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on behalf of himself and others similarly situated

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

JOSE MENDOZA GONZALEZ, on behalf of
himself and others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

EBI ENTERPRISES INC, a California
corporation; POPEYES, an entity of unknown
form; and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,

Defendants.

FILED
Superior Court of California
County of Los Angeles
08/16/2024

David W. Slayton, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court
By: M. Arellanes Deputy

Case No. 24STCV14878

CLASS ACTION

Assigned for All Purposes To:
Hon. Kenneth R. Freeman
Dept.: 14

**FIRST AMENDED 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. Reimbursement of Necessary Expenditures
Under Labor Code § 2802;
6. Violation of Labor Code § 226(a);
7. Failure to Keep Required Payroll
Records Under Labor Code §§ 1174 and
1174.5;
8. Penalties Pursuant to Labor Code § 203; and
9. Violation of Business & Professions Code §
17200 *et seq.*; and
10. Penalties Pursuant to Labor Code § 2699, *et
seq.*

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

1 Plaintiff JOSE MENDOZA GONZALEZ, (hereinafter “Plaintiff”) on behalf of himself and
2 all others similarly situated (collectively, “Employees”; individually, “Employee”) complains of
3 Defendants, and each of them, as follows:

4 INTRODUCTION

5 1. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and all current and former
6 Employees within the State of California who, at any time four (4) years prior to the filing of this
7 lawsuit, are or were employed as non-exempt, hourly employees by Defendants EBI
8 ENTERPRISES INC, a California corporation, POPEYES, an entity of unknown form and DOES
9 1 through 50 (all defendants being collectively referred to herein as “Defendants”). Plaintiff
10 alleges that Defendants, and each of them, violated various provisions of the California Labor
11 Code, relevant orders of the Industrial Welfare Commission (IWC) and California Business &
12 Professions Code, and seeks redress therefore.

13 2. Plaintiff is a resident of California and during the time period relevant to this
14 Complaint was employed by Defendants as a non-exempt hourly employee within the State of
15 California at Defendants’ facilities and offices in California. Plaintiff and the other Class members
16 worked for Defendants in Los Angeles County, and in other nonexempt positions, throughout
17 California and consistently worked at Defendants’ behest without being paid all wages due. More
18 specifically, Plaintiff and the other similarly situated Class members were employed by
19 Defendants and worked at Defendants’ offices and other facilities where the conduct giving rise to
20 the allegations in this Class Action Complaint occurred. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff
21 was employed by Defendants and (1) shared similar job duties and responsibilities, (2) was
22 subjected to the same policies and practices, and (3) endured similar violations at the hands of
23 Defendants as the other Employee Class members who served in similar and related positions.

24 3. Defendants failed to accurately record overtime worked by Plaintiff and Employee
25 Class members. Defendants thus failed to pay Plaintiff and the Class members for all hours
26 worked, and provided them with inaccurate wage statements that prevented Plaintiff and the Class
27 from learning of these unlawful pay practices. Defendants also failed to provide Plaintiff and the
28

1 Class with lawful meal and rest periods, as employees were not provided with the opportunity to
2 take timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free meal and rest periods as required by the Labor Code.

3 **THE PARTIES**

4 **A. The Plaintiff**

5 4. Plaintiff JOSE MENDOZA GONZALEZ has resided in California and during the
6 time period relevant to this Complaint was employed by Defendants as a non-exempt hourly
7 employee within the State of California.

8 **B. The Defendants**

9 5. Defendant EBI ENTERPRISES INC (“EBI”) is a California corporation with its
10 principle executive office in Northridge, California, and has been listed as the employer on the
11 wage statements issued to Plaintiff during the relevant time period. EBI lists a California address
12 in Northridge, California with the California Secretary of State, and employs Class members in
13 Los Angeles County, including at Defendants’ offices and facilities in Northridge, California, and
14 throughout California and conducts business throughout California.

15 6. 8. Defendant POPEYES, is an entity of unknown form with its principle
16 executive offices in Northridge, California and has been listed as the employer on Plaintiff’s
17 personnel file during the relevant time period. POPEYES does not list a California address with
18 the California Secretary of State, but upon information and belief, employs Plaintiff and the
19 Aggrieved Employees in Los Angeles County, including at Defendants’ offices and facilities in
20 Northridge, California, and throughout California and conducts business throughout California.

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

8. 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 Employees. Defendants, and each of them, exercised control over the wages, hours or working conditions of Employees, or suffered or permitted Employees to work, or engaged, thereby creating a common law employment relationship, with Employees. Therefore, Defendants, and each of them, employed or jointly employed Employees.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

9. 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 Employees of Defendants pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 382. Venue as to Defendants is also proper in this judicial district pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 395 *et seq.* Upon information and belief, the obligations and liabilities giving rise to this lawsuit occurred at least in part in Los Angeles County and Defendants maintain and operate company offices and facilities in Los Angeles County, and employ Plaintiff and other Class members in Los Angeles County and throughout California.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

10. The Employees who comprise the Class and Collective, including Plaintiff, are nonexempt employees pursuant to the applicable Wage Order of the IWC. Defendants hire Employees who work in nonexempt positions at the direction of Defendants in the State of California. Plaintiff and the Class members 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 Plaintiff and the Class members all wages due and owing, failed to provide meal and rest breaks, and failed to furnish accurate wage statements, all in violation of various provisions of the California Labor Code and applicable Wage Orders.

1 11. During the course of Plaintiff and the Class members' employment with
2 Defendants, they were not paid all wages they were owed, including for all work performed and
3 for all overtime hours worked and were forced to work during their meal and rest breaks to keep
4 labor budgets low.

5 12. As a matter of uniform Company policy, Plaintiff and the Class members were
6 required to work during their meal and rest breaks which were not compensated by Defendants in
7 violation of the California Labor Code. Plaintiff and the Class members were also not paid
8 regular wages and overtime for the time they were required to comply with other requirements
9 imposed upon them, which they had to complete while working through their meal and rest
10 breaks and without compensation. As a result, Plaintiff and the Class members worked shifts over
11 eight (8) hours in a day and over forty (40) hours in a work week, but they were not paid at the
12 appropriate overtime rate for all such hours. As a result, Plaintiff and the Class members worked
13 substantial overtime hours during their employment with Defendants for which they were not
14 compensated, in violation of the California Labor Code, applicable IWC Wage Orders.

15 13. As a result of the above described daily work demands and pressures to work
16 through breaks and the other wage violations they endured at Defendants' hands, Plaintiff and the
17 Class members were not properly paid for all wages earned and for all wages owed to them by
18 Defendants, including when working more than eight (8) hours in any given day and/or more than
19 forty (40) hours in any given week. As a result of Defendants' unlawful policies and practices,
20 Plaintiff and Class members incurred overtime hours worked for which they were not adequately
21 and completely compensated. To the extent applicable, Defendants also failed to pay Plaintiff and
22 the Class members at an overtime rate of 1.5 times the regular rate for the first eight hours of the
23 seventh consecutive work day in a week and overtime payments at the rate of 2 times the regular
24 rate for hours worked over eight (8) on the seventh consecutive work day, as required under the
25 Labor Code, applicable IWC Wage Orders.

26 14. Therefore, from at least four (4) years prior to the filing of this lawsuit and
27 continuing to the present, Defendants had a consistent policy or practice of failing to pay
28 Employees for all hours worked, and failing to pay minimum wage for all time worked as required

1 by California Law.

2 15. Additionally from at least four (4) years prior to the filing of this lawsuit and
3 continuing to the present, Defendants had a consistent policy or practice of failing to pay
4 Employees overtime compensation at premium overtime rates for all hours worked in excess of
5 eight (8) hours a day and/or forty (40) hours a week, and double-time rates for all hours worked in
6 excess of twelve (12) hours a day, in violation of Labor Code § 510 and the corresponding
7 sections of IWC Wage Orders.

8 16. Additionally from at least four (4) years prior to the filing of this lawsuit and
9 continuing to the present, Defendants have regularly required Employees to work shifts in excess
10 of five (5) hours without providing them with duty-free and uninterrupted meal periods of not less
11 than thirty (30) minutes and shifts in excess of ten (10) hours without providing them with second
12 meal periods of not less than thirty minutes; nor did Defendants pay Employees “premium pay,”
13 i.e. one hour of wages at each Employee’s effective regular rate of pay, for each meal period that
14 Defendants failed to provide or deficiently provided.

15 17. From at least four (4) years prior to the filing of this lawsuit and continuing to the
16 present, Defendants have consistently failed to provide Employees with paid rest breaks of not less
17 than ten (10) minutes for every work period of four (4) or more consecutive hours; nor did
18 Defendant pay Employees premium pay for each day on which requisite rest breaks were not
19 provided or were deficiently provided at one hour of wages at each Employee’s effective regular
20 rate of pay, for each rest period that Defendants failed to provide or deficiently provided.

21 18. Additionally, from at least four (4) years prior to the filing of this lawsuit, and
22 continuing to the present, Defendants have consistently failed to provide Employees with timely,
23 accurate, and itemized wage statements as required by California wage-and-hour laws.
24 Specifically, the wage statements given to Employees by Defendants failed to accurately account
25 for wages, overtime, and premium pay for deficient meal periods and rest breaks all of which
26 Defendants knew or reasonably should have known were owed to Employees, as alleged
27 hereinabove. The wage statements provided to Employees were confusing and required
28 Employees to engage in discovery and refer to outside sources to verify whether their pay was

1 correct and potentially resulting in a miscalculation by the Employees.

2 19. Additionally, from at least four (4) years prior to the filing of this lawsuit, and
3 continuing to the present, Defendants have consistently failed to provide Employees with timely,
4 accurate, and itemized wage statements, in writing, as required by California wage-and-hour laws.

5 20. From at least four (4) years prior to the filing of this lawsuit and continuing to the
6 present, Defendants have failed to reimburse Employees for expenses necessarily incurred in the
7 performance of their job duties for Defendants including, but not limited to, the cost of cleaning
8 supplies, specifically dish detergent, which were necessary to perform their duties under
9 Defendants' employ in violation of Labor Code § 2802.

10 21. Additionally, from at least three (3) years prior to the filing of this lawsuit, and
11 continuing to the present, Defendants have consistently failed to keep accurate time and wage
12 records as required by California wage-and-hour laws.

13 22. Additionally, from at least four (4) years prior to filing this lawsuit and continuing
14 to the present, Defendants have had a consistent policy of failing to pay all wages fur and owed to
15 Employees at the time of their termination of within seventy-two (72) hours of their resignation, as
16 required by California wage-and-hour laws.

17 23. In light of the foregoing, Employees bring this action pursuant to, inter alia, Labor
18 Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 558.1, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12,
19 1185, 1194, 1194.2 1197, 1198, 1199, 2698, 2699, and 2802.

20 24. Furthermore, pursuant to Business and Professions Code §§ 17200-17208,
21 Employees seek injunctive relief, restitution, and disgorgement of all benefits Defendants have
22 enjoyed from their violations of Labor Code.

23 **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

24 25. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of himself and all others similarly
25 situated pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 382. Plaintiff seeks to represent a class defined as
26 follows: all individuals employed by Defendants, at any time within four (4) years of the filing of
27 this lawsuit, and that have been employed by Defendants within the State of California.

28 26. Further, Plaintiff seeks to represent the following Subclasses composed of and

defined as follows:

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

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

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 Employee'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 Employees 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 Employee's regular rate of pay in lieu thereof.

e. Subclass 5. 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.

f. Subclass 6. Wage Statement Subclass. All Class members who, within the applicable limitations period, were not provided with accurate itemized wage statements.

g. Subclass 7. Failure to Reimburse for Necessary Business Expenditures. All Class members who were subject to Defendants failing to reimburse for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of Employees job duties for Defendants which were necessary to perform their duties under Defendants' employ.

h. Subclass 8. 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.

i. Subclass 9. 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

1 be unlawful, deceptive, and/or unfair.

2 27. Plaintiff reserves the right under California Rule of Court 3.765 to amend or
3 modify the class description with greater particularity or further division into subclasses or
4 limitation to particular issues.

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

8 **A. Numerosity**

9 29. The potential members of the class as defined are so numerous that joinder of all
10 the member of the class is impracticable. While the precise number of class member has not been
11 determined at this time, Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendants employ or, during the
12 time period relevant to this lawsuit, employed more than 100 individuals within the State of
13 California.

14 30. Accounting for employee turnover during the relevant time period increases this
15 number substantially. Plaintiff alleges that Defendants' employment records will provide
16 information as to the number and location of all class members.

17 **B. Commonality**

18 31. There are questions of law and fact common to the class that predominate over any
19 questions affecting only individual class members. These common questions of law and fact
20 include:

- 21 a. Whether Defendants failed to pay Employees minimum wages;
- 22 b. Whether Defendants failed to pay Employees wages for all hours worked;
- 23 c. Whether Defendants failed to pay Employees overtime as required under Labor
24 Code § 510;
- 25 d. Whether Defendants violated Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512, and the applicable
26 IWC Wage Orders, by failing to provide Employees with requisite meal periods or
27 premium pay in lieu thereof;
- 28 e. Whether Defendants violated Labor Code §§ 226.7, and the applicable IWC Wage

Orders, by failing to provide Employees with requisite rest breaks or premium pay in lieu thereof;

f. Whether Defendants violated Labor Code § 226(a);

g. Whether Defendants violated Labor Code §§ 1174 and 1174.5;

h. Whether Defendants failed to reimburse Employees for necessary business expenses;

i. 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;

j. Whether Defendants are liable for penalties under Labor Code § 2699, *et seq.*;

k. Whether Defendants violated Business and Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.*; and

l. Whether Employees are entitled to equitable relief pursuant to Business and Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.*

C. Typicality

32. The claims of the named plaintiff are typical of those of the other Employees.

Employees all sustained injuries and damages arising out of and caused by Defendants' common course of conducts in violation of statutes, as well as regulations that have the force and effect of law, as alleged herein.

D. Adequacy of Representation

33. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interest of Employees.

Counsel who represents Employees are experienced and competent in litigating employment class actions.

E. Superiority of Class Action

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

35. Class action treatment will allow those persons similarly situated to litigate their

claims in the manner that is most efficient and economical for the parties and the judicial system.
Plaintiff is unaware of any difficulties in managing this case that should preclude class action.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION
FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES
(Against All Defendants)

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

37. Defendants failed to pay Employees minimum wages for all hours worked. Defendants had a consistent policy of misstating Employees time records and failing to pay Employees for all hours worked. Employees would work hours and not receive wages. Defendants had a consistent policy of failing to pay Employees for hours worked during alleged meal periods for which Employees were consistently denied, as also addressed herein. Moreover, Defendants did not pay Plaintiff and Employees at the applicable minimum wage for all hours worked. Defendants' uniform pattern of unlawful wage and hour practices manifested, without limitation, applicable to the Class as a whole, as a result of implementing a uniform policy and practice that denied accurate compensation to Plaintiff and the other members of the Class as to minimum wage pay.

38. 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.

39. The applicable minimum wages fixed by the commission for work during the relevant period is found in the Wage Orders. Pursuant to the Wage Orders, Employees are therefore entitled to double the minimum wage during the relevant period.

40. The minimum wage provisions of California Labor Code are enforceable by private civil action pursuant to California 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

1 this minimum wage or overtime compensation, including interest
2 thereon, reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit.

3 41. 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.

5 42. California Labor Code § 1194.2 also provides for the following remedies:

6 In any action under Section 1194 . . . to recover wages because of
7 the payment of a wage less than the minimum wages fixed by an
8 order of the commission, an employee shall be entitled to recover
9 liquidated damages in an amount equal to the wages unlawfully
10 unpaid and interest thereon.

11 43. Defendants have the ability to pay minimum wages for all time worked and have
12 willfully refused to pay such wages with the intent to secure for Defendants a discount upon this
13 indebtedness with the intent to annoy, harass, oppress, hinder, delay, or defraud Employees.

14 44. Wherefore, Employees are entitled to recover the unpaid minimum wages
15 (including double minimum wages), liquidated damages in an amount equal to the minimum
16 wages unlawfully unpaid, interest thereon and reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit pursuant
17 to California Labor Code § 1194(a).

18 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

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

20 **(Against All Defendants)**

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

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

1 47. Employees regularly worked over 8 hours on a given day without receiving
2 overtime compensation.

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

9 49. Employees have been damaged by these violations of California Labor Code §§
10 204 and 510 (and the relevant orders of the Industrial Welfare Commission).

11 50. Consequently, pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 204, 510, and 1194 (and the
12 relevant orders of the Industrial Welfare Commission), Defendants are liable to Employees for
13 the full amount of all their unpaid wages and overtime compensation, with interest, plus their
14 reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

15 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

16 **MEAL-PERIOD LIABILITY UNDER LABOR CODE § 226.7**

17 **(Against All Defendants)**

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

20 52. Employees regularly worked shifts greater than five (5) hours and greater than ten
21 (10) hours. Pursuant to Labor Code § 512 an employer may not employ someone for a shift of
22 more than five (5) hours without providing him or her with a meal period of not less than thirty
23 (30) minutes or for a shift of more than ten (10) hours without providing him or her with a second
24 meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes.

25 53. Defendants failed to provide Employees with meal periods as required under the
26 Labor Code. Employees were also required to take meal periods after working well beyond the
27 five (5) hour shifts. Furthermore, Employees were required to work for more than 10 hours in a
28 given shift without receiving a second uninterrupted thirty (30) minute meal period as required by

1 law.

2 54. Moreover, Defendants failed to compensate Employees for each meal period not
3 provided or inadequately provided, as required under Labor Code § 226.7 and paragraphs 11 and
4 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders, which provide that, if an employer fails to provide an
5 employee a meal period in accordance with this section, the employer shall pay the employee one
6 hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that the meal period
7 is not provided. Defendants failed to compensate the Employees in the Class for each meal period
8 not provided or inadequately provided, as required under Labor Code § 226.7 and paragraphs 11
9 and 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Order.

10 55. Therefore, pursuant to Labor Code § 226.7, Employees are entitled to damages in
11 an amount equal to one (1) hour of wages at their effective hourly rates of pay for each meal
12 period not provided or deficiently provided, a sum to be proven at trial.

13 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

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

15 **(Against All Defendants)**

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

18 57. Employees consistently worked consecutive four (4) hour shifts. Pursuant to the
19 Labor Code and the applicable IWC Wage Order, Employees were entitled to paid rest breaks of
20 not less than ten (10) minutes for each consecutive four (4) hour shift.

21 58. Defendants failed to provide Employees with timely, duty-free, and uninterrupted
22 rest breaks of not less than ten (10) minutes for each consecutive four (4) hour shift.

23 59. Moreover, Defendants failed to compensate Employees for each rest period not
24 provided or inadequately provided, as required under Labor Code § 226.7 and the applicable IWC
25 Wage Orders, which provide that, if an employer fails to provide an employee a rest period in
26 accordance with this section, the employer shall pay the employee one hour of pay at the
27 employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that the rest period is not provided.
28 Defendants failed to compensate the Employees in the Class for each rest period not provided or

1 inadequately provided, as required under Labor Code § 226.7 and the applicable IWC Wage
2 Order.

3 60. Therefore, pursuant to Labor Code § 226.7, Employees are entitled to damages in
4 an amount equal to one (1) hour of wages at their effective hourly rates of pay for each day
5 worked without the required rest breaks, a sum to be proven at trial.

6 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
7 **FAILURE TO REIMBURSE FOR NECESSARY BUSINESS EXPENDITURES**
8 **IN VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE § 2802**
9 **(Against All Defendants)**

10 61. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate all preceding paragraphs, as though set forth in
11 full herein.

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

15 63. Employees incurred necessary expenditures in the performance of their job duties
16 for Defendants, including cleaning supplies, specifically dish soap , which was necessary to
17 perform their duties under Defendants' employ. From four (4) years prior to the original filing of
18 this lawsuit and continuing to the present, Defendants consistently failed to reimburse Employees
19 for these necessarily incurred business expenses.

20 64. As a result of the unlawful acts of Defendants, Employees have been deprived of
21 reimbursement in amounts to be determined at trial; they are entitled to recovery of such amounts,
22 plus interest and penalties thereon, attorneys' fees, and costs.

23 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
24 **VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE § 226(a)**
25 **(Against All Defendants)**

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

28 66. California Labor Code § 226(a) requires an employer to furnish each of his or her

1 employees with an accurate, itemized statement in writing showing the gross and net earnings,
2 total hours worked, and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate; these
3 statements must be appended to the detachable part of the check, draft, voucher, or whatever else
4 serves to pay the employee's wages; or, if wages are paid by cash or personal check, these
5 statements may be given to the employee separately from the payment of wages; in either case the
6 employer must give the employee these statements twice a month or each time wages are paid.

7 67. Defendants failed to provide Employees with accurate itemized wage statements in
8 writing, as required by the Labor Code. Specifically, the wage statements given to Employees by
9 Defendants failed to accurately account for wages, overtime, and premium pay for deficient meal
10 periods and rest breaks, all of which Defendants knew or reasonably should have known were
11 owed to Employees, as alleged hereinabove. The wage statements provided to Employees were
12 confusing and required Employees to engage in discovery and refer to outside sources to verify
13 whether their pay was correct and potentially resulting in a miscalculation by the Employees.

14 68. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants' violation of Labor Code § 226(a),
15 Employees suffered injuries, including among other things confusion over whether they received
16 all wages owed them, the difficulty and expense involved in reconstructing pay records, and
17 forcing them to make mathematical computations to analyze whether the wages paid in fact
18 compensated them correctly for all hours worked.

19 69. Pursuant to Labor Code §§ 226(a) and 226(e), Employees are entitled to recover
20 the greater of all actual damages or fifty dollars (\$50) for the initial pay period in which a violation
21 occurs and one hundred dollars (\$100) for each violation in a subsequent pay period, not
22 exceeding an aggregate penalty of four thousand dollars (\$4,000). They are also entitled to an
23 award of costs and reasonable attorneys' fees.

24 70. With respect to violations of Labor Code § 226, Labor Code § 226.3 imposes a
25 civil penalty of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) for initial violations for each employee for
26 each pay period, and one thousand dollars (\$1000) for each subsequent violation for each
27 employee for each pay period.

28 71. Plaintiff is seeking penalties against Defendants under Labor Code § 226.3, and

any other applicable statute allowing recovery of penalties as alleged herein in an amount to be shown according to proof.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

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

(Against All Defendants)

72. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate all preceding paragraphs, as though set forth in full herein.

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

74. During the course of Plaintiff's and Employees' employment, Defendants consistently failed to maintain accurate time and wage records for Plaintiff and Employees as required by California Labor Code § 1174 by failing to pay Plaintiff and Employees proper wages, overtime, and premium pay as discussed above.

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

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE § 203

(Against All Defendants)

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

77. Numerous Employees are no longer employed by Defendants; they either quit Defendants' employ or were fired therefrom.

78. Defendants failed to pay these Employees all wages due and certain at the time of termination or within seventy-two (72) hours of resignation.

79. The wages withheld from these Employees by Defendants remained due and owing

1 for more than thirty (30) days from the date of separation of employment.

2 80. Defendants' failure to pay wages, as alleged above, was willful in that Defendants
3 knew wages to be due but failed to pay them; this violation entitles these Employees to penalties
4 under Labor Code § 203, which provides that an employee's wages shall continue until paid for up
5 to thirty (30) days from the date they were due.

6 **NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

7 **VIOLATION OF BUSINESS & PROFESSIONS CODE § 17200 *ET SEQ.***

8 **(Against All Defendants)**

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

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

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

19 84. Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.* prohibits unlawful and unfair
20 business practices.

21 85. Wage-and-hour laws express fundamental public policies. Paying employees their
22 wages and overtime, providing them with meal and rest periods, etc., are fundamental public
23 policies of California. Labor Code § 90.5(a) articulates the public policies of this State vigorously
24 to enforce minimum labor standards, to ensure that employees are not required or permitted to
25 work under substandard and unlawful conditions, and to protect law-abiding employers and their
26 employees from competitors who lower costs to themselves by failing to comply with minimum
27 labor standards.

28 86. Defendants have violated statutes and public policies. Through the conduct alleged

1 in this Complaint, Defendants have acted contrary to these public policies, have violated specific
2 provisions of the Labor Code, and have engaged in other unlawful and unfair business practices in
3 violation of Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.*; which conduct has deprived Plaintiff,
4 and all persons similarly situated, and all interested persons, of the rights, benefits, and privileges
5 guaranteed to all employees under the law.

6 87. Defendants' conduct, as alleged hereinabove, constitutes unfair competition in
7 violation of the Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.*

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

12 89. As a proximate result of the above-mentioned acts of Defendants, Employees have
13 been damaged, in a sum to be proven at trial.

14 90. Unless restrained by this Court, Defendants will continue to engage in such
15 unlawful conduct as alleged above. Pursuant to the Business & Professions Code this Court should
16 make such orders or judgments, including the appointment of a receiver, as may be necessary to
17 prevent the use by Defendants or their agents or employees of any unlawful or deceptive practice
18 prohibited by the Business & Professions Code, including but not limited to the disgorgement of
19 such profits as may be necessary to restore Employees to the money Defendants have unlawfully
20 failed to pay.

21 **TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

22 **PENALTIES PURSUANT TO LABOR CODE § 2699, ET SEQ.**

23 **(Against All Defendants)**

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

26 92. Plaintiff and Employees are aggrieved employees as defined under Labor Code §
27 2699(c) in that they suffered the violations alleged in this Complaint and were employed by the
28 alleged violators, Defendants.

1 93. Plaintiff seeks penalties under Labor Code §§ 2698 and 2699 for Defendants’
2 violation of all Labor Code provisions included under Labor Code § 2699.5 and includes the
3 penalty provisions, without limitation, based on the following California Labor Code sections:
4 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 558.1, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1185,
5 1194, 1194.2 1197, 1198, 1199, 2698, 2699, and 2802.

6 94. The penalties shall be allocated as follows: 75% to the Labor and Workforce
7 Development Agency (LWDA) and 25% to the affected employee.

8 95. Employees also seek any and all penalties and remedies set forth in Labor Code §
9 558, which states:

10 (a) Any employer or other person acting on behalf of an employer who
11 violates, or causes to be violated, a section of this chapter or any provision
12 regulating hours and days of work in any order of the Industrial Welfare
13 Commission shall be subject to a civil penalty as follows: (1) For any initial
14 violation, fifty dollars (\$50) for each underpaid employee for each pay period for
15 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.

16 (b) If upon inspection or investigation the Labor Commissioner determines that
17 a person had paid or caused to be paid a wage for overtime work in violation of any
18 provision of this chapter, or any provision regulating hours and days of work in any
19 order of the Industrial Welfare Commission, the Labor Commissioner may issue a
citation. The procedures for issuing, contesting, and enforcing judgments for
20 citations or civil penalties issued by the Labor Commissioner for a violation of this
chapter shall be the same as those set out in Section 1197.1.

21 (c) The civil penalties provided for in this section are in addition to any other
22 civil or criminal penalty provided by law.

23 96. Labor Code § 226.3 provides that “[a]ny employer who violates subdivision (a) of
24 Section 226 shall be subject to a civil penalty in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250)
25 per employee per violation in an initial citation and one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per employee
26 for each violation in a subsequent citation, for which the employer fails to provide the employee a
27 wage deduction statement or fails to keep the required in subdivision (a) of Section 226.” To the
28 extent that Labor Code § 226.3 applies, Plaintiff and Employees also seeks such penalties on.

97. Plaintiff has exhausted his administrative remedy by sending a certified letter to the LWDA and Defendants postmarked on June 13, 2024. The LWDA has not provided notice of its intent to investigate the alleged violations within 65 calendar days of the postmark date of the letters.

RELIEF REQUESTED

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for the following relief:

1. For an order certifying this action as a class action;
2. For compensatory damages in the amount of the unpaid minimum wages for work performed by Employees and unpaid overtime compensation from at least four (4) years prior to the filing of this action, as may be proven;
3. For liquidated damages in the amount equal to the unpaid minimum wage and interest thereon, from at least four (4) years prior to the filing of this action, according to proof;
4. For compensatory damages in the amount of the hourly wage made by Employees for each missed or deficient meal period where no premium pay was paid therefor from four (4) years prior to the filing of this action, as may be proven;
5. For compensatory damages in the amount of the hourly wage made by Employees for each day requisite rest breaks were not provided or were deficiently provided where no premium pay was paid therefor from at least four (4) years prior to the filing of this action, as may be proven;
6. For penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 226(e) for Employees, as may be proven;
7. For penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 226.3, as may be proven;
8. For penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 203 for all Employees who quit or were fired in an amount equal to their daily wage times thirty (30) days, as may be proven;
9. For penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 1174.5, as may be proven;
10. For restitution for unfair competition pursuant to Business & Professions Code § 17200 et seq., including disgorgement or profits, as may be proven;
11. For penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 2699, *et seq.*, as may be proven;
12. For compensatory damages in the amount of all previously unreimbursed business

1 expenditures necessarily incurred by Employees in the discharge of their job duties for Defendants
2 from four (4) years prior to the original filing of this action, as may be proven;

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

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

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

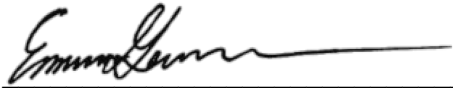
8 16. For an award providing for the payment of the costs of this suit;

9 17. For an award of attorneys' fees; and

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

11
12 DATED: August 16, 2024

D.LAW, INC.

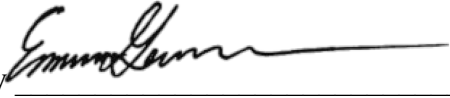
13
14 By 
15 David Yeremian
16 Roman Shkodnik
17 Emma Geesaman
18 Attorneys for Plaintiff
19 JOSE MENDOZA GONZALEZ
20 and the putative class
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DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff hereby demands trial of his claims by jury to the extent authorized by law.

DATED: August 16, 2024

D.LAW, INC.

By 

David Yeremian
Roman Shkodnik
Emma Geesaman
Attorneys for Plaintiff
JOSE MENDOZA GONZALEZ
and the putative class

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I am employed in the aforesaid county, State of California; I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the within action; my business address is 880 E Broadway, Glendale, CA 91205.

Michael J. O'Connor, Jr.
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[1] (COURTESY COPY BY ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION) by use of email by scanning the documents and any and all documents and emailing them to email addresses above.

[X] (STATE) I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Natalia Bermudes
Natalia Bermudes