payment. Non-Participating Class Members cannot object to any portion of the proposed Settlement. See Section 6 of this Notice. You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement. Defendant must pay Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees and the Aggrieved Employees must give up their rights to pursue Released Claims (defined below).
Participating Class Members Can Object to the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement	All Class Members who do not opt-out ("Participating Class Members") can object to any aspect of the proposed Settlement. The Court's decision whether to finally approve the Settlement will include a determination of how much will be paid to Class Counsel and Plaintiff who pursued the Action on behalf of the Class. You are not personally responsible for any payments to Class Counsel or

Written Objections Must be Submitted by _____	Plaintiff, but every dollar paid to Class Counsel and Plaintiff reduces the overall amount paid to Participating Class Members. You can object to the amounts requested by Class Counsel or Plaintiff if you think they are unreasonable. See Section 7 of this Notice.
You Can Participate in the _____ Final Approval Hearing	The Court's Final Approval Hearing is scheduled to take place on _____. You don't have to attend but you do have the right to appear (or hire an attorney to appear on your behalf at your own cost), in person, by telephone or by using the Court's virtual appearance platform. Participating Class Members can verbally object to the Settlement at the Final Approval Hearing. See Section 8 of this Notice.
You Can Challenge the Calculation of Your Workweeks/Pay Periods Written Challenges Must be Submitted by _____	The amount of your Individual Class Payment and PAGA Payment (if any) depend on how many workweeks you worked at least one day during the Class Period and how many Pay Periods you worked at least one day during the PAGA Period, respectively. The number Class Period Workweeks and number of PAGA Period Pay Periods you worked according to Defendant's records is stated on the first page of this Notice. If you disagree with either of these numbers, you must challenge it by _____. See Section 4 of this Notice.

1. WHAT IS THE ACTION ABOUT?

Plaintiff is a former employee of Defendant. The Action accuses Defendant of violating California labor laws by failing to pay overtime wages, minimum wages, wages due upon termination and reimbursable expenses and failing to provide meal periods, rest breaks and accurate itemized wage statements. Based on the same claims, Plaintiff has also asserted a claim for civil penalties under the California Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698, et seq.) ("PAGA"). Plaintiff is represented by attorneys in the Action: Emil Davtyan, David Yeremian, and Natalie Haritounian of D.Law, Inc. ("Class Counsel.")

Defendant expressly denies any liability or wrongdoing of any kind associated with the claims alleged in the Action and those released as part of the settlement of the Action. Defendant further denies all material allegations set forth in the Action and has asserted numerous affirmative defenses. Defendant denies all wrongdoing and maintains, among other things, it has complied with federal and California law, including wage-and-hour laws, in all respects and that the members of the Class have been paid all monies that were due to them.

2. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT THE ACTION HAS SETTLED?

So far, the Court has made no determination whether Defendant or Plaintiff is correct on the merits.

However, in order to avoid the time and expense of further litigation, the ultimate outcome of which is uncertain, and to provide a fair and reasonable resolution of this legal dispute, Plaintiff

and Defendant hired an experienced, neutral mediator in an effort to resolve the Action by negotiating an to end the case by agreement (settle the case) rather than continuing the expensive and time-consuming process of litigation. The negotiations were successful. By signing a lengthy written settlement agreement (“Agreement”) and agreeing to jointly ask the Court to enter a judgment ending the Action and enforcing the Agreement, Plaintiff and Defendant have negotiated a proposed Settlement that is subject to the Court’s Final Approval. Both sides agree the proposed Settlement is a compromise of disputed claims. By agreeing to settle, Defendant does not admit any violations or concede the merit of any claims. The Court preliminarily approved the proposed Settlement as fair, reasonable and adequate, authorized this Notice, and scheduled a hearing to determine Final Approval.

3. WHAT ARE THE IMPORTANT TERMS OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT?

1. Defendant Will Pay \$599,500.00 as the Gross Settlement Amount (Gross Settlement). Defendant has agreed to deposit the Gross Settlement into an account controlled by the Administrator of the Settlement. The Administrator will use the Gross Settlement to pay the Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel’s attorney’s fees and expenses, the Administrator’s expenses, and penalties to be paid to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”). Assuming the Court grants Final Approval, Defendant will fund the Gross Settlement not more than 14 days after the Judgment entered by the Court become final. The Judgment will be final on the date the Court enters Judgment, or a later date if Participating Class Members object to the proposed Settlement or the Judgment is appealed.
2. Court Approved Deductions from Gross Settlement. At the Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiff and/or Class Counsel will ask the Court to approve the following deductions from the Gross Settlement, the amounts of which will be decided by the Court at the Final Approval Hearing:
 - a. Up to \$199,833.33 (one-third of the Gross Settlement to Class Counsel for attorneys’ fees and up to \$25,000.00 for their litigation expenses. To date, Class Counsel have worked and incurred expenses on the Action without payment.
 - b. Up to \$5,000.00 as a Class Representative Award for filing the Action, working with Class Counsel and representing the Class. A Class Representative Award will be the only monies Plaintiff will receive other than Plaintiff’s Individual Class Payment and any Individual PAGA Payment.
 - c. Up to \$6,500.00 to the Administrator for services administering the Settlement.

- d. Up to \$40,000.00 for PAGA Penalties, allocated 75% to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% in Individual PAGA Payments to the Aggrieved Employees based on their PAGA Period Pay Periods.

Participating Class Members have the right to object to any of these deductions. The Court will consider all objections.

3. Net Settlement Distributed to Class Members. After making the above deductions in amounts approved by the Court, the Administrator will distribute the rest of the Gross Settlement (the “Net Settlement”) by making Individual Class Payments to Participating Class Members based on their Class Period Workweeks.
4. Taxes Owed on Payments to Class Members. Plaintiff and Defendant are asking the Court to approve an allocation of 20% of each Individual Class Payment to taxable wages (“Wage Portion”) and 80% to interest, etc. (“Non-Wage Portion.”). The Wage Portion is subject to withholdings and will be reported on IRS W-2 Forms. Defendant will separately pay employer payroll taxes it owes on the Wage Portion. The Individual PAGA Payments are counted as penalties rather than wages for tax purposes. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments and the Non-Wage Portions of the Individual Class Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

Although Plaintiff and Defendant have agreed to these allocations, neither side is giving you any advice on whether your Payments are taxable or how much you might owe in taxes. You are responsible for paying all taxes (including penalties and interest on back taxes) on any Payments received from the proposed Settlement. You should consult a tax advisor if you have any questions about the tax consequences of the proposed Settlement.

5. Need to Promptly Cash Payment Checks. The front of every check issued for Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments will show the date when the check expires (the void date). If you don’t cash it by the void date, your check will be automatically cancelled, and the monies will be deposited with the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in your name.

If the monies represented by your check is sent to the Controller’s Unclaimed Property, you should consult the rules of the Fund for instructions on how to retrieve your money.

6. Requests for Exclusion from the Class Settlement (Opt-Outs). You will be treated as a Participating Class Member, participating fully in the Class Settlement, unless you notify the Administrator in writing, not later than _____, that you wish to opt-out. The easiest way to notify the Administrator is to send a written and signed Request for Exclusion by the _____ Response Deadline. The Request for Exclusion should be a signed letter from a Class Member or his/her representative setting forth a Class Member’s name, last four digits of the Class Member’s Social Security Number, present address, telephone number, and a simple statement electing

to be excluded from the Settlement. Excluded Class Members (i.e., Non-Participating Class Members) will not receive Individual Class Payments, but will preserve their rights to personally pursue wage and hour claims against Defendant.

You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the Settlement. Class Members who exclude themselves from the Class Settlement (Non-Participating Class Members) remain eligible for Individual PAGA Payments and are required to give up their right to assert PAGA claims against Defendant based on the PAGA Period facts alleged in the Action.

7. The Proposed Settlement Will be Void if the Court Denies Final Approval. It is possible the Court will decline to grant Final Approval of the Settlement or decline enter a Judgment. It is also possible the Court will enter a Judgment that is reversed on appeal. Plaintiffs and Defendant have agreed that, in either case, the Settlement will be void: Defendant will not pay any money and Class Members will not release any claims against Defendant.
8. Administrator. The Court has appointed a neutral company, Apex Class Action (the “Administrator”) to send this Notice, calculate and make payments, and process Class Members’ Requests for Exclusion. The Administrator will also preside over Class Member Challenges over Workweeks, mail and remail settlement checks and tax forms, and perform other tasks necessary to administer the Settlement. The Administrator’s contact information is contained in Section 9 of this Notice.
9. Participating Class Members’ Release. After the Judgment is final and Defendant has fully funded the Gross Settlement and separately paid all employer payroll taxes, Participating Class Members will be legally barred from asserting any of the claims released under the Settlement. This means that unless you opted out by validly excluding yourself from the Class Settlement, you cannot sue, continue to sue, or be part of any other lawsuit against Defendant or related entities for wages based on the Class Period facts and PAGA penalties based on PAGA Period facts, as alleged in the Action and resolved by this Settlement.

The Participating Class Members will be bound by the following release:

All Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, release Released Parties from (i) all claims that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the Class Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint and ascertained in the course of the Action including, but not limited to (a) failure to pay minimum wages; (b) failure to pay overtime wages; (c) failure to provide meal periods or timely meal periods; (d) failure to provide rest periods or timely rest periods; (e) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements; (f) failure to timely pay wages including wages due upon termination; (g) failure to maintain accurate records; (h) failure to pay reimbursable expenses; (i) failure to pay vacation wages; (j) violation of

Business & Professions Code § 17200, *et. seq.*; and (k) violation of Labor Code § 2698, *et. seq.* violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Pay Minimum Wages, violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Pay Wages and Overtime Wages, violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Provide Meal Periods or Compensation in Lieu Thereof, violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Provide Rest Periods or Compensation in Lieu Thereof, violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Comply with Itemized Employee Wage Statement Requirements, violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Pay All Wages Upon Termination, violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Comply With Employee Record Keeping Requirements, violation of the Labor Code for Failure to Reimburse Business Expenses, violation of the Labor Code for Failure to Pay Vacation Wages, violation of California Business and Professions Code section 17200, *et. seq.*, and violation of Labor Code section 2698, *et. seq.* Except as set forth in Section 5.3 of the Settlement Agreement, Participating Class Members do not release any other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, violation of the Fair Employment and Housing Act, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers' compensation, or claims based on facts occurring outside the Class Period.

10. Aggrieved Employees' PAGA Release. After the Court's judgment is final, and Defendant has paid the Gross Settlement (and separately paid the employer-side payroll taxes), all Aggrieved Employees will be barred from asserting PAGA claims against Defendant, whether or not they exclude themselves from the Settlement. This means that all Aggrieved Employees, including those who are Participating Class Members and those who opt-out of the Class Settlement, cannot sue, continue to sue, or participate in any other PAGA claim against Defendant or its related entities based on the PAGA Period facts alleged in the Action and resolved by this Settlement.

The Aggrieved Employees' Releases for Participating and Non-Participating Class Members are as follows:

All Participating and Non-Participating Class Members who are Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, the Released Parties, from all claims for PAGA penalties that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the PAGA Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notice and ascertained in the course of the Action including, but not limited to violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Pay Minimum Wages, violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Pay Wages and Overtime Wages, violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Provide Meal Periods or Compensation in Lieu Thereof, violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Provide Rest Periods or Compensation in Lieu Thereof, violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Comply with Itemized Employee Wage Statement Requirements, violation of the

Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Pay All Wages Upon Termination, violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for Failure to Comply With Employee Record Keeping Requirements, violation of the Labor Code for Failure to Reimburse Business Expenses, violation of the Labor Code for Failure to Pay Vacation Wages, violation of California Business and Professions Code section 17200, et. seq., and violation of Labor Code section 2698, et. seq.

4. HOW WILL THE ADMINISTRATOR CALCULATE MY PAYMENT?

1. Individual Class Payments. The Administrator will calculate Individual Class Payments by (a) dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members, and (b) multiplying the result by the number of Workweeks worked by each individual Participating Class Member.
2. Individual PAGA Payments. The Administrator will calculate Individual PAGA Payments by (a) dividing \$10,000.00 by the total number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees and (b) multiplying the result by the number of PAGA Period Pay Periods worked by each individual Aggrieved Employee.
3. Workweek/Pay Period Challenges. The number of Class Workweeks you worked during the Class Period and the number of PAGA Pay Periods you worked during the PAGA Period, as recorded in Defendant's records, are stated in the first page of this Notice. You have until _____ to challenge the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods credited to you. You can submit your challenge by signing and sending a letter to the Administrator via mail, email or fax. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

You need to support your challenge by sending copies of pay stubs or other records. The Administrator will accept Defendant's calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods based on Defendant's records as accurate unless you send copies of records containing contrary information. You should send copies rather than originals because the documents will not be returned to you. The Administrator will resolve Workweek and/or Pay Period challenges based on your submission and on input from Class Counsel (who will advocate on behalf of Participating Class Members) and Defendant's Counsel. The Administrator's decision is final. You can't appeal or otherwise challenge its final decision.

5. HOW WILL I GET PAID?

1. Participating Class Members. The Administrator will send, by U.S. mail, a single check to every Participating Class Member (i.e., every Class Member who doesn't opt-out) including those who also qualify as Aggrieved Employees. The single check will combine the Individual Class Payment and the Individual PAGA Payment.

2. Non-Participating Class Members. The Administrator will send, by U.S. mail, a single Individual PAGA Payment check to every Aggrieved Employee who opts out of the Class Settlement (i.e., every Non-Participating Class Member).

Your check will be sent to the same address as this Notice. If you change your address, be sure to notify the Administrator as soon as possible. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

6. HOW DO I OPT-OUT OF THE CLASS SETTLEMENT?

Submit a written and signed letter with your name, last four digits of your Social Security Number, present address, telephone number, and a simple statement that you do not want to participate in the Settlement. The Administrator will exclude you based on any writing communicating your request to be excluded. Be sure to personally sign your request, identify the Action as *Amber Lynn Bock v. Bartz-Altadonna Community Health Center*, and include your identifying information (full name, last four digits of your Social Security Number, address, telephone number, and approximate dates of employment for verification purposes). You must make the request yourself. If someone else makes the request for you, it will not be valid. **The Administrator must be sent your request to be excluded by _____, or it will be invalid.** Section 9 of the Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

7. HOW DO I OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT?

Only Participating Class Members have the right to object to the Settlement. Before deciding whether to object, you may wish to see what Plaintiff and Defendant are asking the Court to approve. At least 16 court days before the _____ Final Approval Hearing, Class Counsel and/or Plaintiff will file in Court (1) a Motion for Final Approval that includes, among other things, the reasons why the proposed Settlement is fair, and (2) a Motion for Fees, Litigation Expenses and Service Award stating (i) the amount Class Counsel is requesting for attorneys' fees and litigation expenses; and (ii) the amount Plaintiff is requesting as a Class Representative Service Award. Upon reasonable request, Class Counsel (whose contact information is in Section 9 of this Notice) will send you copies of these documents at no cost to you. You can also view them on the Administrator's Website _____ or the Court's website _____.

A Participating Class Member who disagrees with any aspect of the Agreement, the Motion for Final Approval and/or Motion for Fees, Litigation Expenses and Service Award may wish to object, for example, that the proposed Settlement is unfair, or that the amounts requested by Class Counsel or Plaintiff are too high or too low. **The deadline for sending written objections to the Administrator is _____.** Be sure to tell the Administrator what you object to, why you object, and any facts that support your objection. Make sure you identify the Action *Amber Lynn Bock v. Bartz-Altadonna Community Health Center* and include your name, last four digits of your Social Security Number, current address, telephone number, and approximate dates of employment for Defendant and sign the objection. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

Alternatively, a Participating Class Member can object (or personally retain a lawyer to object at your own cost) by attending the Final Approval Hearing. You (or your attorney) should be ready to tell the Court what you object to, why you object, and any facts that support your objection. See Section 8 of this Notice (immediately below) for specifics regarding the Final Approval Hearing.

8. CAN I ATTEND THE FINAL APPROVAL HEARING?

You can, but don't have to, attend the Final Approval Hearing on _____ at _____ in Department 7 of the Los Angeles Superior Court, located at 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. At the Hearing, the judge will decide whether to grant Final Approval of the Settlement and how much of the Gross Settlement will be paid to Class Counsel, Plaintiff, and the Administrator. The Court will invite comment from objectors, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel before making a decision. You can attend (or hire a lawyer to attend) either personally or virtually via LACourtConnect (<https://www.lacourt.org/lacc/>). Check the Court's website for the most current information.

It's possible the Court will reschedule the Final Approval Hearing. You should check the Administrator's website _____ beforehand, the Court's website [Case Summary - Online Services - LA Court](https://www.lacourt.org/casesummary/ui/) (<https://www.lacourt.org/casesummary/ui/>), or contact Class Counsel to verify the date and time of the Final Approval Hearing.

9. HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

The Agreement sets forth everything Defendant and Plaintiff have promised to do under the proposed Settlement. The easiest way to read the Agreement, the Judgment or any other Settlement documents is to go to _____'s website at _____. You can also telephone or send an email to Class Counsel or the Administrator using the contact information listed below, or consult the Superior Court website by going to (<http://www.lacourt.org/casesummary/ui/index.aspx>) and entering the Case Number for the Action, Case No. 24STCV05513. You can also make an appointment to personally review court documents in the Clerk's Office at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse by calling (213) 830-0800.

DO NOT TELEPHONE THE SUPERIOR COURT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SETTLEMENT.

Class Counsel:

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450 N. Brand Blvd., Suite 840

Glendale, CA 91203
Telephone: (818) 962-6465

Settlement Administrator:

Name of Company:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Telephone:

Fax Number:

10. WHAT IF I LOSE MY SETTLEMENT CHECK?

If you lose or misplace your settlement check before cashing it, the Administrator will replace it as long as you request a replacement before the void date on the face of the original check. If your check is already void you should consult the California State Controller's Office - Unclaimed Property Division at (800) 992-4647; mail at P.O. Box 942850, Sacramento, CA 94250; in-person 10600 White Rock Road, Suite 141, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 for instructions on how to retrieve the funds.

11. WHAT IF I CHANGE MY ADDRESS?

To receive your check, you should immediately notify the Administrator if you move or otherwise change your mailing address.

EXHIBIT 2

March 5, 2024

VIA ON-LINE SUBMISSION ONLY TO:

<https://dir.tfaforms.net/128> (copy by certified mail to all Defendants)

Private Attorneys General Act
Attn. PAGA Administrator
455 Golden Gate Avenue, 9th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

Bartz-Altadonna Community Health Center
43322 Gingham Avenue
Lancaster, CA 93535
Certified Mail Tracking Number: 9414 8112 0620 4970 5045 51

Jo Ellen Vasquez, Agent for Service
Bartz-Altadonna Community Health Center
43322 Gingham Avenue
Lancaster, CA 93535
Certified Mail Tracking Number: 9414 8112 0620 4970 5069 51

**Re: Labor Code § 2698, *et seq.* Penalties – PAGA Notice Letter to the LWDA
Amber Lynn Bock v. Bartz-Altadonna Community Health Center, et al.
Superior Court for the County of Los Angeles**

LWDA No.: LWDA-CM-1014881-24

Gentlepersons:

This office represents Plaintiff Amber Lynn Bock (“Plaintiff”) and other similarly situated aggrieved non-exempt, hourly employees aggrieved employees (collectively “Aggrieved Employees”) for violations of California Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 558.1, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1185, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198, 1199, 2698, 2699, *et seq.* and 2802; provisions of the Industrial Welfare Commission (IWC) Wage Order(s); and California Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.*

The purpose of this letter is to comply with the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, pursuant to California Labor Code § 2698 *et seq.* (“the Act”). Plaintiff would like to bring a representative action, pursuant to the Act, on behalf of himself and all other similarly situated Aggrieved Employees, and the State of California, against Defendants, Bartz-Altadonna Community Health Center, and DOES 1 through 50 inclusive (all defendants being referred to herein collectively as “Defendants”).



Additionally, this correspondence will serve to satisfy the notice requirements under the Act, along with a copy of Plaintiff's Class Action Complaint, which is attached to this Notice letter. The Complaint is being concurrently filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court and will be assigned a local case number. The Complaint allegations and claims are incorporated into this Notice Letter.

We also set forth herein the facts and theories and the California Labor Code violations which Defendants engaged in with respect to Plaintiff and all of their Aggrieved Employees in California. The attached Class Action Complaint provides the details of Plaintiff's class-wide claims and claims under the Act, and the applicable California law governing them. It, along with this Notice Letter, addresses in detail numerous violations that subject Defendants to civil and statutory penalties under the Act.

Relevant Facts

Plaintiff was employed by Defendants as a non-exempt, hourly employee based out of Defendants' location in California. Aggrieved Employees include all non-exempt hourly employees of Defendants within the state of California from one year prior to the date of this letter and continuing through the present. Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees are collectively referred to herein as "Aggrieved Employees." Aggrieved Employees consistently worked at Defendants' behest and under their control and subject to their policies and practices without being paid all wages due. Plaintiff is also informed and believes that there are other Aggrieved Employees employed by Defendants as non-exempt employees within the state of California within the statutory time period who suffer or suffered from the same wage and hour violations outlined below.

Defendants had a common policy and/or practice of failing to pay Aggrieved Employees minimum wages for all hours worked. Aggrieved Employees were either not paid by Defendants for all hours worked or were not paid at the appropriate minimum, regular and overtime rates. Plaintiff also contends that Defendants failed to pay Aggrieved Employees all wages due and owing, including by requiring off the clock work, failing to incorporate non-discretionary bonuses and/or commissions into the regular rate of pay used to calculate and pay for overtime pay, sick pay, and meal and rest break premiums, failing to provide meal and rest breaks, failing to furnish accurate wage statements, failing to timely pay wages including final wages, failing to pay vacation wages, failing to maintain accurate records, and failing to reimburse for necessary business expenses all in violation of various provisions of the California Labor Code and applicable Wage Orders.

During the course of Aggrieved Employees' employment with Defendants, they were not paid all wages they were owed, including for all work performed resulting in off the clock work. Aggrieved Employees were required to perform pre-shift and post-shift off the clock work which they were not compensated for despite being subject to Defendants' control. Specifically, Aggrieved Employees were required to wait in line for several minutes before clocking in each morning. Further, Defendants would require Aggrieved Employees to clock out for their meal period but continue working, resulting in off the clock work.



Defendants also failed to pay Aggrieved Employees all wages due and owing because Defendants failed to incorporate non-discretionary, performance-based bonuses and/or commissions into the regular rate of pay. Contrary to the requirements of the Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders under California law, Defendants did not incorporate these non-discretionary bonuses and/or commissions paid to the Aggrieved Employees into the regular rate of pay Defendants used to calculate and pay for overtime, sick pay, and meal and rest break premiums.

Defendants also failed to pay Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees all earned and accrued vacation pay.

By implementing policies, programs, practices, procedures and protocols which resulted in off the clock work and the failure to incorporate non-discretionary bonuses and/or commissions into the regular rate of pay, Defendants' willful actions resulted in the systematic underpayment of wages and overtime pay to Aggrieved Employees. For example, the off the clock work addressed above caused Aggrieved Employees to begin receiving overtime pay later than they should have.

As a result of the above described requirements to work off the clock, the failure to incorporate non-discretionary bonuses and/or commissions into the regular rate of pay, and the other wage violations they endured at Defendants' hands, Aggrieved Employees were not properly paid all wages earned and all wages owed to them by Defendants, including when working more than eight (8) hours in any given day and/or more than forty (40) hours in any given week. Moreover, the uncompensated time, discussed above, was worked by Aggrieved Employees in excess of 8 hours a day and/or 40 hours a week, further entitling Aggrieved Employees overtime wages which they were consistently denied, all in violation of Labor Code and applicable Wage Orders.

Additionally, Defendants failed to provide all the legally required unpaid, off-duty meal periods and all the legally required paid, off-duty rest periods to Aggrieved Employees, as required by the applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. Aggrieved Employees were required to perform work as ordered by Defendants for more than five (5) hours during a shift but were often required to do so without receiving a lawful and timely meal break. In addition to untimely meal periods, Defendants also required Aggrieved Employees to respond to work demands. Defendants placed their needs over Aggrieved Employees' lawful meal and rest breaks and this resulted in Aggrieved Employees often having to work through their scheduled meal and/or rest breaks, or otherwise taking shortened ones, because the demands of the job would not avail them the opportunity to take a lawfully uninterrupted and off duty meal and/or rest break.

On the occasions when Aggrieved Employees worked over 10 hours in a shift, Defendants also failed to provide them with a second, uninterrupted, timely and duty-free meal period. As a result, Defendants' failure to provide Aggrieved Employees with all legally required off-duty, unpaid meal periods and all the legally required off-duty, paid rest periods is and will be evidenced by Defendants' business records, or lack thereof. Defendants also failed to pay Aggrieved Employees "premium pay," i.e. one hour of wages at each Aggrieved Employee's effective hourly rate of pay, including their earned commission, for each meal period or rest



break that Defendants failed to provide or deficiently provided.

Therefore, Defendants have regularly required Aggrieved Employees to work shifts in excess of five (5) hours without providing them with uninterrupted meal periods of not less than thirty (30) minutes, and shifts in excess of (10) hours without providing them with second meal periods of not less than thirty minutes; nor did Defendants pay Aggrieved Employees “premium pay,” i.e. one hour of wages at each Aggrieved Employee’s effective hourly rate of pay, including their earned commission, for each meal period that Defendants failed to provide or deficiently provided.

Aggrieved Employees were also not authorized and permitted to take lawful rest periods, were systematically required by Defendants to work through or during breaks and were not provided with one (1) hour’s wages in lieu thereof. To the extent Aggrieved Employees were able to take rest breaks, they were restricted from leaving the premises. Aggrieved Employees were restricted in their ability to take their full ten (10) minutes net rest time or were otherwise not provided with duty-free rest periods. Therefore, Defendants have consistently failed to provide Aggrieved Employees with paid rest breaks of not less than ten minutes for every work period of four or more consecutive hours; or major fraction thereof, nor did Defendant pay Aggrieved Employees premium pay for each day on which requisite rest breaks were not provided or were deficiently provided.

Defendants also consistently failed to issue accurate itemized wage statements as required by Labor Code § 226(a). Specifically, the wage statements given to Aggrieved Employees failed to accurately account for unpaid wages and overtime because Defendants failed to incorporate non-discretionary bonuses and/or commissions into the regular rate of pay used to calculate and pay for overtime pay, sick pay, and meal and rest break premiums. Thus, the wage statements do not provide accurate hourly rates for overtime and the statements do not comply with Labor Code § 226(a)(9). Moreover, the wage statements given to Aggrieved Employees failed to accurately account for unpaid wages and overtime because their actual hours worked were under-reported due to off the clock work. Additionally, the wage statements given to Aggrieved Employees failed to accurately account for premium pay for deficiently provided meal periods and rest breaks.

Additionally, Defendants failed to pay Aggrieved Employees all wages owed, as detailed above, at the time of their termination or within seventy-two (72) hours of their resignation, as required under Labor Code § 203. Specifically, Aggrieved Employees were not paid all regular and overtime wages because Defendants failed to pay for all hours worked by requiring off the clock work and failing to incorporate non-discretionary bonuses and/or commissions into the regular rate of pay used to calculate and pay for overtime, sick pay, and meal and rest break premiums. Further, Defendants failed to pay premium wages owed for unprovided meal periods and rest periods. Defendants’ failure to pay said wages within the required time was willful within the meaning of Labor Code § 203.



Defendants also failed to reimburse Aggrieved Employees for necessary business expenses. Defendants required Plaintiff to incur business expenses in the course of performing her required job duties for Defendants including for cell phone expenses. Upon information and belief, Aggrieved Employees incurred similar costs. These expenses incurred by Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees were necessary and required of them in performing their assigned job duties, but Defendants failed to reimburse Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees for all such necessary expenditures, thus entitling them to reimbursement according to proof as required under Labor Code § 2802 and the applicable provisions of the IWC Wage Orders.

PAGA Claim Details, Legal Bases for Violations and Penalties:

As addressed above and in further detail in the attached Class Action Complaint, Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees complain of the following violations committed by Defendants:

Failure to Pay Minimum Wages

Defendants violated the law by failing to pay Aggrieved Employees minimum wages for all hours worked. California Labor Code § 1197, entitled “Pay of Less Than Minimum Wage” states, “[t]he minimum wage for employees fixed by the commission is the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a less wage than the minimum so fixed is unlawful.” The applicable minimum wages fixed by the commission for work during the relevant period is found in the Wage Orders.

In California, employees must be paid at least the then applicable state minimum wage for all hours worked, including under Labor Code § 1197, IWC Wage Order MW-2014, and paragraphs 2(K), 2(S), and 4(A)-4(C) of the applicable IWC Wage Orders. Paragraph 2(H) of the applicable IWC Wage Orders 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.” Additionally, pursuant to Labor Code § 204, other applicable laws and regulations, and public policy, an employer must timely pay its employees for all hours worked. Defendants failed to do so.

California Labor Code § 1197, entitled “Pay of Less Than Minimum Wage” states: “The minimum wage for employees fixed by the commission is the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a less wage than the minimum so fixed is unlawful.” The minimum wage provisions of California Labor Code are enforceable by private civil action pursuant to Labor Code § 1194(a) which states: “Notwithstanding any agreement to work for a lesser wage, any employee receiving less than the legal minimum wage or the legal overtime compensation applicable to the employee is entitled to recover in a civil action the unpaid balance of the full amount of this minimum wage or overtime compensation, including interest thereon, reasonable attorney’s fees and costs of suit.”

As described in California Labor Code §§ 1185 and 1194.2, any action for wages incorporates the applicable Wage Order of the California Industrial Welfare Commission. Also, California Labor Code §§ 1194, 1197, 1197.1 and those Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders entitle non-exempt employees to an amount equal to or greater than the minimum wage for all



hours worked. All hours must be paid at the statutory or agreed rate, or at the minimum rate in the absence of a contractually agreed upon one. The underpayment of wages to Aggrieved Employees is and has been a direct consequence of Defendants' unlawful compensation policies and practices, which applied uniformly to the Aggrieved Employees working at locations and work sites throughout California.

During the course of Aggrieved Employees' employment with Defendants, they were not paid all wages they were owed, including for all work performed resulting in off the clock work. Aggrieved Employees were required to perform pre-shift off the clock work which they were not compensated for despite being subject to Defendants' control. Specifically, Aggrieved Employees were required to wait in line for several minutes before clocking in each morning. Further, Defendants would require Aggrieved Employees to clock out for their meal period but continue working, resulting in off the clock work.

Defendants also failed to pay Aggrieved Employees all wages due and owing because Defendants failed to incorporate non-discretionary, performance-based bonuses and/or commissions into the regular rate of pay. Contrary to the requirements of the Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders under California law, Defendants did not incorporate these non-discretionary, bonuses and/or commissions paid to the Aggrieved Employees into the regular rate of pay. Defendants used to calculate and pay for overtime, sick pay, and meal and rest break premiums.

Defendants, and each of them, have also intentionally and improperly imposed difficult to attain job and shift scheduling requirements on Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees, which resulted in off the clock work and underpayment of all wages owed to Employees over a period of time, while benefiting Defendants. During the relevant time period, Defendants thus regularly failed to pay minimum wages to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees, including by requiring systematic off the clock work. Defendants' uniform pattern of unlawful wage and hour practices manifested, without limitation, applicable to the Aggrieved Employees as a whole, as a result of implementing a uniform policy and practice that denied accurate compensation to Plaintiff and the other Aggrieved Employees as to minimum wage pay.

In light of the forgoing, the Aggrieved Employees seek to recover wages and penalties. Aggrieved Employees are entitled to recover the unpaid minimum wages (including double minimum wages), liquidated damages in an amount equal to the minimum wages unlawfully unpaid, interest thereon and reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit pursuant to California Labor Code § 1194(a). Plaintiff and the other Aggrieved Employees further request recovery of all unpaid wages, according to proof, interest, statutory costs, as well as the assessment of any statutory and civil penalties against Defendants, in a sum as provided by the California Labor Code and/or other applicable statutes, including pursuant to Labor Code § 558, and Wage Order provisions. To the extent minimum wage compensation is determined to be owed to the Aggrieved Employees who have terminated their employment, Defendants' conduct also violates Labor Code §§ 201 and/or 202, and therefore these individuals are also be entitled to waiting time penalties under California Labor Code § 203, which penalties are sought herein on behalf of these Aggrieved Employees. Defendants' failure to timely pay all wages owed also violated



Labor Code § 204 and resulted in violations of Labor Code § 226 because they resulted in the issuance of inaccurate wage statements. Defendants' conduct as alleged herein was willful, intentional and not in good faith. Further, Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees are entitled to seek and recover statutory costs.

Under the PAGA, and following exhaustion of the notice period, Plaintiff is seeking all civil and statutory penalties available and applicable under Labor Code §§ 510, 558, 1194.2, 1197.1, 1199, 2699(f)(2), and 2699.5, and also for attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1).

Failure to Pay Wages and Overtime in Violation of Labor Code § 510

Defendants violated the law by failing to pay Aggrieved Employees earned wages and overtime and double time. Specifically, Defendants had a consistent policy of not paying Employees wages for all hours worked, including hours at their required regular, overtime, and double-time rates, or of miscalculating them by not including all forms of remuneration in the regular rate of compensation. Defendants, and each of them, have intentionally and improperly caused Aggrieved Employees to work off the clock to avoid paying them all earned and owed straight time and overtime wages and other benefits.

Defendants have violated Labor Code § 1194 and Labor Code § 510 (and paragraphs 2(K), 2(S), 3(A) and 4(A)-4(B) of the relevant orders of the Industrial Welfare Commission) by failing to pay Employees: (a) time and one-half their regular hourly rates for hours worked in excess of eight hours in a workday or in excess of forty hours in any workweek or for the first eight hours worked on the seventh day of work in any one workweek; or (b) twice their regular rate of pay for hours worked in excess of twelve hours in any one day or for hours worked in excess of eight hours on any seventh day of work in a workweek. Defendants had a consistent policy of not paying Employees wages for all hours worked, including by requiring off the clock work as addressed above and by under-reporting actual hours worked. With work shifts generally requiring eight hours or more of work on a given day, this unpaid off the clock work resulted in Aggrieved Employees working past eight hours on a shift or more than forty hours in a week, which required that they be paid at the correct overtime rate of 1.5 times their regular rate.

When considered in combination with the other wage violations addressed above, Aggrieved Employees were not properly compensated, nor were they paid overtime and double time rates for hours worked in excess of eight hours or twelve hours in a given day, and/or forty hours in a given week. Defendants did not make available to Employees a reasonable protocol for correcting time records when Employees worked overtime hours or to fix incorrect time entries or those that Defendants unlawfully under-recorded to the Employee's detriment. Defendants have also violated these provisions by requiring Plaintiff and other similarly situated Aggrieved Employees to work through meal periods when they were required to be clocked out or to otherwise work off the clock to complete their daily job duties.

In light of the forgoing, Aggrieved Employees seek to recover wages and penalties pursuant to the California Labor Code, including Labor Code §§ 204, 510, 558, 1174, 1194, 1198, 1199, and



the relevant paragraphs of the IWC Wage Orders, including paragraphs 2(K), 2(S), 3(A), 4, and 20. Defendants are liable to Employees for the full amount of all their unpaid wages and overtime compensation, with interest, plus their reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, as well as the assessment of any statutory penalties against Defendants, and each of them, and any additional sums as provided by the Labor Code and/or other statutes and Wage Order provisions.

Under the PAGA, and following exhaustion of the notice period, Plaintiff is seeking all civil and statutory penalties available and applicable under Labor Code §§ 510, 558, 1194.2, 1197.1, 1199, 2699(f)(2), and 2699.5, and also for attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1).

Meal-Period Liability Under Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512 and Penalties

Defendants have regularly required Aggrieved Employees to work shifts in excess of five hours without providing them with uninterrupted meal periods of not less than thirty minutes as required under Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, and paragraph 11 of the applicable Wage Orders. Specifically, Aggrieved Employees were forced to incur shortened meal periods, were provided with breaks late and well after the fifth hour of work, could not be relieved to take breaks, or were required to remain on-duty at all times and were unable to take off-duty breaks or were otherwise not provided with the opportunity to take required breaks.

On the occasions when Aggrieved Employees were provided with a meal period, it was often untimely or interrupted by having to respond to work demands or remain under Defendant's control, in violation of the Labor Code and applicable Wage Orders. On shifts over ten hours, second meal periods were not provided. Defendants also failed to pay Aggrieved Employees "premium pay," i.e. one hour of wages at each Aggrieved Employee's effective regular rate of pay, for each meal period that Defendants failed to provide or deficiently provided, including by miscalculating any premium payments they did make. Therefore, pursuant to Labor Code § 226.7 and paragraphs 11 and 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Order, Aggrieved Employees are entitled to damages in an amount equal to one hour of wages at their correctly calculated regular rate of compensation for each meal period not provided or deficiently provided, as well as the assessment of any statutory penalties against the Defendants, and each of them, in a sum as provided by the Labor Code, including Labor Code § 558 and other applicable statutes and Wage Order provisions. Defendants also miscalculated the rate at which they paid any meal period or rest period premiums when Defendant did attempt to pay them, resulting in further violations of section 226.7.

Under the PAGA, and following exhaustion of the notice period, Plaintiff is seeking all civil and statutory penalties and wages as available and applicable under Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, 558, including sections 558(a)(1)-(3), 1199, 2699(f)(2) and 2699.5, and also for attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1).

Rest-Break Liability Under Labor Code § 226.7 and Penalties

Defendants have consistently failed to provide Aggrieved Employees with paid rest breaks of not less than ten minutes for every work period of four or more consecutive hours, as required under



Labor Code § 226.7. Specifically, Defendants provided rest periods untimely or for shortened durations, and Defendants' policies and procedures required Aggrieved Employees to remain under Defendants' control during breaks to respond to job requirements.

Defendants also failed to pay Aggrieved Employees premium pay for each day on which requisite rest breaks were not provided or were deficiently provided, or miscalculated any premiums paid. Therefore, pursuant to Labor Code § 226.7 and paragraphs 12 and 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Order, Aggrieved Employees are entitled to damages in an amount equal to one hour of wages at their correctly calculated regular rate of compensation for each rest period not provided or deficiently provided, as well as the assessment of any statutory penalties against the Defendants, and each of them, in a sum as provided by the Labor Code, including Labor Code § 558 and other applicable statutes and Wage Order provisions.

Under the PAGA, and following exhaustion of the notice period, Plaintiff is seeking all civil and statutory penalties and wages as available and applicable under Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, 558, including sections 558(a)(1)-(3), 1199, 2699(f)(2), and 2699.5, and also for attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1).

Failure to Issue Accurate and Itemized Wage Statements in Violation of Labor Code § 226

California Labor Code § 226(a) requires an employer to furnish each employee with an accurate, itemized wage statements in writing. These statements must be appended to the detachable part of the check, draft, voucher, or whatever else serves to pay the employee's wages; or, if wages are paid by cash or personal check, these statements may be given to the employee separately from the payment of wages; in either case the employer must give the employee these statements twice a month or each time wages are paid. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants' violation of Labor Code § 226(a), Aggrieved Employees suffered injuries, including among other things confusion over whether they received all wages owed them, the difficulty and expense involved in reconstructing pay records, and forcing them to make mathematical computations to analyze whether the wages paid in fact compensated them correctly for all hours worked.

Defendants failed to provide accurate itemized wage statements in writing, as required by the Labor Code and paragraph 7 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders. Any wage statements given to Employees by Defendants necessarily failed to accurately account for wages, overtime, and premium pay, including by failing to pay for all hours worked, failure to pay for all overtime hours worked or at the correct rate of pay and for providing deficient meal periods and rest breaks, all of which Defendants knew or reasonably should have known were owed to the Employees, as alleged above.

In light of these violations, and pursuant to Labor Code §§ 226(a) and 226(e) and paragraphs 4(b), 7, and 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders, Aggrieved Employees are entitled to recover the greater of all actual damages or fifty dollars (\$50) for the initial pay period in which a violation occurs and one hundred dollars (\$100) for each violation in a subsequent pay period, not exceeding an aggregate penalty of four thousand dollars (\$4,000). They are also entitled to an award of costs and reasonable attorneys' fees.



Under the PAGA, and following exhaustion of the notice period, Plaintiff asserts PAGA claims for failure to provide Aggrieved Employees with accurate, itemized wage statements and failure to maintain employment records for Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees under Labor Code §§ 226, 1174, and 1198.5, and Sections 7(A), 7(B), and 7(C) of the applicable IWC Wage Order(s) seeking all civil and statutory penalties and wages available and applicable under Labor Code §§ 226(e), 226.3, 558, 1174.5, 1199, and 2699(f)(2), and paragraph 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Order, and also for attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1). More specifically, by providing inaccurate wage statements and failing to maintain records as required under Labor Code § 226(a), Defendants committed ongoing violations giving rise to civil penalties under Labor Code § 226.3, which in addition to other penalties provided by law, subjects Defendants to "a penalty in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per employee per violation in an initial citation and one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per employee for each violation in a subsequent citation, ..."

Failure to Issue Semimonthly Payments in Violation of Labor Code § 204

In failing to pay Aggrieved Employees wages, overtime, premium pay, etc., and failing to provide them with checks and wage statements, Defendants failed to timely pay Aggrieved Employees wages on a semimonthly basis as required under Labor Code § 204. Defendants failed to maintain records showing accurate hours worked daily and the wages paid to Aggrieved Employees, as well as the meal and rest periods taken by Aggrieved Employees, as required by Labor Code § 1174 and the applicable IWC wage orders.

Defendants also required Aggrieved Employees to work hours off the clock for which they were not compensated, including during interrupted or otherwise on-duty meal and rest periods. Defendants also failed to pay all overtime premium wages owed for work conducted on a work shift and a workday, or miscalculated these premiums by not including all forms of remuneration in the regular rate, as addressed above. Therefore, when Aggrieved Employees received wage statements and pay checks, they did not compensate all hours worked on a timely basis, resulting in Defendants' systematic failure to pay all wages owed to Aggrieved Employees twice monthly in accordance with the requirements of Labor Code § 204. Additionally, by not providing wage statements as required under section 204, Defendants systematically violated Labor Code § 204 and § 226.

Given the above described off the clock work and deductions from hours worked perpetrated by Defendants' management, Plaintiff was not paid at the correct overtime rate for all hours she worked after eight hours into a shift or over forty in a work week and that she was not paid all double time owed either. Defendants' uniformly applied payroll policies and practices thus resulted in further systematic and ongoing violations of the requirements of Labor Code § 204.

In light of the foregoing, Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees seek to recover wages and penalties, interest, fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code §§ 201.3, 210, 218.5, 558, and 1194. In failing to pay Aggrieved Employees minimum wages and overtime, by requiring off the clock work, by not providing proper meal and rest periods, failing to provide accurate itemized wage



statements, and failing to pay Employees wages upon termination or timely upon resignation, all discussed above, Defendants failed to timely pay Aggrieved Employees wages on a semimonthly basis as required under Labor Code § 204. Defendants also failed to maintain records showing accurate hours worked daily and the wages paid to Aggrieved Employees, as required by Labor Code § 1174 and paragraph 7 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders, entitling Aggrieved Employees to recover penalties pursuant to paragraph 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders.

Under the PAGA, and following exhaustion of the notice period, Plaintiff asserts PAGA claims for failure to timely pay all wages owed, including at least semi-monthly and upon separation or termination, under Labor Code §§ 203, 204, 2926, 2927, and 2699.5 seeking all civil penalties available and applicable under Labor Code §§ 204, 210, 558, 1197, 1198, 1199 and 2699(f)(2), and paragraph 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders, and also for attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1).

Failure to Keep Records In Accordance With Labor Code § 1174

Labor Code § 1174 requires employers to keep records showing payroll data and the hours worked daily by and the wages paid to employees. By failing to pay Aggrieved Employees proper wages, overtime, double time, premium pay, etc., and by not recording meal period start and end times, all discussed herein, Defendants failed to maintain proper employment records in accordance with Section 1174. In light of the forgoing, Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees seek to recover penalties pursuant to Labor Code §§ 1174.5 and 2699, *et seq.* Defendants have also failed to comply with paragraph 7 of the applicable California IWC Wage Orders by failing to maintain time records showing when the employee begins and ends each work period, meal periods, wages earned pursuant to Labor Code § 226.7, and total daily hours worked by itemizing in wage statements all deductions from payment of wages and accurately reporting total hours worked by the Aggrieved Employees, and they are entitled to recover penalties pursuant to paragraph 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders.

Under the PAGA, and following exhaustion of the notice period, Plaintiff asserts PAGA claims for failure to provide Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees with accurate, itemized wage statements and failure to maintain employment records for Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees under Labor Code §§ 226, 1174, 1198, and 1198.5, and Sections 7(A), 7(B), and 7(C) of the applicable IWC Wage Order(s) seeking all civil and statutory penalties and wages available and applicable under Labor Code §§ 558, 1174.5, 1199, and 2699(f)(2), 2699.5, and paragraph 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Order, and also for attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1).

Waiting Time Penalties Pursuant to Labor Code § 203

Some Aggrieved Employees no longer work for Defendants; they either resigned or were terminated from Defendants' employ. Based on the forgoing, Defendants have had a consistent policy of failing to pay all wages earned by and owed to Aggrieved Employees at the time of their termination of within seventy-two hours of their resignation, as required by California under Labor Code § 203. In light of the forgoing, Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees seek to recover wages and penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 558 and further specifically seek penalties



and wages under Labor Code § 203, which provides that an employee's wages shall continue until paid for up to thirty (30) days from the date they were due.

Under the PAGA, and following exhaustion of the notice period, Plaintiff asserts PAGA claims for failure to timely pay all wages owed, including at least semi-monthly and upon separation or termination, under Labor Code §§ 201, 201, 203, 204, 1197.5, 2926, and 2927 seeking all civil penalties available and applicable under Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 210, 558, 1197, 1198, 1199, 2699(f)(2), 2699.5, and paragraph 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders, and also for attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1).

Failure to Pay Vacation Wages

Pursuant to California Labor Code § 227.3, whenever a contract of employment or employment policy provides for paid vacation and an employee is terminated without having taken off her vested vacation time, all vested vacation shall be paid to her as wages at her final rate in accordance with said contract of employment or policy respecting eligibility or time served. Defendants paid bonuses and/or commissions to Aggrieved Employees but Defendants failed to include these forms of remuneration in the regular rate of pay from which vacation wages were calculated and paid. Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees seek to recover penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 227.3. Moreover, Defendant also failed to pay Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees all earned and accrued vacation pay. Plaintiff accordingly seeks this relief available for Defendants' violations of section Labor Code § 227.3 in connection with Aggrieved Employees and seeking the civil and statutory penalties available and applicable under Labor Code § 227.3, 1194.2, 1197.1, 1198, 1199, 2699.3(b), and 2699(f)(2), and also for attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1).

Failure to Reimburse for Necessary Business Expenditures in Violation of Labor Code § 2802

Defendants required Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees to pay for necessary work related expenses they incurred. Defendants required Plaintiff to incur business expenses in the course of performing her required job duties for Defendants including for cell phone expenses. Upon information and belief, Aggrieved Employees incurred similar costs.

Defendants systematically and uniformly failed to reimburse those lawful and necessary work related expenses or losses incurred in direct discharge of their job duties during employment with Defendants and at the direction of the Defendants pursuant to Labor Code § 2802(a) and the applicable IWC Wage Orders, paragraph 9. Defendants are liable for PAGA penalties resulting from their failure to reimburse necessary business expenses incurred by the Aggrieved Employees. Accordingly, Aggrieved Employees are entitled to recover, and hereby seek through this Representative Action, all civil and statutory penalties authorized for violations of California Labor Code §§ 1198 and 2802, and Section 9(B) of the applicable IWC Wage Orders, and Plaintiff seeks all civil and statutory penalties available and applicable under Labor Code §§ 2802 and 2699(f)(2), and also attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1). to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1).



Unfair Competition Under Business and Professions Code § 17200, et seq.

Consequently, Defendants' conduct has been and continues to be unfair, unlawful, and harmful to Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees and the general public in violation of Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.*

Plaintiff's PAGA Claim under Labor Code § 2698 et seq. and Recovery Bases:

After complying with the notice procedures of Labor Code § 2699.3 and the running of the notice period after the filing of the attached Class Action Complaint, Plaintiff will file an amended Complaint asserting, as a representative action on behalf of the California Attorney General and the other similarly Aggrieved Employees, a PAGA claim for violations of the above addressed underlying claims and seeking penalties as specified by the applicable corresponding provisions.

Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees seek penalties under Labor Code §§ 2698 and 2699 for Defendants' violation of Labor Code provisions included under Labor Code § 2699.5, including the penalty provisions, without limitation, based, *inter alia*, on the following California Labor Code sections: §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 558.1, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1185, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198, 1199, 2698, 2699, *et seq.* and 2802, including as follows:

(a) **Wage Claims:** For failure to provide Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees all earned regular pay and minimum wages for regular hours worked and for failure to pay overtime premium wages for overtime hours worked under Labor Code §§ 510, 1194(a), 1197, and 1198, and paragraphs 2(K), 3(A), 4(A), 4(B) and 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Order(s) seeking all civil and statutory penalties available and applicable under Labor Code §§ 510, 558, 1194.2, 1197.1, 1198, 1199, 2699(f)(2), and 2699.5, and also for attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1);

(b) **Meal and Rest Period Claims:** For failure to provide Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees off-duty, timely, and unpaid meal periods and failure to authorize and permit them to take off-duty, timely, and paid rest periods, or pay one hour of regular pay in lieu thereof, under Labor Code §§ 512, 1198, and 226.7, and Sections 11, 12(A), and 12(B) of the applicable IWC Wage Order(s) seeking all civil and statutory penalties available and applicable, including under paragraph 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders, and wages under Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, 558, including sections 558(a)(1)-(3), 1199 and 2699(f)(2), and also for attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1);

(c) **Inaccurate Wage Statements and Failure to Maintain Records:** For failure to provide Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees with wage statements or with accurate, itemized wage statements and failure to maintain employment records for Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees under Labor Code §§ 226, 1174, and 1198.5, and Sections 7(A), 7(B), and 7(C) of the applicable IWC Wage Order(s) seeking all civil and statutory penalties and wages available and applicable under Labor Code §§ 226(e), 226.3, 558, 1174.5, 1199, and 2699(f)(2), and paragraph 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Order, and also for attorneys' fees and costs pursuant



to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1). More specifically, by providing inaccurate wage statements and failing to maintain records as required under Labor Code § 226(a), Defendants committed ongoing violations giving rise to civil penalties under Labor Code §226.3, which in addition to other penalties provided by law, subjects Defendants to “a penalty in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per employee per violation in an initial citation and one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per employee for each violation in a subsequent citation, ...”;

(d) Failure to Timely Pay Wages: For failure to timely pay all wages owed, including at least semi-monthly and upon separation or termination, under Labor Code §§ 201, 201, 203, 204, 1197.5, 2926, and 2927 seeking all civil penalties available and applicable under Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 210, 558, 1197, 1198, 1199 and 2699(f)(2), and paragraph 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders, and also for attorneys’ fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1);

(e) Failure to Reimburse Business Expenses: For Defendants’ failure to reimburse the necessary work related expenses incurred under Labor Code §§ 1197, 1197.1, 1198, and 2802, and Sections 2(K), 4, 9, and 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Order(s), seeking civil penalties available and applicable under Labor Code §§ 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2802, 2699.5, and 2699(f)(2) and paragraph 9 and 20 of the IWC Wage Orders, and also attorneys’ fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1);

(f) All Alleged Violations of the IWC Wage Orders: For any above addressed violation of the applicable provisions of the IWC Wage Orders constituting violations of Labor Code § 1198 and Labor Code § 2699.5, and seeking penalties available and applicable under Labor Code § 2699(f)(2) and paragraph 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders, and for attorneys’ fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1).

We have been constrained to initially move forward with the filing of this Complaint, alleging the causes of action discussed herein, without the PAGA claim. Thus, any action by the LWDA would not resolve the entirety of the case, and the interest of judicial economy will be served by allowing the case to proceed as a cohesive whole.

This letter and the attached Complaint therefore provide the requisite notice under the Act to the LWDA and Defendants by setting forth the specific provisions of the Labor Code and related provisions Plaintiff alleges have been violated, including the facts and relevant theories alleged against Bartz-Altadonna Community Health Center and any other named Defendants and joint employers. To prevent the violations described in the Complaint and herein from occurring, and to remedy past violations, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the LWDA conduct an investigation into Defendants’ employment practices in accordance with the Act.

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Wherefore we request that you advise us, by certified mail within sixty days of the postmark on this letter, whether you intend to proceed with these claims or whether Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees should include them in an amended Labor Code § 2698 *et seq.* claim under the Act in an amended Complaint.

Regards,

D.LAW, INC.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Yeremian', written over the printed name.

David Yeremian

Cc: Bartz-Altadonna Community Health Center

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Attorneys for Plaintiff AMBER LYNN BOCK,
on behalf of herself and others similarly situated

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

AMBER LYNN BOCK, an individual on
behalf of herself and all others similarly
situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

BARTZ-ALTADONNA COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTER, a California non-profit
corporation; and DOES 1 through 50,
inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.:

CLASS ACTION

Assigned for All Purposes To:

Hon.

Dept.:

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR:

1. Failure to Pay Minimum Wages;
2. Failure to Pay Wages and Overtime Under Labor Code § 510;
3. Meal Period Liability Under Labor Code § 226.7;
4. Rest-Break Liability Under Labor Code § 226.7;
5. Violation of Labor Code § 226(a);
6. Violation of Labor Code § 203;
7. Violation of Labor Code § 204;
8. Failure to Keep Required Payroll Records under Labor Code §§ 1174 and 1174.5;
9. Failure to Reimburse Necessary Business Expenses § 2802;
10. Failure to pay Vacation Wages; and
11. Violation of Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.*

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

1 **INTRODUCTION**

2 1. Plaintiff AMBER LYNN BOCK (“Plaintiff”) brings this action on behalf of herself
3 and the Class Members who are defined as “all current and former employees within the State of
4 California who, at any time from four (4) years prior to the filing of this lawsuit, are or were
5 employed as non-exempt hourly employees by Defendants BARTZ-ALTADONNA
6 COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER, a California non-profit corporation, and DOES 1 through
7 50” (all defendants being collectively referred to herein as “Defendants”).

8 2. Plaintiff alleges that Defendants, and each of them, violated various provisions of
9 the California Labor Code, relevant orders of the Industrial Welfare Commission (IWC), and the
10 California Business & Professions Code, and seeks redress for these violations.

11 3. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants and (1) shared
12 similar job duties and responsibilities; (2) was subjected to the same policies and practices; and (3)
13 endured similar violations at the hands of Defendants as the other Class Members who served in
14 similar and related positions.

15 **THE PARTIES**

16 **A. The Plaintiff**

17 4. Plaintiff AMBER LYNN BOCK resides in California, during the time period
18 relevant to this Complaint, was employed by Defendants as a non-exempt hourly employee within
19 the State of California.

20 **B. The Defendants**

21 5. Defendant BARTZ-ALTADONNA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER is a
22 California non-profit corporation with its principle offices in Lancaster, California, and is
23 registered with the California Secretary of State. Defendant BARTZ-ALTADONNA
24 COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER has been the employer listed on the wage statements and
25 employment records issued to Plaintiff during the relevant time period that Plaintiff was employed
26 with Defendants. BARTZ-ALTADONNA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER employs Plaintiff
27 and the Class Members in California, including at Defendants’ offices and facilities in Lancaster,
28 California, and throughout California, and conducts business throughout California.

6. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate, or whatever else, of the Defendants sued herein as Does 1 through 50, inclusive, are currently unknown to Plaintiff, who therefore sue these Defendants by such fictitious names under Code of Civil Procedure § 474. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants designated herein as Does 1 through 50, inclusive, and each of them, are legally responsible in some manner for the unlawful acts referred to herein. Plaintiff will seek leave of court to amend this Complaint to reflect the true names and capacities of the Defendants designated herein as Does 1 through 50 when their identities become known.

7. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that each Defendant acted in all respects pertinent to this action as the agent of the other Defendants, that Defendants carried out a joint scheme, business plan, or policy in all respects pertinent hereto, and that the acts of each Defendant are legally attributable to the other Defendants. Furthermore, Defendants acted in all respects as the employers or joint employers of Class Members. Defendants, and each of them, exercised control over the wages, hours or working conditions of Class Members, or suffered or permitted Class Members to work, or engaged, thereby creating a common law employment relationship, with Class Members. Therefore, Defendants, and each of them, employed or jointly employed Class Members.

8. Whenever and wherever reference is made in this Complaint to any act by a defendant or defendants, such allegations and references shall also be deemed to mean the acts and failures to act of each defendant acting individually, jointly, and severally.

9. Whenever and wherever reference is made to individuals who are not named as a Defendant in this Complaint but were agents, servants, employees and/or supervisors of Defendants, such individuals at all relevant times acted on behalf of Defendants within the scope of their employment.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

10. This Court has jurisdiction over this Action pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 410.10 and California Business & Professions Code § 17203. This Action is brought as a Class Action on behalf of similarly situated Class Members of Defendants pursuant to

1 California Code of Civil Procedure § 382. Venue as to Defendants is also proper in this judicial
2 district pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 395 *et seq.* Upon information and belief,
3 the obligations and liabilities giving rise to this lawsuit occurred in part in Los Angeles County.
4 Defendants maintain and operate facilities in Los Angeles County and employs Plaintiff and other
5 Class Members in Los Angeles County, while doing business throughout California.

6 **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

7 11. Class Members consistently worked at Defendants behest without being paid all
8 wages due. Class Members were either not paid by Defendants for all hours worked or were not
9 paid at the appropriate minimum, regular and overtime rates. Plaintiff also contends that
10 Defendants failed to pay Class Members all wages due and owing, including by requiring off the
11 clock work, failing to incorporate non-discretionary bonuses and/or commissions into the regular
12 rate of pay used to calculate and pay for overtime pay, sick pay, and meal and rest break
13 premiums, failing to provide meal and rest breaks, failing to furnish accurate wage statements,
14 failing to timely pay wages including final wages, failing to maintain accurate records, failing to
15 pay out vacation days, and failing to reimburse necessary business expenses all in violation of
16 various provisions of the California Labor Code and applicable Wage Orders.

17 12. During the course of Class Members' employment with Defendants, they were not
18 paid all wages they were owed, including for all work performed resulting in off the clock work.
19 Class Members were required to perform pre-shift and post-shift off the clock work which they
20 were not compensated for despite being subject to Defendants' control. Specifically, Class
21 Members were required to wait in line for several minutes before clocking in each morning.
22 Further, Defendants would require Class Members to clock out for their meal period but continue
23 working resulting in off the clock work.

24 13. Defendants also failed to pay Class Members all wages due and owing because
25 Defendants failed to incorporate non-discretionary, performance-based bonuses and/or
26 commissions into the regular rate of pay. Contrary to the requirements of the Labor Code and IWC
27 Wage Orders under California law, Defendants did not incorporate these non-discretionary
28 bonuses and/or commissions paid to the Class Members into the regular rate of pay Defendants

1 used to calculate and pay for overtime, sick pay, and meal and rest break premiums.

2 14. Defendants also failed to pay Plaintiff and Class Members all earned and accrued
3 vacation pay.

4 15. By implementing policies, programs, practices, procedures and protocols which
5 resulted in off the clock work and failing to incorporate non-discretionary bonuses and/or
6 commissions into the regular rate of pay, Defendants' willful actions resulted in the systematic
7 underpayment of wages to Class Members, including underpayment of overtime pay to Class
8 Members over the relevant time period. For example, the above described off the clock work
9 addressed above caused Plaintiff to begin receiving overtime pay later than they should have.

10 16. As a result of the above described requirements to work off the clock, the failure to
11 incorporate non-discretionary bonuses and/or commissions into the regular rate of pay used to
12 calculate and pay, and the other wage violations they endured at Defendants' hands, Class
13 Members were not properly paid all wages earned and all wages owed to them by Defendants,
14 including when working more than eight (8) hours in any given day and/or more than forty (40)
15 hours in any given week.

16 17. As a result of Defendants' unlawful policies and practices, Class Members incurred
17 overtime hours worked for which they were not adequately and completely compensated, in
18 addition to the hours they were required to work off the clock. To the extent applicable,
19 Defendants also failed to pay Class Members at an overtime rate of 1.5 times the regular rate for
20 the first eight hours of the seventh consecutive work day in a week and overtime payments at the
21 rate of 2 times the regular rate for hours worked over eight (8) on the seventh consecutive work
22 day, as required under the Labor Code and applicable IWC Wage Orders.

23 18. Therefore, from at least four (4) years prior to the filing of this lawsuit and
24 continuing to the present, Defendants had a consistent policy or practice of failing to pay Class
25 Members for all hours worked and failing to pay minimum wages for all time worked, as required
26 by California law. Defendants thus failed to pay Class Members at least minimum wages for all
27 the time they worked for Defendants in violation of the Labor Code and applicable IWC Wage
28 Orders as the actual times when Class Members were under the control and direction of

1 Defendants was under reported in the hours reflected on the timekeeping records. Furthermore,
2 Defendants' willful actions resulted in the systematic underpayment of wages to Class Members,
3 including underpayment of overtime pay to Class Members over a period of time.

4 19. Therefore, from at least four (4) years prior to the filing of this lawsuit and
5 continuing to the present, Defendants had a consistent policy or practice of failing to pay Class
6 Members for all hours worked. Also, from at least four (4) years prior to the filing of this lawsuit
7 and continuing to the present, Defendants also had a consistent policy or practice of failing to pay
8 Class Members their true and correct overtime compensation at premium overtime rates for all
9 hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours a day and/or forty (40) hours a week, and double-time
10 rates for all hours worked in excess of twelve (12) hours a day, in violation of Labor Code § 510
11 and the corresponding sections of IWC Wage Orders.

12 20. Additionally, Defendants failed to provide all the legally required unpaid, off-duty
13 meal periods and all the legally required paid, off-duty rest periods to Class Members, as required
14 by the applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. Class Members were required to perform work as
15 ordered by Defendants for more than five (5) hours during a shift but were often required to do so
16 without receiving a lawful and timely meal break. In addition to untimely meal periods,
17 Defendants also required Class Members to respond to work demands. Defendants placed their
18 needs over Class Members lawful meal and rest breaks and this resulted in Class Members often
19 having to work through their scheduled meal and/or rest breaks, or otherwise taking shortened
20 ones, because the demands of the job would not avail them the opportunity to take a lawfully
21 uninterrupted and off duty meal and/or rest break.

22 21. On the occasions when Class Members worked over 10 hours in a shift, Defendants
23 also failed to provide them with a second, uninterrupted, timely and duty-free meal period. As a
24 result, Defendants' failure to provide Class Members with all legally required off-duty, unpaid
25 meal periods and all the legally required off-duty, paid rest periods is and will be evidenced by
26 Defendants' business records, or lack thereof. Defendants also failed to pay Class Members
27 "premium pay," i.e. one hour of wages at each Class Member's effective hourly rate of pay, for
28 each meal period or rest break that Defendants failed to provide or deficiently provided.

22. Therefore, for at least four years prior to the filing of this action and through to the present, Defendants have regularly required Class Members to work shifts in excess of five (5) hours without providing them with uninterrupted meal periods of not less than thirty (30) minutes, and shifts in excess of (10) hours without providing them with second meal periods of not less than thirty minutes; nor did Defendants pay Class Members “premium pay,” i.e. one hour of wages at each Class Member’s effective hourly rate of pay, for each meal period that Defendants failed to provide or deficiently provided.

23. Meal period violations thus occurred in one or more of the following manners:

- (a) Class Members were not provided full thirty-minute duty free meal periods for work days in excess of five (5) hours and were not compensated one (1) hour’s wages in lieu thereof, all in violation of, among others, Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, and the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order(s);
- (b) Class Members were not provided second full thirty-minute duty free meal periods for work days in excess of ten (10) hours;
- (c) Class Members were required to work through at least part of their daily meal period(s);
- (d) Meal periods were provided after five (5) hours of continuous work during a shift; and
- (e) Class Members were restricted in their ability to take a full thirty-minute meal period.

24. Class Members were also not authorized and permitted to take lawful rest periods, were systematically required by Defendants to work through or during breaks and were not provided with one (1) hour’s wages in lieu thereof. Class Members were restricted in their ability to take their full ten (10) minutes net rest time or were otherwise not provided with duty-free rest periods. Therefore, from at least four years prior to the filing of this lawsuit and continuing to the present, Defendants have consistently failed to provide Class Members with paid rest breaks of not less than ten minutes for every work period of four or more consecutive hours; or major fraction

1 thereof, nor did Defendant pay Class Members premium pay for each day on which requisite rest
2 breaks were not provided or were deficiently provided.

3 25. Rest period violations therefore arose in one or more of the following manners:

- 4 (a) Class Members were required to work without being provided a minimum
5 ten (10) minute rest period for every four (4) hours or major fraction
6 thereof worked and were not compensated one (1) hour of pay at their
7 regular rate of compensation for each workday that a rest period was not
8 provided;
- 9 (b) Class Members were not authorized and permitted to take timely rest
10 periods for every four hours worked, or major fraction thereof; and
- 11 (c) Class Members were required to remain on-duty during rest periods or
12 otherwise had their rest periods interrupted by work demands.

13 26. Defendants also consistently failed to issue accurate itemized wage statements as
14 required by Labor Code § 226(a). Specifically, the wage statements given to Class Members failed
15 to accurately account for unpaid wages and overtime because Defendants failed to incorporate
16 non-discretionary bonuses and/or commissions into the regular rate of pay used to calculate and
17 pay for overtime pay, sick pay, and meal and rest break premiums. Thus, the wage statements do
18 not provide accurate hourly rates for overtime and the statements do not comply with Labor Code
19 § 226(a)(9). Moreover, the wage statements given to Class Members failed to accurately account
20 for unpaid wages and overtime because their actual hours worked were under-reported due to off
21 the clock work. Additionally, the wage statements given to Class Members failed to accurately
22 account for premium pay for deficiently provided meal periods and rest breaks.

23 27. From at least four (4) years prior to filing this lawsuit and continuing to the present,
24 Defendants have thus also had a consistent policy of failing to pay all wages owed to Class
25 Members at the time of their termination of within seventy-two (72) hours of their resignation, as
26 required by California wage-and-hour laws. Specifically, Class Members were not paid all regular
27 and overtime wages because Defendants failed to pay for all hours worked by requiring off the
28 clock work and failing to incorporate non-discretionary bonuses and/or commissions into the

1 regular rate of pay used to calculate and pay for overtime, sick pay, and meal and rest break
2 premiums. Further, Defendants failed to pay premium wages owed for unprovided meal periods
3 and rest periods, as further detailed in this Complaint. Defendants' failure to pay said wages
4 within the required time was willful within the meaning of Labor Code § 203.

5 28. Additionally, from at least four (4) years prior to the filing of this lawsuit and
6 continuing to the present, Defendants have regularly required Plaintiff to incur business expenses
7 in the course of performing their required job duties for Defendants including for cell phone
8 expenses. Upon information and belief, Class Members incurred similar costs. These expenses
9 incurred by Plaintiff and Class Members were necessary and required of them in performing their
10 assigned job duties, but Defendants failed to reimburse Plaintiff and Class Members for all such
11 necessary expenditures, thus entitling them to reimbursement according to proof as required under
12 Labor Code § 2802 and the applicable provisions of the IWC Wage Orders.

13 29. In light of the foregoing, Plaintiff and Class Members bring this action pursuant to,
14 *inter alia*, Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 227.3, 510, 512, 558, 558.1,
15 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1185, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198, 1199, 2802 and California Code of
16 Regulations, Title 8, section 11000 *et seq.*

17 30. Furthermore, pursuant to Business and Professions Code §§ 17200-17208, Plaintiff
18 and the Class Members seek injunctive relief, restitution, and disgorgement of all benefits
19 Defendants have enjoyed from their violations of Labor Code and the other unfair, unlawful, or
20 fraudulent practices alleged in this Complaint.

21 **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

22 31. Plaintiff seeks to represent the Subclasses composed of and defined as follows:

23 a. Subclass 1. Minimum Wages Subclass. All Class Members who were not
24 compensated for all hours worked for Defendants at the applicable minimum wage.

25 b. Subclass 2. Wages and Overtime Subclass. All Class Members who were not
26 compensated for all hours worked for Defendants at the required rates of pay, including for all
27 hours worked in excess of eight in a day and/or forty in a week.

28 c. Subclass 3. Meal Period Subclass. All Class Members who were subject to

Defendants' policy and/or practice of failing to provide unpaid 30-minute uninterrupted and duty-free meal periods or one hour of pay at the Class Member's regular rate of pay in lieu thereof.

d. Subclass 4. Rest Break Subclass. All Class Members who were subject to Defendants' policy and/or practice of failing to authorize and permit Class Members to take uninterrupted, duty-free, 10-minute rest periods for every four hours worked, or major fraction thereof, and failing to pay one hour of pay at the Class Member's regular rate of pay in lieu thereof.

e. Subclass 5. Wage Statement Subclass. All Class Members who, within the applicable limitations period, were not provided with accurate itemized wage statements.

f. Subclass 6. Termination Pay Subclass. All Class Members who, within the applicable limitations period, either voluntarily or involuntarily separated from their employment and were subject to Defendants' policy and/or practice of failing to timely pay wages upon termination.

g. Subclass 7: Failure to Timely Pay Wages Twice Monthly Subclass. All Class Members who were subject to Defendants' policy and practice of not timely paying all wages earned when they were due and payable at least twice monthly.

h. Subclass 8. Vacation Pay Subclass. All Class Members who were not paid for accrued vacation time upon separation.

i. Subclass 9. Payroll Records Subclass. All Class members who were subject to Defendants' policy and/or practice of failing to keep accurate time and wage records as required by California wage-and-hour laws.

j. Subclass 10. Expense Reimbursement Subclass. All Class Members who incurred necessary and reasonable expenses in connection with performing their job duties for Defendant and who were subject to a policy and/or practice under which such expenses were not reimbursed.

k. Subclass 11. UCL Subclass. All Class Members who are owed restitution as a result of Defendants' business acts and practices, to the extent such acts and practices are found to be unlawful, deceptive, and/or unfair.

32. Plaintiff reserves the right under California Rule of Court 3.765 to amend or

1 modify the class description with greater particularity or further division into subclasses or
2 limitation to particular issues. To the extent equitable tolling operates to toll claims by the Class
3 against Defendants, the Class Period should be adjusted accordingly.

4 33. Defendants, as a matter of company policy, practice and procedure, and in violation
5 of the applicable Labor Code, Industrial Welfare Commission (“IWC”) Wage Order requirements,
6 and the applicable provisions of California law, intentionally, knowingly, and willfully, engaged
7 in a practice whereby Defendants failed to correctly calculate compensation for the time worked
8 by Class Members, even though Defendants enjoyed the benefit of this work, required Class
9 Members to perform this work and permitted or suffered to permit this work. Defendants have
10 uniformly denied these Class Members wages to which these employees are entitled and failed to
11 provide meal periods or authorize and permit rest periods, in order to unfairly cheat the
12 competition and unlawfully profit.

13 34. This action has been brought and may properly be maintained as a class action
14 under the provisions of Code of Civil Procedure § 382 because there is a well-defined community
15 of interest in litigation and proposed class is easily ascertainable.

16 **A. Numerosity**

17 35. The potential members of the class as defined are so numerous that joinder of all
18 the member of the class is impracticable. While the precise number of class member has not been
19 determined at this time, Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendants employ or, during the
20 time period relevant to this lawsuit, hundreds of employees who satisfy the Class definition within
21 the State of California.

22 36. Accounting for employee turnover during the relevant time period increases this
23 number substantially. Plaintiff alleges that Defendants’ employment records will provide
24 information as to the number and location of all Class Members.

25 **B. Commonality**

26 37. There are questions of law and fact common to the Class that predominates over
27 any questions affecting only individual Class Members. These common questions of law and fact
28 include:

- a. Whether Defendants failed to pay Class Members minimum wages;
- b. Whether Defendants failed to pay Class Members wages for all hours worked;
- c. Whether Defendants failed to pay Class Members overtime as required under Labor Code § 510;
- d. Whether Defendants violated Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512, and the applicable IWC Wage Orders, by failing to provide Class Members with requisite meal periods or premium pay in lieu thereof;
- e. Whether Defendants violated Labor Code §§ 226.7, and the applicable IWC Wage Orders, by failing to authorize and permit Class Members to take requisite rest breaks or provide premium pay in lieu thereof;
- f. Whether Defendants violated Labor Code § 226(a) by providing Class Members with inaccurate wage statements;
- g. Whether Defendant violated Labor Code § 227.3 by failing to pay Class Members for accrued vacation time upon separation;
- h. Whether Defendants violated Labor Code §§ 201, 202, and 203 by failing to pay wages and compensation due and owing at the time of termination of employment;
- i. Whether Defendants' conduct was willful;
- j. Whether Defendants violated Labor Code § 226 and § 1174 and the IWC Wage Orders by failing to maintain accurate records of Class Members' earned wages and work periods;
- k. Whether Defendants violated Labor Code § 1194 by failing to compensate all Class Members during the relevant time period for all hours worked, whether regular or overtime;
- l. Whether Defendants violated Labor Code § 204 by failing to timely pay wages;
- m. Whether Defendants violated Labor Code § 2802 by failing to reimburse all necessary business expenses Defendants required them to incur in performing their job duties;
- n. Whether Defendants violated Business and Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.*; and

- 1 o. Whether Class Members are entitled to equitable relief pursuant to Business and
2 Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.*

3 **C. Typicality**

4 38. The claims of the named plaintiff is typical of those of Class Members. The Class
5 Members all sustained injuries and damages arising out of and caused by Defendants' common
6 course of conduct in violation of statutes, as well as regulations that have the force and effect of
7 law, as alleged herein.

8 **D. Adequacy of Representation**

9 39. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interest of the Class
10 Members. Counsel who represents Class Members are experienced and competent in litigating
11 employment class actions.

12 **E. Superiority of Class Action**

13 40. A class action is superior to other available means for the fair and efficient
14 adjudication of this controversy. Individual joinder of all Class Members is not practicable, and
15 questions of law and fact common to all Class Members predominate over any questions affecting
16 only individual Class Members. Each Class Member has been damaged and is entitled to recovery
17 by reason of Defendants' illegal policies or practices of failing to compensate Class Members
18 properly.

19 41. As to the issues raised in this case, a class action is superior to all other methods for
20 the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy, as joinder of all Class Members is
21 impracticable and many legal and factual questions to be adjudicated apply uniformly to all Class
22 Members. Further, as the economic or other loss suffered by vast numbers of Class Members may
23 be relatively small, the expense and burden of individual actions makes it difficult for the Class
24 Members to individually redress the wrongs they have suffered. Moreover, in the event
25 disgorgement is ordered, a class action is the only mechanism that will permit the employment of
26 a fluid fund recovery to ensure that equity is achieved. There will be relatively little difficulty in
27 managing this case as a class action, and proceeding on a class-wide basis will permit Class
28 Members to vindicate their rights for violations they endured which they would otherwise be

1 foreclosed from receiving in a multiplicity of individual lawsuits that would be cost prohibitive to
2 them.

3 42. Class action treatment will allow those persons similarly situated to litigate their
4 claims in the manner that is most efficient and economical for the parties and the judicial system.
5 Plaintiff is unaware of any difficulties in managing this case that should preclude class treatment.
6 Plaintiff contemplates the eventual issuance of notice to the proposed Class Members that would
7 set forth the subject and nature of the instant action. The Defendants' own business records can be
8 utilized for assistance in the preparation and issuance of the contemplated notices. To the extent
9 that any further notice is required additional media and/or mailings can be used.

10 43. Defendants, as prospective and actual employers of the Class Members, had a
11 special fiduciary duty to disclose to prospective Class Members the true facts surrounding
12 Defendants' pay practices, policies and working conditions imposed upon Class Members as well
13 as the effect of any alleged arbitration agreements that may have been forced upon them. In
14 addition, Defendants knew they possessed special knowledge about pay practices and policies,
15 most notably intentionally refusing to pay for all hours actually worked which should have been
16 recorded in Defendants' pay records and the consequence of the alleged arbitration agreements
17 and policies and practices on Class Members.

18 44. Class Members did not discover the fact that they were entitled to all pay under the
19 Labor Code until shortly before the filing of this lawsuit nor was there ever any discussion about
20 Plaintiff's and the Class' waiver of their Constitutional rights of trial by jury, right to collectively
21 organize and oppose unlawful pay practices under California law as well as obtain injunctive relief
22 preventing such practices from continuing. As a result, the applicable statutes of limitation were
23 tolled until such time as Plaintiff and the Class Members discovered their claims.

24 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

25 **FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES**

26 **(Against All Defendants)**

27 45. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporate all preceding paragraphs, as though set forth in
28 full herein.

1 46. Defendants failed to pay Class Members minimum wages for all hours worked.
2 Defendants had a consistent policy of misstating Class Members' time records and failing to pay
3 Class Members for all hours worked. Class Members would work hours and not receive wages,
4 including as alleged above in connection with off the clock work. Additionally, Defendants failed
5 to incorporate non-discretionary bonuses and/or commissions into the regular rate of pay used to
6 calculate and pay overtime. Defendants, and each of them, have intentionally and improperly
7 changed, adjusted and/or modified the hours of Class Members, which resulted in off the clock
8 work and underpayment of all wages owed to Class Members over a period of time, while
9 benefiting Defendants. During the relevant time period, Defendants thus regularly failed to pay
10 minimum wages to Class Members, to their detriment. Additionally, Defendants had a consistent
11 policy of failing to pay Class Members for hours worked during alleged meal and rest periods for
12 which Class Members were consistently denied, as also addressed herein. Defendants' uniform
13 pattern of unlawful wage and hour practices manifested, without limitation, applicable to the Class
14 as a whole, as a result of implementing a uniform policy and practice that denied accurate
15 compensation to Class Members as to minimum wage pay.

16 47. In California, employees must be paid at least the then applicable state minimum
17 wage for all hours worked. (IWC Wage Order MW-2014). Additionally, pursuant to California
18 Labor Code § 204, other applicable laws and regulations, and public policy, an employer must
19 timely pay its employees for all hours worked. Defendants failed to do so.

20 48. California Labor Code § 1197, entitled "Pay of Less Than Minimum Wage" states:
21 "The minimum wage for employees fixed by the commission is the minimum wage to be paid to
22 employees, and the payment of a less wage than the minimum so fixed is unlawful."

23 49. The applicable minimum wages fixed by the commission for work during the
24 relevant period is found in Paragraph 4(A)-4(D) of the IWC Wage Orders.

25 50. The minimum wage provisions of California Labor Code are enforceable by private
26 civil action pursuant to Labor Code § 1194(a) which states: "Notwithstanding any agreement to
27 work for a lesser wage, any employee receiving less than the legal minimum wage or the legal
28 overtime compensation applicable to the employee is entitled to recover in a civil action the

1 unpaid balance of the full amount of this minimum wage or overtime compensation, including
2 interest thereon, reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit."

3 51. As described in California Labor Code §§ 1185 and 1194.2, any action for wages
4 incorporates the applicable Wage Order of the California Industrial Welfare Commission. Also,
5 California Labor Code §§ 1194, 1197, 1197.1 and those Industrial Welfare Commission Wage
6 Orders entitle non-exempt employees to an amount equal to or greater than the minimum wage for
7 all hours worked. All hours must be paid at the statutory or agreed rate and no part of this rate may
8 be used as a credit against a minimum wage obligation.

9 52. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, Defendants
10 inaccurately recorded, or required Class Members to input times that did not reflect their actual
11 hours worked, or calculated the correct time worked and consequently underpaid the actual time
12 worked by Class Members. Defendants acted in an illegal attempt to avoid the payment of all
13 earned wages, and other benefits in violation of the California Labor Code, the Industrial Welfare
14 Commission requirements and other applicable laws and regulations. As a result of these
15 violations, Defendant also failed to timely pay all wages earned in accordance with California
16 Labor Code § 1194.

17 53. California Labor Code § 1194.2 also provides for the following remedies: "In any
18 action under Section 1194 . . . to recover wages because of the payment of a wage less than the
19 minimum wages fixed by an order of the commission, an employee shall be entitled to recover
20 liquidated damages in an amount equal to the wages unlawfully unpaid and interest thereon."

21 54. In addition to restitution for all unpaid wages, pursuant to California Labor Code §
22 1197.1, Class Members are entitled to recover a penalty of \$100.00 for the initial failure to timely
23 pay each employee minimum wages, and \$250.00 for each subsequent failure to pay each
24 employee minimum wages.

25 55. Pursuant to California Labor Code § 1194.2, Class Members are further entitled to
26 recover liquidated damages in an amount equal to wages unlawfully unpaid and interest thereon.

27 56. Defendants have the ability to pay minimum wages for all time worked and have
28 willfully refused to pay such wages with the intent to secure for Defendants a discount upon this

1 indebtedness with the intent to annoy, harass, oppress, hinder, delay, or defraud Class Members.

2 57. Wherefore, Class Members are entitled to recover the unpaid minimum wages
3 (including double minimum wages), liquidated damages in an amount equal to the minimum
4 wages unlawfully unpaid, interest thereon and reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit pursuant
5 to California Labor Code § 1194(a). Plaintiff and the other members of the Class further request
6 recovery of all unpaid wages, according to proof, interest, statutory costs, as well as the
7 assessment of any statutory penalties against Defendants, in a sum as provided by the California
8 Labor Code, including § 558, and/or other applicable statutes.

9 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

10 **FAILURE TO PAY WAGES AND OVERTIME UNDER LABOR CODE § 510**

11 **(Against All Defendants)**

12 58. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates all preceding paragraphs, as though set forth in
13 full herein.

14 59. California Labor Code § 1194 provides that "any employee receiving less than the
15 legal minimum wage or the legal overtime compensation applicable to the employee is entitled to
16 recover in a civil action the unpaid balance of the full amount of this minimum wage or overtime
17 compensation, including interest thereon, reasonable attorney's fees, and costs of suit." The action
18 may be maintained directly against the employer in an employee's name without first filing a
19 claim with the Division of Labor Standards and Enforcement.

20 60. By their conduct, as set forth herein, Defendants violated California Labor Code §
21 510 (and the relevant orders of the Industrial Welfare Commission) by failing to pay Class
22 Members: (a) time and one-half their regular hourly rates for hours worked in excess of eight (8)
23 hours in a workday or in excess of forty (40) hours in any workweek or for the first eight (8) hours
24 worked on the seventh day of work in any one workweek; or (b) twice their regular rate of pay for
25 hours worked in excess of twelve (12) hours in any one (1) day or for hours worked in excess of
26 eight (8) hours on any seventh day of work in a workweek.

27 61. Defendants had a consistent policy of not paying Class Members wages for all
28 hours worked, including by requiring off the clock work. Additionally, Defendants failed to

1 incorporate non-discretionary bonuses and/or commissions into the regular rate of pay used to
2 calculate and pay overtime pay, sick pay, and meal and rest break premiums. Defendants, and each
3 of them, have intentionally and improperly changed, adjusted and/or modified certain employees'
4 hours, including Plaintiff's, in order to avoid paying Class Members all earned and owed straight
5 time and overtime wages and other benefits, in violation of the California Labor Code, the
6 California Code of Regulations and the IWC Wage Orders and guidelines set forth by the Division
7 of Labor Standards and Enforcement. Defendants have also violated these provisions by requiring
8 Class Members to work through portions of their meal period. Therefore, Class Members were not
9 properly compensated, nor were they paid overtime rates for hours worked in excess of eight hours
10 in a given day, and/or forty hours in a given week. Based on information and belief, Defendants
11 did not make available to Class Members a reasonable protocol for correcting time records when
12 Class Members worked overtime hours or to fix incorrect time entries.

13 62. Defendants' failure to pay Class Members the unpaid balance of regular wages
14 owed and overtime compensation, as required by California law, violates the provisions of Labor
15 Code §§ 510 and 1198, and is therefore unlawful.

16 63. Additionally, Labor Code § 558(a) provides "any employer or other person acting
17 on behalf of an employer who violates, or causes to be violated, a section of this chapter or any
18 provisions regulating hours and days of work in any order of the IWC shall be subject to a civil
19 penalty as follows: (1) For any violation, fifty dollars (\$50) for each underpaid employee for each
20 pay period for which the employee was underpaid in addition to an amount sufficient to recover
21 underpaid wages. (2) For each subsequent violation, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each
22 underpaid employee for each pay period for which the employee was underpaid in addition to an
23 amount sufficient to recover underpaid wages. (3) Wages recovered pursuant to this section shall
24 be paid to the affected employee." Labor Code § 558(c) states, "the civil penalties provided for in
25 this section are in addition to any other civil or criminal penalty provided by law." Defendants
26 have violated provisions of the Labor Code regulating hours and days of work as well as the IWC
27 Wage Orders. Accordingly, Plaintiff and the Class Members seek the remedies set forth in Labor
28 Code § 558.

64. Defendants' failure to pay compensation in a timely fashion also constituted a violation of California Labor Code § 204, which requires that all wages shall be paid semimonthly. From four (4) years prior to the filing of this lawsuit to the present, in direct violation of that provision of the California Labor Code, Defendants have failed to pay all wages and overtime compensation earned by Class Members. Each such failure to make a timely payment of compensation to Class Members constitutes a separate violation of California Labor Code § 204.

65. Class Members have been damaged by these violations of California Labor Code §§ 204 and 510 (and the relevant orders of the Industrial Welfare Commission).

66. Consequently, pursuant to the California Labor Code, including Labor Code §§ 204, 510, 558, and 1194, and the applicable IWC Wage Order, paragraph 3(A) and 4(B), Defendants are liable to Class Members for the full amount of all their unpaid wages and overtime compensation, with interest, plus their reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, as well as the assessment of any statutory penalties against Defendants, and each of them, and any additional sums as provided by the Labor Code and/or other statutes.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

MEAL-PERIOD LIABILITY UNDER LABOR CODE § 226.7

(Against All Defendants)

67. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates all preceding paragraphs, as though set forth in full herein.

68. Class Members regularly worked shifts greater than five (5) hours and in some instances, greater than ten (10) hours. Pursuant to Labor Code § 512 an employer may not employ someone for a shift of more than five (5) hours without providing him or her with a meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes or for a shift of more than ten (10) hours without providing him or her with a second meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes.

69. Defendants failed to provide Class Members with meal periods as required under the Labor Code. Defendants placed their needs over Class Members lawful meal breaks and this resulted in Class Members consistently having to work through their scheduled meal breaks

1 because the demands of the job would not avail them the opportunity to take a lawfully
2 uninterrupted and off-duty meal break. Furthermore, upon information and belief, on the occasions
3 when Class Members worked more than ten (10) hours in a given shift, they did so without
4 receiving a second uninterrupted thirty (30) minute meal period as required by law.

5 70. Defendants thus failed to provide Class Members with meal periods as required by
6 the Labor Code, including by not providing them with the opportunity to take meal breaks, by
7 providing them late or for less than thirty (30) minutes, or by requiring them to perform work
8 during breaks.

9 71. Moreover, Defendants failed to compensate Class Members for each meal period
10 not provided or inadequately provided, as required under Labor Code § 226.7 and paragraph 11 of
11 the applicable IWC Wage Orders, which provide that, if an employer fails to provide an employee
12 a meal period in accordance with this section, the employer shall pay the employee one (1) hour of
13 pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that the meal period is not
14 provided. Defendants failed to compensate Class Members for each meal period not provided or
15 inadequately provided, as required under Labor Code § 226.7.

16 72. Therefore, pursuant to Labor Code § 226.7 and the applicable IWC Wage Order,
17 paragraph 11, Class Members are entitled to damages in an amount equal to one (1) hour of wages
18 at their effective hourly rates of pay for each meal period not provided or deficiently provided, a
19 sum to be proven at trial, as well as the assessment of any statutory penalties against the
20 Defendants, and each of them, in a sum as provided by the Labor Code and other statutes.

21 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

22 **REST-BREAK LIABILITY UNDER LABOR CODE § 226.7**

23 **(Against All Defendants)**

24 73. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates all preceding paragraphs, as though set forth in
25 full herein.

26 74. Labor Code §§ 226.7 and paragraph 12 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders
27 provide that employers must authorize and permit all employees to take rest periods at the rate of
28 ten (10) minutes net rest time per four (4) work hours.

1 75. Class Members consistently worked consecutive four (4) hour shifts and were
2 generally scheduled for shifts of greater than 3.5 hours total, thus requiring Defendants to
3 authorize and permit them to take rest periods. Pursuant to the Labor Code and the applicable IWC
4 Wage Order, Class Members were entitled to paid rest breaks of not less than ten (10) minutes for
5 each consecutive four (4) hour shift, and Defendants failed to provide Class Members with timely
6 rest breaks of not less than ten (10) minutes for each consecutive four (4) hour shift. Defendants
7 placed their needs over Class Members lawful rest breaks and this resulted in Class Members
8 consistently having to work through their scheduled rest breaks because the demands of the job
9 would not avail them the opportunity to take a lawfully uninterrupted and off-duty rest break.
10 Thus, Class Members were consistently denied of their rest breaks.

11 76. Labor Code §§ 226.7 and paragraph 12 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders
12 provide that if an employer fails to provide an employee rest period in accordance with this
13 section, the employer shall pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of
14 compensation for each workday that the rest period is not provided.

15 77. Defendants, and each of them, have therefore intentionally and improperly denied
16 rest periods to Class Members in violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512 and paragraph 12 of
17 the applicable IWC Wage Orders.

18 78. Defendants failed to authorize and permit Class Members to take rest periods, as
19 required by the Labor Code. Moreover, Defendants did not compensate Class Members with an
20 additional hour of pay at each Class Member's effective hourly rate for each day that Defendants
21 failed to provide them with adequate rest breaks, as required under Labor Code § 226.7.

22 79. Therefore, pursuant to Labor Code § 226.7 and paragraph 12 of the applicable IWC
23 Wage Orders, Class Members are entitled to damages in an amount equal to one (1) hour of wages
24 at their effective hourly rates of pay for each day worked without the required rest breaks, a sum to
25 be proven at trial, as well as the assessment of any statutory penalties against Defendants, and each
26 of them, in a sum as provided by the Labor Code and/or other statutes.

27 ///

28 ///

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION
VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE § 226(a)
(Against All Defendants)

80. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates all preceding paragraphs, as though set forth in full herein.

81. California Labor Code § 226(a) requires an employer to furnish each of his or her employees with an accurate, itemized statement in writing showing the gross and net earnings, total hours worked, and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate; these statements must be appended to the detachable part of the check, draft, voucher, or whatever else serves to pay the employee's wages; or, if wages are paid by cash or personal check, these statements may be given to the employee separately from the payment of wages; in either case the employer must give the employee these statements twice a month or each time wages are paid.

82. Defendants failed to provide Class Members with accurate itemized wage statements in writing, as required by the Labor Code. Specifically, the wage statements given to Class Members failed to accurately account for unpaid wages and overtime because Defendants failed to incorporate non-discretionary bonuses and/or commissions into the regular rate of pay used to calculate and pay for overtime pay, sick pay, and meal and rest break premiums. Thus, the wage statements do not provide accurate hourly rates for overtime and the statements do not comply with Labor Code § 226(a)(9). Moreover, the wage statements given to Class Members failed to accurately account for unpaid wages and overtime because their actual hours worked were under-reported due to off the clock work. Additionally, the wage statements given to Class Members failed to accurately account for premium pay for deficiently provided meal periods and rest breaks.

83. Throughout the liability period, Defendants intentionally failed to furnish to Class Members, upon each payment of wages, itemized statements accurately showing: (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the employee, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee and

1 only the last four digits of his or her social security number or an employee identification number
2 other than a social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the
3 employer and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding
4 number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee pursuant to Labor Code § 226,
5 amongst other statutory requirements. Defendants knowingly and intentionally failed to provide
6 Class Members with such timely and accurate wage and hour statements.

7 84. Class Members suffered injury as a result of Defendants' knowing and intentional
8 failure to provide them with the accurate wage and hour statements as required by law and are
9 presumed to have suffered injury and be entitled to penalties under Labor Code § 226(e), as the
10 Defendants have failed to provide wage statements with accurate and complete information as
11 required by any one or more of items Labor Code § 226 (a)(1) to (9), inclusive, and Class
12 Members cannot promptly and easily determine from the wage statement alone one or more of the
13 following: (i) The amount of the gross wages or net wages paid to the employee during the pay
14 period or any of the other information required to be provided on the itemized wage statement
15 pursuant to items (2) to (4), inclusive, (6), and (9) of subdivision (a), (ii) Which deductions the
16 employer made from gross wages to determine the net wages paid to the employee during the pay
17 period, (iii) The name and address of the employer and, (iv) The name of the employee and only
18 the last four digits of his or her social security number or an employee identification number other
19 than a social security number. For purposes of Labor Code § 226(e) "promptly and easily
20 determine" means a reasonable person [i.e. an objective standard] would be able to readily
21 ascertain the information without reference to other documents or information.

22 85. Therefore, as a direct and proximate cause of Defendants' violation of Labor Code
23 § 226(a), Class Members suffered injuries, including among other things confusion over whether
24 they received all wages owed them, the difficulty and expense involved in reconstructing pay
25 records, and forcing them to make mathematical computations to analyze whether the wages paid
26 in fact compensated them correctly for all hours worked.

27 86. Pursuant to Labor Code §§ 226(a) and 226(e) and 1174, and the applicable IWC
28 Wage Order, paragraph 7(B), Class Members are entitled to recover the greater of all actual

1 damages or fifty dollars (\$50) for the initial pay period in which a violation occurs and one
2 hundred dollars (\$100) for each violation in a subsequent pay period, not exceeding an aggregate
3 penalty of four thousand dollars (\$4,000). They are also entitled to an award of costs and
4 reasonable attorneys' fees.

5 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
6 **VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE § 203**
7 **(Against All Defendants)**

8 87. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates all preceding paragraphs, as though set forth in
9 full herein.

10 88. Numerous Class Members are no longer employed by Defendants; they either quit
11 Defendants' employ or were fired therefrom.

12 89. Defendants failed to pay these Class Members all wages due and certain at the time
13 of termination or within seventy-two (72) hours of resignation.

14 90. The wages withheld from these Class Members by Defendants remained due and
15 owing for more than thirty (30) days from the date of separation from employment.

16 91. Defendants failed to pay Class Members without abatement, all wages as defined
17 by applicable California law. Specifically, Class Members were not paid all regular and overtime
18 wages because Defendants failed to pay for all hours worked by requiring off the clock work and
19 failing to incorporate non-discretionary bonuses and/or commissions into the regular rate of pay
20 used to calculate and pay for overtime, sick pay, and meal and rest break premiums. Further,
21 Defendants failed to pay premium wages owed for unprovided meal periods and rest periods, as
22 further detailed in this Complaint. Defendants' failure to pay said wages within the required time
23 was willful within the meaning of Labor Code § 203.

24 92. Defendants' failure to pay wages, as alleged entitles these Class Members to
25 penalties under Labor Code § 203, which provides that an employee's wages shall continue until
26 paid for up to thirty (30) days from the date they were due.

27 ///

28 ///

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION
VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE § 204
(Against All Defendants)

93. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates all preceding paragraphs, as though set forth in full herein.

94. Labor Code § 204 instructs that: “All wages, ...earned by any person in any employment are due and payable twice during each calendar month, on days designated in advance by the employer as the regular paydays. Labor performed between the 1st and 15th days, inclusive, of any calendar month shall be paid for between the 16th and the 26th day of the month during which the labor was performed, and labor performed between the 16th and the last day, inclusive, of any calendar month, shall be paid for between the 1st and 10th day of the following month.” Additionally, the requirements of this section shall be deemed satisfied by the payment of wages for weekly, biweekly, or semimonthly payroll if the wages are paid not more than seven calendar days following the close of the payroll period.” As detailed above, Defendants maintained a consistently applied policy and practice of not paying all wages earned between the 1st and 15th days of a month between the 16th and 26th day and failed to pay all wages earned between the 16th and the last day of the month between the 1st and 10th day of the following month. Defendants similarly failed to pay all wages earned by not more than seven calendar days following the close of the payroll period. These failures all arose from either Defendants’ failure to pay for all hours worked or failure to pay all earned commission wages.

95. All wages due and owing to Plaintiff and the Class Members, including as required under Labor Code § 510, were therefore not timely paid by Defendants, as addressed in detail above. Additionally, wages required by Labor Code § 1194 and other sections became due and payable to each Class Member in each pay period that he or she was not provided with a meal period or rest period or paid straight or overtime wages or commissions to which he or she was entitled.

96. Defendants thus violated Labor Code § 204 by systematically refusing to pay wages due under the Labor Code, as addressed above. Additionally, under paragraph 4(B) of the

1 applicable IWC Wage Orders, employers are required “to pay each employee, on the established
2 payday for the period involved, not less than the applicable minimum wage for all hours worked in
3 the payroll period, ...” Under Labor Code § 1198, “[t]he employment of any employee for longer
4 hours than those fixed by the order or under conditions of labor prohibited by the order is
5 unlawful.” Plaintiff and the Class Members may therefore pursue damages and penalties for
6 violations of Labor Code § 204 and paragraph 4(B) of the applicable IWC Wage Orders, including
7 penalties under paragraph 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders.

8 97. As a result of the unlawful acts of Defendants, Plaintiff and Class Members seek to
9 represent they have been deprived of wages in amounts to be determined at trial, and they are
10 entitled to recovery of such amounts, plus interest and penalties thereon, attorneys’ fees, and costs,
11 pursuant to Labor Code § 210, 218.5, 1194 and 1198, and paragraphs 4(B) and 20 of the
12 applicable IWC Wage Orders.

13 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

14 **FAILURE TO KEEP REQUIRED PAYROLL RECORDS UNDER LABOR CODE § 1174**
15 **AND 1174.5**

16 **(Against All Defendants)**

17 98. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates all preceding paragraphs, as though set forth in
18 full herein.

19 99. California Labor Code § 1174 requires that all employers shall keep accurate time
20 and wage records for all employees. California Labor Code § 1174.5 further requires that any
21 employee suffering injury due to a willful violation of the aforementioned obligations may seek
22 damages, including civil penalties, from the employer.

23 100. During the course of Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ employment,
24 Defendants consistently failed to maintain accurate time and wage records for Plaintiff and Class
25 Members as required by California Labor Code § 1174 by failing to pay Plaintiff and Class
26 Members proper wages, overtime, and premium pay as discussed above.

27 101. Accordingly, Defendants are liable for civil penalties pursuant to the
28 California Labor Code § 1174.5 for the three (3) years prior to the filing of this Complaint.

1 **NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **REIMBURSEMENT OF NECESSARY EXPENDITURES UNDER LABOR CODE § 2802**

3 **(Against All Defendants)**

4 102. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates all preceding paragraphs as though set
5 forth in full herein.

6 103. Under Labor Code § 2802(a) an employer must indemnify its employees for
7 all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the
8 discharge of his or her duties, or of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer.

9 104. Defendants have regularly required Plaintiff to incur business expenses in
10 the course of performing their required job duties for Defendants including for cell phone
11 expenses. Upon information and belief, Class Members incurred similar costs. These expenses
12 incurred by Plaintiff and Class Members were necessary and required of them in performing their
13 assigned job duties, but Defendants failed to reimburse Plaintiff and Class Members for all such
14 necessary expenditures, thus entitling them to reimbursement according to proof as required under
15 Labor Code § 2802 and the applicable provisions of the IWC Wage Orders, paragraph 9.

16 105. As a result of the unlawful acts of Defendants, Class Members have been
17 deprived of reimbursement in amounts to be determined at trial; they are entitled to recovery of
18 such amounts, plus interest and penalties thereon, attorneys' fees, and costs.

19 **TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

20 **FAILURE TO PAY VACATION WAGES**

21 **(Against All Defendants)**

22 106. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates all preceding paragraphs, as though set
23 forth in full herein.

24 107. Pursuant to California Labor Code § 227.3, whenever a contract of
25 employment or employment policy provides for vacation time and an employee is terminated
26 without having taken off her vested vacation time, all vested vacation time shall be paid to her as
27 wages at her final rate in accordance with said contract of employment or policy respecting
28 eligibility or time served.

1 108. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and Class Members all earned and
2 accrued vacation pay.

3 109. Therefore, Plaintiff seeks to recover penalties pursuant to Labor Code §
4 227.3.

5 **ELEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
6 **VIOLATION OF BUSINESS & PROFESSIONS CODE § 17200 *ET SEQ.***
7 **(Against All Defendants)**

8 110. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates all preceding paragraphs, as though set
9 forth in full herein.

10 111. Plaintiff, on behalf of herself, Class Members, and the general public,
11 brings this claim pursuant to Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.* The conduct of
12 Defendants as alleged in this Complaint has been and continues to be unfair, unlawful, and
13 harmful to Class Members and the general public. Plaintiff seeks to enforce important rights
14 affecting the public interest within the meaning of Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5.

15 112. Plaintiff is a “person” within the meaning of Business & Professions Code
16 § 17204, has suffered injury, and therefore has standing to bring this cause of action for injunctive
17 relief, restitution, and other appropriate equitable relief.

18 113. Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.* prohibits unlawful and unfair
19 business practices. By the conduct alleged herein, Defendants’ practices were deceptive and
20 fraudulent in that Defendants’ policy and practice failed to provide the required amount of
21 compensation for missed meal and rest breaks, and failed to adequately compensate Class
22 Members for all hours worked, due to systematic business practices as alleged herein that cannot
23 be justified, pursuant to the applicable California Labor Code and Industrial Welfare Commission
24 requirements in violation of California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, and for
25 which this Court should issue injunctive and equitable relief, pursuant to California Business &
26 Professions Code § 17203, including restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.

27 114. Wage-and-hour laws express fundamental public policies. Paying
28 employees their wages and overtime, providing them with meal periods and rest breaks, etc., are

1 fundamental public policies of California. Labor Code § 90.5(a) articulates the public policies of
2 this State vigorously to enforce minimum labor standards, to ensure that employees are not
3 required or permitted to work under substandard and unlawful conditions, and to protect law-
4 abiding employers and their employees from competitors who lower costs to themselves by failing
5 to comply with minimum labor standards.

6 115. Defendants have violated statutes and public policies. Through the conduct
7 alleged in this Complaint Defendants have acted contrary to these public policies, have violated
8 specific provisions of the Labor Code, and have engaged in other unlawful and unfair business
9 practices in violation of Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.*; which conduct has deprived
10 Plaintiff, and all persons similarly situated, and all interested persons, of the rights, benefits, and
11 privileges guaranteed to all employees under the law.

12 116. Defendants' conduct, as alleged above, constitutes unfair competition in
13 violation of the Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.*

14 117. Defendants, by engaging in the conduct herein alleged, by failing to pay
15 wages and overtime, failing to provide meal periods and rest breaks, etc., either knew or in the
16 exercise of reasonable care should have known that their conduct was unlawful; therefore their
17 conduct violates the Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.*

18 118. By the conduct alleged herein, Defendants have engaged and continue to
19 engage in a business practice which violates California and federal law, including but not limited
20 to, the applicable Industrial Wage Order(s), the California Code of Regulations, and the California
21 Labor Code including Sections 203, 204, 226, 226.7, 512, 1194, 1197, and 1198, for which this
22 Court should issue declaratory and other equitable relief pursuant to California Business &
23 Professions Code § 17203 as may be necessary to prevent and remedy the conduct held to
24 constitute unfair competition, including restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.

25 119. As a proximate result of the above-mentioned acts of Defendants, Class
26 Members have been damaged, in a sum to be proven at trial.

27 120. Unless restrained by this Court Defendants will continue to engage in such
28 unlawful conduct as alleged above. Pursuant to the Business & Professions Code, this Court

1 should make such orders or judgments, including the appointment of a receiver, as may be
2 necessary to prevent the use by Defendants or their agents or employees of any unlawful or
3 deceptive practice prohibited by the Business & Professions Code, including but not limited to the
4 disgorgement of such profits as may be necessary to restore Class Members to the money
5 Defendants have unlawfully failed to pay.

6 **RELIEF REQUESTED**

7 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for the following relief:

- 8 1. For an order certifying this action as a class action;
- 9 2. For compensatory damages in the amount of the unpaid minimum wages for work
10 performed by Class Members and unpaid overtime compensation from at least four (4) years prior
11 to the filing of this action, as may be proven;
- 12 3. For liquidated damages in the amount equal to the unpaid minimum wage and
13 interest thereon, from at least four (4) years prior to the filing of this action, according to proof;
- 14 4. For compensatory damages in the amount of all unpaid wages, including overtime
15 and double-time pay, as may be proven;
- 16 5. For compensatory damages in the amount of the hourly wage made by Class
17 Members for each missed or deficient meal period where no premium pay was paid therefor from
18 four (4) years prior to the filing of this action, as may be proven;
- 19 6. For compensatory damages in the amount of the hourly wage made by Class
20 Members for each day requisite rest breaks were not provided or were deficiently provided where
21 no premium pay was paid therefor from at least four (4) years prior to the filing of this action, as
22 may be proven;
- 23 7. For penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 226(e) for Class Members, as may be
24 proven;
- 25 8. For penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 203 for all Class Members who quit or were
26 fired in an amount equal to their daily wage times thirty (30) days, as may be proven;
- 27 9. For restitution and/or damages for all amounts unlawfully withheld from the wages
28 for all class members in violation of Labor Code § 204, as may be proven;

10. For penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 227.3 for all Class Members who were not paid for all accrued vacation time at separation.

11. For restitution and/or damages for all amounts unlawfully withheld from the wages for all Class Members in violation of Labor Code § 2802, as may be proven;

12. For restitution for unfair competition pursuant to Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.*, including disgorgement or profits, as may be proven;

13. For an order enjoining Defendants and their agents, servants, and employees, and all persons acting under, in concert with, or for them, from acting in derogation of any rights or duties adumbrated in this Complaint;

14. For other wages and penalties under the Labor Code as may be proven;

15. For all general, special, and incidental damages as may be proven;

16. For an award of pre-judgment and post-judgment interest;

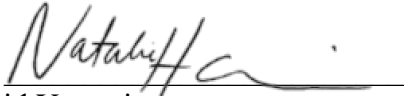
17. For an award providing for the payment of the costs of this suit;

18. For an award of attorneys' fees; and

19. For such other and further relief as this Court may deem proper and just.

DATED: March 5, 2024

D.LAW, INC.

By: 
David Yeremian
Natalie Haritonian
Jonas Agle
Attorneys for Plaintiff AMBER LYNN
BOCK, and all others similarly situated

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DATED: March 5, 2024

By: Natalie Haritoonian
David Yeremian
Natalie Haritoonian
Jonas Agle
Attorneys for Plaintiff AMBER LYNN
BOCK, and all others similarly situated

EXHIBIT 3