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Superior Court of California,
County of San Diego
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Clerk of the Superior Court
By I. Quirarte ,Deputy Clerk

Attorneys for Plaintiff YOUSIF DIYAA RAJAB,
individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

YOUSIF DIYAA RAJAB, individually and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Case No. 25CU012653C

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff(s),

v.

UNITED WS INC; and DOES 1 through 100,

Defendant(s).

1. **Failure to Provide Compliant Meal Breaks**
2. **Failure to Provide Complaint Rest Breaks**
3. **Failure to Pay All Hours Worked**
4. **Failure to Pay All Overtime Owed**
5. **Wage Statement Violation**
6. **Waiting Time Penalties**
7. **Violation of Unfair Competition**
8. **Private Attorneys General Act**
9. **Wrongful Termination**

RELEVANT PARTIES

1. Plaintiff Yousif Diyaa Rajab ("Plaintiff") is an adult resident of San Diego County, California, and was at all times relevant residing in San Diego County, California.
2. Defendant United WS INC ("Defendant") is a California corporation with its principal place of business located in San Diego County, California. Defendant is registered to and does conduct business in the State of California and is subject to the laws of the State of California. All acts and omissions of Defendant employees as alleged herein occurred while they were acting within the course and scope of their employment.

1 3. Plaintiff is unaware of the true names or capacities of the Defendants sued herein as DOES 1
2 through 100, inclusive (“Doe Defendants”), and therefore sues said Doe Defendants by such
3 fictitious names. Plaintiff will seek leave of this Court to amend this Complaint to insert the true
4 names and capacities of such Doe Defendants when such information has been obtained. Plaintiff is
5 informed and believes, and based on such information and belief alleges, that each of the fictitiously
6 named Doe Defendants has participated in some way in the wrongful acts and omissions alleged
7 below, and is liable to Plaintiff for damages and other relief to which Plaintiff is entitled. Defendant
8 and Doe Defendants are collectively referred to as “Defendants”.

9 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

10 4. This action is properly filed in San Diego County because the acts and omissions that give
11 rise to Plaintiff’s claims took place in San Diego County, and Defendants transact substantial
12 business in this County.

13 5. This Court has jurisdiction over Defendants because Defendants’ unlawful conduct as
14 alleged herein occurred in San Diego County, California and Plaintiff suffered damages from such
15 conduct within San Diego County, California.

16 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

17 6. At all times relevant, Plaintiff was Defendants’ employee.

18 7. Plaintiff was employed by Defendants from August 2, 2024 to September 26, 2024.

19 8. Plaintiff complained to Sam the owner about unpaid wages on or around September 14-26
20 In retaliation, Plaintiff was terminated from employment on September 26th.

21 9. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff with compliant meal breaks because breaks were often
22 missed or short. Despite not being provided with compliant meal breaks, Defendant did not pay
23 premium pay for these missed breaks at Plaintiff’s regular rate of pay.

24 10. Defendant failed to provide Plaintiff with compliant rest breaks because breaks were often
25 missed or short. Despite not being provided with compliant rest breaks, Defendant did not pay
26 premium pay for these missed breaks at Plaintiff’s regular rate of pay.

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11. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff for all hours worked because Defendant used a time keeping system where Plaintiff was automatically clocked out at the end of his designated shift, but Plaintiff was required to continue working to complete tasks and wait for the next employee to arrive.

12. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff all overtime owed because Plaintiffs usually worked 8 hours in a day and 40 hours in a week and thus any unpaid time was necessarily overtime.

13. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff with accurate wage statements because the wage statements issued to Plaintiff did not accurately list total wages owed and hours worked, among other things.

14. Due to Defendants' failure to pay all wages due to Plaintiff during their employment, it follows that Defendant failed to pay all wages due at the conclusion of Plaintiff's employment as well. Therefore, Defendants are liable to Plaintiff for waiting time penalties.

PAGA ALLEGATIONS

15. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(a), any provision of the Labor Code which provides for a civil penalty to be assessed and collected by the Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") for violations of the Labor Code may, as an alternative, be recovered through a civil action brought by an aggrieved employee on behalf of himself or herself and other current or former employees pursuant to the procedures outlined in Labor Code section 2699.3.

16. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, an aggrieved employee may pursue a civil action under PAGA after the following requirement have been met:

17. The aggrieved employee has provided written notice by online filing to the LWDA and by certified mail to the employer (hereinafter "Employee's Notice") of the specific provisions of the Labor Code alleged to have been violated, including the facts and theories to support the alleged violations; and

18. The LWDA has provided notice (hereinafter "LWDA's Notice") to the employer and the aggrieved employee by certified mail that it does not intend to investigate the aggrieved employee's claims. Upon receipt of the LWDA's Notice, or if the LWDA does not provide such Notice within 65 calendar days of the postmark date of the Employee's Notice, the aggrieved employee may

1 commence a civil action pursuant to Labor Code section 2699 to recover civil penalties in addition
2 to any other penalties to which the employee may be entitled.

3 19. On October 24, 2024, Plaintiff provided written notice by online filing to the LWDA and by
4 certified mail to Defendants of specific provisions of the Labor Code alleged to have been violated
5 by Defendants, including the facts and theories to support the alleged violations.

6 20. The 65-day notice period has elapsed, and the LWDA did not provide Plaintiff with written
7 notice that it intends to investigate the alleged violations of the Labor Code. Thus, Plaintiff seeks
8 PAGA Penalties on behalf of all Aggrieved Employees.

9 21. The Aggrieved Employees are defined as “All other nonexempt, hourly employees, current
10 and former, who were employed by Defendants within one year prior to October 24, 2024, through
11 final disposition of this action.”

12 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

13 **Failure to Provide Compliant Meal Periods**

14 **By Plaintiff Against All Defendants**

15 22. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the paragraphs above.

16 23. Labor Code section 512 and the Wage Orders provide that “an employer shall not employ an
17 employee for a work period of more than five hours per day without providing the employee with a
18 meal period of not less than 30 minutes” or “for a work period of more than 10 hours per day
19 without providing the employee with a second meal period of not less than 30 minutes”.

20 24. An employer provides compliant meal breaks to its employees “if it relieves its employees
21 of all duty, relinquishes control over their activities and permits them a reasonable opportunity to
22 take an uninterrupted 30-minute break.” (*Brinker Restaurant Corp. v. Superior Court*, 53 Cal.4th
23 1004, 1040 (2012)).

24 25. Not only must an employer affirmatively relieve its employees of all duty during their meal
25 breaks, it also must not “impede or discourage” its employees from taking compliant meal breaks.
26 (*Brinker*, supra).

27 26. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff with compliant meal breaks as alleged herein.

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1 27. For each day that Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff with a compliant meal break,
2 Defendants were required to remit premium pay pursuant to Labor Code section 226.7(c), which is
3 one additional hour of pay at Plaintiff's regular rate of pay. (*Ferra v. Loews Hollywood Hotel, LLC*,
4 11 Cal. 5th 858 (2021)).

5 28. Defendants failed to pay premium pay at Plaintiff's regular rate of pay for each day a meal
6 break was missed.

7 29. Plaintiff is therefore entitled to recover premium pay for missed meal breaks, interest,
8 penalties, attorney fees, and costs.

9 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

10 **Failure to Provide Compliant Rest Periods**

11 **By Plaintiff Against All Defendants**

12 30. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the paragraphs above.

13 31. Labor Code section 226.7 and the Wage Orders requires employers to authorize and permit
14 its employees to take rest periods based on the total hours worked daily at the rate of 10 minutes net
15 per four hours or major fraction thereof.

16 32. Furthermore, "[d]uring rest periods employers must relieve employees of all duties and
17 relinquish control over how employees spend their time." (*Augustus v. ABM Sec. Servs., Inc.*, 2 Cal.
18 5th 257, 269 (2016)).

19 33. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff with compliant rest breaks as alleged herein.

20 34. For each day that Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff with a compliant rest break,
21 Defendants were required to remit premium pay pursuant to Labor Code section 226.7(c), which is
22 one additional hour of pay at Plaintiff's regular rate of pay. (*Ferra v. Loews Hollywood Hotel, LLC*,
23 11 Cal. 5th 858 (2021)).

24 35. Defendants failed to pay premium pay at Plaintiff's regular rate of pay for each day a rest
25 break was missed.

26 36. Plaintiff is therefore entitled to recover premium pay for missed rest breaks, interest,
27 penalties, attorney fees, and costs.

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1 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **Failure to Pay for All Hours Worked**

3 **By Plaintiff Against All Defendants**

4 37. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the paragraphs above.

5 38. Labor Code sections 558 and 1194 and the Wage Orders require an employer to pay
6 employees minimum wages for all hours worked fewer than eight hours in a day and/or fewer than
7 40 hours in a workweek.

8 39. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff for all hours worked as alleged herein.

9 40. Plaintiff is therefore entitled to recover all unpaid wages, liquidated damages, interest,
10 penalties, attorney fees, and costs.

11 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

12 **Failure to Pay All Overtime Owed**

13 **By Plaintiff Against All Defendants**

14 41. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the paragraphs above.

15 42. Labor Code section 510 provides that “[a]ny work in excess of eight hours in one workday
16 and any work in excess of 40 hours in any one workweek and the first eight hours worked on the
17 seventh day of work in any one workweek shall be compensated at the rate of no less than one and
18 one-half times the regular rate of pay for an employee.”

19 43. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff all overtime wages owed as alleged herein.

20 44. Plaintiff is therefore entitled to recover all unpaid overtime wages, liquidated damages,
21 interest, penalties, attorney fees, and costs.

22 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

23 **Wage Statement Penalties**

24 **By Plaintiff Against All Defendants**

25 45. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the paragraphs above.

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1 46. Labor Code section 226(a) requires employers to provide itemized wage statements to its
2 employees that identify accurate information regarding their compensation. Defendants, as a matter
3 of policy and practice, failed in its affirmative obligation to provide accurate itemized wage
4 statements to Plaintiff in violation of Labor Code section 226(a).

5 47. As alleged herein, the wage statements that Defendants issued to Plaintiff were inaccurate
6 and incomplete.

7 48. Defendants knowingly and intentionally issued wage statements that were inaccurate and
8 incomplete, and the issuance of inaccurate and incomplete wage statements caused injury to
9 Plaintiff in that Plaintiff was unable to accurately verify and/or calculate their wages.

10 49. Plaintiff is therefore entitled to the recovery of wage statement penalties, attorney fees, and
11 costs.

12 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

13 **Waiting Time Penalties**

14 **By Plaintiff Against All Defendants**

15 50. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the paragraphs above.

16 51. Labor Code sections 201 and 202 require that an employer provide an employee with all
17 wages due and payable either: (a) immediately upon termination, or (b) within 3 days of the
18 employee's resignation.

19 52. Labor Code section 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to pay wages owed in
20 accordance with Labor Code sections 201 or 202, then the wages of the employee continue as a
21 penalty from the due date at the same rate until paid or until an action is commenced, not to exceed
22 thirty days.

23 53. As alleged herein, Defendants willfully did not pay Plaintiff all wages owed at the
24 conclusion of employment.

25 54. Plaintiff is therefore entitled to the recovery of waiting time penalties, interest, attorney fees,
26 and costs.

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1 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **Violation of Unfair Competition Law**

3 **By Plaintiff Against All Defendants**

4 55. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the paragraphs above.

5 56. Defendants' conduct described herein constitutes unfair competition.

6 57. Specifically, Defendants have gained an unfair advantage over other similarly situated
7 businesses by unlawfully reducing their overhead costs by not paying their employees what they are
8 owed.

9 58. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code 17203, Plaintiff is entitled to restitution of all
10 wrongfully withheld wages.

11 59. Plaintiff may recover attorney fees pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5.

12 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

13 **Private Attorneys General Act**

14 **By Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees Against All Defendants**

15 60. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the paragraphs above.

16 61. PAGA permits Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees to recover civil penalties for the
17 violation(s) of the Labor Code.

18 62. As alleged herein, Defendants' conduct violates numerous sections of the Labor Code.

19 63. With respect to violations of Labor Code sections 226.7 and 558 for Defendants' failure to
20 provide Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees with compliant meal periods or compensation in
21 lieu thereof, the penalties in Labor Code sections 558 and 2699 apply.

22 64. With respect to violations of Labor Code section 226.7 for Defendants' failure to provide
23 Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees with compliant rest periods or compensation in lieu thereof,
24 the penalties in Labor Code section 2699 apply.

25 65. With respect to violations of Labor Code section 1197 for Defendants' failure to compensate
26 Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for all minimum wages earned, the penalties in Labor Code
27 sections 1197.1 and 2699 apply.

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1 66. With respect to violations of Labor Code section 510 for Defendants' failure to compensate
2 Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for all overtime wages earned, the penalties in Labor Code
3 sections 558, 1197.1, and 2699 apply.

4 67. With respect to violations of Labor Code section 226(a) for failure to provide accurate wage
5 statements to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees, the penalties in Labor Code sections 226.3
6 and 2699 apply.

7 68. With respect to violations of Labor Code section 203 for failure to pay all wages due to
8 Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees and the conclusion of their employment, the penalties in
9 Labor Code section 2699 apply.

10 69. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(k)(1), Plaintiff further seeks public injunctive relief in
11 the form of an Order enjoining Defendants from continuing to violate the California Labor Code in
12 the manner alleged herein.

13 70. Additionally, Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees are entitled to attorney's fees pursuant
14 to Labor Code section 2699(g).

15 **NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

16 **Wrongful Termination in Violation of Public Policy**

17 **By Plaintiff Against All Defendants**

18 71. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the paragraphs above.

19 72. At all times mentioned in this complaint, it was a fundamental policy of the State of
20 California that Defendants cannot discriminate and/or retaliate against any employee on the basis of
21 race, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, sex, and/or
22 engagement in protected activity.

23 73. Based on the actions described above, Defendants terminated Plaintiff for engaging in
24 protected activity.

25 74. Defendants actions were in violation of California Public Policy.

26 75. As a proximate result of the acts of Defendants, and each of them, Plaintiff has suffered and
27 will continues to suffer damages, as stated below.

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1 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

2 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants as follows:

3 **First Cause of Action**

- 4 1. Damages and/or penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 226.7
5 2. Interest
6 3. Attorneys' fees
7 4. Costs
8 5. Other relief the court deems proper

9 **Second Cause of Action**

- 10 1. Damages and/or penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 226.7
11 2. Interest
12 3. Attorneys' fees
13 4. Costs
14 5. Other relief the court deems proper

15 **Third Cause of Action**

- 16 1. Damages and/or penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 558, 1194, 1197, and 1197.1
17 2. Liquidated damages
18 3. Interest
19 4. Attorneys' fees
20 5. Costs
21 6. Other relief the court deems proper

22 **Fourth Cause of Action**

- 23 1. Damages and/or penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 510, 558, and 1194
24 2. Interest
25 3. Attorneys' fees
26 4. Costs
27 5. Other relief the court deems proper

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1 Fifth Cause of Action

- 2 1. Penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 226
3 2. Attorneys' fees
4 3. Costs
5 4. Other relief the court deems proper

6 Sixth Cause of Action

- 7 1. Penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 203
8 2. Attorneys' fees
9 3. Costs
10 4. Other relief the court deems proper

11 Seventh Cause of Action

- 12 1. Restitution of all wrongfully withheld wages
13 2. Attorneys' fees
14 3. Costs
15 4. Other relief the court deems proper

16 Eighth Cause of Action

- 17 1. All applicable civil penalties available pursuant to Labor Code section 2698, et seq.
18 2. Public injunctive relief in the form of an Order enjoining Defendants from continuing to
19 violate the California Labor Code in the manner alleged herein
20 3. Attorneys' fees
21 4. Costs
22 5. Other relief the court deems proper

23 Ninth Cause of Action

- 24 1. Back pay and front pay
25 2. Interest on the above amounts
26 3. Compensatory damages
27 4. Punitive damages
28 5. Attorneys' fees

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- 6. Costs
- 7. Other relief the court deems proper

DATED: March 11, 2025

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/s/ Manny Starr
MANNY STARR

Attorney for Plaintiff
YOUSIF DIYAA RAJAB,
individually and on behalf of all
others similarly situated