

BIBIYAN LAW GROUP, P.C.

Sarah H. Cohen (SBN 330700)

sarah@tomorrowlaw.com

Rafael Yedoyan (SBN 351499)

rafael@tomorrowlaw.com

1460 Westwood Boulevard

Los Angeles, California 90024

Tel: (310) 438-5555; Fax: (310) 300-1705

Attorneys for Plaintiff, MICHELLE ANTOINETTE RAMOS,

as an aggrieved employee, and on behalf of all other

aggrieved employees

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Superior Court of California

County of Fresno

By: Shaina Cha, Deputy

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF FRESNO

MICHELLE ANTOINETTE RAMOS, as an
aggrieved employee, and on behalf of all other
aggrieved employees under the Labor Code
Private Attorneys' General Act of 2004,

Plaintiff,

v.

FAMILY OPTIONS, LLC, a California
Limited Liability Company; and DOES 1
through 100, inclusive,

Defendants.

CASE NO.: **25CECG01559**

REPRESENTATIVE ACTION

**COMPLAINT UNDER THE LABOR
CODE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS'
GENERAL ACT OF 2004 FOR CIVIL
PENALTIES UNDER LABOR CODE
SECTIONS 210, 226.3, 558, 1174.5, 1197.1
and 2699**

[Amount in Controversy Greater Than
\$35,000.00]

1 Plaintiff MICHELLE ANTOINETTE RAMOS (“Plaintiff”) as an aggrieved employee, and
2 on behalf of all other aggrieved employees under the Labor Code Private Attorneys’ General Act of
3 2004, alleges as follows:

4 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

5 1. This is a representative action, pursuant to the Labor Code Private Attorneys General
6 Act of 2004, codified at Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.* (“PAGA”), against FAMILY OPTIONS,
7 LLC, a California limited liability company, and any of its respective subsidiaries or affiliated
8 companies within the State of California (“FAMILY OPTIONS”), as a proxy of the Labor and
9 Workforce Development Agency of the State of California (“LWDA”), on behalf of Plaintiff and
10 all other current and former non-exempt employees of Defendants working within the Civil Penalty
11 Period, as further defined herein, and, as it pertains to the alleged claims for failure to comply with
12 the Labor Code. Specifically, in connection with the alleged claims for failure to comply with Labor
13 Code sections 96, 98.6, 200, 201, 201.5, 201.7, 202, 203, 203.5, 204, 204a, 205, 205.5, 210, 212,
14 221, 222, 223, 222.5, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 227.3, 232, 232.5, 245, 246, 432, 432.3, 432.5, 432.7, 432.8,
15 1102.5, 1197.5, 1198, 1198.5, 1527, 3366, 3457, and 8397.4, Plaintiff seeks to represent all
16 employees of FAMILY OPTIONS, and each of them, DOES 1 through 100, as well as their parents,
17 subsidiaries and affiliates (hereinafter, collectively, “Defendants”) working within three years
18 preceding the date of this letter and continuing past the date of this Letter into perpetuity (“Civil
19 Penalty Period”). On all other claims mentioned herein, Plaintiff seeks to represent only non-exempt
20 employees of Defendants working within the Civil Penalty Period. Collectively, those employees
21 shall be known as “Aggrieved Employees” herein.

22 2. Jurisdiction exists in the Superior Court of the State of California pursuant to Code
23 of Civil Procedure section 410.10.

24 3. Venue is proper in Fresno County, California pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure
25 sections 392, *et seq.* because, among other things, Fresno County is where the causes of action
26 complained of herein arose; the county in which the employment relationship began; the county in
27 which performance of the employment contract, or part of it, between Plaintiff and Defendants was
28 due to be performed; the county in which the employment contract, or part of it, between Plaintiff

1 and Defendants was actually performed; and the county in which Defendants, or some of them,
2 reside. Moreover, the unlawful acts alleged herein have a direct effect on Plaintiff and Aggrieved
3 Employees in Fresno County, and because Defendants employ Aggrieved Employees in Fresno
4 County.

5 4. Plaintiff is an “aggrieved employee” under PAGA, as Plaintiff was employed by
6 Defendants during the Civil Penalty Period and suffered the Labor Code violations set forth herein,
7 even if not in the precise exact fashion as other Aggrieved Employees. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks
8 to recover civil penalties under the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, codified at
9 Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.* (“PAGA”), as amended, plus reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs,
10 for Plaintiff and all other current and former Aggrieved Employees of Defendants during the Civil
11 Penalty Period.

12 5. Specifically, Plaintiff seeks to recover PAGA civil penalties through a representative
13 action permitted by PAGA and the California Supreme Court in, among other authorities, *Arias v.*
14 *Superior Court* (2009) 46 Cal.4th 969. According to the same authorities, class certification of the
15 PAGA allegations described herein is not required.

16 6. During the Civil Penalty Period, Defendants violated, *inter alia*, Labor Code sections
17 96, 98.6, 200, 201, 201.3, 201.5, 201.7, 202, 203, 203.5, 204, 204a, 204.1, 204.2, 205, 205.5, 206.5,
18 210, 212, 221, 222, 223, 222.5, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 227.3, 231, 232, 232.5, 233, 235, 245, 246,
19 351, 353, 404, 432, 432.3, 432.5, 432.7, 432.8, 450, 510, 511, 512, 551, 552, 558, 1101, 1102,
20 1102.5, 1174, 1174.51182.12, 1197.5, 1194, 1194.2, 1198, 1198.5, 1290, 1292, 1293, 1293.1,
21 1294.1, 1301, 1391, 1475, 1527, 1695.55, 1696.5, 1700.31, 1771, 1774, 1775, 1776, 1811, 1815,
22 1197.5, 2673, 2800, 2802, 2810.3, 2810.5, 2699, 3366, 3457, 49112, 49116, and 8397.4, among
23 others, California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 3395, 3396, Business and Professions Code
24 sections 16600, 16700, and 17200, Government Code section 12952, as well as applicable Wage
25 Orders.

26 7. Labor Code section 2699, subdivisions (a) and (g), authorizes Aggrieved Employees
27 such as Plaintiff, on behalf of Plaintiff and all other current and former Aggrieved Employees within
28 the Civil Liability Period, to bring a civil action to recover civil penalties pursuant to the procedures

1 specified in Labor Code section 2699.3.

2 8. On or around June 21, 2024, Plaintiff provided written notice pursuant to Labor Code
3 section 2699.3 online and by certified mail, with return receipt requested, of Defendants' violation
4 of various, including the herein-described, provisions of the Labor Code, to the LWDA, as well as
5 by certified mail, with return receipt requested to Defendants, and each of them.

6 9. On or around August 20, 2024, Plaintiff provided amended written notice pursuant
7 to Labor Code section 2699.3 online and by certified mail, with return receipt requested, of
8 Defendants' violation of various, including the herein-described, provisions of the Labor Code, to
9 the LWDA, as well as by certified mail, with return receipt requested to Defendants, and each of
10 them.

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

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

20 12. In the event that Defendants, or either of them, is/are determined to have, prior to
21 this notice or a request for records pursuant to Labor Code section 226, 432, or 1198.5, from Plaintiff
22 and/or his/her counsel, adequately taken all reasonable steps to be in compliance with all provisions
23 identified in this notice, said defendant(s) is/are still liable for civil penalties pursuant to section
24 2699(g)(1)-(3).

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

14. Plaintiff is further informed and believes that within five (5) years of any of violations described above, the LWDA or a court has issued a finding or determination to the Defendants, or either of them, that its/their policy or practice giving rise to such violations was unlawful, and thus Defendants, or any of them, is/are further liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(i). Plaintiff is informed that Defendants, or any of them, was/were found to have unlawfully committed some or all of the above-related Labor Code violations, and thus is/are subject to increased penalties, as applicable, under Labor Code sections 2699(f)(2)(B)(i), 2699(g)(3) and 2699(h)(3), and is/are **not** eligible for reduced penalties under either Labor Code sections 2699(g) or 2699(h) for remedying violations either prior to or after the serving of this notice. Regardless, as the Defendants' conduct giving rise to the violations detailed herein was and is malicious, fraudulent, and/or oppressive, the Employer thus is subject to increased penalties under Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii) and, per Labor Code sections 2699(g)(3) and 2699(h)(3), are **not** eligible for reduced penalties under either 2699(g) or 2699(h), for remedying violations either prior to or after the Employer's receipt of this notice.

15. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subdivision (a)(2)(A), the LWDA did not provide notice of its intention to investigate Defendants' alleged violations within sixty-five (65) calendar days of the August 20, 2024 postmarked date of the herein-described notice sent by Plaintiff to the LWDA and Defendants.

PAGA REPRESENTATIVE ALLEGATIONS

16. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants, and each of them, had and have a policy or practice of requiring Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees to work more than eight (8) hours per day, forty (40) hours per week, and/or seven (7) straight workdays in a workweek (in violation of Labor Code sections 551 and 552) without paying them proper overtime wages every day, as a result of, without limitation, failing to accurately track and/or pay for all minutes actually worked; engaging, suffering, or permitting employees to work off the clock, including, without limitation, by requiring employees: to come early to work and leave late work without being able to clock in for all that time, to suffer under Employer's control due to long lines for clocking in, to complete pre-shift tasks before clocking in and post-shift tasks after clocking

1 out, to clock out for meal periods and continue working, to clock out for rest periods, to don and
2 doff uniforms and/or safety equipment off the clock, to attend company meetings off the clock, to
3 make phone calls or drive off the clock, and/or go through security screenings and/or temperature
4 checks off the clock; failing to include all forms of remuneration, including non-discretionary
5 bonuses, incentive pay, meal allowances, mask allowances, gift cards and other forms of
6 remuneration into the regular rate of pay for the pay periods where overtime was worked and the
7 additional compensation was earned for the purpose of calculating the overtime rate of pay;
8 detrimental rounding of employee time entries, editing and/or manipulation of time entries to show
9 less hours than actually worked, for paying straight pay instead of overtime pay, for failure to pay
10 overtime as required by Labor Code section 226.2, and by attempting but failing to properly
11 implement an alternative workweek schedule (“AWS”) (including, without limitation, by failing to
12 implement a written agreement designating the regularly scheduled alternative workweek in which
13 the specified number of work days and work hours are regularly recurring; failing to adopt the AWS
14 in a secret ballot election, before the performance of work, by at least a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the
15 affected employees in the work unit; failing to follow the notice/disclosures procedures prior to any
16 AWS election; and/or failing to register an AWS election with the State of California, as required
17 by Labor Code section 511 and applicable Wage Orders) all to the detriment of Employee and other
18 Aggrieved Employees. Consequently, Employee is informed and believes, and based thereon
19 alleges, that Employer violated Labor Code sections 221, 222, 223, 226.2, 510, 511, 551, 552, 1194,
20 1198 (as it pertains to employees governed by a collective bargaining agreement [“CBA”]), 1811,
21 1815 and applicable Wage Orders based on its practice of providing total compensation that is less
22 than the required legal overtime compensation for the overtime worked, entitling Employee and
23 other aggrieved employees to damages, including, without limitation, at least one hour of unpaid
24 overtime wages each day worked by each Aggrieved Employee during the Civil Penalty Period.
25 Employee further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer’s conduct above
26 gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive. Employer would also be liable
27 for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 210 (for failure to timely pay these wages), 558,
28

1 1198 and 2699, or injunctive relief under sections 2699(e)(1) and 2699(k). Employer would further
2 be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

3 17. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants, and
4 each of them, had and have a practice or policy of failing to compensate Plaintiff and other
5 Aggrieved Employees with minimum wages for all hours worked or otherwise under Employer's
6 control every day as a result of, without limitation, failing to accurately track and/or pay for all
7 minutes actually worked; engaging, suffering, or permitting employees to work off the clock,
8 including, without limitation, by requiring employees: to come early to work and leave late work
9 without being able to clock in for all that time, to suffer under Defendants' control due to long lines
10 for clocking in, to complete pre-shift tasks before clocking in and post-shift tasks after clocking out,
11 to clock out for meal periods and continue working, to clock out for rest periods, to don and doff
12 uniforms and/or safety equipment off the clock, to undergo security checks and/or bag checks off
13 the clock, to store and retrieve personal belongings off the clock, to attend company meetings off
14 the clock, to make phone calls, receive and respond to emails and/or texts, or drive off-the-clock;
15 detrimental rounding of employee time entries; failing to pay the minimum amounts required under
16 Labor Code section 226.2; editing and/or manipulation of time entries to show less hours than
17 actually worked; and failing to pay split shift premiums. In addition, Plaintiff and other Aggrieved
18 Employees were required to report to work, and did report, but were not put to work and/or were
19 furnished less than half their usual or scheduled day's work without being paid for half the usual or
20 scheduled work at their regular rate of pay. As such, Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based
21 thereon alleges, that Defendants violated, without limitation, Labor Code sections 221, 222 (as it
22 pertains to employees governed by a CBA), 223, 226.2, 1197, 1182.12, Cal. and applicable Wage
23 Orders based on its continued failure to pay minimum wages for all hours worked, that Plaintiff and
24 other Aggrieved Employees personally suffered these violations, and that Plaintiff and other
25 Aggrieved Employees are entitled to actual and liquidated damages under, without limitation, Labor
26 Code sections 1475, 1194, 1194.2, and 1198 to compensate them for at least one unpaid hour of
27 work per day for each Aggrieved Employee in the Civil Penalty Period. Employee further informed
28 and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants' conduct above gave rise to such violations

1 was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive. Plaintiff would also be liable for civil penalties pursuant
2 to Labor Code sections 210 (for failure to timely pay these wages), 558, 1197.1, 1198 and 2699, or
3 injunctive relief under sections 2699(e)(1) and 2699(k). Plaintiff would further be liable for civil
4 penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

5 18. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants had
6 and have a practice or policy of failing to compensate Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees with
7 minimum wages for all hours worked or otherwise under Employer's control every day as a result
8 of, without limitation, failing to accurately track and/or pay for all minutes actually worked;
9 engaging, suffering, or permitting employees to work off the clock, including, without limitation,
10 by requiring employees: to come early to work and leave late work without being able to clock in
11 for all that time, to suffer under Defendants' control due to long lines for clocking in, to complete
12 pre-shift tasks before clocking in and post-shift tasks after clocking out, to clock out for meal periods
13 and continue working, to clock out for rest periods, to don and doff uniforms and/or safety
14 equipment off the clock, to undergo security checks and/or bag checks off the clock, to store and
15 retrieve personal belongings off the clock, to attend company meetings off the clock, to make phone
16 calls, receive and respond to emails and/or texts, or drive off-the-clock; detrimental rounding of
17 employee time entries; editing and/or manipulation of time entries to show less hours than actually
18 worked; and failing to pay split shift premiums. In addition, Plaintiff and other Aggrieved
19 Employees were required to report to work, and did report, but were not put to work and/or were
20 furnished less than half their usual or scheduled day's work without being paid for half the usual or
21 scheduled work at their regular rate of pay. These acts and/or omissions violated Labor Code
22 sections 1771, 1774 and 1198, and, thus Plaintiff would be liable for civil penalties pursuant to these
23 sections and Labor Code section 2699, or injunctive relief under sections 2699(e)(1) and 2699(k).
24 Plaintiff further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Plaintiff's conduct above
25 gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive. Plaintiff would further be liable
26 for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

27 19. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants, and
28 each of them, had and have a policy or practice of compelling Plaintiff and other Aggrieved

1 Employees during the Civil Penalty Period to work every day in excess of five (5) and ten (10) hours
2 per day, without being afforded uninterrupted, timely, and complete 30-minute meal periods or
3 compensation in lieu thereof including, each workday, without limitation: by interrupting meal
4 periods; not providing timely meal periods; failing to provide first and second meal periods;
5 providing short meal periods, including without, limitation meal periods that were recorded for less
6 than thirty minutes, and meal periods that may appear on the record to be thirty minutes or longer
7 but in practice were shorter than thirty minutes due to time required to walk to and from a suitable
8 break area, time spent having to wait in line to clock back in, having to don and doff safety gear
9 during the meal period, having to undergo security or bag checks during the meal period, and /or
10 having to retrieve and store personal belongings during the meal period; requiring that employees
11 carry cellular telephones or walkie-talkies during meal periods; not permitting employees to leave
12 the premises; otherwise requiring on-duty/on-call meal periods; and auto-deducting meal periods
13 that could not be auto-deducted by law or during which employees worked. Plaintiff and other
14 Aggrieved Employees personally suffered these violations. Consequently, Plaintiff is informed and
15 believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants violated Labor Code sections 221, 222 (as to
16 employees governed by a CBA), 223, 512 and 1198 each day for each Aggrieved Employee during
17 the Civil Penalty Period, and that, thus each Aggrieved Employee was owed one hour of premium
18 pay at their regular rate of pay for each day worked during the Civil Penalty Period under Labor
19 Code section 226.7. However, Plaintiff is informed and believes that those premium payments
20 under Labor Code section 226.7 were not made, either, for these non-compliant meal periods, either
21 at all or at the proper regular rate of pay. Plaintiff would thus be liable for civil penalties pursuant
22 to Labor Code sections 210 (for failure to timely pay these wages), 221, 222 (for employees
23 governed by a CBA), 223, 558, 1198 and 2699 for both failing to authorize the taking of compliant
24 meal periods and for failing to provide premium pay under Labor Code section 226.7, or injunctive
25 relief under sections 2699(e)(1) and 2699(k). Plaintiff further informed and believes, and based
26 thereon alleges, that Defendants' conduct above gave rise to such violations was malicious,
27 fraudulent, or oppressive. Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor
28 Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

1 20. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants
2 maintain policies or practices of compelling Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees every day to,
3 including, without limitation, work over four-hour periods (or major fractions thereof) without
4 authorizing and permitting Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees to take uninterrupted, timely,
5 and complete ten-minute rest periods in which the employees are completely relieved of all of their
6 duties, including, without limitation: by failing to provide rest periods all together; failing to provide
7 rest periods that were at least ten minutes in length, including rest periods that were shorter than ten
8 minutes, or rest periods that may have encompassed a total of ten minutes but were in practice less
9 than ten uninterrupted minutes due to, without limitation, due to time required to walk to and from
10 a suitable break area, time spent having to don and doff safety gear during the rest period, having to
11 retrieve and store personal belongings during the rest period, and/or having to undergo security or
12 bag checks during the rest period, requiring that they be bundled together and/or with meal periods;
13 interrupting them; requiring that employees carry cellular telephones or walkie-talkies during rest
14 periods; not providing rest periods in a timely fashion; and not permitting employees to leave the
15 premises; and otherwise requiring on-duty/on-call rest periods. Employee and other Aggrieved
16 Employees personally suffered these violations. Consequently, Plaintiff is informed and believes,
17 and based thereon alleges, that Defendants violated the applicable Wage Order(s) each day for each
18 Aggrieved Employee during the PAGA Period, and that, thus each Aggrieved Employee was owed
19 one hour of premium pay at their regular rate of pay for each day worked during the PAGA Period
20 under Labor Code section 226.7. However, Plaintiff is informed and believes that those premium
21 payments under Labor Code section 226.7 were not made, either, for these non-compliant rest
22 periods, either at all or at the proper regular rate of pay, in violation of Labor Code sections 226.7
23 and 1198. Defendants would thus be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 210
24 (for failure to timely pay these wages), 221, 222 (for employees governed by a CBA), 223, 558,
25 1198 and 2699 for both failing to authorize the taking of compliant rest periods and for failing to
26 provide premium pay under Labor Code section 226.7, or injunctive relief under sections 2699(e)(1)
27 and 2699(k). Plaintiff is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants'

1 conduct above gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive. Defendants
2 would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

3 21. In addition to the above, Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges
4 that Defendants failed and continue to fail to keep adequate or accurate time records including wage
5 statements and similar payroll documents under Labor Code section 226, documents signed to
6 obtain or hold employment under Labor Code section 432, personnel records under Labor Code
7 section 1198.5, time records under Labor Code section 1174, the names and addresses of all
8 employees employed and the ages of all minors under Labor Code section 1174, subsection (c),
9 payroll records showing the hours worked daily by and the wages paid to, and the number of piece-
10 rate units earned by, and applicable piece rate paid to, employees employed at the respective place
11 of employment under Labor Code section 1174, subsection (d), and a copy of the payroll record
12 provided by the contractor under Labor Code section 1695.55, as well as the information required
13 to be kept under Labor Code sections 2673 and/or 1776, subdivision (a), making it difficult for
14 Employee and other aggrieved employees to calculate their unpaid wages and/or premium
15 payments. Employer also failed to provide these documents to Employee and other Aggrieved
16 Employees upon request in violation of these Labor Code sections, as well as Labor Code section
17 1198 and/or 1775, subdivision (b)(1). Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees personally suffered
18 these violations, which in turn would entitle Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees to penalties
19 prescribed by Labor Code sections 226 and 1198.5. Defendants would also be liable for civil
20 penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 558, 1174.5, 1695.55, 1198, and 2699. Plaintiff is further
21 informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants' conduct above gave rise to such
22 violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive. Defendants would further be liable for civil
23 penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

24 22. As a result of, among other things, Defendants' herein-described policy or practice
25 of failing to: accurately record time; failing to pay overtime and minimum wages; failing to provide
26 meal periods; failing to provide rest periods; and failing to provide compensation in lieu of meal or
27 rest periods, as described above, and due to independent failures in connection therewith, Plaintiff
28 is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants also intentionally failed and

1 continues to fail to furnish Aggrieved Employees, including, without limitation, Plaintiff, with
2 itemized wage statements that accurately reflect: gross wages earned; total hours worked by the
3 employee; net wages earned; the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid; the
4 name of the employee and only the last four digits of their social security number or an employee
5 identification number other than a social security number; all deductions; all applicable hourly rates
6 in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate
7 by the employee; the legal name and address Defendants (and, in the case of a farm labor contractor,
8 the name and address of the legal entity that secured the services of the employer); and other such
9 information as required by Labor Code section 226, subdivision (a) , as well as Labor Code section
10 226.2 to the extent it does not include for piece-rate work the information required therein including,
11 without limitation, the quantity, rate and units worked per piece, as well as separately itemized non-
12 productive time and rest and recovery periods. Specifically, Defendants intentionally failed to
13 furnish employees with itemized wage statements that accurately reflect the hours worked by
14 Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees and the rates of pay at which they were or should have
15 been paid (including due to failure to pay at the proper regular rate), thus resulting in a failure to
16 reflect gross and net wages earned and paid at each rate, as well. Consequently, Employee is
17 informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer violated Labor Code sections 226,
18 226.2, 1696.5 and 1198 each day for each Aggrieved Employee during the PAGA Period, and that,
19 thus Employee and each Aggrieved Employee personally suffered these violations and was owed
20 penalties under Labor Code section 226 and 226.2 for each pay period worked during the PAGA
21 Period. Plaintiff is informed and believes that those penalties under Labor Code section 226 were
22 not paid for these violations of Labor Code section 226. Defendants would thus be liable for civil
23 penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 226.2, 226.3, 558, 1198, 1696.5 and 2699. Plaintiff is
24 further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants' conduct above gave rise
25 to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive. Defendants would also be liable for civil
26 penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 226.2, 226.3, 558, and 2699, or injunctive relief under
27 sections 2699(e)(1) and 2699(k). Defendants would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to
28 Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

1 23. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants also
2 willfully or intentionally failed and refused, and continue to fail and refuse, to timely pay
3 compensation to Plaintiff and other terminated or resigned employees, including but not limited to,
4 all overtime wages owed; all minimum wages owed; all paid sick leave, vacation pay and paid time
5 off; and all premium pay owed as set out above, including, without limitation, for failure to pay at
6 the proper regular rate of pay, among other things. Consequently, Plaintiff is informed and believes,
7 and based thereon alleges, that Defendants violated Labor Code sections 201, 201.5, 201.7, 202 203,
8 203.5 ,204a, 204.1, 204.2, 205, 205.5 and 1198 each pay period for each Aggrieved Employee
9 during the PAGA Period, and that, thus Plaintiff and each Aggrieved Employee personally suffered
10 these violations and was owed penalties under Labor Code section 203 (or, as applicable, 203.5,
11 204a, 204.1, 204.2, 205 and/or 205.5) for each pay period worked during the PAGA Period.
12 However, Plaintiff is informed and believes that those penalties under Labor Code section 203 (or
13 203.5 and/or 204a) were not made for these violations of Labor Code sections 201, 201.5, 201.7,
14 202, 203, 203.5, 204b, 204.1, 204.2, 205 and/or 205.5. Plaintiff is further informed and believes,
15 and based thereon alleges, that Defendants' conduct above gave rise to such violations was
16 malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive. Defendants would also be liable for civil penalties pursuant to
17 Labor Code sections 558, 1198 and 2699, or injunctive relief under sections 2699(e)(1) and 2699(j).
18 Defendants would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
19 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

20 24. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants
21 required or require the execution of a release of claim or right on account of wages due, or to become
22 due, or made as an advance on wages to be earned, including, without limitation, as a condition of
23 being paid, to execute a statement of the hours worked during a pay period in which Defendants
24 knew to be false. As such, Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges that
25 Defendants violated Labor Code sections 206.5 and 1198, and that Plaintiff and other Aggrieved
26 Employees have personally suffered these violations. Plaintiff is further informed and believes, and
27 based thereon alleges, that Defendants' conduct above gave rise to such violations was malicious,
28 fraudulent, or oppressive. Defendants would be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code

1 sections 1198 and 2699, or injunctive relief under sections 2699(e)(1) and 2699(k). Defendants
2 would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

3 25. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants have
4 or had a policy or practice of unlawfully deducting wages from Plaintiff and other Aggrieved
5 Employees, by issuing in payment of wages due, or to become due, or as an advance on wages to
6 be earned: (1) an order, check, draft, note, memorandum, gift card, or other acknowledgement of
7 indebtedness, (unless it was negotiable and payable in cash, on demand, without discount, at some
8 established place of business in the state), the name and address of which must but did not appear
9 on the instrument, and at the time of its issuance and for a reasonable time thereafter, which must
10 be but was not at least 30 days, the maker or drawer did not have sufficient funds in, or credit,
11 arrangement, or understanding with the drawee for its payment; and/or (2) any scrip, coupon cards,
12 or other thing redeemable, in merchandise or purporting to be payable or redeemable otherwise than
13 in money. Plaintiff is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that such wages were
14 not compensated at the “regular rate” of compensation as provided under Labor Code sections 226.7
15 and 510, subsection (a), thus violating those Labor Code sections, as well as Labor Code section
16 1198. In addition, Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendants, by these deductions and/or
17 otherwise, have caused wages earned by Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees to be charged back or
18 kicked back to Defendants. Consequently, Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon
19 alleges, that Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees have personally suffered violations under
20 these sections and are entitled to relief under, without limitation, Labor Code sections 212, 221, 222
21 (as it pertains to employees governed by a CBA), 223, 226.7, 246, 510 subsection (a), 1194, and
22 1197. Plaintiff is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Plaintiff’s conduct
23 above gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive. Defendants would thus
24 be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 558, 1197.1, 1198 and 2699, or
25 injunctive relief under sections 2699(e)(1) and 2699(k). Defendants would further be liable for civil
26 penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

27 26. Plaintiff is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges that Defendants
28 failed and refused, and continues to fail and refuse, to comply with the notice requirements of Labor

1 Code section 2810.5 (*i.e.*, the Wage Theft Protection Act of 2011) by, among other things, failing
2 to provide Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees with the rates of pay and overtime rates of pay
3 applicable to their employment, allowances claimed as part of the minimum wage, the regular
4 payday designated by Defendants, the name of the employer, including any “doing business as”
5 names used, the name, address and telephone number of the workers’ compensation insurance
6 carrier, information regarding paid sick leave, and other pertinent information required to be
7 disclosed by Employer under Labor Code section 2810.5. Plaintiff is informed and believes that
8 failure to provide such information, including rates of pay that are in effect, has permitted
9 Defendants to pay employees at rates of pay that were not agreed upon and violate minimum wage
10 and overtime wage laws in California. Plaintiff is additionally informed and believes that the notice
11 requirement of Labor Code section 2810.5 involves a mandatory payroll or workplace injury
12 reporting. Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendants violated Labor Code sections 1198 and
13 2810.5. Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees personally suffered these violations. Plaintiff
14 further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants’ conduct above gave rise
15 to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive. Among other relief, employees may
16 collect from Defendants in connection with these violations’ civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code
17 sections 558, 1198 and 2699, or injunctive relief under sections 2699(e)(1) and 2699(k). Defendants
18 would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

19 27. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges that Defendants also
20 failed and refused, and continues to fail and refuse, to reimburse employees, including, without
21 limitation, Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees, with their costs incurred for driving personal
22 vehicles (*i.e.*, mileage and gas), purchasing uniforms, providing uniform and other deposits,
23 separately laundering mandatory uniforms, for the purchase of tools and safety equipment, and for
24 the purchase and maintenance of cellular phones and cellular phone plans, for pre-employment
25 medical, physical or drivers’ exams taken as a condition of employment, or for compelling or
26 coercing Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees, including applicants, to patronize in the purchase of a
27 value or things, including, without limitation, Defendants’ product(s) and/or service(s), in direct
28 consequence of the discharge of their duties, or of their obedience to the directions of Defendants,

1 as required by Labor Code sections 222.5, 231, 450, 1198, 2800, 2802, and other statutory and
2 common law offenses. As a result, Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees have personally
3 suffered these violations and Defendants are liable to reimburse Plaintiff and other Aggrieved
4 Employees for these costs incurred in furtherance of work duties. Plaintiff further informed and
5 believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants' conduct above gave rise to such violations was
6 malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive. In addition, Defendants would be liable for civil penalties
7 pursuant to Labor Code sections 558, 1198 and 2699, or injunctive relief under sections 2699(e)(1)
8 and 2699(k). Defendants would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
9 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

10 28. Plaintiff is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants
11 have or had a policy or practice of failing to reimburse deposits made, including uniform deposits
12 together with all interest owed at the separation of employment in violation of Labor Code sections
13 404 and 1198, that Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees personally suffered these violations,
14 and that Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees are entitled to damages in the amount of the
15 deposit and accrued interest. Plaintiff further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that
16 Defendants' conduct above gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
17 Defendants would also be liable for civil penalties under Labor Code sections 558, 1198 and 2699,
18 or injunctive relief under sections 2699(e)(1) and 2699(k). Defendants would further be liable for
19 civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

20 29. Plaintiff is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants
21 have or had a policy or practice of failing to provide Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees with
22 all rights afforded to them under the Healthy Workplace Healthy Families Act of 2014, codified at
23 Labor Code section 245, *et seq.*, including, without limitation, the amount of paid sick leave required
24 to be provided pursuant to California and local laws. Plaintiff is further informed and believes that
25 the sick pay was not provided at the proper regular of pay as required under California law due to
26 failure to properly calculate the regular rate. Plaintiff is further informed and believes that
27 Defendants also did not permit its use upon request by Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees as
28 contemplated under California and local laws, including, without limitation, under Labor Code

1 section 233, that permits its use to attend to an illness of a child, parent, spouse, or domestic partner
2 without retaliation. Plaintiff is additionally informed and believes that the notice requirement of
3 Labor Code section 221, 222 (as it pertains to employees governed by a CBA), 223, 233, 234, 245
4 and 246 involves a mandatory payroll or workplace injury reporting. Plaintiff is thus informed and
5 believes that Defendants violated these Labor Code sections, as well as Labor Code section 1198.
6 As such, Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees have personally suffered violations under these
7 sections and Defendants would be liable for civil penalties for violation of the paid sick leave
8 regulations under Labor Code sections 1198 and 2699, as well as equitable, injunctive, or
9 restitutionary relief, and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. Defendants are further informed and
10 believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants' conduct above gave rise to such violations was
11 malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive. Defendants would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant
12 to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

13 30. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges that Defendants had and
14 have a policy or practice of failing to pay Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees their paid time
15 off and vacation time owed upon separation of employment as wages at their final rate of pay in
16 violation of Labor Code sections 221, 222 (as it pertains to employees governed by a CBA), 223,
17 227.3 and applicable Wage Orders. Plaintiff is thus informed and believes that Defendants violated
18 these Labor Code sections, as well as Labor Code section 1198. As such, Plaintiff and other
19 Aggrieved Employees have personally suffered these violations and Defendants would be liable for
20 civil penalties for violation of Labor Code section 227.3 under Labor Code section 558, 1198 and
21 2699, or injunctive relief under sections 2699(e)(1) and 2699(k). Plaintiff is further informed and
22 believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants' conduct above gave rise to such violations was
23 malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive. Defendants would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant
24 to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

25 31. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges that Defendants had and
26 have a policy or practice of failing to pay aggrieved employees their wages in accordance with Labor
27 Code Section 204, which requires that: "[l]abor performed between the 1st and 15th days, inclusive,
28 of any calendar month shall be paid for between the 16th and 26th day of the month during which

1 the labor was performed, and labor performed between the 16th and the last day, inclusive of any
2 calendar month, shall be paid for between the 1st and 10th day of the following month.” Plaintiff
3 is informed and believes and based thereon alleges that Defendants did not and do not pay Plaintiff
4 and other Aggrieved Employees every day and every workweek in accordance with Labor Code
5 sections 204 and 1198. As such, Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges that
6 Defendants violated Labor Code section 204 and that Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees have
7 personally suffered these violations. Plaintiff further informed and believes, and based thereon
8 alleges, that Defendants’ conduct above gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or
9 oppressive. Plaintiff would be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 210, 558,
10 1198 and 2699, or injunctive relief under sections 2699(e)(1) and 2699(k). Plaintiff would further
11 be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

12 32. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants have
13 or had collected, taken, or received gratuities (or a part thereof) that is paid, given to, or left for
14 Plaintiff and/or Aggrieved Employees by a patron, or deducted amounts from wages due to Plaintiff
15 and/or Aggrieved Employees on account of a gratuity, or required Plaintiff and/or Aggrieved
16 Employees to credit the amount (or a part thereof) of a gratuity against and as part of the wages due
17 to the Plaintiff and/or Aggrieved Employees from the Defendants. In addition, Plaintiff is informed
18 and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants permit and/or permitted patrons to pay
19 gratuities by credit card but failed to pay Plaintiff and/or Aggrieved Employees the full amount of
20 the gratuity that the patron indicated on the credit card slip, without any deductions, for any credit
21 card payment processing fees that may be charged to the employer by the credit card company by
22 not later than the regular payday following the date the patron authorized the credit card. In addition,
23 Defendants failed to keep accurate records of all gratuities received by Defendants and made those
24 open to inspection at all reasonable hours. Plaintiff is informed and believes that this has resulted
25 in a violation of Labor Code sections 351, 353, 1198. As a result, pursuant to Labor Code sections
26 351 and 353, Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees have personally suffered violations thereto
27 and Defendants would be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 351, 353, 1198
28 and 2699, or injunctive relief under sections 2699(e)(1) and 2699(k). Plaintiff is further informed

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

4 33. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges that Defendants had and
5 have a policy or practice of preventing Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees from using or
6 disclosing the skills, knowledge and experience they obtained with Defendants for purposes of
7 competing with Defendants, including, without limitation, preventing Plaintiff and Aggrieved
8 Employees from disclosing their wages in negotiating a new job with a prospective employer, and
9 from disclosing who else works with Defendants and under what circumstances that they might be
10 receptive to an offer from a rival employer. As such, Plaintiff is informed and believes that this
11 violates Business and Professions Code sections 17200, 16600 and 16700, and, by virtue thereof,
12 various provisions of the Labor Code, including Labor Code sections 232, 232.5, 1197.5,
13 subdivision (k), and 1198, and that Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees have personally
14 suffered these violations. Plaintiff is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that
15 Defendants' conduct above gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
16 Defendants would be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 1198 and 2699, or
17 injunctive relief under sections 2699(e)(1) and 2699(k). Defendants would further be liable for civil
18 penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

19 34. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges that Defendants had and
20 have a policy or practice of preventing Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees from disclosing
21 violations of state and federal law, either within Defendants to their managers or outside of
22 Defendants to private attorneys or government officials, among others, in violation of Business and
23 Professions Code section 17200, and, thus, in violation of Labor Code section 1102.5. Plaintiff and
24 other Aggrieved Employees personally suffered these violations. In addition, Plaintiff is informed
25 and believes that these policies and/or practices prevent Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees
26 from disclosing information about unsafe or discriminatory working conditions, or about wage and
27 hour violations in violation of Labor Code sections 232, 232.5 and 1198. Plaintiff and other
28 Aggrieved Employees personally suffered these violations of the Labor Code, and as such, these

1 violations would expose Defendants to liability for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections
2 1198 and 2699, or injunctive relief under sections 2699(e)(1) and 2699(k). Plaintiff is further
3 informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants' conduct above gave rise to such
4 violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive. Defendants would further be liable for civil
5 penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

6 35. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges that Defendants had and
7 have a policy or practice of preventing Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees from engaging in
8 lawful conduct during non-work hours, thus violating state statutes entitling employees to disclose
9 wages, working conditions, and illegal conduct, including, without limitation, Labor Code sections
10 96, subdivision (k), 98.6, 232, 232.5, 1197.5, subdivision (k), and 1198. Plaintiff and other
11 Aggrieved Employees personally suffered these violations. Plaintiff is informed and believes that
12 this lawful conduct includes, without limitation, the exercise of Plaintiff and other Aggrieved
13 Employee's constitutional rights of freedom of speech and economic liberty and would thus expose
14 Defendant to liability for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 1198 and 2699, or
15 injunctive relief under sections 2699(e)(1) and 2699(k). Plaintiff further informed and believes, and
16 based thereon alleges, that Defendants' conduct above gave rise to such violations was malicious,
17 fraudulent, or oppressive. Defendants would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor
18 Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

19 36. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants,
20 including their agents, managers, superintendents, and/or officers, required Plaintiff and/or
21 Aggrieved Employees to agree, in writing, to terms and conditions known by Defendants (and their
22 agents, managers, superintendents and/or officers) to be prohibited by law, including, without
23 limitation, non-compete agreements, terms known to be illegal in purported arbitration agreements,
24 purported confidentiality agreements, purported severance agreements, or purported release
25 agreements, and other written documents presented for signature and/or assent to Plaintiff and/or
26 Aggrieved Employees by Defendants. And, even more specifically, Plaintiff is informed and
27 believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants had and have a practice or policy of requiring
28 Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees to agree in writing to confidentiality policies that

1 unlawfully restrain trade by prohibiting employees from speaking with prospective employers about
2 their work with Defendants, including but not limited to their wages and working conditions.
3 Defendants also required Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees to inform prospective employers of
4 Defendants' restrictions of Plaintiff's and Aggrieved Employees' freedom to work. As a result,
5 Employee is informed and believes that Employer violated Labor Code sections 432.5, 1700.31 and
6 1198. As such, Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Plaintiff and other
7 Aggrieved Employees personally suffered these violations, and that Defendants violated, without
8 limitation, Labor Code section 432.5 and Government Code section 12952, entitling Plaintiff and
9 other Aggrieved Employees to damages. Plaintiff further informed and believes, and based thereon
10 alleges, that Defendants' conduct above gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or
11 oppressive. Defendants would also be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections
12 432.5, 1198, 1700.31 and 2699, or injunctive relief under sections 2699(e)(1) and 2699(k).
13 Defendants would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
14 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

15 37. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants had
16 and have a practice or policy of conducting unlawful background checks on prospective and current
17 employees, including without limitation Plaintiff, prior to making a conditional offer. Plaintiff is
18 informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants violated applicable laws by,
19 without limitation: requiring job applicants and employees to disclose their conviction history before
20 Defendants made a conditional offer of employment; inquiring into or considering the conviction
21 history of applicants before Defendants made any conditional offers of employment; considering,
22 distributing, or disseminating information about arrests not followed by conviction, referrals to or
23 participation in a pretrial or posttrial diversion program, convictions that have been sealed,
24 dismissed, expunged, or statutorily eradicated pursuant to law, or any conviction for which the
25 convicted person has received a full pardon or has been issued a certificate of rehabilitation, while
26 conducting conviction history background checks in connection with any applications for
27 employment; intending to deny an applicant a position of employment solely or in part because of
28 the applicant's conviction history; and asking applicants for employment to disclose, through any

1 written form or verbally, information concerning or related to an arrest, detention, processing,
2 diversion, supervision, adjudication, or court disposition that occurred while the person was subject
3 to the process and jurisdiction of the juvenile court, to the detriment of Employee and other
4 aggrieved employees. As such, Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that
5 Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees personally suffered these violations, as well as violation
6 of Labor Code section 1198, and that Employer violated, without limitation, Labor Code sections
7 432.7 and 1198, as well as Government Code section 12952, entitling Plaintiff and other Aggrieved
8 Employees to damages. Plaintiff is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that
9 Defendants' conduct above gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
10 Defendants would also be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 432.7, 432.8,
11 1198, and 2699, or injunctive relief under sections 2699(e)(1) and 2699(k). Defendants would
12 further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

13 38. Plaintiff, in Plaintiff's representative capacity, seeks civil penalties under Labor
14 Code sections 210, 226.3, 558, 1174.5, 1197.1, and 2699 for the herein-described acts, which violate
15 the California Labor Code as described above, including on behalf of Plaintiff and other Aggrieved
16 Employees pursuant to PAGA.

17 **PARTIES**

18 **A. Plaintiff**

19 39. Plaintiff is a resident of the State of California. At all relevant times herein, Plaintiff
20 is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants employed Plaintiff as a non-
21 exempt employee. Plaintiff is informed and believes that Plaintiff worked for Defendants from
22 approximately March of 2023 through at least January of 2024.

23 **B. Defendants**

24 40. Plaintiff is informed and believes and based thereon alleges that defendant FAMILY
25 OPTIONS is, and at all times relevant hereto was, a limited liability company organized and existing
26 under and by virtue of the laws of the State of California and doing business in the County of Fresno,
27 State of California.

28 41. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate, or otherwise,

1 of defendants sued herein as DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, are currently unknown to Plaintiff,
2 who therefore sues defendants by such fictitious names under Code of Civil Procedure section 474.
3 Plaintiff is informed and believes and based thereon alleges that each of the defendants designated
4 herein as DOE is legally responsible in some manner for the unlawful acts referred to herein.
5 Plaintiff will seek leave of court to amend this Complaint to reflect the true names and capacities of
6 the defendants designated hereinafter as DOES when such identities become known. Plaintiff is
7 informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that each defendant acted in all respects pertinent
8 to this action, as the agent of the other defendant(s), carried out a joint scheme, business plan or
9 policy in all respects pertinent hereto, and the acts of each defendant are legally attributable to the
10 other defendants. Whenever, heretofore or hereinafter, reference is made to "Defendants," it shall
11 include FAMILY OPTIONS, and any of their parent, subsidiary, or affiliated companies within the
12 State of California, as well as DOES 1 through 100 identified herein.

13 **JOINT LIABILITY ALLEGATIONS**

14 42. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that at all times
15 mentioned herein, each of the defendants was the agent, principal, employee, employer,
16 representative, joint venture or co-conspirator of each of the other defendants, either actually or
17 ostensibly, and in doing the things alleged herein acted within the course and scope of such agency,
18 employment, joint venture, and conspiracy.

19 43. All of the acts and conduct described herein of each and every corporate defendant
20 was duly authorized, ordered, and directed by the respective and collective defendant corporate
21 employers, and the officers and management-level employees of said corporate employers. In
22 addition thereto, said corporate employers participated in the aforementioned acts and conduct of
23 their said employees, agents, and representatives, and each of them; and upon completion of the
24 aforesaid acts and conduct of said corporate employees, agents, and representatives, the defendant
25 corporation respectively and collectively ratified, accepted the benefits of, condoned, lauded,
26 acquiesced, authorized, and otherwise approved of each and all of the said acts and conduct of the
27 aforementioned corporate employees, agents and representatives.

28 44. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that despite the

1 formation of the purported corporate existence of FAMILY OPTIONS, and DOES 1 through 50,
2 inclusive (the “Alter Ego Defendants”), they, and each of them, are one and the same with DOES
3 51 through 100 (“Individual Defendants”), and each of them, due to, but not limited to, the following
4 reasons:

5 a. The Alter Ego Defendants are completely dominated and controlled by the
6 Individual Defendants who personally committed the wrongful and illegal acts and violated the laws
7 as set forth in this Complaint, and who have hidden and currently hide behind the Alter Ego
8 Defendants to perpetrate frauds, circumvent statutes, or accomplish some other wrongful or
9 inequitable purpose;

10 b. The Individual Defendants derive actual and significant monetary benefits by
11 and through the Alter Ego Defendants’ unlawful conduct, and by using the Alter Ego Defendants as
12 the funding source for the Individual Defendants’ own personal expenditures;

13 c. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the Individual
14 Defendants and the Alter Ego Defendants, while really one and the same, were segregated to appear
15 as though separate and distinct for purposes of perpetrating a fraud, circumventing a statute, or
16 accomplishing some other wrongful or inequitable purpose;

17 d. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the business affairs
18 of the Individual Defendants and the Alter Ego Defendants are, and at all relevant times mentioned
19 herein were, so mixed and intermingled that the same cannot reasonably be segregated, and the same
20 are inextricable confusion. The Alter Ego Defendants are, and at all relevant times mentioned herein
21 were, used by the Individual Defendants as mere shells and conduits for the conduct of certain of
22 their, and each of their affairs. The Alter Ego Defendants are, and at all relevant times mentioned
23 herein were, the alter egos of the Individual Defendants;

24 e. The recognition of the separate existence of the Individual Defendants from
25 the Alter Ego Defendants would promote injustice insofar that it would permit these defendants to
26 insulate themselves from liability to Plaintiff for violations to the Civil Code, Government Code,
27 and other statutory violations. The corporate existence of these defendants should thus be
28

1 disregarded in equity and for the ends of justice because such disregard is necessary to avoid fraud
2 and injustice to Plaintiff herein;

3 f. Accordingly, the Alter Ego Defendants constitute the alter ego of the
4 Individual Defendants (and vice versa), and the fiction of their separate corporate existence must be
5 disregarded.

6 45. As a result of the aforementioned facts, Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based
7 thereon alleges that Defendants, and each of them, are joint employers.

8 46. Moreover, Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that
9 Individual Defendants, and each of them, are liable for the civil penalties, or some of them, described
10 herein because Individual Defendants, and each of them, caused or are otherwise contributed to the
11 violations described herein, or some of them.

12 **FIRST AND ONLY CAUSE OF ACTION**

13 **(Civil Penalties Under the Private Attorneys' General Act (2004) – Against All Defendants)**

14 47. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all of the allegations set forth in the
15 preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth hereat.

16 **Civil Penalties Under Labor Code § 210**

17 48. At all relevant times herein, Labor Code section 204, requires and required that:
18 “[l]abor performed between the 1st and 15th days, inclusive, of any calendar month shall be paid for
19 between the 16th and 26th day of the month during which the labor was performed, and labor
20 performed between the 16th and the last day, inclusive, of any calendar month, shall be paid for
21 between the 1st and 10th day of the following month.”

22 49. At all relevant times herein, Labor Code section 210, subdivision (a) states and stated
23 that “[i]n addition to, and entirely independent and apart from, any other penalty provided in this
24 article, every person who fails to pay the wages of each employee as provided in Sections 201.3,
25 204, 204b, 204.1, 205, 205.5, and 1197.5, shall be subject to a civil penalty as follows: (1) For any
26 initial violation, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each failure to pay each employee” and “(2) For
27 each subsequent violation, or any willful or intentional violation, two hundred dollars (\$200) for
28 each failure to pay each employee, plus 25 percent of the amount unlawfully withheld.”

50. At all relevant times herein, Defendants have had a consistent policy or practice of failing to pay Plaintiff and/or Aggrieved Employees during their employment on a timely basis as per Labor Code section 204 including, without limitation, for the reasons and in a manner set forth in the preceding paragraphs. Thus, pursuant to Labor Code section 210, Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees are entitled to recover as civil penalties injunctive relief and monetary civil penalties in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100) for each Aggrieved Employee for each initial violation per employee, and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each failure to pay each employee, plus 25 percent of the amount unlawfully withheld for each Aggrieved Employee for each subsequent violation in connection with each payment that was made in violation of Labor Code section 204.

Civil Penalties Under Labor Code § 226.3

51. Defendants had and have a policy or practice of failing to comply with Labor Code section 226, subdivision (a) by intentionally failing to furnish Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees with itemized wage statements that accurately reflect gross wages earned; total hours worked; net wages earned; the name and address of each employer with whom they have been placed to work; all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate; the legal name of the employer and/or the name and address of the legal entity securing the employer's services if the employer is a farm labor contractor; and other such information as required by Labor Code section 226, subdivision (a) and/or Labor Code section 226.2 to the extent it does not include for piece-rate work the information required therein including, without limitation, the quantity, rate and units worked per piece, as well as separately itemized non-productive time and rest and recovery periods

52. Labor Code section 226.3 states that “[a]ny employer who violates subdivision (a) of Section 226 shall be subject to a civil 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, for which the employer fails to provide the employee a wage deduction statement or fails to keep the records required in subdivision (a) of Section 226.”

53. Labor Code section 226.3 further provides that “[t]he civil penalties provided for in this section are in addition to any other penalty provided by law.”

54. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants had and have a policy or practice of failing to furnish Aggrieved Employees with itemized wage statements as set forth in the preceding paragraphs.

55. Pursuant to Labor Code section 226.3, Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees are entitled to recover civil penalties for Defendants' violation of Labor Code section 226, subdivision (a) in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each Aggrieved Employee per pay period for the initial violation, and one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each Aggrieved Employee per pay period for each subsequent violation.

Violation of Labor Code § 558

56. Pursuant to Labor Code section 558, subdivision (a): “Any employer or other person acting on behalf of an employer who violates, or causes to be violated . . . any provision regulating hours and days of work in any of the Industrial Welfare Commission” shall be subject to a civil penalty as follows:

- (1) For any initial violation, fifty dollars (\$50) for each underpaid employee and for each pay period for which the employee was underpaid in addition to an amount sufficient to recover underpaid wages;
- (2) For each subsequent violation, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the employee was underpaid in addition to an amount sufficient to recover underpaid wages;
- (3) Wages recovered pursuant to this section shall be paid to the affected employee.”

57. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants, and each of them, violated, or caused to be violated, the Labor Code sections described herein, including causing Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees not to: be paid with the rates of pay and overtime rates of pay applicable to their employment, allowances claimed as part of the minimum wage, the regular payday designated by employer, the name of the employer, including any “doing business as” names used, the name, address, and telephone number of the workers’ compensation insurance carrier, information regarding paid sick leave, and other pertinent information.

58. As a direct and proximate result of the herein-described Labor Code violations,

1 pursuant to Labor Code section 558, Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees are entitled to recover
2 civil penalties for Defendants' herein-described Labor Code violations in the amount fifty dollars
3 (\$50) for each Aggrieved Employee per pay period for the initial violation, and one hundred dollars
4 (\$100) for each Aggrieved Employee per pay period for each subsequent violation.

5 Violation of Labor Code § 1174.5

6 59. At all times mentioned herein, Labor Code section 1174, subdivision (b) has required
7 every person employing labor in California to "[a]llow any member of the commission or the
8 employees of the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement free access to the place of business or
9 employment of the person to secure any information or make any investigation that they are
10 authorized by this chapter to ascertain or make. The commission may inspect or make excerpts,
11 relating to the employment of employees, from the books, reports, contracts, payrolls, documents,
12 or papers of the person."

13 60. At all times mentioned herein, Labor Code section 1174, subdivision (c) has required
14 every person employing labor in California to "[k]eep a record showing the names and addresses of
15 all employees employed and the ages of all minors."

16 61. At all times mentioned herein, Labor Code section 1174, subdivision (d) has required
17 every person employing labor in California to "[k]eep, at a central location in the state or at the
18 plants or establishments at which employees are employed, payroll records showing the hours
19 worked daily by and the wages paid to, and the number of piece-rate units earned by and applicable
20 piece rate paid to, employees employed at the respective plants or establishments. These records
21 shall be kept in accordance with rules established for this purpose by the commission, but in any
22 case, shall be kept on file for not less than three years. An employer shall not prohibit an employee
23 from maintaining a personal record of hours worked, or, if paid on a piece-rate basis, piece-rate units
24 earned."

25 62. Pursuant to Labor Code section 1174.5, "[a]ny person employing labor who willfully
26 fails to maintain the records required by subdivision (c) of [Labor Code] Section 1174 or accurate
27 and complete records required by subdivision (d) of [Labor Code] Section 1174, or to allow any
28 member of the commission or employees of the division to inspect records pursuant to subdivision

1 (b) of [Labor Code] Section 1174, shall be subject to a civil penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500).

2 63. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants have
3 willfully failed to keep adequate or accurate time records including wage statements and similar
4 payroll documents under Labor Code section 226, documents signed to obtain or hold employment
5 under Labor Code section 432, personnel records under Labor Code section 1198.5, and time records
6 under Labor Code section 1174.

7 64. As a direct and proximate result of the herein-described Labor Code violations,
8 pursuant to Labor Code section 1174.5, Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees are entitled to
9 recover civil penalties for Defendants' herein-described Labor Code violations in the amount of five
10 hundred dollars (\$500) per violation per pay period per Aggrieved Employee.

11 Violation of Labor Code § 1197.1

12 65. Pursuant to Labor Code section 1197.1, subdivision (a): "Any employer or other
13 person acting either individually or as an officer, agent, or employee of another person, who pays
14 or causes to be paid to any employee a wage less than the minimum fixed by an applicable state or
15 local law, or by an order of the commission shall be subject to a civil penalty, restitution of wages,
16 liquidated damages payable to the employee, and any applicable penalties imposed pursuant to
17 Section 203 as follows:

18 (1) For any initial violation that is intentionally committed, one hundred dollars
19 (\$100) for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the
20 employee is underpaid. This amount shall be in addition to an amount
21 sufficient to recover underpaid wages, liquidated damages pursuant to Section
22 1194.2, and any applicable penalties imposed pursuant to Section 203.

23 (2) For each subsequent violation for the same specific offense, two hundred fifty
24 dollars (\$250) for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the
25 employee is underpaid regardless of whether the initial violation is
26 intentionally committed. This amount shall be in addition to an amount
27 sufficient to recover underpaid wages, liquidated damages pursuant to Section
28 1194.2, and any applicable penalties imposed pursuant to Section 203.

1 (3) Wages, liquidated damages, and any applicable penalties imposed pursuant to
2 Section 203, recovered pursuant to this section shall be paid to the affected
3 employee.”

4 66. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants caused
5 Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees not to be paid minimum wages as a result of Defendants, without
6 limitation, routinely failing to pay Plaintiff or other Aggrieved Employees’ minimum wages for all
7 hours worked or otherwise under Defendants’ control due to, without limitation, routinely failing to
8 accurately track and/or pay for all hours actually worked; detrimental rounding or manipulation of
9 time entries; paying straight pay instead of overtime or otherwise failing to pay overtime hours at
10 the proper overtime rate of pay; engaging, suffering, or permitting employees to work off the clock,
11 entitling Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees to actual and liquidated damages.

12 67. As a direct and proximate result of the herein-described Labor Code violations,
13 pursuant to Labor Code section 1197.1, Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees are entitled to
14 recover civil penalties for Defendants’ herein-described Labor Code violations in the amount of one
15 hundred dollars (\$100) for each Aggrieved Employee per pay period for the initial violation, and
16 two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) for each Aggrieved Employee per pay period for each
17 subsequent violation.

18 Civil Penalties Under Labor Code § 2699

19 68. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699, subdivision (a), notwithstanding any other
20 provision of law, any provision of the Labor Code that provides for a civil penalty to be assessed
21 and collected by the LWDA or any of its departments, divisions, commissions, boards, agencies or
22 employees for a violation of the Labor Code may, as an alternative, be recovered through a civil
23 action brought by an aggrieved employee on behalf of himself or herself and other current or former
24 employees pursuant to the procedures specified in Labor Code section 2699.3.

25 69. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges that Defendants, and
26 each of them, violated the Labor Code sections described in the preceding paragraphs.

27 70. As such, Plaintiff and aggrieved employees are entitled to injunctive relief, one
28 hundred dollars (\$100) for each Aggrieved Employee for each pay period in the PAGA Period, and

1 two hundred dollars (\$200) for each Aggrieved Employee for each pay period in the PAGA Period
2 to the extent Defendants' conduct is found to be malicious, fraudulent and/or oppressive.

3 71. Moreover, Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees within the State of California
4 whom he seeks to represent are entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs in
5 connection with their herein-described claims for civil penalties.

6 **PRAYER**

7 **WHEREFORE**, on behalf of Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees, Plaintiff prays for
8 judgment against Defendants as follows:

- 9 A. An award of civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 210, 226.3, 558,
10 1174.5, 1197.1, and 2699;
11 B. An award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code sections
12 210, 226.3, 558, 1174.5, 1197.1, and 2699;
13 C. For equitable, including, without limitation, injunctive relief;
14 D. Pre-judgment and post-judgment interest;
15 E. For costs of suit incurred herein; and
16 F. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

17 Dated: April 1, 2025

BIBIYAN LAW GROUP, P.C.

18
19 BY: /s/ Sarah H. Cohen

20 SARAH H. COHEN

21 RAFAEL YEDOYAN

22 Attorneys for Plaintiff MICHELLE
23 ANTOINETTE RAMOS, as an aggrieved
24 employee, and on behalf of all other aggrieved
25 employees under the Labor Code Private
26 Attorneys' General Act of 2004,
27
28