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**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**

LUIS ENRIQUE CORNEJO SANCHEZ,
RAFAEL FELIX QUINTERO, JOSE IVAN
HERNANDEZ LOPEZ, FRANCISCO J. RIOS
TRIGUEROS, RONY CHINCHILLA
CASTILLO, individually, and on behalf of all
others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

WM. BOLTHOUSE FARMS, INC., a Michigan
corporation; BOLTHOUSE FRESH FOODS, an
unknown business entity; and DOES 1 through
10, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.:

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT:

1. Failure to Pay Minimum and Straight Time Wages (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 204, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, and 1197.1);
2. Failure to Pay Overtime Wages (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194 and 1198);
3. Failure to Provide Meal Periods (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7, 512);
4. Failure to Authorize and Permit Rest Periods (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7);
5. Failure to Timely Pay Final Wages at Termination (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201-203);
6. Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Wage Statements (Cal. Lab. Code § 226);
7. Failure to Indemnify Employees for Expenditures (Cal. Lab. Code § 2802); and
8. Unfair Business Practices (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*).

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

1 Plaintiffs Luis Enrique Cornejo Sanchez, Rafael Felix Quintero, Jose Ivan Hernandez
2 Lopez, Francisco J. Rios Trigueros, and Rony Chinchilla Castillo (“Plaintiffs”), on information
3 and belief, allege as follows:

4 **INTRODUCTION & PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

5 1. Plaintiffs bring this action against Defendants WM. Bolthouse Farms, Inc., and
6 Bolthouse Fresh Foods, and DOES 1 through 10 (hereinafter collectively referred to as
7 “Defendants”) for California Labor Code violations and unfair business practices stemming from
8 Defendants’ failure to pay for all hours worked (minimum, straight time, and overtime wages),
9 failure to provide meal periods, failure to authorize and permit rest periods, failure to timely pay
10 final wages, failure to furnish accurate wage statements, and failure to indemnify employees for
11 expenditures.

12 2. Plaintiffs bring the First through Eighth Causes of Action individually and as a class
13 action on behalf of Plaintiffs and certain current and former employees of Defendants (hereinafter
14 collectively referred to as the “Class” or “Class Members,” and defined more fully below). The
15 Class consists of Plaintiffs and all other persons who have been employed by any Defendant in
16 California as an hourly-paid or non-exempt employee during the statute of limitations period
17 applicable to the claims pleaded here.

18 3. Defendants own/owned and operate/operated an industry, business, and
19 establishment within the State of California, including Santa Clara County. As such and based
20 upon all the facts and circumstances incident to Defendants’ business in California, Defendants are
21 subject to the California Labor Code, Wage Orders issued by the Industrial Welfare Commission
22 (“IWC”), and the California Business & Professions Code.

23 4. Despite these requirements, throughout the statutory period, Defendants have, at
24 times:

- 25 (a) Failed to pay some, but not necessarily all employees for all hours worked,
26 including all minimum, straight time, and overtime wages in compliance
27 with the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders;
28 (b) Failed to provide some, but not necessarily all employees with timely and

duty-free meal periods in compliance with the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders, failed to maintain accurate records of all meal periods taken or missed, and failed to pay an additional hour's pay for each workday a meal period violation occurred;

(c) Failed to authorize and permit some, but not necessarily all employees to take timely and duty-free rest periods in compliance with the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders, and failed to pay an additional hour's pay for each workday a rest period violation occurred;

(d) Willfully failed to pay some, but not necessarily all employees all minimum wage, straight time wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages, and rest period premium wages due within the time period specified by California law when employment terminates;

(e) Failed to provide some, but not necessarily all employees with accurate, itemized wage statements containing all the information required by the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders;

(f) Failed to indemnify some, but not necessarily all employees for expenditures incurred in direct discharge of duties of employment; and

5. On information and belief, Defendants were on actual and constructive notice of the improprieties alleged herein and intentionally refused to rectify their unlawful conduct. Defendants' violations, as alleged above, during all relevant times herein were willful and deliberate.

6. At all relevant times, Defendants were and are legally responsible for all of the unlawful conduct, policies, acts and omissions as described in each and all of the foregoing paragraphs as the employers of Plaintiffs and the Class. Further, Defendants are responsible for each of the unlawful acts or omissions complained of herein under the doctrine of "respondeat superior."

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1 **THE PARTIES**

2 **A. Plaintiffs**

3 7. Plaintiff Luis Enrique Cornejo Sanchez is a resident of Shafter, California who
4 worked for Defendants in California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from approximately
5 June 2018 to approximately October 2024.

6 8. Plaintiff Rafael Felix Quintero is a resident of Bakersfield, California who worked
7 for Defendants in California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from approximately
8 November 2013 to approximately August 2024.

9 9. Plaintiff Jose Ivan Hernandez Lopez is a resident of Bakersfield, California who
10 worked for Defendants in California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from approximately
11 June 2022 to approximately December 2024.

12 10. Plaintiff Francisco J. Rios Trigueros is a resident of Bakersfield, California who
13 worked for Defendants in California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from approximately
14 February 2015 to approximately January 2024.

15 11. Plaintiff Rony Chinchilla Castillo is a resident of Bakersfield California who
16 worked for Defendants in California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from approximately
17 May 2021 to approximately November 2024.

18 12. Plaintiffs reserve the right to seek leave to amend this complaint to add new
19 Plaintiffs, if necessary, in order to establish suitable representative(s) pursuant to *La Sala v.*
20 *American Savings and Loan Association* (1971) 5 Cal.3d 864, 872, and other applicable law.

21 **B. Defendants**

22 13. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based upon that information and belief
23 allege, that Defendants WM. Bolthouse Farms, Inc. and Bolthouse Fresh Foods are, and at all times
24 herein mentioned, was:

25 (a) A business entity conducting business in numerous counties throughout the
26 State of California, including Santa Clara County; and,

27 (b) The former employer of Plaintiffs, and the current and/or former employer
28 of the putative Class because Defendants WM. Bolthouse Farms, Inc. and

Bolthouse Fresh Foods suffered and permitted Plaintiffs and the Class to work; and/or exercised control over their wages, hours, or working conditions; and/or engaged Plaintiffs and the Class, thereby creating a common law employment relationship.

14. Plaintiffs do not know the true names or capacities of the persons or entities sued herein as Does 1-10, inclusive, and therefore sues said Defendants by such fictitious names. Each of the Doe Defendants was in some manner legally responsible for the damages suffered by Plaintiffs and the Class as alleged herein. Plaintiffs will amend this complaint to set forth the true names and capacities of these Defendants when they have been ascertained, together with appropriate charging allegations, as may be necessary.

15. At all times mentioned herein, the Defendants named as Does 1-10, inclusive, and each of them, were residents of, doing business in, availed themselves of the jurisdiction of, and/or injured a significant number of the Plaintiffs and the Class in the State of California.

16. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that at all relevant times each Defendant, directly or indirectly, or through agents or other persons, employed Plaintiffs and the other employees described in the class definitions below, and exercised control over their wages, hours, and working conditions. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that, at all relevant times, each Defendant was the principal, agent, partner, joint venturer, joint employer, officer, director, controlling shareholder, subsidiary, affiliate, parent corporation, successor in interest and/or predecessor in interest of some or all of the other Defendants, and was engaged with some or all of the other Defendants in a joint enterprise for profit, and bore such other relationships to some or all of the other Defendants so as to be liable for their conduct with respect to the matters alleged below. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that each Defendant acted pursuant to and within the scope of the relationships alleged above, that each Defendant knew or should have known about, and authorized, ratified, adopted, approved, controlled, aided, and abetted the conduct of all other Defendants.

ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CAUSES OF ACTION

17. Plaintiff Luis Enrique Cornejo Sanchez worked for Defendants in California as an

hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from approximately June 2018 to approximately October 2024. Plaintiff Rafael Felix Quintero worked for Defendants in California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from approximately November 2013 to approximately August 2024. Plaintiff Jose Ivan Hernandez Lopez worked for Defendants in California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from approximately June 2022 to approximately December 2024. Plaintiff Francisco J. Rios Trigueros worked for Defendants in California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from approximately February 2015 to approximately January 2024. Plaintiff Rony Chinchilla Castillo worked for Defendants in California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from approximately May 2021 to approximately November 2024. During Plaintiffs' employment for Defendants, Defendants paid Plaintiffs an hourly wage and classified Plaintiffs as non-exempt from overtime. Defendants repeatedly and frequently scheduled Plaintiffs to work at least five days in a workweek and at least eight hours per day, but Plaintiffs also worked more than eight hours in a workday and more than forty (40) hours in a workweek.

18. Throughout Plaintiffs' employment, Defendants, at times, failed to pay Plaintiffs for all hours worked (including minimum, straight time, and overtime wages), failed to provide Plaintiffs with legally compliant meal periods, failed to authorize and permit Plaintiffs to take rest periods, failed to timely pay all final wages to Plaintiffs when Defendants terminated Plaintiffs' employment, failed to furnish accurate wage statements to Plaintiffs, and failed to indemnify Plaintiffs for expenditures..

19. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants, at times, failed to pay Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class for all hours worked, including minimum, straight time, and overtime wages. Defendants would, at times, manufacture time keeping records to falsely show that Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class took meal periods when in fact they worked "off-the-clock," uncompensated. The effect is that Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class worked through meal periods "off-the-clock," and continued to work after they had clocked out for the workday. Defendants paid Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class less than all their work time. Some of this unpaid work should have been paid at the overtime rate. In failing to pay for all hours worked, Defendants also failed to

1 maintain accurate records of the hours Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class
2 worked.

3 20. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants wrongfully failed to provide Plaintiffs
4 and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class with legally compliant meal periods. Defendants
5 required Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class to work in excess of five
6 consecutive hours a day without providing a 30-minute, uninterrupted, and duty-free meal period
7 for every five hours of work, or without compensating Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily
8 all of, the Class for all missed meal periods that were not provided by the end of the fifth hour of
9 work or tenth hour of work. Instead, Defendants continued to assert control over Plaintiffs and
10 some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class by requiring, pressuring, or encouraging them to
11 perform work tasks which could not be completed without working in lieu of taking mandatory
12 meal periods, or by denying Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class permission
13 to take a meal period. Defendants also failed, at times, to permit Plaintiffs and some of, but not
14 necessarily all of, the Class to take a second meal period when they worked at least ten hours of
15 work in a workday. As described above, Defendants would manufacture time keeping records to
16 falsely show that Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class took meal periods by
17 the fifth hour of work or took meal periods when in fact they worked “off-the-clock”,
18 uncompensated. Accordingly, Defendants failed to provide meal periods to Plaintiffs and some of,
19 but not necessarily all of, the Class in compliance with California law.

20 21. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants have, at times, wrongfully failed to
21 authorize and permit Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class to take legally
22 compliant rest periods. Defendants required Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the
23 Class to work in excess of four consecutive hours a day without Defendants authorizing and
24 permitting them to take a 10-minute, uninterrupted, duty-free rest period for every four hours of
25 work (or major fraction of four hours), or without compensating Plaintiffs and some of, but not
26 necessarily all of, the Class for rest periods that were not authorized or permitted. Instead,
27 Defendants continued to assert control over Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the
28 Class by requiring, pressuring, or encouraging them to perform work tasks which could not be

completed without working in lieu of taking mandatory rest periods, or by denying Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class permission to take a rest period. Accordingly, Defendants failed to authorize and permit Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class to take rest periods in compliance with California law.

22. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants, at times, willfully failed and refused to timely pay Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class all final wages due at their termination of employment. In addition, Plaintiffs' final paychecks did not include payment for all expenditures, minimum wage, straight time wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages, and rest period premium wages owed to Plaintiffs by Defendants at the conclusion of Plaintiffs' employment. On information and belief, Defendants' failure to timely pay Plaintiffs' final wages when Plaintiffs' employment terminated was not a single, isolated incident, but was instead consistent with Defendants' practices that applied, at times, to Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class.

23. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants failed, at times, to furnish Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class with accurate, itemized wage statements showing all applicable hourly rates, and all gross and net wages earned (including correct hours worked, correct wages for meal periods that were not provided in accordance with California law, and correct wages for rest periods that were not authorized and permitted to take in accordance with California law). As a result of these violations of California Labor Code § 226(a), the Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class suffered injury because, among other things:

- (a) the violations led them to believe that they were not entitled to be paid minimum wage, straight time wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages, and rest period premium wages, even though some, but not necessarily all, of them were entitled;
- (b) the violations led them to believe that they had been paid the minimum wage, straight time wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages, and rest period premium wages, even though some, but not necessarily all of them had not been;

- (c) the violations led them to believe they were not entitled to be paid minimum wage, straight time wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages, and rest period premium wages at the correct California rate even though some, but not necessarily all of them were entitled;
- (d) the violations led them to believe they had been paid minimum wage, straight time wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages, and rest period premium wages at the correct California rate even though some, but not necessarily all of them had not been;
- (e) the violations hindered them from determining the amounts of minimum wage, straight time wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages, and rest period premium wages owed to some, but not necessarily all of them;
- (f) in connection with their employment before and during this action, and in connection with prosecuting this action, the violations caused them to have to perform mathematical computations to determine the amounts of wages owed to some, but not necessarily all of them, computations they would not have to make if the wage statements contained the required accurate information;
- (g) by understating the wages truly due to some, but not necessarily all of them, the violations caused some, but not necessarily all of them to lose entitlement and/or accrual of the full amount of Social Security, disability, unemployment, and other governmental benefits;
- (h) the wage statements inaccurately understated the wages, hours, and wage rates to which Plaintiffs and some, but not necessarily all of the Class were entitled, and Plaintiffs and some, but not necessarily all of the Class were paid less than the wages and wage rates to which some, but not necessarily all of them were entitled.

Thus, Plaintiffs and some, but not necessarily all of the Class are owed the amounts provided for

in California Labor Code § 226(e).

24. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants have wrongfully required Plaintiffs and some, but not necessarily all of the Class to pay expenses that they incurred in direct discharge of their duties for Defendants. Plaintiffs and some, but not necessarily all, of the Class paid out-of-pocket for necessary employment-related expenses.

25. Plaintiffs and some of the Class incurred substantial expenses as a direct result of performing their job duties for Defendants, but Defendants failed to indemnify Plaintiffs and some of the Class for these employment-related expenses.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

26. Plaintiffs bring certain claims individually, as well as on behalf of each and all other persons similarly situated, and thus, seek class certification under California Code of Civil Procedure § 382.

27. All claims alleged herein arise under California law for which Plaintiffs seek relief authorized by California law.

28. The proposed Class consists of and is defined as:

All persons who worked for any Defendant in California as an hourly-paid or non-exempt employee at any time during the period beginning four years before the filing of the initial complaint in this action and ending when notice to the Class is sent.

29. At all material times, Plaintiffs were members of the Class.

30. Plaintiffs undertake this concerted activity to improve the wages and working conditions of all Class Members.

31. There is a well-defined community of interest in the litigation and the Class is readily ascertainable:

- (a) Numerosity: The members of the Class (and each subclass, if any) are so numerous that joinder of all members would be unfeasible and impractical. The membership of the entire Class is unknown to Plaintiffs at this time; however, the Class is estimated to be greater than forty (40) individuals and the identity of such membership is readily ascertainable by inspection of

Defendants' records.

- (b) Typicality: Plaintiffs are qualified to, and will, fairly and adequately protect the interests of each Class Member with whom there is a shared, well-defined community of interest, and Plaintiffs' claims (or defenses, if any) are typical of all Class Members' claims as demonstrated herein.
- (c) Adequacy: Plaintiffs are qualified to, and will, fairly and adequately protect the interests of each Class Member with whom there is a shared, well-defined community of interest and typicality of claims, as demonstrated herein. Plaintiffs have no conflicts with or interests antagonistic to any Class Member. Plaintiffs' attorneys, the proposed class counsel, are versed in the rules governing class action discovery, certification, and settlement. Plaintiffs have incurred, and throughout the duration of this action, will continue to incur costs and attorneys' fees that have been, are, and will be necessarily expended for the prosecution of this action for the substantial benefit of each class member.
- (d) Superiority: A Class Action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy, including consideration of:
- 1) The interests of the members of the Class in individually controlling the prosecution or defense of separate actions;
 - 2) The extent and nature of any litigation concerning the controversy already commenced by or against members of the Class;
 - 3) The desirability or undesirability of concentrating the litigation of the claims in the particular forum; and,
 - 4) The difficulties likely to be encountered in the management of a class action.
- (e) Public Policy Considerations: The public policy of the State of California is to resolve the California Labor Code claims of many employees through a class action. Indeed, current employees are often afraid to assert their rights

1 out of fear of direct or indirect retaliation. Former employees are also fearful
2 of bringing actions because they believe their former employers might
3 damage their future endeavors through negative references and/or other
4 means. Class actions provide the class members who are not named in the
5 complaint with a type of anonymity that allows for the vindication of their
6 rights at the same time as their privacy is protected.

7 32. There are common questions of law and fact as to the Class (and each subclass, if
8 any) that predominate over questions affecting only individual members, including without
9 limitation, whether, as alleged herein, Defendants have:

- 10 (a) Failed to pay Class Members for all hours worked, including minimum,
11 straight time, and overtime wages;
- 12 (b) Failed to provide meal periods and pay meal period premium wages to Class
13 Members;
- 14 (c) Failed to authorize and permit rest periods and pay rest period premium
15 wages to Class Members;
- 16 (d) Failed to provide Class Members with timely final wages;
- 17 (e) Failed to provide Class Members with accurate wage statements;
- 18 (f) Failed to indemnify Class Members for expenditures; and
- 19 (g) Violated California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200 *et. seq.* as a
20 result of their illegal conduct as described above.

21 33. This Court should permit this action to be maintained as a class action pursuant to
22 California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 because:

- 23 (a) The questions of law and fact common to the Class predominate over any
24 question affecting only individual Class Members;
- 25 (b) A class action is superior to any other available method for the fair and
26 efficient adjudication of the claims of the Class Members;
- 27 (c) The members of the Class are so numerous that it is impractical to bring all
28 members of the class before the Court;

- (d) Plaintiffs, and the other members of the Class, will not be able to obtain effective and economic legal redress unless the action is maintained as a class action;
- (e) There is a community of interest in obtaining appropriate legal and equitable relief for the statutory violations, and in obtaining adequate compensation for the damages and injuries for which Defendants are responsible in an amount sufficient to adequately compensate the members of the Class for the injuries sustained;
- (f) Without class certification, the prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Class would create a risk of:
- 1) Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of the Class which would establish incompatible standards of conduct for Defendants; and/or,
 - 2) Adjudications with respect to the individual members which would, as a practical matter, be dispositive of the interests of other members not parties to the adjudications, or would substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests, including but not limited to the potential for exhausting the funds available from those parties who are, or may be, responsible Defendants; and,
- (g) Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby making final injunctive relief appropriate with respect to the class as a whole.

34. Plaintiffs contemplate the eventual issuance of notice to the proposed members of the Class that would set forth the subject and nature of the instant action. The Defendants' own business records may be utilized for assistance in the preparation and issuance of the contemplated notices. To the extent that any further notices may be required, Plaintiffs contemplate the use of additional techniques and forms commonly used in class actions, such as published notice, e-mail notice, website notice, first-class mail, or combinations thereof, or by other methods suitable to the

Class and deemed necessary and/or appropriate by the Court.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Against All Defendants for Failure to Pay Minimum and Straight Time Wages for All Hours Worked)

35. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege as if fully stated herein paragraphs 1 through 34 in this Complaint.

36. “Hours worked” is the time during which an employee is subject to the control of an employer and includes all the time the employee is suffered or permitted to work, whether or not required to do so.

37. At all relevant times herein mentioned, Defendants, at times, knowingly failed to pay to Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class compensation for all hours they worked. By their failure to pay compensation for each hour worked as alleged above, Defendants willfully violated the provisions of California Labor Code § 1194, and any additional applicable Wage Orders, which require such compensation to non-exempt employees.

38. Accordingly, Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class are entitled to recover minimum and straight time wages for all non-overtime hours worked for Defendants.

39. By and through the conduct described above, Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class have been deprived of their rights to be paid wages earned by virtue of their employment with Defendants.

40. By virtue of the Defendants’ unlawful failure to pay additional compensation to Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class for their non-overtime hours worked without pay, Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class suffered, and will continue to suffer, damages in amounts which are presently unknown to Plaintiffs and the Class, and which will be ascertained according to proof at trial.

41. By failing to keep adequate time records required by California Labor Code § 1174(d), Defendants have made it difficult to calculate the full extent of minimum wage compensation due Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class.

42. Pursuant to California Labor Code § 1194.2, Plaintiffs and some of, but not

necessarily all of, the Class are entitled to recover liquidated damages (double damages) for Defendants' failure to pay minimum wages.

43. California Labor Code § 204 requires employers to provide employees with all wages due and payable twice a month. Throughout the statute of limitations period applicable to this cause of action, Plaintiffs and the Class were entitled to be paid twice a month at rates required by law, including minimum and straight time wages. However, Defendants failed and refused to pay Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class all such wages due and failed to pay those wages twice a month.

44. Plaintiffs and the Class are also entitled to seek recovery of all unpaid minimum and straight time wages, interest, and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 218.5, 218.6, and 1194(a).

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(Against All Defendants for Failure to Pay Overtime Wages)

45. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege as if fully stated herein paragraphs 1 through 34 in this Complaint.

46. California Labor Code § 510 provides that employees in California shall not be employed more than eight hours in any workday or forty (40) hours in a workweek unless they receive additional compensation beyond their regular wages in amounts specified by law.

47. California Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1198 provide that employees in California shall not be employed more than eight hours in any workday unless they receive additional compensation beyond their regular wages in amounts specified by law. Additionally, California Labor Code § 1198 states that the employment of an employee for longer hours than those fixed by the IWC is unlawful.

48. At all times relevant hereto, Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class have, at times, worked more than eight hours in a workday and/or more than forty (40) hours in a workweek, as employees of Defendants.

49. At all times relevant hereto, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class overtime compensation for the hours they have worked in excess of

the maximum hours permissible by law as required by California Labor Code §§ 510 and 1198.

50. By virtue of Defendants' unlawful failure to pay additional premium rate compensation to the Plaintiffs and some of, but necessarily all of, the Class for their overtime hours worked, Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class have suffered, and will continue to suffer, damages in amounts which are presently unknown to them, but which exceed the jurisdictional minimum of this Court and which will be ascertained according to proof at trial.

51. By failing to keep adequate time records required by Labor Code § 1174(d), Defendants have made it difficult to calculate the full extent of overtime compensation due to Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class.

52. Plaintiffs and the Class also request recovery of overtime compensation according to proof, interest, attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to California Labor Code § 1194(a), as well as the assessment of any statutory penalties against Defendants, in a sum as provided by the California Labor Code and/or other statutes.

53. California Labor Code § 204 requires employers to provide employees with all wages due and payable twice a month. The Wage Orders also provide that every employer shall pay to each employee, on the established payday for the period involved, overtime wages for all overtime hours worked in the payroll period. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class with all compensation due, in violation of California Labor Code § 204.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

(Against All Defendants for Failure to Provide Meal Periods)

54. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege as if fully stated herein paragraphs 1 through 34 in this Complaint.

55. Under California law, Defendants have an affirmative obligation to relieve the Plaintiffs and the Class of all duty in order to take their first daily meal periods no later than at the end of Plaintiffs and the Class' fifth hour of work in a workday, and to take their second meal periods no later than at the end of the tenth hour of work in the workday. California Labor Code § 512, and Section 11 of the applicable Wage Orders require that an employer provide unpaid meal

periods of at least thirty (30) minutes for each five-hour period worked. It is a violation of California Labor Code § 226.7 for an employer to require any employee to work during any meal period mandated under any Wage Order.

56. Despite these legal requirements, Defendants, at times, failed to provide Plaintiffs and some, but not necessarily all of the Class with both meal periods as required by California law. By their failure to permit and authorize Plaintiffs and some, but not necessarily all of the Class to take all meal periods as alleged above (or due to the fact that Defendants, at times, made it impossible or impracticable to take these uninterrupted meal periods), Defendants willfully violated the provisions of California Labor Code § 226.7 and the applicable Wage Orders.

57. Under California law, Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class are entitled to be paid one hour of additional wages for each workday they were not provided with all required meal period(s), plus interest thereon.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Against All Defendants for Failure to Authorize and Permit Rest Periods)

58. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege as if fully stated herein paragraphs 1 through 34 in this Complaint.

59. Defendants are required by California law to authorize and permit breaks of ten uninterrupted minutes for each four hours of work or major fraction of four hours (i.e. more than two hours). California Labor Code § 512, the applicable Wage Orders require that the employer permit and authorize all employees to take paid rest periods of ten minutes each for each 4-hour period worked. Thus, for example, if an employee's work time is six hours and ten minutes, the employee is entitled to two rest breaks. Each failure to authorize rest breaks as so required is itself a violation of California's rest break laws. It is a violation of California Labor Code § 226.7 for an employer to require any employee to work during any rest period mandated under any Wage Order.

60. Despite these legal requirements, Defendants at times failed to authorize Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class to take rest breaks, regardless of whether employees worked more than four hours in a workday. By their failure to permit and authorize Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of the Class to take rest periods as alleged above (or

1 due to the fact that Defendants, at times, made it impossible or impracticable to take these
2 uninterrupted rest periods), Defendants willfully violated the provisions of California Labor Code
3 § 226.7 and the applicable Wage Orders.

4 61. Under California law, Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class
5 are entitled to be paid one hour of premium wages rate for each workday they were not provided
6 with all required rest break(s), plus interest thereon.

7 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

8 **(Against All Defendants for Failure to Pay Wages of Discharged Employees – Waiting Time**
9 **Penalties)**

10 62. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege as if fully stated herein paragraphs
11 1 through 34 in this Complaint.

12 63. At all times herein set forth, California Labor Code §§ 201 and 202 provide that if
13 an employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due
14 and payable immediately, and that if an employee voluntarily leaves his or her employment, his or
15 her wages shall become due and payable not later than seventy-two (72) hours thereafter, unless
16 the employee has given seventy-two (72) hours previous notice of his or her intention to quit, in
17 which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting.

18 64. Within the applicable statute of limitations, the employment of many other members
19 of the Class ended, i.e., was terminated by quitting or discharge, and the employment of others will
20 be. However, during the relevant time period, Defendants, at times, failed, and continue to fail, to
21 pay some of, but not necessarily all of, the terminated Class Members, without abatement, all
22 wages required to be paid by California Labor Code §§ 201 and 202 either at the time of discharge,
23 or within seventy-two (72) hours of their leaving Defendants' employ. Plaintiffs do not allege that
24 all of the Class Members were so harmed.

25 65. Defendants' failure to pay some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class members
26 who are no longer employed by Defendants their wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge,
27 or within seventy-two (72) hours of their leaving Defendants' employ, is in violation of California
28 Labor Code §§ 201 and 202.

66. California Labor Code § 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to pay wages owed, in accordance with §§ 201 and 202, then the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty wage from the due date, and at the same rate until paid or until an action is commenced; but the wages shall not continue for more than thirty (30) days.

67. Pursuant to California Labor Code § 203, some of the Class is entitled to recover from Defendants their additionally accruing wages for each day they were not paid, at their regular hourly rate of pay, up to thirty (30) days maximum.

68. Pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 218.5, 218.6 and 1194, the Class is also entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees, interest, expenses, and costs incurred in this action.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Against All Defendants for Failure to Provide and Maintain Accurate and Compliant Wage Records)

69. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege as if fully stated herein paragraphs 1 through 34 in this Complaint.

70. At all material times set forth herein, California Labor Code § 226(a) provides that every employer shall furnish each of his or her employees an accurate itemized wage statement in writing showing nine pieces of information, including: (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the employee, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee and the last four digits of his or her social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.

71. Defendants have, at times, intentionally and willfully failed to provide employees with complete and accurate wage statements. The deficiencies include, among other things, the

1 failure to correctly identify the gross wages earned by Plaintiffs and some of the Class, the failure
2 to list the true “total hours worked by the employee,” and the failure to list the true net wages
3 earned. Plaintiffs do not allege that all of the Class Members were so harmed.

4 72. As a result of Defendants’ violation of California Labor Code § 226(a), Plaintiffs
5 and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class have suffered injury and damage to their statutorily
6 protected rights.

7 73. Specifically, Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class have been
8 injured by Defendants’ intentional violation of California Labor Code § 226(a) because Plaintiffs
9 and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class were denied both their legal right to receive, and
10 their protected interest in receiving, accurate, itemized wage statements under California Labor
11 Code § 226(a).

12 74. Calculation of the true wage entitlement for Plaintiffs and some of, but not
13 necessarily all of, the Class is difficult and time consuming. As a result of this unlawful burden,
14 Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class were also injured as a result of having
15 to bring this action to attempt to obtain correct wage information following Defendants’ refusal to
16 comply with many of the mandates of California’s Labor Code and related laws and regulations.

17 75. Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class are entitled to recover
18 from Defendants the greater of their actual damages caused by Defendants’ failure to comply with
19 California Labor Code § 226(a), or an aggregate penalty not exceeding four thousand dollars
20 (\$4,000) per employee.

21 76. Plaintiffs and the Class are also entitled to injunctive relief, as well as an award of
22 attorney’s fees and costs to ensure compliance with this section, pursuant to California Labor Code
23 § 226(h).

24 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

25 **(Against All Defendants for Failure to Indemnify Employees for Expenditures)**

26 77. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege as if fully stated herein paragraphs
27 1 through 34 in this Complaint.

28 78. As set forth above, Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class were

required to incur substantial necessary expenditures and losses in direct consequence of the discharge of their duties or of their obedience to directions of Defendants.

79. Defendants violated California Labor Code § 2802, by failing to pay and indemnify Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class for necessary expenditures and losses incurred in direct consequence of the discharge of their duties or of their obedience to directions of Defendants.

80. As a result, Plaintiffs and some of, but not necessarily all of, the Class were damaged at least in the amounts of the expenses they paid, or which were deducted by Defendants from their wages.

81. Plaintiffs and the Class are entitled to reasonable attorney's fees, expenses, and costs of suit pursuant to California Labor Code § 2802(c) and interest pursuant to California Labor Code § 2802(b).

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Against All Defendants for Violation of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq.)

82. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege as if fully stated herein paragraphs 1 through 34 in this Complaint.

83. Defendants, and each of them, are "persons" as defined under California Business & Professions Code § 17201.

84. Defendants' conduct, as alleged herein, has been, and continues to be, unfair, unlawful, and harmful to Plaintiffs, other Class members, and to the general public. Plaintiffs seek to enforce important rights affecting the public interest within the meaning of Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5.

85. Defendants' activities, as alleged herein, are violations of California law, and constitute unlawful business acts and practices in violation of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

86. A violation of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* may be predicated on the violation of any state or federal law. All of the acts described herein as violations

of, among other things, the California Labor Code, are unlawful and in violation of public policy; and in addition are immoral, unethical, oppressive, fraudulent and unscrupulous, and thereby constitute unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices in violation of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

Failure to Pay Minimum and Straight Time Wages

87. Defendants' failure to pay minimum and straight time wages, and other benefits in violation of the California Labor Code constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

Failure to Pay Overtime Wages

88. Defendants' failure to pay overtime compensation and other benefits in violation of California Labor Code §§ 510, 1194, and 1198 constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

Failure to Provide Meal Periods

89. Defendants' failure to provide meal periods in accordance with California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512, and the IWC Wage Orders, as alleged above, constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

Failure to Authorize and Permit Rest Periods

90. Defendants' failure to authorize and permit rest periods in accordance with California Labor Code § 226.7 and the IWC Wage Orders, as alleged above, constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

Failure to Indemnify Business Expenses

91. Defendants' failure to reimburse expenses incurred in accordance with California Labor Code § 2802, as alleged above, constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

92. By and through their unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices described herein, Defendants, have obtained valuable property, money and services from Plaintiffs, and all persons similarly situated, and have deprived Plaintiffs, and all persons similarly situated, of valuable rights and benefits guaranteed by law, all to their detriment.

1 93. Plaintiffs and the Class Members suffered monetary injury as a direct result of
2 Defendants' wrongful conduct.

3 94. Plaintiffs, individually, and on behalf of members of the putative Class, are entitled
4 to, and do, seek such relief as may be necessary to disgorge money and/or property which the
5 Defendants have wrongfully acquired, or of which Plaintiffs and the Class have been deprived, by
6 means of the above-described unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices. Plaintiffs and
7 the Class are not obligated to establish individual knowledge of the wrongful practices of
8 Defendants in order to recover restitution.

9 95. Plaintiffs, individually, and on behalf of members of the putative class, are further
10 entitled to, and do, seek a declaration that the above-described business practices are unfair,
11 unlawful and/or fraudulent, and injunctive relief restraining the Defendants, and each of them,
12 from engaging in any of the above-described unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices
13 in the future.

14 96. Plaintiffs, individually, and on behalf of members of the putative class, have no
15 plain, speedy, and/or adequate remedy at law to redress the injuries which the Class Members
16 suffered as a consequence of the Defendants' unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices.
17 As a result of the unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices described above, Plaintiffs,
18 individually, and on behalf of members of the putative Class, have suffered and will continue to
19 suffer irreparable harm unless the Defendants are restrained from continuing to engage in said
20 unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices.

21 97. Plaintiffs also allege that if Defendants are not enjoined from the conduct set forth
22 herein above, they will continue to avoid paying the appropriate taxes, insurance and other
23 withholdings.

24 98. Pursuant to California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, Plaintiffs and
25 putative Class Members are entitled to restitution of the wages withheld and retained by
26 Defendants during a period that commences four years prior to the filing of this complaint; a
27 permanent injunction requiring Defendants to pay all outstanding wages due to Plaintiffs and Class
28 Members; an award of attorneys' fees pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5 and

1 other applicable laws; and an award of costs.

2 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

3 Plaintiffs, individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated only with respect to
4 the class claims, pray for relief and judgment against Defendants, jointly and severally, as follows:

5 Class Certification

6 1. That this action be certified as a class action with respect to the First, Second, Third,
7 Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Causes of Action;

8 2. That Plaintiffs be appointed as the representatives of the Class; and,

9 3. That counsel for Plaintiffs be appointed as Class Counsel.

10 As to the First Cause of Action

11 4. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated California
12 Labor Code §§ 204 and 1194 and applicable IWC Wage Orders by willfully failing to pay all
13 minimum and straight time wages due;

14 5. For unpaid wages as may be appropriate;

15 6. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid compensation commencing from the date
16 such amounts were due;

17 7. For penalties, restitution, and liquidated damages pursuant to California Labor Code
18 § 1197.1;

19 8. For liquidated damages;

20 9. For reasonable attorneys' fees and for costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to
21 California Labor Code § 1194(a); and,

22 10. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

23 As to the Second Cause of Action

24 11. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated California
25 Labor Code §§ 510 and 1198 and applicable IWC Wage Orders by willfully failing to pay all
26 overtime wages due;

27 12. For unpaid wages at overtime wage rates as may be appropriate;

28 13. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid overtime compensation commencing from

the date such amounts were due;

14. For reasonable attorneys' fees and for costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to California Labor Code § 1194(a); and,

15. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

As to the Third Cause of Action

16. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512, and the IWC Wage Orders;

17. For unpaid meal period premium wages as may be appropriate;

18. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid compensation commencing from the date such amounts were due;

19. For reasonable attorneys' fees under California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5, and for costs of suit incurred herein; and,

20. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

As to the Fourth Cause of Action

21. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512, and the IWC Wage Orders;

22. For unpaid rest period premium wages as may be appropriate;

23. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid compensation commencing from the date such amounts were due;

24. For reasonable attorneys' fees under California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5, and for costs of suit incurred herein; and,

25. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

As to the Fifth Cause of Action

26. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendants violated California Labor Code §§ 201, 202, and 203 by willfully failing to pay all compensation owed at the time of termination of the employment;

27. For statutory wage penalties pursuant to California Labor Code § 203 for former employees who have left Defendants' employ;

28. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid wages from the date such amounts were due;

29. For reasonable attorneys' fees and for costs of suit incurred herein; and,

30. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

As to the Sixth Cause of Action

31. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated the record keeping provisions of California Labor Code § 226(a) and applicable IWC Wage Orders, and willfully failed to provide accurate itemized wage statements thereto;

32. For all actual damages, according to proof;

33. For statutory penalties pursuant to California Labor Code § 226(e);

34. For injunctive relief to ensure compliance with this section, pursuant to California Labor Code § 226(h);

35. For reasonable attorneys' fees and for costs of suit incurred herein; and,

36. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

As to the Seventh Cause of Action

37. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated California Labor Code § 2802 by willfully failing to indemnify employees for expenditures;

38. For unpaid wages or unreimbursed business expenses as may be appropriate;

39. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid compensation commencing from the date such amounts were due;

40. For reasonable attorneys' fees and for costs of suit incurred herein; and,

41. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

As to the Eighth Cause of Action

42. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* by failing to pay for all hours worked (minimum, straight time, and overtime wages), failing to provide meal periods, and failing to authorize and permit rest periods;

43. For restitution of unpaid wages to Plaintiffs and all Class Members and prejudgment

1 interest from the day such amounts were due and payable;

2 44. For the appointment of a receiver to receive, manage and distribute any and all funds
3 disgorged from Defendants and determined to have been wrongfully acquired by Defendants as a
4 result of violations of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200 *et seq.*;

5 45. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to
6 California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5;

7 46. For injunctive relief to ensure compliance with this section, pursuant to California
8 Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*; and,

9 47. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

10 As to all Causes of Action

11 48. For any additional relief that the Court deems just and proper.

12 Respectfully submitted,

13 Dated: December 26, 2024

14 **WILSHIRE LAW FIRM**

15 By: Gabriella Solé
16 John G. Yslas
Eugene Zinovyev
John Brown
Gabriella Solé

17 Attorneys for Plaintiffs

18
19 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

20 Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury as to all causes of action triable by jury.

21
22 By: Gabriella Solé
23 John G. Yslas
24 Eugene Zinovyev
25 John Brown
26 Gabriella Solé
27 Attorneys for Plaintiffs
28