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1004

April 4, 2024

CA3280

VIA ONLINE FILING TO LWDA AND CERTIFIED MAIL TO DEFENDANT

Labor and Workforce Development Agency
Online Filing

Fortuna Enterprises, L.P.
Certified Mail #9589071052700408543502
1505 Corporation
National Registered Agents, Inc.
AMANDA GARCIA
330 N BRAND BLVD,
GLENDALE, CA 91203

Re: Notice Of Violations Of California Labor Code Sections §§ 201, 202, 203, 204 *et seq.*, 210, 218, 221, 226(a), 226.7, 227.3, 246 *et seq.*, 510, 512, 558(a)(1)(2), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2802, California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 11040, Subdivision 5(A)-(B), California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 1 1070(14) (Failure to Provide Seating), and Violation of Applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order(s), brought Pursuant To California Labor Code Section 2699.5.

Dear Sir/Madam:

“Aggrieved Employees” refers to all individuals who are or previously were employed by Fortuna Enterprises, L.P. in California, including any employees staffed with Fortuna Enterprises, L.P. a third party, and classified as non-exempt employees during the time period of April 4, 2023 until a date as determined by the Court. Our offices represent Plaintiff Aneta Gornicka (“Plaintiff”) and other Aggrieved Employees in a lawsuit against Fortuna Enterprises, L.P. (“Defendant”). Plaintiff has been employed by Defendant in California since January 2023. Plaintiff is at all times classified by Defendant as a non-exempt employee, paid on an hourly basis, and entitled to the legally required meal and rest periods and payment of minimum and overtime wages due for all time worked. Defendant, however, unlawfully failed to record and pay Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees for, including but not limited to, all of their time worked, including minimum and overtime wages and sick pay wages at the correct rate, for all of their missed meal and rest breaks at the correct regular rates, and for all of their time spent working off the clock. Moreover, when Defendant required Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees to report for work, but “furnished less than half said employee’s usual or scheduled day’s work,” Defendant violated Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8 § 11040, subd. 5(A) by failing to pay Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees for at least two (2) hours’ worth of work at their regular rate of pay. In addition, when Defendant required Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees to respond to and engage in additional work, this resulted in a second reporting for work in a single workday, and Defendant failed to pay these employees reporting time pay as required by Cal. Code Regs., tit.

8, § 11040, subd. 5(B). Further, Defendant failed to advise Plaintiff and the other Aggrieved Employees of their right to take separately and hourly paid duty-free ten (10) minute rest periods. *See Vaquero v. Stoneledge Furniture, LLC*, 9 Cal. App. 5th 98, 110 (2017). Additionally, pursuant to Labor Code § 204 *et seq.*, Defendant failed to timely provide Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees with their wages. Plaintiff further contends that Defendant failed to provide accurate wage statements to her, and other Aggrieved Employees, in violation of California Labor Code section 226(a). Specifically, PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were paid on an hourly basis. As such, the wage statements should reflect all applicable hourly rates during the pay period and the total hours worked, and the applicable pay period in which the wages were earned pursuant to California Labor Code Section 226(a). The wage statements Defendant provided to PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES failed to identify such information. More specifically, the wage statements failed to identify the accurate total hours worked each pay period in violation of Cal. Lab. Code Section 226(a)(2). Additionally, Plaintiff contends that Defendant failed to comply with Industrial Wage Order 7(A)(3) in that Defendant failed to keep time records showing when Plaintiff began and ended each shift and meal period. Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees perform tasks that reasonably permit sitting, and a seat would not interfere with their performance of any of their tasks that may require them to stand. Defendant failed to provide Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees with suitable seats. Said conduct, in addition to the foregoing, as well as the conduct alleged in the incorporated Complaint, violates Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204 *et seq.*, 210, 218, 221, 226(a), 226.7, 227.3, 246, 510, 512, 558(a)(1)(2), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2802, California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 11040, Subdivision 5(A)-(B), California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 1 1070(14) (Failure to Provide Seating), Violation of the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order(s), and is therefore actionable under California Labor Code section 2699.3.

A true and correct copy of the Complaint by Plaintiff against Defendant, which (i) identifies the alleged violations, (ii) details the facts and theories which support the alleged violations, (iii) details the specific work performed by Plaintiff, (iii) sets forth the people/entities, dates, classifications, violations, events, and actions which are at issue to the extent known to Plaintiff, and (iv) sets forth the illegal practices used by Defendant, is attached hereto. This information provides notice to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency of the facts and theories supporting the alleged violations for the agency's reference. Plaintiff therefore incorporates the allegations of the attached Complaint into this letter as if fully set forth herein. If the agency needs any further information, please do not hesitate to ask.

This notice is provided to enable Plaintiff to proceed with the Complaint against Defendant as authorized by California Labor Code section 2699, *et seq.* The lawsuit consists of other Aggrieved Employees. As counsel, our intention is to vigorously prosecute the claims as alleged in the Complaint, and to procure civil penalties as provided by the Private Attorney General Statue of 2004 on behalf of Plaintiff and all Aggrieved Employees.

Your earliest response to this notice is appreciated. If you have any questions of concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above number and address.

Respectfully,

/s/ Nicholas J. De Blouw
Nicholas J. De Blouw, Esq.

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8 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

9 **IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

10
11 ANETA GORNICKA, an individual, on behalf
12 of herself and on behalf of all persons similarly
situated,

13
14 Plaintiff,

15 vs.

16 FORTUNA ENTERPRISES, L.P., a Limited
Partnership; and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,

17
18 Defendants.

Case No. _____

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR:

1. UNFAIR COMPETITION IN VIOLATION
OF CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE §§ 17200, *et*
seq.;

2. FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES
IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§
1194, 1197 & 1197.1;

3. FAILURE TO PAY OVERTIME WAGES
IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE § 510;

4. FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED
MEAL PERIODS IN VIOLATION OF CAL.
LAB. CODE §§ 226.7 & 512 AND THE
APPLICABLE IWC WAGE ORDER;

5. FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED
REST PERIODS IN VIOLATION OF CAL.
LAB. CODE §§ 226.7 & 512 AND THE
APPLICABLE IWC WAGE ORDER;

6. FAILURE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE
ITEMIZED STATEMENTS IN VIOLATION
OF CAL. LAB. CODE § 226;

7. FAILURE TO REIMBURSE EMPLOYEES
FOR REQUIRED EXPENSES IN
VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE § 2802;

8. FAILURE TO PAY SICK PAY WAGES IN
VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB CODE §§201-
203, 233, 246;

9. DISCRIMINATION AND RETALIATION IN
VIOLATION OF FEHA and,

10. RETALIATION IN VIOLATION OF
LABOR CODE § 1102.5, *Et seq.*

DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL

1 Aneta Gornicka (“PLAINTIFF”), an individual, on behalf of herself and all other
2 similarly situated current and former employees alleges on information and belief, except for
3 her own acts and knowledge which are based on personal knowledge, the following.

4
5 **THE PARTIES**

6 1. Fortuna Enterprises, L.P. (“DEFENDANT”) is a limited partnership that at all
7 relevant times mentioned herein conducted and continues to conduct substantial business in
8 California.

9 2. DEFENDANT owns and operates hotels in California.

10 3. PLAINTIFF is currently employed by DEFENDANT in California. PLAINTIFF’S
11 employment started in January of 2023. PLAINTIFF has been at all times classified by
12 DEFENDANT as a non-exempt employee, paid on an hourly basis, and entitled to the legally
13 required meal and rest periods and payment of minimum and overtime wages due for all time
14 worked.

15 4. PLAINTIFF brings this Class Action on behalf of herself and a California class,
16 defined as all individuals who are or previously were employed by DEFENDANT in California,
17 including any employees staffed with DEFENDANT by a third party, and classified as non-
18 exempt employees (the “CALIFORNIA CLASS”) at any time during the period beginning four
19 (4) years prior to the filing of this Complaint and ending on the date as determined by the Court
20 (the “CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD”). The amount in controversy for the aggregate claim
21 of CALIFORNIA CLASS Members is under five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00).

22 5. PLAINTIFF brings this Class Action on behalf of herself and a CALIFORNIA
23 CLASS in order to fully compensate the CALIFORNIA CLASS for their losses incurred
24 during the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD caused by DEFENDANT’s policy and practice
25 which failed to lawfully compensate these employees. DEFENDANT’s policy and practice
26 alleged herein was an unlawful, unfair and deceptive business practice whereby
27 DEFENDANT retained and continues to retain wages due PLAINTIFF and the other
28 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the

1 CALIFORNIA CLASS seek an injunction enjoining such conduct by DEFENDANT in the
2 future, relief for the named PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA
3 CLASS who have been economically injured by DEFENDANT's past and current unlawful
4 conduct, and all other appropriate legal and equitable relief.

5 6. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, subsidiary,
6 partnership, associate or otherwise of defendants DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are
7 presently unknown to PLAINTIFF who therefore sues these Defendants by such fictitious
8 names pursuant to Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 474. PLAINTIFF will seek leave to amend this
9 Complaint to allege the true names and capacities of Does 1 through 50, inclusive, when
10 they are ascertained. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and based upon that information
11 and belief alleges, that the Defendants named in this Complaint, including DOES 1 through
12 50, inclusive, are responsible in some manner for one or more of the events and happenings
13 that proximately caused the injuries and damages hereinafter alleged.

14 7. The agents, servants and/or employees of the Defendants and each of them
15 acting on behalf of the Defendants acted within the course and scope of his, her or its
16 authority as the agent, servant and/or employee of the Defendants, and personally
17 participated in the conduct alleged herein on behalf of the Defendants with respect to the
18 conduct alleged herein. Consequently, the acts of each Defendant are legally attributable to
19 the other Defendants and all Defendants are jointly and severally liable to PLAINTIFF and
20 the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, for the loss sustained as a proximate result
21 of the conduct of the Defendants' agents, servants and/or employees.

22 **THE CONDUCT**

23
24 8. Pursuant to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, DEFENDANT
25 was required to pay PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all their time
26 worked, meaning the time during which an employee is subject to the control of an
27 employer, including all the time the employee is suffered or permitted to work.
28 DEFENDANT requires PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to work without

1 paying them for all the time they are under DEFENDANT's control. Among other things,
2 DEFENDANT requires PLAINTIFF to work while clocked out during what is supposed to
3 be PLAINTIFF's off-duty meal break. PLAINTIFF was from time to time interrupted by
4 work assignments while clocked out for what should have been PLAINTIFF's off-duty meal
5 break. DEFENDANT, as a matter of established company policy and procedure, administers
6 a uniform practice of rounding the actual time worked and recorded by PLAINTIFF and
7 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, always to the benefit of DEFENDANT, so that during the
8 course of their employment, PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members are paid less
9 than they would have been paid had they been paid for actual recorded time rather than
10 "rounded" time. Additionally, DEFENDANT engages in the practice of requiring
11 PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to perform work off the clock in that
12 DEFENDANT, as a condition of employment, required these employees to submit to
13 mandatory temperature checks and symptom questionnaires for COVID-19 screening prior
14 to clocking into DEFENDANT's timekeeping system for the workday. As a result,
15 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members forfeit minimum wage, overtime
16 wage compensation, and off-duty meal breaks by working without their time being correctly
17 recorded and without compensation at the applicable rates. DEFENDANT's policy and
18 practice not to pay PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all time
19 worked, is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records.

20 9. State and federal law provides that employees must be paid overtime and meal
21 and rest break premiums at one-and-one-half times their "regular rate of pay." PLAINTIFF
22 and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members are compensated at an hourly rate plus incentive
23 pay that is tied to specific elements of an employee's performance.

24 10. The second component of PLAINTIFF's and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
25 Members' compensation is DEFENDANT's non-discretionary incentive program that paid
26 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members incentive wages based on their
27 performance for DEFENDANT. The non-discretionary incentive program provided all
28 employees paid on an hourly basis with incentive compensation when the employees met the

1 various performance goals set by DEFENDANT. However, when calculating the regular
2 rate of pay in order to pay overtime and meal and rest break premiums to PLAINTIFF and
3 other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, DEFENDANT failed to include the incentive
4 compensation as part of the employees' "regular rate of pay" for purposes of calculating
5 overtime pay and meal and rest break premium pay. Management and supervisors described
6 the incentive program to potential and new employees as part of the compensation package.
7 As a matter of law, the incentive compensation received by PLAINTIFF and other
8 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members must be included in the "regular rate of pay." The failure
9 to do so has resulted in a underpayment of overtime compensation and meal and rest break
10 premiums to PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members by DEFENDANT.

11 11. As a result of their rigorous work schedules, PLAINTIFF and other
12 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were from time to time unable to take thirty (30) minute
13 off duty meal breaks and were not fully relieved of duty for their meal periods. PLAINTIFF
14 and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required from time to time to perform
15 work as ordered by DEFENDANT for more than five (5) hours during some shifts without
16 receiving a meal break. Further, DEFENDANT from time to time failed to provide
17 PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with a second off-duty meal period for
18 some workdays in which these employees were required by DEFENDANT to work ten (10)
19 hours of work. DEFENDANT also engaged in the practice of rounding the meal period
20 times to avoid paying penalties to PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.
21 PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS therefore forfeit meal breaks
22 without additional compensation and in accordance with DEFENDANT's corporate policy
23 and practice.

24 12. During the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and other
25 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were also required from time to time to work in excess of
26 four (4) hours without being provided ten (10) minute rest periods. Further, these employees
27 were denied their first rest periods of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of at
28 least two (2) to four (4) hours from time to time, a first and second rest period of at least ten

1 (10) minutes for some shifts worked of between six (6) and eight (8) hours from time to
2 time, and a first, second and third rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts
3 worked of ten (10) hours or more from time to time. PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
4 CLASS Members were also not provided with one hour wages in lieu thereof. Additionally,
5 the applicable California Wage Order requires employers to provide employees with off-
6 duty rest periods, which the California Supreme Court defined as time during which an
7 employee is relieved from all work related duties and free from employer control. In so
8 doing, the Court held that the requirement under California law that employers authorize and
9 permit all employees to take rest period means that employers must relieve employees of all
10 duties and relinquish control over how employees spend their time which includes control
11 over the locations where employees may take their rest period. Employers cannot impose
12 controls that prohibit an employee from taking a brief walk - five minutes out, five minutes
13 back. Here, DEFENDANT's policy restricted PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
14 CLASS Members from unconstrained walks and is unlawful based on DEFENDANT's rule
15 which states PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members cannot leave the work
16 premises during their rest period.

17 13. During the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT failed to
18 accurately record and pay PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for the
19 actual amount of time these employees worked. Pursuant to the Industrial Welfare
20 Commission Wage Orders, DEFENDANT was required to pay PLAINTIFF and other
21 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all time worked, meaning the time during which an
22 employee was subject to the control of an employer, including all the time the employee was
23 permitted or suffered to permit this work. DEFENDANT required these employees to work
24 off the clock without paying them for all the time they were under DEFENDANT's control.
25 As such, DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other
26 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were under compensated for all time worked. As a
27 result, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members forfeited time worked by
28 working without their time being accurately recorded and without compensation at the

1 applicable minimum wage and overtime wage rates. To the extent that the time worked off
2 the clock does not qualify for overtime premium payment, DEFENDANT fails to pay
3 minimum wages for the time worked off-the-clock in violation of Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194,
4 1197, and 1197.1.

5 14. From time to time, DEFENDANT also failed to provide PLAINTIFF and the
6 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with complete and accurate wage statements
7 which failed to show, among other things, the correct gross and net wages earned. Cal. Lab.
8 Code § 226 provides that every employer shall furnish each of his or her employees with an
9 accurate itemized wage statement in writing showing, among other things, gross wages
10 earned and all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding
11 amount of time worked at each hourly rate. PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS
12 Members were paid on an hourly basis. As such, the wage statements should reflect all
13 applicable hourly rates during the pay period and the total hours worked, and the applicable
14 pay period in which the wages were earned pursuant to California Labor Code Section
15 226(a). The wage statements DEFENDANT provided to PLAINTIFF and other
16 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members failed to identify such information. More specifically, the
17 wage statements failed to identify the accurate total hours worked each pay period. When
18 the hours shown on the wage statements were added up, they did not equal the actual total
19 hours worked during the pay period in violation of Cal. Lab. Code 226(a)(2). Aside, from
20 the violations listed above in this paragraph, DEFENDANT failed to issue to PLAINTIFF
21 an itemized wage statement that lists all the requirements under California Labor Code 226
22 *et seq.* As a result, DEFENDANT from time to time provided PLAINTIFF and the other
23 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with wage statements which violated Cal. Lab. Code
24 § 226.

25 15. DEFENDANT underpaid sick pay wages to PLAINTIFF and other
26 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members by failing to pay such wages at the regular rate of pay in
27 violation of Cal. Lab. Code Section 246. Specifically, PLAINTIFF and other non-exempt
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1 employees earn non-discretionary remuneration. Rather than pay sick pay at the regular rate
2 of pay, DEFENDANT underpaid sick pay to PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
3 Members at their base rates of pay.

4 16. Cal. Lab. Code Section 246(1)(2) requires that paid sick time for nonexempt
5 employees be calculated by dividing the employee's total wages, not including overtime
6 premium pay, by the employee's total hours worked in the full pay periods of the prior 90
7 days of employment.

8 17. DEFENDANT violated Cal. Lab. Code Section 246 by failing to pay sick pay
9 at the regular rate of pay. PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members routinely
10 earned non-discretionary incentive wages which increased their regular rate of pay.
11 However, when sick pay was paid, it was paid at the base rate of pay for PLAINTIFF and
12 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, as opposed to the correct, higher regular rate of pay,
13 as required under Cal. Lab. Code Section 246.

14 18. As a pattern and practice, DEFENDANT regularly failed to pay PLAINTIFF
15 and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS their correct wages and accordingly owe
16 waiting time penalties pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code Section 203. Further, PLAINTIFF is
17 informed and believes and based thereon alleges that such failure to pay sick pay at regular
18 rate was willful, such that PLAINTIFF and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS whose
19 employment has separated are entitled to waiting time penalties pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code
20 Sections 201-203.

21 19. Pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code Section 221, "It shall be unlawful for any employer
22 to collect or receive from an employee any part of wages theretofore paid by said employer
23 to said employee." DEFENDANT failed to pay all compensation due to PLAINTIFF and
24 other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members, made unlawful deductions from
25 compensation payable to PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members,
26 failed to disclose all aspects of the deductions from compensation payable to PLAINTIFF
27 and CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members, and thereby failed to pay these
28 employees all wages due at each applicable pay period and upon termination. PLAINTIFF

1 and members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS seek recovery of all illegal
2 deductions from wages according to proof, related penalties, interest, attorney fees and costs.

3 20. DEFENDANT intentionally and knowingly failed to reimburse and indemnify
4 PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for required business expenses
5 incurred by the PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members in direct
6 consequence of discharging their duties on behalf of DEFENDANT. Under California
7 Labor Code Section 2802, employers are required to indemnify employees for all expenses
8 incurred in the course and scope of their employment. Cal. Lab. Code § 2802 expressly
9 states that "an employer shall indemnify his or her employee for all necessary expenditures
10 or losses incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of his or her
11 duties, or of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer, even though unlawful,
12 unless the employee, at the time of obeying the directions, believed them to be unlawful."

13 21. In the course of their employment PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
14 CLASS Members as a business expense, were required by DEFENDANT to use their own
15 personal cellular phones as a result of and in furtherance of their job duties as employees for
16 DEFENDANT but are not reimbursed or indemnified by DEFENDANT for the cost
17 associated with the use of their personal cellular phones for DEFENDANT's benefit.
18 Specifically, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required by
19 DEFENDANT to use their personal cellular phones. As a result, in the course of their
20 employment with DEFENDANT, PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA
21 CLASS incurred unreimbursed business expenses which included, but were not limited to,
22 costs related to the use of their personal cellular phones all on behalf of and for the benefit
23 of DEFENDANT.

24 22. In violation of the applicable sections of the California Labor Code and the
25 requirements of the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") Wage Order,
26 DEFENDANT as a matter of company policy, practice and procedure, intentionally,
27 knowingly and systematically failed to provide PLAINTIFF and the other Aggrieved
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1 Employees suitable seating when the nature of these employees' work reasonably permitted
2 sitting.

3 23. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and other
4 Aggrieved Employees were entitled to suitable seating and/or were entitled to sit when it did
5 not interfere with the performance of their duties, and that DEFENDANT did not provide
6 suitable seating and/or did not allow them to sit when it did not interfere with the
7 performance of their duties.

8 24. By reason of this conduct applicable to PLAINTIFF and all Aggrieved
9 Employees, DEFENDANT violated California Labor Code Section 1198 and California
10 Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 11070(14) (Failure to Provide Seating), Wage Order
11 4-2001, Section 14 by failing to provide suitable seats. PLAINTIFF seeks penalties on
12 behalf of PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees as provided herein. Providing
13 suitable seating is the DEFENDANT's burden. As a result of DEFENDANT's intentional
14 disregard of the obligation to meet this burden, DEFENDANT violated the California Labor
15 Code and regulations promulgated thereunder as herein alleged.

16 25. Specifically as to PLAINTIFF, DEFENDANT failed to provide all the legally
17 required off-duty meal and rest breaks to PLAINTIFF as required by the applicable Wage
18 Order and Labor Code and failed to pay PLAINTIFF all minimum and overtime wages due
19 to PLAINTIFF. DEFENDANT did not have a policy or practice which provided timely off-
20 duty meal and rest breaks to PLAINTIFF and also failed to compensate PLAINTIFF for
21 PLAINTIFF's missed meal and rest breaks. The nature of the work performed by the
22 PLAINTIFF did not prevent PLAINTIFF from being relieved of all of PLAINTIFF's duties
23 for the legally required off-duty meal periods. As a result, DEFENDANT's failure to
24 provide PLAINTIFF with the legally required meal periods is evidenced by DEFENDANT's
25 business records. The amount in controversy for PLAINTIFF individually does not exceed
26 the sum or value of \$75,000.

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JURISDICTION AND VENUE

26. This Court has jurisdiction over this Action pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure, Section 410.10 and California Business & Professions Code, Section 17203. This action is brought as a Class Action on behalf of PLAINTIFF and similarly situated employees of DEFENDANT pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382.

27. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure, Sections 395 and 395.5, because PLAINTIFF worked in this County for DEFENDANT and DEFENDANT (i) currently maintains and at all relevant times maintained offices and facilities in this County and/or conducts substantial business in this County, and (ii) committed the wrongful conduct herein alleged in this County against members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

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THE CALIFORNIA CLASS

28. PLAINTIFF brings the First Cause of Action for Unfair, Unlawful and Deceptive Business Practices pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* (the "UCL") as a Class Action, pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382, on behalf of a California class, defined as all individuals who are or previously were employed by DEFENDANT in California, including any employees staffed with DEFENDANT by a third party, and classified as non-exempt employees (the "CALIFORNIA CLASS") at any time during the period beginning four (4) years prior to the filing of this Complaint and ending on the date as determined by the Court (the "CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD"). The amount in controversy for the aggregate claim of CALIFORNIA CLASS Members is under five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00).

29. To the extent equitable tolling operates to toll claims by the CALIFORNIA CLASS against DEFENDANT, the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.

1 30. DEFENDANT, as a matter of company policy, practice and procedure, and in
2 violation of the applicable Labor Code, Industrial Welfare Commission (“IWC”) Wage
3 Order requirements, and the applicable provisions of California law, intentionally,
4 knowingly, and wilfully, engaged in a practice whereby DEFENDANT failed to record all
5 meal and rest breaks missed by PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members,
6 even though DEFENDANT enjoyed the benefit of this work, required employees to perform
7 this work and permits or suffers to permit this work.

8 31. DEFENDANT has the legal burden to establish that each and every
9 CALIFORNIA CLASS Member was paid accurately for all meal and rest breaks missed as
10 required by California laws. The DEFENDANT, however, as a matter of policy and
11 procedure failed to have in place during the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD and still fails
12 to have in place a policy or practice to ensure that each and every CALIFORNIA CLASS
13 Member is paid as required by law. This common business practice is applicable to each
14 and every CALIFORNIA CLASS Member can be adjudicated on a class-wide basis as
15 unlawful, unfair, and/or deceptive under Cal. Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*
16 (the “UCL”) as causation, damages, and reliance are not elements of this claim.

17 32. The CALIFORNIA CLASS, is so numerous that joinder of all CALIFORNIA
18 CLASS Members is impracticable.

19 33. DEFENDANT violated the rights of the CALIFORNIA CLASS under
20 California law by:

- 21 (a) Committing an act of unfair competition in violation of , Cal. Bus. &
22 Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* (the "UCL"), by unlawfully, unfairly
23 and/or deceptively having in place company policies, practices and
24 procedures that failed to record and pay PLAINTIFF and the other
25 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all time worked, including
26 minimum wages owed and overtime wages owed for work performed
27 by these employees; and,
28

- 1 (b) Committing an act of unfair competition in violation of the UCL, by
2 failing to provide the PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
3 CALIFORNIA CLASS with the legally required meal and rest periods.

4 34. This Class Action meets the statutory prerequisites for the maintenance of a
5 Class Action as set forth in Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382, in that:

- 6 (a) The persons who comprise the CALIFORNIA CLASS are so numerous
7 that the joinder of all such persons is impracticable and the disposition
8 of their claims as a class will benefit the parties and the Court;
- 9 (b) Nearly all factual, legal, statutory, declaratory and injunctive relief
10 issues that are raised in this Complaint are common to the
11 CALIFORNIA CLASS will apply to every member of the
12 CALIFORNIA CLASS;
- 13 (c) The claims of the representative PLAINTIFF are typical of the claims
14 of each member of the CALIFORNIA CLASS. PLAINTIFF, like all
15 the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, was classified as a
16 non-exempt employee paid on an hourly basis who was subjected to the
17 DEFENDANT's deceptive practice and policy which failed to provide
18 the legally required meal and rest periods to the CALIFORNIA CLASS
19 and thereby underpaid compensation to PLAINTIFF and
20 CALIFORNIA CLASS. PLAINTIFF sustained economic injury as a
21 result of DEFENDANT's employment practices. PLAINTIFF and the
22 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were and are similarly or
23 identically harmed by the same unlawful, deceptive and unfair
24 misconduct engaged in by DEFENDANT; and,
- 25 (d) The representative PLAINTIFF will fairly and adequately represent and
26 protect the interest of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, and has retained
27 counsel who are competent and experienced in Class Action litigation.
28 There are no material conflicts between the claims of the representative

1 PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS that would
2 make class certification inappropriate. Counsel for the CALIFORNIA
3 CLASS will vigorously assert the claims of all CALIFORNIA CLASS
4 Members.

5 35. In addition to meeting the statutory prerequisites to a Class Action, this action
6 is properly maintained as a Class Action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382, in that:

7 (a) Without class certification and determination of declaratory, injunctive,
8 statutory and other legal questions within the class format, prosecution
9 of separate actions by individual members of the CALIFORNIA
10 CLASS will create the risk of:

- 11 1) Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual
12 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS which would establish
13 incompatible standards of conduct for the parties opposing the
14 CALIFORNIA CLASS; and/or,
15 2) Adjudication with respect to individual members of the
16 CALIFORNIA CLASS which would as a practical matter be
17 dispositive of interests of the other members not party to the
18 adjudication or substantially impair or impede their ability to
19 protect their interests.

20 (b) The parties opposing the CALIFORNIA CLASS have acted or refused
21 to act on grounds generally applicable to the CALIFORNIA CLASS,
22 making appropriate class-wide relief with respect to the CALIFORNIA
23 CLASS as a whole in that DEFENDANT failed to pay all wages due to
24 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS as required by law;

- 25 1) With respect to the First Cause of Action, the final relief on
26 behalf of the CALIFORNIA CLASS sought does not relate
27 exclusively to restitution because through this claim
28 PLAINTIFF seeks declaratory relief holding that the

1 DEFENDANT's policy and practices constitute unfair
2 competition, along with declaratory relief, injunctive relief, and
3 incidental equitable relief as may be necessary to prevent and
4 remedy the conduct declared to constitute unfair competition;

5 (c) Common questions of law and fact exist as to the members of the
6 CALIFORNIA CLASS, with respect to the practices and violations of
7 California law as listed above, and predominate over any question
8 affecting only individual CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, and a Class
9 Action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient
10 adjudication of the controversy, including consideration of:

- 11 1) The interests of the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in
12 individually controlling the prosecution or defense of separate
13 actions in that the substantial expense of individual actions will
14 be avoided to recover the relatively small amount of economic
15 losses sustained by the individual CALIFORNIA CLASS
16 Members when compared to the substantial expense and burden
17 of individual prosecution of this litigation;
- 18 2) Class certification will obviate the need for unduly duplicative
19 litigation that would create the risk of:
 - 20 A. Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to
21 individual members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, which
22 would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the
23 DEFENDANT; and/or,
 - 24 B. Adjudications with respect to individual members of the
25 CALIFORNIA CLASS would as a practical matter be
26 dispositive of the interests of the other members not
27 parties to the adjudication or substantially impair or
28 impede their ability to protect their interests;

- 1 3) In the context of wage litigation because a substantial number of
2 individual CALIFORNIA CLASS Members will avoid asserting
3 their legal rights out of fear of retaliation by DEFENDANT,
4 which may adversely affect an individual's job with
5 DEFENDANT or with a subsequent employer, the Class Action
6 is the only means to assert their claims through a representative;
7 and,
8 4) A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair
9 and efficient adjudication of this litigation because class
10 treatment will obviate the need for unduly and unnecessary
11 duplicative litigation that is likely to result in the absence of
12 certification of this action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. §
13 382.

14 36. This Court should permit this action to be maintained as a Class Action
15 pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382 because:

- 16 (a) The questions of law and fact common to the CALIFORNIA CLASS
17 predominate over any question affecting only individual CALIFORNIA
18 CLASS Members because the DEFENDANT's employment practices
19 are applied with respect to the CALIFORNIA CLASS;
20 (b) A Class Action is superior to any other available method for the fair
21 and efficient adjudication of the claims of the members of the
22 CALIFORNIA CLASS because in the context of employment litigation
23 a substantial number of individual CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
24 will avoid asserting their rights individually out of fear of retaliation or
25 adverse impact on their employment;
26 (c) The members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are so numerous that it is
27 impractical to bring all members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS before
28 the Court;

- 1 (d) PLAINTIFF, and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, will not
2 be able to obtain effective and economic legal redress unless the action
3 is maintained as a Class Action;
- 4 (e) There is a community of interest in obtaining appropriate legal and
5 equitable relief for the acts of unfair competition, statutory violations
6 and other improprieties, and in obtaining adequate compensation for
7 the damages and injuries which DEFENDANT's actions have inflicted
8 upon the CALIFORNIA CLASS;
- 9 (f) There is a community of interest in ensuring that the combined assets of
10 DEFENDANT are sufficient to adequately compensate the members of
11 the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the injuries sustained;
- 12 (g) DEFENDANT has acted or refused to act on grounds generally
13 applicable to the CALIFORNIA CLASS, thereby making final class-
14 wide relief appropriate with respect to the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a
15 whole;
- 16 (h) The members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are readily ascertainable
17 from the business records of DEFENDANT; and,
- 18 (i) Class treatment provides manageable judicial treatment calculated to
19 bring a efficient and rapid conclusion to all litigation of all wage and
20 hour related claims arising out of the conduct of DEFENDANT as to
21 the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

22 37. DEFENDANT maintains records from which the Court can ascertain and
23 identify by job title each of DEFENDANT's employees who have been intentionally
24 subjected to DEFENDANT's company policy, practices and procedures as herein alleged.
25 PLAINTIFF will seek leave to amend the Complaint to include any additional job titles of
26 similarly situated employees when they have been identified.

27 ///

28 ///

THE CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS

38. PLAINTIFF further brings the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth causes Action on behalf of a California sub-class, defined as all members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS who are or previously were employed by DEFENDANT in California, including any employees staffed with DEFENDANT by a third party, and classified as non exempt employees (the “CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS”) at any time during the period three (3) years prior to the filing of the complaint and ending on the date as determined by the Court (the “CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD”) pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382. The amount in controversy for the aggregate claim of CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members is under five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00).

39. DEFENDANT, in violation of the applicable Labor Code, Industrial Welfare Commission (“IWC”) Wage Order requirements, and the applicable provisions of California law, intentionally, knowingly, and wilfully, engaged in a practice whereby DEFENDANT failed to correctly calculate compensation for the time worked by PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS and reporting time wages owed to these employees, even though DEFENDANT enjoyed the benefit of this work, required employees to perform this work and permitted or suffered to permit this work. DEFENDANT has denied these CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members wages to which these employees are entitled in order to unfairly cheat the competition and unlawfully profit. To the extent equitable tolling operates to toll claims by the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS against DEFENDANT, the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.

40. DEFENDANT maintains records from which the Court can ascertain and identify by name and job title, each of DEFENDANT’s employees who have been intentionally subjected to DEFENDANT’s company policy, practices and procedures as herein alleged. PLAINTIFF will seek leave to amend the complaint to include any additional job titles of similarly situated employees when they have been identified.

1 41. The CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS is so numerous that joinder of all
2 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members is impracticable.

3 42. Common questions of law and fact exist as to members of the CALIFORNIA
4 LABOR SUB-CLASS, including, but not limited, to the following:

- 5 (a) Whether DEFENDANT unlawfully failed to correctly calculate and pay
6 compensation due to members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
7 CLASS for missed meal and rest breaks in violation of the California
8 Labor Code and California regulations and the applicable California
9 Wage Order;
- 10 (b) Whether DEFENDANT failed to provide the PLAINTIFF and the other
11 members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS with accurate
12 itemized wage statements;
- 13 (c) Whether DEFENDANT has engaged in unfair competition by the
14 above-listed conduct;
- 15 (d) The proper measure of damages and penalties owed to the members of
16 the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS; and,
- 17 (e) Whether DEFENDANT's conduct was willful.

18 43. DEFENDANT violated the rights of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
19 CLASS under California law by:

- 20 (a) Violating Cal. Lab. Code § 510, by failing to correctly pay the
21 PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
22 CLASS all wages due for overtime worked, for which DEFENDANT is
23 liable pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 1194;
- 24 (b) Violating Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194, 1197 & 1197.1 *et seq.*, by failing to
25 accurately pay PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA
26 LABOR SUB-CLASS the correct minimum wage pay for which
27 DEFENDANT is liable pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194 and 1197;
- 28

- 1 (c) Violating Cal. Lab. Code § 226, by failing to provide PLAINTIFF and
2 the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS with an
3 accurate itemized statement in writing showing the corresponding
4 correct amount of wages earned by the employee;
- 5 (d) Violating Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 and 512, by failing to provide
6 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR
7 SUB-CLASS with all legally required off-duty, uninterrupted thirty
8 (30) minute meal breaks and the legally required off-duty rest breaks;
- 9 (e) Violating Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201, 202 and/or 203, which provides that
10 when an employee is discharged or quits from employment, the
11 employer must pay the employee all wages due without abatement, by
12 failing to tender full payment and/or restitution of wages owed or in the
13 manner required by California law to the members of the
14 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS who have terminated their
15 employment; and,
- 16 (f) Violating Cal. Lab. Code § 2802 by failing to reimburse PLAINTIFF
17 and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS members with necessary
18 expenses incurred in the discharge of their job duties.

19 44. This Class Action meets the statutory prerequisites for the maintenance of a
20 Class Action as set forth in Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382, in that:

- 21 (a) The persons who comprise the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS
22 are so numerous that the joinder of all CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
23 CLASS Members is impracticable and the disposition of their claims as
24 a class will benefit the parties and the Court;
- 25 (b) Nearly all factual, legal, statutory, declaratory and injunctive relief
26 issues that are raised in this Complaint are common to the
27 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS and will apply to every member
28 of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS;

- 1 (c) The claims of the representative PLAINTIFF are typical of the claims
2 of each member of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS.
3 PLAINTIFF, like all the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR
4 SUB-CLASS, was a non-exempt employee paid on an hourly basis who
5 was subjected to the DEFENDANT's practice and policy which failed
6 to pay the correct amount of wages due to the CALIFORNIA LABOR
7 SUB-CLASS. PLAINTIFF sustained economic injury as a result of
8 DEFENDANT's employment practices. PLAINTIFF and the members
9 of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS were and are similarly or
10 identically harmed by the same unlawful, deceptive, and unfair
11 misconduct engaged in by DEFENDANT; and,
- 12 (d) The representative PLAINTIFF will fairly and adequately represent and
13 protect the interest of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, and
14 has retained counsel who are competent and experienced in Class
15 Action litigation. There are no material conflicts between the claims of
16 the representative PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA
17 LABOR SUB-CLASS that would make class certification
18 inappropriate. Counsel for the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS
19 will vigorously assert the claims of all CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
20 CLASS Members.

21 45. In addition to meeting the statutory prerequisites to a Class Action, this action
22 is properly maintained as a Class Action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382, in that:

- 23 (a) Without class certification and determination of declaratory, injunctive,
24 statutory and other legal questions within the class format, prosecution
25 of separate actions by individual members of the CALIFORNIA
26 LABOR SUB-CLASS will create the risk of:
- 27 1) Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual
28 members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS which

would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the parties opposing the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS; or,

- 2) Adjudication with respect to individual members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS which would as a practical matter be dispositive of interests of the other members not party to the adjudication or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests.

- (b) The parties opposing the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, making appropriate class-wide relief with respect to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as a whole in that DEFENDANT fails to pay all wages due. Including the correct wages for all time worked by the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as required by law;

- (c) Common questions of law and fact predominate as to the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, with respect to the practices and violations of California Law as listed above, and predominate over any question affecting only individual CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members, and 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 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS in individually controlling the prosecution or defense of separate actions in that the substantial expense of individual actions will be avoided to recover the relatively small amount of economic losses sustained by the individual CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members when compared

1 to the substantial expense and burden of individual prosecution
2 of this litigation;

3 2) Class certification will obviate the need for unduly duplicative
4 litigation that would create the risk of:

5 A. Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to
6 individual members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
7 CLASS, which would establish incompatible standards of
8 conduct for the DEFENDANT; and/or,

9 B. Adjudications with respect to individual members of the
10 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS would as a
11 practical matter be dispositive of the interests of the other
12 members not parties to the adjudication or substantially
13 impair or impede their ability to protect their interests;

14 3) In the context of wage litigation because a substantial number of
15 individual CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members will
16 avoid asserting their legal rights out of fear of retaliation by
17 DEFENDANT, which may adversely affect an individual's job
18 with DEFENDANT or with a subsequent employer, the Class
19 Action is the only means to assert their claims through a
20 representative; and,

21 4) A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair
22 and efficient adjudication of this litigation because class
23 treatment will obviate the need for unduly and unnecessary
24 duplicative litigation that is likely to result in the absence of
25 certification of this action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. §
26 382.

27 46. This Court should permit this action to be maintained as a Class Action
28 pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382 because:

- 1 (a) The questions of law and fact common to the CALIFORNIA LABOR
2 SUB-CLASS predominate over any question affecting only individual
3 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members;
- 4 (b) A Class Action is superior to any other available method for the fair
5 and efficient adjudication of the claims of the members of the
6 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS because in the context of
7 employment litigation a substantial number of individual
8 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members will avoid asserting
9 their rights individually out of fear of retaliation or adverse impact on
10 their employment;
- 11 (c) The members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS are so
12 numerous that it is impractical to bring all members of the
13 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS before the Court;
- 14 (d) PLAINTIFF, and the other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS
15 Members, will not be able to obtain effective and economic legal
16 redress unless the action is maintained as a Class Action;
- 17 (e) There is a community of interest in obtaining appropriate legal and
18 equitable relief for the acts of unfair competition, statutory violations
19 and other improprieties, and in obtaining adequate compensation for
20 the damages and injuries which DEFENDANT's actions have inflicted
21 upon the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS;
- 22 (f) There is a community of interest in ensuring that the combined assets of
23 DEFENDANT are sufficient to adequately compensate the members of
24 the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS for the injuries sustained;
- 25 (g) DEFENDANT has acted or refused to act on grounds generally
26 applicable to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, thereby
27 making final class-wide relief appropriate with respect to the
28 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as a whole;

- 1 (h) The members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS are readily
2 ascertainable from the business records of DEFENDANT. The
3 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS consists of all CALIFORNIA
4 CLASS Members who worked for DEFENDANT in California at any
5 time during the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD; and,
6 (i) Class treatment provides manageable judicial treatment calculated to
7 bring a efficient and rapid conclusion to all litigation of all wage and
8 hour related claims arising out of the conduct of DEFENDANT as to
9 the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS.

10
11 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

12 **For Unlawful Business Practices**

13 **[Cal. Bus. And Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*]**

14 **(By PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS and Against All Defendants)**

15 47. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege
16 and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of
17 this Complaint.

18 48. DEFENDANT is a “person” as that term is defined under Cal. Bus. and Prof.
19 Code § 17021.

20 49. California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* (the “UCL”)
21 defines unfair competition as any unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business act or practice.
22 Section 17203 authorizes injunctive, declaratory, and/or other equitable relief with respect to
23 unfair competition as follows:

24 Any person who engages, has engaged, or proposes to engage in unfair
25 competition may be enjoined in any court of competent jurisdiction. The court
26 may make such orders or judgments, including the appointment of a receiver,
27 as may be necessary to prevent the use or employment by any person of any
28 practice which constitutes unfair competition, as defined in this chapter, or as
may be necessary to restore to any person in interest any money or property,
real or personal, which may have been acquired by means of such unfair
competition.

1 Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203.

2 50. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT has engaged and continues to
3 engage in a business practice which violates California law, including but not limited to, the
4 applicable Industrial Wage Order(s), the California Code of Regulations and the California
5 Labor Code including Sections 221, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2802
6 and the Fair Labor Standards Act and federal regulations promulgated thereunder, for which
7 this Court should issue declaratory and other equitable relief pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof.
8 Code § 17203 as may be necessary to prevent and remedy the conduct held to constitute
9 unfair competition, including restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.

10 51. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were unlawful and
11 unfair in that these practices violate public policy, were immoral, unethical, oppressive,
12 unscrupulous or substantially injurious to employees, and were without valid justification or
13 utility for which this Court should issue equitable and injunctive relief pursuant to Section
14 17203 of the California Business & Professions Code, including restitution of wages
15 wrongfully withheld.

16 52. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were deceptive and
17 fraudulent in that DEFENDANT's policy and practice failed to provide the legally mandated
18 meal and rest periods, the required amount of compensation for missed meal and rest
19 periods and overtime and minimum wages owed, failed to timely pay wages, and failed to
20 reimburse all necessary business expenses incurred, and failed to provide Fair Labor
21 Standards Act overtime wages due for overtime worked as a result of failing to include non-
22 discretionary incentive compensation into their regular rates of pay for purposes of
23 computing the proper overtime pay due to a business practice that cannot be justified,
24 pursuant to the applicable Cal. Lab. Code, and Industrial Welfare Commission requirements
25 in violation of Cal. Bus. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, and for which this Court should issue
26 injunctive and equitable relief, pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203, including
27 restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.

1 53. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were also unlawful,
2 unfair and deceptive in that DEFENDANT's employment practices caused PLAINTIFF and
3 the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to be underpaid during their employment
4 with DEFENDANT.

5 54. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were also unlawful,
6 unfair and deceptive in that DEFENDANT's policies, practices and procedures failed to
7 provide all legally required meal breaks to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
8 CALIFORNIA CLASS as required by Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 and 512.

9 55. Therefore, PLAINTIFF demands on behalf of herself and on behalf of each
10 CALIFORNIA CLASS Member, one (1) hour of pay for each workday in which an off-duty
11 meal period was not timely provided for each five (5) hours of work, and/or one (1) hour of
12 pay for each workday in which a second off-duty meal period was not timely provided for
13 each ten (10) hours of work.

14 56. PLAINTIFF further demands on behalf of herself and each member of the
15 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, one (1) hour of pay for each workday in which an off
16 duty paid rest period was not timely provided as required by law.

17 57. By and through the unlawful and unfair business practices described herein,
18 DEFENDANT has obtained valuable property, money and services from PLAINTIFF and
19 the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, including earned wages for all time
20 worked, and has deprived them of valuable rights and benefits guaranteed by law and
21 contract, all to the detriment of these employees and to the benefit of DEFENDANT so as to
22 allow DEFENDANT to unfairly compete against competitors who comply with the law.

23 58. All the acts described herein as violations of, among other things, the
24 Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, the California Code of Regulations, and the
25 California Labor Code, were unlawful and in violation of public policy, were immoral,
26 unethical, oppressive and unscrupulous, were deceptive, and thereby constitute unlawful,
27 unfair and deceptive business practices in violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et*
28 *seq.*

1 59. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are entitled
2 to, and do, seek such relief as may be necessary to restore to them the money and property
3 which DEFENDANT has acquired, or of which PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
4 CALIFORNIA CLASS have been deprived, by means of the above described unlawful and
5 unfair business practices, including earned but unpaid wages for all time worked.

6 60. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are further
7 entitled to, and do, seek a declaration that the described business practices are unlawful,
8 unfair and deceptive, and that injunctive relief should be issued restraining DEFENDANT
9 from engaging in any unlawful and unfair business practices in the future.

10 61. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS have no
11 plain, speedy and/or adequate remedy at law that will end the unlawful and unfair business
12 practices of DEFENDANT. Further, the practices herein alleged presently continue to occur
13 unabated. As a result of the unlawful and unfair business practices described herein,
14 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS have suffered and will
15 continue to suffer irreparable legal and economic harm unless DEFENDANT is restrained
16 from continuing to engage in these unlawful and unfair business practices.

17
18 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

19 **For Failure To Pay Minimum Wages**

20 **[Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194, 1197 and 1197.1]**

21 **(By PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS**

22 **and Against All Defendants)**

23 62. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
24 CLASS, reallege and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior
25 paragraphs of this Complaint.

26 63. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
27 CLASS bring a claim for DEFENDANT's willful and intentional violations of the
28 California Labor Code and the Industrial Welfare Commission requirements for

1 DEFENDANT's failure to accurately calculate and pay minimum wages to PLAINTIFF and
2 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

3 64. Cal. Lab. Code § 1197 provides the minimum wage for employees fixed by
4 the commission is the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a less
5 wage than the minimum so fixed is unlawful.

6 65. Cal. Lab. Code § 1194 establishes an employee's right to recover unpaid
7 wages, including minimum wage compensation and interest thereon, together with the costs
8 of suit.

9 66. DEFENDANT maintained a wage practice of paying PLAINTIFF and the
10 other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS without regard to the correct
11 amount of time they work. As set forth herein, DEFENDANT's policy and practice was to
12 unlawfully and intentionally deny timely payment of wages due to PLAINTIFF and the
13 other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS.

14 67. DEFENDANT's unlawful wage and hour practices manifested, without
15 limitation, applicable to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as a whole, as a result of
16 implementing a policy and practice that denies accurate compensation to PLAINTIFF and
17 the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS in regards to minimum
18 wage pay.

19 68. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, DEFENDANT
20 inaccurately calculated the correct time worked and consequently underpaid the actual time
21 worked by PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS.
22 DEFENDANT acted in an illegal attempt to avoid the payment of all earned wages, and
23 other benefits in violation of the California Labor Code, the Industrial Welfare Commission
24 requirements and other applicable laws and regulations.

25 69. As a direct result of DEFENDANT's unlawful wage practices as alleged
26 herein, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS did
27 not receive the correct minimum wage compensation for their time worked for
28 DEFENDANT.

1 70. During the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT
2 required, permitted or suffered PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS
3 Members to work without paying them for all the time they were under DEFENDANT's
4 control. During the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the
5 other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS were paid less for time worked
6 that they were entitled to, constituting a failure to pay all earned wages.

7 71. By virtue of DEFENDANT's unlawful failure to accurately pay all earned
8 compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
9 CLASS for the true time they worked, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
10 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS have suffered and will continue to suffer an
11 economic injury in amounts which are presently unknown to them and which will be
12 ascertained according to proof at trial.

13 72. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other
14 members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS were under compensated for their
15 time worked. DEFENDANT elected, either through intentional malfeasance or gross
16 nonfeasance, to not pay employees for their labor as a matter of company policy, practice
17 and procedure, and DEFENDANT perpetrated this scheme by refusing to pay PLAINTIFF
18 and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS the correct minimum
19 wages for their time worked.

20 73. In performing the acts and practices herein alleged in violation of California
21 labor laws, and refusing to compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
22 CLASS for all time worked and provide them with the requisite compensation,
23 DEFENDANT acted and continues to act intentionally, oppressively, and maliciously
24 toward PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS
25 with a conscious and utter disregard for their legal rights, or the consequences to them, and
26 with the despicable intent of depriving them of their property and legal rights, and otherwise
27 causing them injury in order to increase company profits at the expense of these employees.
28

74. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS therefore request recovery of all unpaid wages, according to proof, interest, statutory costs, as well as the assessment of any statutory penalties against DEFENDANT, in a sum as provided by the California Labor Code and/or other applicable statutes. To the extent minimum wage compensation is determined to be owed to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members who have terminated their employment, DEFENDANT's conduct also violates Labor Code §§ 201 and/or 202, and therefore these individuals are also be entitled to waiting time penalties under Cal. Lab. Code § 203, which penalties are sought herein on behalf of these CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members. DEFENDANT's conduct as alleged herein was willful, intentional and not in good faith. Further, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members are entitled to seek and recover statutory costs.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

For Failure To Pay Overtime Compensation

[Cal. Lab. Code § 510]

(By PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS and Against All Defendants)

75. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, reallege and incorporate by this reference, as though full set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this Complaint.

76. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS bring a claim for DEFENDANT's willful and intentional violations of the California Labor Code and the Industrial Welfare Commission requirements for DEFENDANT's failure to pay these employees for all overtime worked, including, work performed in excess of eight (8) hours in a workday, and/or twelve (12) hours in a workday, and/or forty (40) hours in any workweek.

1 77. Cal. Lab. Code § 510 further provides that employees in California shall not
2 be employed more than eight (8) hours per workday and more than forty (40) hours per
3 workweek unless they receive additional compensation beyond their regular wages in
4 amounts specified by law.

5 78. Cal. Lab. Code § 1194 establishes an employee's right to recover unpaid
6 wages, including minimum wage and overtime compensation and interest thereon, together
7 with the costs of suit. Cal. Lab. Code § 1198 further states that the employment of an
8 employee for longer hours than those fixed by the Industrial Welfare Commission is
9 unlawful.

10 79. During the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and
11 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members were required, permitted or suffered by
12 DEFENDANT to work for DEFENDANT and were not paid for all the time they worked,
13 including overtime work.

14 80. DEFENDANT's unlawful wage and hour practices manifested, without
15 limitation, applicable to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as a whole, as a result of
16 implementing a policy and practice that failed to accurately record overtime worked by
17 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members and denied accurate
18 compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
19 CLASS for overtime worked, including, the overtime work performed in excess of eight (8)
20 hours in a workday, and/or twelve (12) hours in a workday, and/or forty (40) hours in any
21 workweek.

22 81. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, DEFENDANT
23 inaccurately recorded overtime worked and consequently underpaid the overtime worked by
24 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR-SUB CLASS Members. DEFENDANT
25 acted in an illegal attempt to avoid the payment of all earned wages, and other benefits in
26 violation of the California Labor Code, the Industrial Welfare Commission requirements
27 and other applicable laws and regulations. As a direct result of DEFENDANT's unlawful
28 wage practices as alleged herein, the PLAINTIFF and the other members of the

1 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS did not receive full compensation for overtime
2 worked.

3 82. Cal. Lab. Code § 515 sets out various categories of employees who are exempt
4 from the overtime requirements of the law. None of these exemptions are applicable to the
5 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS. Further,
6 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS were not
7 subject to a valid collective bargaining agreement that would preclude the causes of action
8 contained herein this Complaint. Rather, PLAINTIFF brings this Action on behalf of
9 herself and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS based on DEFENDANT's violations
10 of non-negotiable, non-waiveable rights provided by the State of California.

11 83. During the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and
12 the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS have been paid less for
13 overtime worked that they are entitled to, constituting a failure to pay all earned wages.

14 84. DEFENDANT failed to accurately pay the PLAINTIFF and the other
15 members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS overtime wages for the time they
16 worked which was in excess of the maximum hours permissible by law as required by Cal.
17 Lab. Code §§ 510, 1194 & 1198, even though PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
18 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS were required to work, and did in fact work, overtime
19 as to which DEFENDANT failed to accurately record and pay as evidenced by
20 DEFENDANT's business records and witnessed by employees.

21 85. By virtue of DEFENDANT's unlawful failure to accurately pay all earned
22 compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
23 CLASS for the true amount of time they worked, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
24 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS have suffered and will continue to suffer an
25 economic injury in amounts which are presently unknown to them and which will be
26 ascertained according to proof at trial.

27 86. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other
28 members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS were under compensated for all

1 overtime worked. DEFENDANT elected, either through intentional malfeasance or gross
2 nonfeasance, to not pay employees for their labor as a matter of company policy, practice
3 and procedure, and DEFENDANT perpetrated this scheme by refusing to pay PLAINTIFF
4 and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS for overtime worked.

5 87. In performing the acts and practices herein alleged in violation of California
6 labor laws, and refusing to compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
7 CLASS for all overtime worked and provide them with the requisite overtime compensation,
8 DEFENDANT acted and continues to act intentionally, oppressively, and maliciously
9 toward PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS
10 with a conscious of and utter disregard for their legal rights, or the consequences to them,
11 and with the despicable intent of depriving them of their property and legal rights, and
12 otherwise causing them injury in order to increase company profits at the expense of these
13 employees.

14 88. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
15 CLASS therefore request recovery of all overtime wages, according to proof, interest,
16 statutory costs, as well as the assessment of any statutory penalties against DEFENDANT,
17 in a sum as provided by the California Labor Code and/or other applicable statutes. To the
18 extent minimum and/or overtime compensation is determined to be owed to the
19 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members who have terminated their employment,
20 DEFENDANT's conduct also violates Labor Code §§ 201 and/or 202, and therefore these
21 individuals are also be entitled to waiting time penalties under Cal. Lab. Code § 203, which
22 penalties are sought herein on behalf of these CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS
23 Members. DEFENDANT's conduct as alleged herein was willful, intentional and not in
24 good faith. Further, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members
25 are entitled to seek and recover statutory costs.

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1 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **For Failure to Provide Required Meal Periods**

3 **[Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 & 512]**

4 **(By PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS and Against All**
5 **Defendants)**

6 89. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
7 CLASS, reallege and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior
8 paragraphs of this Complaint.

9 90. During the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT from time to time
10 failed to provide all the legally required off-duty meal breaks to PLAINTIFF and the other
11 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members as required by the applicable Wage Order
12 and Labor Code. The nature of the work performed by PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA
13 LABOR SUB-CLASS MEMBERS did not prevent these employees from being relieved of
14 all of their duties for the legally required off-duty meal periods. As a result of their rigorous
15 work schedules, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members
16 were from time to time not fully relieved of duty by DEFENDANT for their meal periods.
17 Additionally, DEFENDANT's failure to provide PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA
18 LABOR SUB-CLASS Members with legally required meal breaks prior to their fifth (5th)
19 hour of work is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records from time to time. Further,
20 DEFENDANT failed to provide PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with a
21 second off-duty meal period in some workdays in which these employees were required by
22 DEFENDANT to work ten (10) hours of work from time to time. As a result, PLAINTIFF
23 and other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS therefore forfeited meal
24 breaks without additional compensation and in accordance with DEFENDANT's strict
25 corporate policy and practice.

26 91. DEFENDANT further violates California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and the
27 applicable IWC Wage Order by failing to compensate PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA
28 LABOR SUB-CLASS Members who were not provided a meal period, in accordance with

1 the applicable Wage Order, one additional hour of compensation at each employee's regular
2 rate of pay for each workday that a meal period was not provided.

3 92. As a proximate result of the aforementioned violations, PLAINTIFF and
4 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members have been damaged in an amount according
5 to proof at trial, and seek all wages earned and due, interest, penalties, expenses and costs of
6 suit.

7 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

8 **For Failure to Provide Required Rest Periods**

9 **[Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 & 512]**

10 **(By PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS and Against All**
11 **Defendants)**

12 93. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
13 CLASS, reallege and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior
14 paragraphs of this Complaint.

15 94. PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members were
16 from time to time required to work in excess of four (4) hours without being provided ten
17 (10) minute rest periods. Further, these employees from time to time were denied their first
18 rest periods of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of at least two (2) to four (4)
19 hours, a first and second rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of
20 between six (6) and eight (8) hours, and a first, second and third rest period of at least ten
21 (10) minutes for some shifts worked of ten (10) hours or more from time to time.

22 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members were also not
23 provided with one hour wages in lieu thereof. As a result of their rigorous work schedules,
24 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members were periodically
25 denied their proper rest periods by DEFENDANT and DEFENDANT's managers.

26 95. DEFENDANT further violated California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and the
27 applicable IWC Wage Order by failing to compensate PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA
28 LABOR SUB-CLASS Members who were not provided a rest period, in accordance with

1 the applicable Wage Order, one additional hour of compensation at each employee's regular
2 rate of pay for each workday that rest period was not provided.

3 96. As a proximate result of the aforementioned violations, PLAINTIFF and
4 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members have been damaged in an amount according
5 to proof at trial, and seek all wages earned and due, interest, penalties, expenses and costs of
6 suit.

7 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

8 **For Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Statements**

9 **[Cal. Lab. Code § 226]**

10 **(By PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS and Against All**
11 **Defendants)**

12 97. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
13 CLASS, reallege and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior
14 paragraphs of this Complaint.

15 98. Cal. Labor Code § 226 provides that an employer must furnish employees with
16 an "accurate itemized" statement in writing showing:

- 17 (1) gross wages earned,
- 18 (2) total hours worked by the employee, except for any employee whose
19 compensation is solely based on a salary and who is exempt from payment of
20 overtime under subdivision (a) of Section 515 or any applicable order of the
21 Industrial Welfare Commission,
- 22 (3) the number of piecerate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee
23 is paid on a piece-rate basis,
- 24 (4) all deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the
25 employee may be aggregated and shown as one item,
- 26 (5) net wages earned,
- 27 (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid,
- 28 (7) the name of the employee and his or her social security number, except that by
January 1, 2008, only the last four digits of his or her social security number or an
employee identification number other than a social security number may be shown on
the itemized statement,
- (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.

99. From time to time, DEFENDANT also failed to provide PLAINTIFF and the
other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS with complete and accurate

1 wage statements which failed to show, among other things, the correct gross and net wages
2 earned. Cal. Lab. Code § 226 provides that every employer shall furnish each of his or her
3 employees with an accurate itemized wage statement in writing showing, among other
4 things, gross wages earned and all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and
5 the corresponding amount of time worked at each hourly rate. PLAINTIFF and
6 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members were paid on an hourly basis. As such, the
7 wage statements should reflect all applicable hourly rates during the pay period and the total
8 hours worked, and the applicable pay period in which the wages were earned pursuant to
9 California Labor Code Section 226(a). The wage statements DEFENDANT provided to
10 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members failed to identify
11 such information. More specifically, the wage statements failed to identify the accurate total
12 hours worked each pay period. When the hours shown on the wage statements were added
13 up, they did not equal the actual total hours worked during the pay period in violation of Cal.
14 Lab. Code 226(a)(2). Aside, from the violations listed above in this paragraph,
15 DEFENDANT failed to issue to PLAINTIFF an itemized wage statement that lists all the
16 requirements under California Labor Code 226 *et seq.* As a result, DEFENDANT from time
17 to time provided PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
18 CLASS with wage statements which violated Cal. Lab. Code § 226.

19 100. DEFENDANT knowingly and intentionally failed to comply with Cal. Lab.
20 Code § 226, causing injury and damages to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
21 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS. These damages include, but are not limited to, costs
22 expended calculating the correct wages for all missed meal and rest breaks and the amount
23 of employment taxes which were not properly paid to state and federal tax authorities.
24 These damages are difficult to estimate. Therefore, PLAINTIFF and the other members of
25 the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS may elect to recover liquidated damages of fifty
26 dollars (\$50.00) for the initial pay period in which the violation occurred, and one hundred
27 dollars (\$100.00) for each violation in a subsequent pay period pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code §
28 226, in an amount according to proof at the time of trial (but in no event more than four

1 thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) for PLAINTIFF and each respective member of the
2 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS herein).

3
4 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

5 **For Failure to Reimburse Employees for Required Expenses**

6 **[Cal. Lab. Code § 2802]**

7 **(By PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS and Against All**
8 **Defendants)**

9 101. PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS members
10 reallege and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior
11 paragraphs of this Complaint.

12 102. Cal. Lab. Code § 2802 provides, in relevant part, that:

13 An employer shall indemnify his or her employee for all necessary
14 expenditures or losses incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the
15 discharge of his or her duties, or of his or her obedience to the directions of
the employer, even though unlawful, unless the employee, at the time of
obeying the directions, believed them to be unlawful.

16 103. At all relevant times herein, DEFENDANT violated Cal. Lab. Code § 2802,
17 by failing to indemnify and reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
18 CLASS members for required expenses incurred in the discharge of their job duties for
19 DEFENDANT's benefit. DEFENDANT failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF and the
20 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS members for expenses which included, but were not
21 limited to, costs related to using their personal cellular phones on behalf of and for the
22 benefit of DEFENDANT. Specifically, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR
23 SUB-CLASS Members were required by DEFENDANT to use their personal cellular
24 phones and home offices in order to perform work related job tasks. DEFENDANT's policy
25 and practice was to not reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
26 CLASS members for expenses resulting from using their personal cellular phones and home
27 offices for DEFENDANT within the course and scope of their employment for
28

1 DEFENDANT. These expenses were necessary to complete their principal job duties.
2 DEFENDANT is estopped by DEFENDANT's conduct to assert any waiver of this
3 expectation. Although these expenses were necessary expenses incurred by PLAINTIFF
4 and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS members, DEFENDANT failed to indemnify
5 and reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS members for
6 these expenses as an employer is required to do under the laws and regulations of California.

7 104. PLAINTIFF therefore demands reimbursement for expenditures or losses
8 incurred by herself and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS members in the discharge
9 of their job duties for DEFENDANT, or their obedience to the directions of DEFENDANT,
10 with interest at the statutory rate and costs under Cal. Lab. Code § 2802.

11 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

12 **For Failure to Pay Sick Pay Wages**

13 **[Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201-203, 233, 246]**

14 **(By PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS**
15 **and Against All Defendants)**

16 105. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
17 CLASS, reallege and incorporate by reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior
18 paragraphs of this Complaint.

19 106. Cal Lab. Code § 233 provides that an employer must permit an employee to
20 use accrued sick leave in accordance with Cal Lab. Code § 246.5 at the employee's then
21 current rate of entitlement. Cal Lab. Code § 246 provides that an employee is entitled to
22 sick pay wages for use of accrued sick leave pursuant to Cal Lab. Code § 246.5.
23 Specifically, once accrued sick leave is used as paid sick time, an employee has a vested
24 right to sick pay wages, which an employer must calculate and compensate based on one of
25 two calculations: (i) "Paid sick time for nonexempt employees shall be calculated in the
26 same manner as the regular rate of pay for the workweek in which the employee uses paid
27 sick time, whether or not the employee actually works overtime in that workweek," or (ii)
28 "Paid sick time for nonexempt employees shall be calculated by dividing the employee's

1 total wages, not including overtime premium pay, by the employee's total hours worked in
2 the full pay periods of the prior 90 days of employment." Under Cal Lab. Code §§ 218 and
3 233, employees may sue to recover underpaid sick pay wages as damages.

4 107. As a matter of policy and practice, DEFENDANT pays sick pay wages to
5 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS at the
6 incorrect rate of pay. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR-
7 SUB-CLASS regularly use accrued sick leave in the workweeks in which they also earn
8 non-hourly remuneration. As a matter of policy and practice, DEFENDANT pays sick pay
9 wages to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR-SUB-CLASS
10 at the base hourly pay, as opposed to the regular rate of pay, which would consider all non-
11 hourly remuneration in addition to base hourly wages, or the rate resulting from dividing the
12 employee's total wages, not including overtime premium pay, by the employee's total hours
13 worked in the full pay periods of the prior 90 days of employment. As a result,
14 DEFENDANT underpaid sick pay wages to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
15 CALIFORNIA LABOR-SUB-CLASS.

16 108. Cal. Lab. Code § 246 specifically requires that, upon use of accrued sick
17 leave, vested sick pay wages are due and to be paid no later than the payday for the next
18 regular payroll period after accrued sick leave is used as paid sick time. Similarly, Cal. Lab.
19 Code § 201 provides that if an employer discharges an employee, wages earned and unpaid
20 at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately. Cal. Lab. Code § 202 provides
21 that an employee is entitled to receive all unpaid wages no later than 72 hours after an
22 employee quits his or her employment, unless the employee has given 72-hour notice of his
23 or her intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time
24 of quitting. The Labor Code penalizes untimely payments. For example, Cal. Lab. Code §
25 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to pay wages owed in accordance with Cal.
26 Lab. Code §§ 201-202, then the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the
27 due date, and at the same rate until paid, but the wages shall not continue for more than
28

thirty (30) days. Under Cal. Lab. Code §§ 203 and 218, employees may sue to recover applicable penalties.

109. As alleged herein and as a matter of policy and practice, DEFENDANT routinely underpays sick pay wages and thus did not timely pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR-SUB-CLASS all owing and underpaid sick pay wages. As a result, DEFENDANT violates Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201-203, 233, and 246, among other Labor Code provisions. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes that DEFENDANT was advised by skilled lawyers and knew, or should have known, of the mandates of the Labor Code as it relates to PLAINTIFF's allegations, especially since the California Supreme Court has explained that "[c]ourts have recognized that 'wages' also include those benefits to which an employee is entitled as a part of his or her compensation, including money, room, board, clothing, vacation pay, and sick pay." *Murphy v. Kenneth Cole Prods., Inc.*, 40 Cal. 4th 1094, 1103 (2007)(emphasis added). Because DEFENDANT willfully fails to timely pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR-SUB-CLASS all sick pay wages due, DEFENDANT is subject to applicable penalties.

110. Such a pattern, practice, and uniform administration of corporate policy is unlawful and entitles PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR-SUB-CLASS to underpaid sick pay wages, including interest thereon, applicable penalties, attorney's fees, and costs of suit.

NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION

**[Disability and/or Leave Discrimination and Retaliation For the Exercise of Rights
Guaranteed Under the FEHA, Participating in Protected Activities, and/or Opposing**

DEFENDANT's Failure to Provide Such Rights]

Violation of FEHA Government Section 12900, et. seq.

(By PLAINTIFF Against All Defendants)

111. PLAINTIFF realleges and incorporates by reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this Complaint.

1 112. In September and October of 2023, PLAINTIFF reported to DEFENDANT in
2 writing that PLAINTIFF needed accommodation and time off from work due to emotional
3 distress and anxiety caused by harassment at her work place. PLAINTIFF went on leave
4 during this time. In or around November of 2023, PLAINTIFF consulted with a doctor
5 again still regarding health issues PLAINTIFF had been experiencing as a result of the
6 hostile and discriminatory workplace she was experiencing and her Dr. Ordered her off
7 work to be evaluated in four weeks. PLAINTIFF adhered to the doctor's orders and stayed
8 on medical leave. PLAINTIFF returned to work with DEFENDANT in 2024, but
9 unfortunately her workplace only worsened and her requests for accommodation and relief
10 fell on deaf ears. DEFENDANT retaliated against PLAINTIFF by, including, but not
11 limited to, reducing her hours and assigning her on undesirable work shifts.
12 DEFENDANT's conduct during the first quarter of 2024 created a hostile and
13 discriminatory workplace for PLAINTIFF. Ultimately, while at work on March 8th, 2024,
14 Plaintiff suffered a serious stroke and went to the emergency room. PLAINTIFF is still
15 recovering from her stroke at the time of filing this complaint. DEFENDANT's conduct is
16 in violation of various fundamental public policies underlying state laws. Specifically,
17 PLAINTIFF's was retaliated against in part because of PLAINTIFF's protected status (i.e.,
18 disability, medical leave, and/or good faith complaints). These actions were in violation of
19 FEHA, the California Constitution, and California Labor Code Section 1102.5. Prior to
20 filing this action PLAINTIFF exhausted her administrative remedies by filing a timely
21 administrative complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing ("DFEH")
22 and received a DFEH Right to Sue letter on April 4, 2024.

23 113. DEFENDANT's conduct, as alleged, violated FEHA, Government Code
24 Section 12900, *et seq.*, and DEFENDANT committed unlawful employment practices,
25 including the following bases for liability:

26 a. Taking adverse employment actions against PLAINTIFF, including
27 discharging, barring, refusing to transfer, retain, hire, select, and/or employ, and/or
28

1 otherwise discriminating against PLAINTIFF, in whole or in part on the basis of
2 PLAINTIFF's disability/medical condition/goof faith complaints;

3 b. Retaliating against PLAINTIFF for seeking to exercise rights
4 guaranteed under FEHA, participating in protected activities, and/or opposing
5 DEFENDANT's failure to provide such rights.

6 114. As a proximate result of DEFENDANT's willful, knowing, and intentional
7 discrimination against PLAINTIFF, PLAINTIFF has sustained and continues to sustain
8 substantial losses of earnings and other employment benefits.

9 115. As a proximate result of DEFENDANT's willful, knowing, and intentional
10 discrimination against PLAINTIFF, PLAINTIFF has suffered and continues to suffer
11 humiliation, emotional distress, and physical and mental pain and anguish, all to his damage
12 in a sum according to proof.

13 116. PLAINTIFF has incurred and continues to incur legal expenses and attorneys'
14 fees. Pursuant to Government Code Section 12965(b), PLAINTIFF is entitled to recover
15 reasonable attorneys' fees and costs (including expert costs) in an amount according to
16 proof.

17 117. DEFENDANT's misconduct was committed intentionally, in a malicious,
18 oppressive manner, and fraudulent manner entitling PLAINTIFF to punitive damages
19 against DEFENDANT.

20
21 **TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

22 **Retaliation**

23 **[Violation of Cal. Lab. Code § 1102.5, *et seq.*]**

24 **(By PLAINTIFF Against All Defendants)**

25 118. PLAINTIFF realleges and incorporates by reference, as though fully set forth
26 herein, the prior paragraphs of this Complaint.

27 119. At all relevant times, Labor Code section 1102.5 was in effect and was
28 binding on DEFENDANT. This statute prohibits DEFENDANT from retaliating against

1 any employee, including PLAINTIFF, for raising complaints of illegality and/or belief that
2 the employee may disclose illegality.

3 120. In September and October of 2023, PLAINTIFF reported to DEFENDANT in
4 writing that PLAINTIFF needed accommodation and time off from work due to emotional
5 distress and anxiety caused by harassment at her work place. PLAINTIFF went on leave
6 during this time. In or around November of 2023, PLAINTIFF consulted with a doctor
7 again still regarding health issues PLAINTIFF had been experiencing as a result of the
8 hostile and discriminatory workplace she was experiencing and her Dr. Ordered her off
9 work to be evaluated in four weeks. PLAINTIFF adhered to the doctor's orders and stayed
10 on medical leave. PLAINTIFF returned to work with DEFENDANT in 2024, but
11 unfortunately her workplace only worsened and her requests for accommodation and relief
12 fell on deaf ears. DEFENDANT retaliated against PLAINTIFF by, including, but not
13 limited to, reducing her hours and assigning her on undesirable work shifts.

14 DEFENDANT's conduct during the first quarter of 2024 created a hostile and
15 discriminatory workplace for PLAINTIFF. Ultimately, while at work on March 8th, 2024,
16 Plaintiff suffered a serious stroke and went to the emergency room. PLAINTIFF is still
17 recovering from her stroke at the time of filing this complaint. DEFENDANT's conduct is
18 in violation of various fundamental public policies underlying state laws. Specifically,
19 PLAINTIFF's was retaliated against in part because of PLAINTIFF's protected status (i.e.,
20 disability, medical leave, and/or good faith complaints). These actions were in violation of
21 FEHA, the California Constitution, and California Labor Code Section 1102.5. PLAINTIFF
22 raised complaints of illegality while PLAINTIFF worked for DEFENDANT and was
23 believed to be willing to raise complaints, and DEFENDANT retaliated against
24 PLAINTIFF by taking adverse employment action against PLAINTIFF as stated herein.

25 121. As a proximate result of DEFENDANT'S willful, knowing, and intentional
26 violation(s) of Labor Code section 1102.5, PLAINTIFF has suffered and continues to suffer
27 humiliation, emotional distress, and mental and physical pain and anguish, all to
28 PLAINTIFF's damage in a sum according to proof.

122. As a result of DEFENDANT'S adverse employment actions against PLAINTIFF, PLAINTIFF has suffered general and special damages in sums according to proof.

123. DEFENDANT'S misconduct was committed intentionally, in a malicious, oppressive manner, and fraudulent manner entitling PLAINTIFF to punitive damages against defendants.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF prays for judgment against each Defendant, jointly and severally, as follows:

1. On behalf of the CALIFORNIA CLASS:

- A) That the Court certify the First Cause of Action asserted by the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a class action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382;
- B) An order temporarily, preliminarily and permanently enjoining and restraining DEFENDANT from engaging in similar unlawful conduct as set forth herein;
- C) An order requiring DEFENDANT to pay all wages and all sums unlawfully withheld from compensation due to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS; and,
- D) Restitutionary disgorgement of DEFENDANT's ill-gotten gains into a fluid fund for restitution of the sums incidental to DEFENDANT's violations due to PLAINTIFF and to the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

2. On behalf of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS:

- A) That the Court certify the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Causes of Action asserted by the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as a class action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382;
- B) Compensatory damages, according to proof at trial, including compensatory damages for minimum and overtime compensation due PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, during the applicable

CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD plus interest thereon at the statutory rate;

C) The greater of all actual damages or fifty dollars (\$50) for the initial pay period in which a violation occurs and one hundred dollars (\$100) per each member of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS for each violation in a subsequent pay period, not exceeding an aggregate penalty of four thousand dollars (\$4,000), and an award of costs for violation of Cal. Lab. Code § 226;

D) Meal and rest period compensation pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7, 512 and the applicable IWC Wage Order;

E) For liquidated damages pursuant to California Labor Code Sections 1194.2 and 1197;

F) The amount of the expenses PLAINTIFF and each member of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUBCLASS incurred in the course of their job duties, plus interest, and costs of suit.; and,

G) The wages of all terminated employees in the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as a penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or until an action therefore is commenced, in accordance with Cal. Lab. Code § 203.

3. On behalf of PLAINTIFF for the Ninth and Tenth causes of action:

A) Compensatory damages, according to proof at trial, but in excess of \$25,000.

B) Special and General damages according to proof;

C) Statutory damages, penalties and attorney's fees;

D) For punitive damages in an amount necessary to make an example of and to punish DEFENDANT and deter DEFENDANT from engaging in future similar conduct;

E) For loss of earnings (both past and future); and,

F) For interest at the legal rate in an amount according to proof.

4. On all claims:

A) An award of interest, including prejudgment interest at the legal rate;

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- B) Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable; and,
- C) An award of penalties, attorneys’ fees and cost of suit, as allowable under the law, including, but not limited to, pursuant to Labor Code §221, §226, §1194, and/or §2802.

Dated: April 2, 2024 BLUMENTHAL NORDREHAUG BHOWMIK DE BLOUW LLP

By: _____
Norman B. Blumenthal
Nicholas J. De Blouw
Attorneys for Plaintiff

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DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL

PLAINTIFF demands a jury trial on issues triable to a jury.

Dated: April 2, 2024 BLUMENTHAL NORDREHAUG BHOWMIK DE BLOUW LLP

By: _____
Norman B. Blumenthal
Nicholas J. De Blouw

Attorneys for Plaintiff