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1004

March 26, 2024

CA3253

VIA ONLINE FILING TO LWDA AND CERTIFIED MAIL TO DEFENDANT

Labor and Workforce Development Agency
Online Filing

OHLA USA, INC.
Certified Mail #9589071052700408543106
Cogency Global Inc.
ERIN HAGGERTY
1325 J ST STE 1550,
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

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, 2100 *et seq.*, 2107(d), 2108, 2802, 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 OHLA USA, Inc. in California, including any employees staffed with OHLA USA, Inc. by a third party, and classified as non-exempt employees during the time period of March 26, 2023 until a date as determined by the Court. Our offices represent Plaintiff Jacob Gilchrist (“Plaintiff”) and other Aggrieved Employees in a lawsuit against OHLA USA, Inc. (“Defendant”). Plaintiff has been employed by Defendant in California since September of 2023. Plaintiff has been 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). Defendant also violated California's warehouse quota laws as described in the attached complaint. 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, 2100 *et seq.*, 2107(d), 2108, 2802, California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 11040, Subdivision 5(A)-(B), California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 11070(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 Statute 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 SAN DIEGO**

10
11 JACOB GILCHRIST, an individual, on behalf of
himself and on behalf of all persons similarly
12 situated,

13
14 Plaintiff,

15 vs.

16 OHLA USA, INC., a Corporation; 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*
13 *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; and,

9. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH
CALIFORNIA QUOTA LAWS IN VIOLATION
OF LABOR CODE § 2100 *et seq.*

DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL

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

4
5 **THE PARTIES**

6 1. OHLA USA, Inc. (“DEFENDANT”) is a Corporation that at all relevant times
7 mentioned herein conducted and continues to conduct substantial business in California.

8 2. DEFENDANT is a construction company that constructs vertical buildings and
9 civil infrastructures in California.

10 3. PLAINTIFF has been employed by DEFENDANT in California since September
11 of 2023 as a non-exempt employee, paid on an hourly basis, and entitled to the legally required
12 meal and rest periods and payment of minimum and overtime wages due for all time worked.

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

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

1 CLASS who have been economically injured by DEFENDANT's past and current unlawful
2 conduct, and all other appropriate legal and equitable relief.

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

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

20 21 **THE CONDUCT**

22 8. Pursuant to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, DEFENDANT
23 was required to pay PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all their time
24 worked, meaning the time during which an employee is subject to the control of an
25 employer, including all the time the employee is suffered or permitted to work.
26 DEFENDANT requires PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to work without
27 paying them for all the time they are under DEFENDANT's control. Among other things,
28 DEFENDANT requires PLAINTIFF to work while clocked out during what is supposed to

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

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

22 10. The second component of PLAINTIFF's and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
23 Members' compensation is DEFENDANT's non-discretionary incentive program that paid
24 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members incentive wages based on their
25 performance for DEFENDANT. The non-discretionary incentive program provided all
26 employees paid on an hourly basis with incentive compensation when the employees met the
27 various performance goals set by DEFENDANT. However, when calculating the regular
28 rate of pay in order to pay overtime and meal and rest break premiums to PLAINTIFF and

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

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

22 12. During the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and other
23 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were also required from time to time to work in excess of
24 four (4) hours without being provided ten (10) minute rest periods. Further, these employees
25 were denied their first rest periods of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of at
26 least two (2) to four (4) hours from time to time, a first and second rest period of at least ten
27 (10) minutes for some shifts worked of between six (6) and eight (8) hours from time to
28 time, and a first, second and third rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts

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

15 13. During the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT failed to
16 accurately record and pay PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for the
17 actual amount of time these employees worked. Pursuant to the Industrial Welfare
18 Commission Wage Orders, DEFENDANT was required to pay PLAINTIFF and other
19 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all time worked, meaning the time during which an
20 employee was subject to the control of an employer, including all the time the employee was
21 permitted or suffered to permit this work. DEFENDANT required these employees to work
22 off the clock without paying them for all the time they were under DEFENDANT's control.
23 As such, DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other
24 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were under compensated for all time worked. As a
25 result, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members forfeited time worked by
26 working without their time being accurately recorded and without compensation at the
27 applicable minimum wage and overtime wage rates. To the extent that the time worked off
28 the clock does not qualify for overtime premium payment, DEFENDANT fails to pay

1 minimum wages for the time worked off-the-clock in violation of Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194,
2 1197, and 1197.1.

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

23 15. DEFENDANT underpaid sick pay wages to PLAINTIFF and other
24 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members by failing to pay such wages at the regular rate of pay in
25 violation of Cal. Lab. Code Section 246. Specifically, PLAINTIFF and other non-exempt
26 employees earn non-discretionary remuneration. Rather than pay sick pay at the regular rate
27
28

1 of pay, DEFENDANT underpaid sick pay to PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
2 Members at their base rates of pay.

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

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

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

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

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
28

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. DEFENDANT did not provide a written description of each quota to which
17 PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were subject, including the quantified
18 number of tasks to be performed or materials to be produced or handled, within the defined
19 time period, and any potential adverse employment action that could result from failure to
20 meet the quota

21 26. DEFENDANT also required PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS
22 Members to meet a quota that prevents compliance with meal or rest periods and use of
23 bathroom facilities, including reasonable travel time to and from bathroom facilities.

24 27. DEFENDANT also took adverse employment action against CALIFORNIA
25 CLASS Members for failure to meet such quotas.

26 28. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes that all of the above practices he
27 experienced were not unique to him but rather were companywide policies and practices at
28

1 all distribution facilities in the State of California and were suffered by all non-exempt
2 employees.

3 29. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes that the unlawful wage and hour policies
4 described in this action are set centrally and are applicable through-out California.

5 30. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes that the unlawful wage and hour policies
6 described in this action are still ongoing.

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

18 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

19 32. This Court has jurisdiction over this Action pursuant to California Code of
20 Civil Procedure, Section 410.10 and California Business & Professions Code, Section
21 17203. This action is brought as a Class Action on behalf of PLAINTIFF and similarly
22 situated employees of DEFENDANT pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382.

23 33. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure,
24 Sections 395 and 395.5, because PLAINTIFF worked in this County for DEFENDANT and
25 DEFENDANT (i) currently maintains and at all relevant times maintained offices and
26 facilities in this County and/or conducts substantial business in this County, and (ii)
27
28

1 committed the wrongful conduct herein alleged in this County against members of the
2 CALIFORNIA CLASS.

3
4 **THE CALIFORNIA CLASS**

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

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

18 37. DEFENDANT, as a matter of company policy, practice and procedure, and in
19 violation of the applicable Labor Code, Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") Wage
20 Order requirements, and the applicable provisions of California law, intentionally,
21 knowingly, and wilfully, engaged in a practice whereby DEFENDANT failed to record all
22 meal and rest breaks missed by PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members,
23 even though DEFENDANT enjoyed the benefit of this work, required employees to perform
24 this work and permits or suffers to permit this work.

25 38. DEFENDANT has the legal burden to establish that each and every
26 CALIFORNIA CLASS Member was paid accurately for all meal and rest breaks missed as
27 required by California laws. The DEFENDANT, however, as a matter of policy and
28 procedure failed to have in place during the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD and still fails

1 to have in place a policy or practice to ensure that each and every CALIFORNIA CLASS
2 Member is paid as required by law. This common business practice is applicable to each
3 and every CALIFORNIA CLASS Member can be adjudicated on a class-wide basis as
4 unlawful, unfair, and/or deceptive under Cal. Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*
5 (the "UCL") as causation, damages, and reliance are not elements of this claim.

6 39. The CALIFORNIA CLASS, is so numerous that joinder of all CALIFORNIA
7 CLASS Members is impracticable.

8 40. DEFENDANT violated the rights of the CALIFORNIA CLASS under
9 California law by:

- 10 (a) Committing an act of unfair competition in violation of , Cal. Bus. &
11 Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* (the "UCL"), by unlawfully, unfairly
12 and/or deceptively having in place company policies, practices and
13 procedures that failed to record and pay PLAINTIFF and the other
14 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all time worked, including
15 minimum wages owed and overtime wages owed for work performed
16 by these employees; and,
17 (b) Committing an act of unfair competition in violation of the UCL, by
18 failing to provide the PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
19 CALIFORNIA CLASS with the legally required meal and rest periods.

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

- 22 (a) The persons who comprise the CALIFORNIA CLASS are so numerous
23 that the joinder of all such persons is impracticable and the disposition
24 of their claims as 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 CLASS will apply to every member of the
28 CALIFORNIA CLASS;

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

21 42. 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 CLASS will create the risk of:

- 27 1) Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual
28 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS which would establish

1 incompatible standards of conduct for the parties opposing the
2 CALIFORNIA CLASS; and/or,

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

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

13 1) With respect to the First Cause of Action, the final relief on
14 behalf of the CALIFORNIA CLASS sought does not relate
15 exclusively to restitution because through this claim
16 PLAINTIFF seeks declaratory relief holding that the
17 DEFENDANT's policy and practices constitute unfair
18 competition, along with declaratory relief, injunctive relief, and
19 incidental equitable relief as may be necessary to prevent and
20 remedy the conduct declared to constitute unfair competition;

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

27 1) The interests of the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in
28 individually controlling the prosecution or defense of separate

1 actions in that the substantial expense of individual actions will
2 be avoided to recover the relatively small amount of economic
3 losses sustained by the individual CALIFORNIA CLASS
4 Members when compared to the substantial expense and burden
5 of individual prosecution of this litigation;

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

8 A. Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to
9 individual members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, which
10 would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the
11 DEFENDANT; and/or,

12 B. Adjudications with respect to individual members of the
13 CALIFORNIA CLASS would as a practical matter be
14 dispositive of the interests of the other members not
15 parties to the adjudication or substantially impair or
16 impede their ability to protect their interests;

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

24 4) A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair
25 and efficient adjudication of this litigation because class
26 treatment will obviate the need for unduly and unnecessary
27 duplicative litigation that is likely to result in the absence of
28

1 certification of this action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. §
2 382.

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

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

- 1 (g) DEFENDANT has acted or refused to act on grounds generally
2 applicable to the CALIFORNIA CLASS, thereby making final class-
3 wide relief appropriate with respect to the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a
4 whole;
- 5 (h) The members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are readily ascertainable
6 from the business records of DEFENDANT; and,
- 7 (i) Class treatment provides manageable judicial treatment calculated to
8 bring a efficient and rapid conclusion to all litigation of all wage and
9 hour related claims arising out of the conduct of DEFENDANT as to
10 the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

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

16
17 **THE CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS**

18 45. PLAINTIFF further brings the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh,
19 Eighth and Ninth causes Action on behalf of a California sub-class, defined as all members
20 of the CALIFORNIA CLASS who are or previously were employed by DEFENDANT in
21 California, including any employees staffed with DEFENDANT by a third party, and
22 classified as non-exempt employees (the "CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS") at any
23 time during the period three (3) years prior to the filing of the complaint and ending on the
24 date as determined by the Court (the "CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD")
25 pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382. The amount in controversy for the aggregate
26 claim of CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members is under five million dollars
27 (\$5,000,000.00).

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

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

18 48. The CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS is so numerous that joinder of all
19 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members is impracticable.

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

- 22 (a) Whether DEFENDANT unlawfully failed to correctly calculate and pay
23 compensation due to members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
24 CLASS for missed meal and rest breaks in violation of the California
25 Labor Code and California regulations and the applicable California
26 Wage Order;

- 1 (b) Whether DEFENDANT failed to provide the PLAINTIFF and the other
2 members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS with accurate
3 itemized wage statements;
- 4 (c) Whether DEFENDANT has engaged in unfair competition by the
5 above-listed conduct;
- 6 (d) The proper measure of damages and penalties owed to the members of
7 the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS; and,
- 8 (e) Whether DEFENDANT's conduct was willful.

9 50. DEFENDANT violated the rights of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
10 CLASS under California law by:

- 11 (a) Violating Cal. Lab. Code § 510, by failing to correctly pay the
12 PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
13 CLASS all wages due for overtime worked, for which DEFENDANT is
14 liable pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 1194;
- 15 (b) Violating Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194, 1197 & 1197.1 *et seq.*, by failing to
16 accurately pay PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA
17 LABOR SUB-CLASS the correct minimum wage pay for which
18 DEFENDANT is liable pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194 and 1197;
- 19 (c) Violating Cal. Lab. Code § 226, by failing to provide PLAINTIFF and
20 the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS with an
21 accurate itemized statement in writing showing the corresponding
22 correct amount of wages earned by the employee;
- 23 (d) Violating Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 and 512, by failing to provide
24 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR
25 SUB-CLASS with all legally required off-duty, uninterrupted thirty
26 (30) minute meal breaks and the legally required off-duty rest breaks;
- 27 (e) Violating Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201, 202 and/or 203, which provides that
28 when an employee is discharged or quits from employment, the

1 employer must pay the employee all wages due without abatement, by
2 failing to tender full payment and/or restitution of wages owed or in the
3 manner required by California law to the members of the
4 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS who have terminated their
5 employment; and,

- 6 (f) Violating Cal. Lab. Code § 2802 by failing to reimburse PLAINTIFF
7 and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS members with necessary
8 expenses incurred in the discharge of their job duties.

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

- 11 (a) The persons who comprise the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS
12 are so numerous that the joinder of all CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
13 CLASS Members is impracticable and the disposition of their claims as
14 a class will benefit the parties and the Court;
- 15 (b) Nearly all factual, legal, statutory, declaratory and injunctive relief
16 issues that are raised in this Complaint are common to the
17 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS and will apply to every member
18 of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS;
- 19 (c) The claims of the representative PLAINTIFF are typical of the claims
20 of each member of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS.
21 PLAINTIFF, like all the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR
22 SUB-CLASS, was a non-exempt employee paid on an hourly basis who
23 was subjected to the DEFENDANT's practice and policy which failed
24 to pay the correct amount of wages due to the CALIFORNIA LABOR
25 SUB-CLASS. PLAINTIFF sustained economic injury as a result of
26 DEFENDANT's employment practices. PLAINTIFF and the members
27 of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS were and are similarly or
28

1 identically harmed by the same unlawful, deceptive, and unfair
2 misconduct engaged in by DEFENDANT; and,

- 3 (d) The representative PLAINTIFF will fairly and adequately represent and
4 protect the interest of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, and
5 has retained counsel who are competent and experienced in Class
6 Action litigation. There are no material conflicts between the claims of
7 the representative PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA
8 LABOR SUB-CLASS that would make class certification
9 inappropriate. Counsel for the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS
10 will vigorously assert the claims of all CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
11 CLASS Members.

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

- 14 (a) Without class certification and determination of declaratory, injunctive,
15 statutory and other legal questions within the class format, prosecution
16 of separate actions by individual members of the CALIFORNIA
17 LABOR SUB-CLASS will create the risk of:

- 18 1) Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual
19 members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS which
20 would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the
21 parties opposing the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS; or,
22 2) Adjudication with respect to individual members of the
23 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS which would as a
24 practical matter be dispositive of interests of the other members
25 not party to the adjudication or substantially impair or impede
26 their ability to protect their interests.

- 27 (b) The parties opposing the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS have
28 acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the

1 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, making appropriate class-wide
2 relief with respect to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as a
3 whole in that DEFENDANT fails to pay all wages due. Including the
4 correct wages for all time worked by the members of the
5 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as required by law;

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

13 1) The interests of the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR
14 SUB-CLASS in individually controlling the prosecution or
15 defense of separate actions in that the substantial expense of
16 individual actions will be avoided to recover the relatively small
17 amount of economic losses sustained by the individual
18 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members when compared
19 to the substantial expense and burden of individual prosecution
20 of this litigation;

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

23 A. Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to
24 individual members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
25 CLASS, which would establish incompatible standards of
26 conduct for the DEFENDANT; and/or,

27 B. Adjudications with respect to individual members of the
28 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS would as a

practical matter be dispositive of the interests of the other members not parties to the adjudication or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests;

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

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

- (a) The questions of law and fact common to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS predominate over any question affecting only individual CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members;
- (b) A Class Action is superior to any other available method for the fair and efficient adjudication of the claims of the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS because in the context of employment litigation a substantial number of individual CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members will avoid asserting their rights individually out of fear of retaliation or adverse impact on their employment;

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

28 ///

1 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **For Unlawful Business Practices**

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

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

5 54. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege
6 and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of
7 this Complaint.

8 55. DEFENDANT is a “person” as that term is defined under Cal. Bus. and Prof.
9 Code § 17021.

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

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

22 Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203.

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

1 58. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were unlawful and
2 unfair in that these practices violate public policy, were immoral, unethical, oppressive,
3 unscrupulous or substantially injurious to employees, and were without valid justification or
4 utility for which this Court should issue equitable and injunctive relief pursuant to Section
5 17203 of the California Business & Professions Code, including restitution of wages
6 wrongfully withheld.

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

19 60. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were also unlawful,
20 unfair and deceptive in that DEFENDANT's employment practices caused PLAINTIFF and
21 the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to be underpaid during their employment
22 with DEFENDANT.

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

27 62. Therefore, PLAINTIFF demands on behalf of himself and on behalf of each
28 CALIFORNIA CLASS Member, one (1) hour of pay for each workday in which an off-duty

1 meal period was not timely provided for each five (5) hours of work, and/or one (1) hour of
2 pay for each workday in which a second off-duty meal period was not timely provided for
3 each ten (10) hours of work.

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

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

13 65. All the acts described herein as violations of, among other things, the
14 Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, the California Code of Regulations, and the
15 California Labor Code, were unlawful and in violation of public policy, were immoral,
16 unethical, oppressive and unscrupulous, were deceptive, and thereby constitute unlawful,
17 unfair and deceptive business practices in violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et*
18 *seq.*

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

24 67. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are further
25 entitled to, and do, seek a declaration that the described business practices are unlawful,
26 unfair and deceptive, and that injunctive relief should be issued restraining DEFENDANT
27 from engaging in any unlawful and unfair business practices in the future.

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

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

For Failure To Pay Minimum Wages

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

(By PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS

and Against All Defendants)

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

70. 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 accurately calculate and pay minimum wages to PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

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

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

1 73. DEFENDANT maintained a wage practice of paying PLAINTIFF and the
2 other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS without regard to the correct
3 amount of time they work. As set forth herein, DEFENDANT's policy and practice was to
4 unlawfully and intentionally deny timely payment of wages due to PLAINTIFF and the
5 other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS.

6 74. DEFENDANT's unlawful wage and hour practices manifested, without
7 limitation, applicable to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as a whole, as a result of
8 implementing a policy and practice that denies accurate compensation to PLAINTIFF and
9 the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS in regards to minimum
10 wage pay.

11 75. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, DEFENDANT
12 inaccurately calculated the correct time worked and consequently underpaid the actual time
13 worked by PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS.
14 DEFENDANT acted in an illegal attempt to avoid the payment of all earned wages, and
15 other benefits in violation of the California Labor Code, the Industrial Welfare Commission
16 requirements and other applicable laws and regulations.

17 76. As a direct result of DEFENDANT's unlawful wage practices as alleged
18 herein, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS did
19 not receive the correct minimum wage compensation for their time worked for
20 DEFENDANT.

21 77. During the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT
22 required, permitted or suffered PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS
23 Members to work without paying them for all the time they were under DEFENDANT's
24 control. During the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the
25 other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS were paid less for time worked
26 that they were entitled to, constituting a failure to pay all earned wages.

27 78. By virtue of DEFENDANT's unlawful failure to accurately pay all earned
28 compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-

1 CLASS for the true time they worked, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
2 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS have suffered and will continue to suffer an
3 economic injury in amounts which are presently unknown to them and which will be
4 ascertained according to proof at trial.

5 79. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other
6 members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS were under compensated for their
7 time worked. DEFENDANT elected, either through intentional malfeasance or gross
8 nonfeasance, to not pay employees for their labor as a matter of company policy, practice
9 and procedure, and DEFENDANT perpetrated this scheme by refusing to pay PLAINTIFF
10 and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS the correct minimum
11 wages for their time worked.

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

20 81. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
21 CLASS therefore request recovery of all unpaid wages, according to proof, interest,
22 statutory costs, as well as the assessment of any statutory penalties against DEFENDANT,
23 in a sum as provided by the California Labor Code and/or other applicable statutes. To the
24 extent minimum wage compensation is determined to be owed to the CALIFORNIA
25 LABOR SUB-CLASS Members who have terminated their employment, DEFENDANT's
26 conduct also violates Labor Code §§ 201 and/or 202, and therefore these individuals are also
27 be entitled to waiting time penalties under Cal. Lab. Code § 203, which penalties are sought
28 herein on behalf of these CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members. DEFENDANT's

1 conduct as alleged herein was willful, intentional and not in good faith. Further,
2 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members are entitled to seek
3 and recover statutory costs.

4
5 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

6 **For Failure To Pay Overtime Compensation**

7 **[Cal. Lab. Code § 510]**

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

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

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

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

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

28 86. During the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and

1 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members were required, permitted or suffered by
2 DEFENDANT to work for DEFENDANT and were not paid for all the time they worked,
3 including overtime work.

4 87. DEFENDANT's unlawful wage and hour practices manifested, without
5 limitation, applicable to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as a whole, as a result of
6 implementing a policy and practice that failed to accurately record overtime worked by
7 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members and denied accurate
8 compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
9 CLASS for overtime worked, including, the overtime work performed in excess of eight (8)
10 hours in a workday, and/or twelve (12) hours in a workday, and/or forty (40) hours in any
11 workweek.

12 88. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, DEFENDANT
13 inaccurately recorded overtime worked and consequently underpaid the overtime worked by
14 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR-SUB CLASS Members. DEFENDANT
15 acted in an illegal attempt to avoid the payment of all earned wages, and other benefits in
16 violation of the California Labor Code, the Industrial Welfare Commission requirements
17 and other applicable laws and regulations. As a direct result of DEFENDANT's unlawful
18 wage practices as alleged herein, the PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
19 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS did not receive full compensation for overtime
20 worked.

21 89. Cal. Lab. Code § 515 sets out various categories of employees who are exempt
22 from the overtime requirements of the law. None of these exemptions are applicable to the
23 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS. Further,
24 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS were not
25 subject to a valid collective bargaining agreement that would preclude the causes of action
26 contained herein this Complaint. Rather, PLAINTIFF brings this Action on behalf of
27 himself and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS based on DEFENDANT's violations
28 of non-negotiable, non-waiveable rights provided by the State of California.

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

4 91. DEFENDANT failed to accurately pay the PLAINTIFF and the other
5 members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS overtime wages for the time they
6 worked which was in excess of the maximum hours permissible by law as required by Cal.
7 Lab. Code §§ 510, 1194 & 1198, even though PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
8 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS were required to work, and did in fact work, overtime
9 as to which DEFENDANT failed to accurately record and pay as evidenced by
10 DEFENDANT's business records and witnessed by employees.

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

17 93. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other
18 members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS were under compensated for all
19 overtime worked. DEFENDANT elected, either through intentional malfeasance or gross
20 nonfeasance, to not pay employees for their labor as a matter of company policy, practice
21 and procedure, and DEFENDANT perpetrated this scheme by refusing to pay PLAINTIFF
22 and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS for overtime worked.

23 94. In performing the acts and practices herein alleged in violation of California
24 labor laws, and refusing to compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
25 CLASS for all overtime worked and provide them with the requisite overtime compensation,
26 DEFENDANT acted and continues to act intentionally, oppressively, and maliciously
27 toward PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS
28 with a conscious of and utter disregard for their legal rights, or the consequences to them,

1 and with the despicable intent of depriving them of their property and legal rights, and
2 otherwise causing them injury in order to increase company profits at the expense of these
3 employees.

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

16 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

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

18 **[Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 & 512]**

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

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

24 97. During the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT from time to time
25 failed to provide all the legally required off-duty meal breaks to PLAINTIFF and the other
26 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members as required by the applicable Wage Order
27 and Labor Code. The nature of the work performed by PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA
28

1 LABOR SUB-CLASS MEMBERS did not prevent these employees from being relieved of
2 all of their duties for the legally required off-duty meal periods. As a result of their rigorous
3 work schedules, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members
4 were from time to time not fully relieved of duty by DEFENDANT for their meal periods.
5 Additionally, DEFENDANT's failure to provide PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA
6 LABOR SUB-CLASS Members with legally required meal breaks prior to their fifth (5th)
7 hour of work is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records from time to time. Further,
8 DEFENDANT failed to provide PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with a
9 second off-duty meal period in some workdays in which these employees were required by
10 DEFENDANT to work ten (10) hours of work from time to time. As a result, PLAINTIFF
11 and other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS therefore forfeited meal
12 breaks without additional compensation and in accordance with DEFENDANT's strict
13 corporate policy and practice.

14 98. DEFENDANT further violates California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and the
15 applicable IWC Wage Order by failing to compensate PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA
16 LABOR SUB-CLASS Members who were not provided a meal period, in accordance with
17 the applicable Wage Order, one additional hour of compensation at each employee's regular
18 rate of pay for each workday that a meal period was not provided.

19 99. As a proximate result of the aforementioned violations, PLAINTIFF and
20 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members have been damaged in an amount according
21 to proof at trial, and seek all wages earned and due, interest, penalties, expenses and costs of
22 suit.

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1 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

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

3 **[Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 & 512]**

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

6 100. 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.

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

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

20 102. DEFENDANT further violated California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and the
21 applicable IWC Wage Order by failing to compensate PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA
22 LABOR SUB-CLASS Members who were not provided a rest period, in accordance with
23 the applicable Wage Order, one additional hour of compensation at each employee's regular
24 rate of pay for each workday that rest period was not provided.

25 103. As a proximate result of the aforementioned violations, PLAINTIFF and
26 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members have been damaged in an amount according
27 to proof at trial, and seek all wages earned and due, interest, penalties, expenses and costs of
28 suit.

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1 wage statements should reflect all applicable hourly rates during the pay period and the total
2 hours worked, and the applicable pay period in which the wages were earned pursuant to
3 California Labor Code Section 226(a). The wage statements DEFENDANT provided to
4 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members failed to identify
5 such information. More specifically, the wage statements failed to identify the accurate total
6 hours worked each pay period. When the hours shown on the wage statements were added
7 up, they did not equal the actual total hours worked during the pay period in violation of Cal.
8 Lab. Code 226(a)(2). Aside, from the violations listed above in this paragraph,
9 DEFENDANT failed to issue to PLAINTIFF an itemized wage statement that lists all the
10 requirements under California Labor Code 226 *et seq.* As a result, DEFENDANT from time
11 to time provided PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
12 CLASS with wage statements which violated Cal. Lab. Code § 226.

13 107. DEFENDANT knowingly and intentionally failed to comply with Cal. Lab.
14 Code § 226, causing injury and damages to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
15 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS. These damages include, but are not limited to, costs
16 expended calculating the correct wages for all missed meal and rest breaks and the amount
17 of employment taxes which were not properly paid to state and federal tax authorities.
18 These damages are difficult to estimate. Therefore, PLAINTIFF and the other members of
19 the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS may elect to recover liquidated damages of fifty
20 dollars (\$50.00) for the initial pay period in which the violation occurred, and one hundred
21 dollars (\$100.00) for each violation in a subsequent pay period pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code §
22 226, in an amount according to proof at the time of trial (but in no event more than four
23 thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) for PLAINTIFF and each respective member of the
24 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS herein).

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1 and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS members, DEFENDANT failed to indemnify
2 and reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS members for
3 these expenses as an employer is required to do under the laws and regulations of California.

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

8
9 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

10 **For Failure to Pay Sick Pay Wages**

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

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

13 **and Against All Defendants)**

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

17 113. Cal Lab. Code § 233 provides that an employer must permit an employee to
18 use accrued sick leave in accordance with Cal Lab. Code § 246.5 at the employee's then
19 current rate of entitlement. Cal Lab. Code § 246 provides that an employee is entitled to
20 sick pay wages for use of accrued sick leave pursuant to Cal Lab. Code § 246.5.
21 Specifically, once accrued sick leave is used as paid sick time, an employee has a vested
22 right to sick pay wages, which an employer must calculate and compensate based on one of
23 two calculations: (i) "Paid sick time for nonexempt employees shall be calculated in the
24 same manner as the regular rate of pay for the workweek in which the employee uses paid
25 sick time, whether or not the employee actually works overtime in that workweek," or (ii)
26 "Paid sick time for nonexempt employees shall be calculated by dividing the employee's
27 total wages, not including overtime premium pay, by the employee's total hours worked in
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1 the full pay periods of the prior 90 days of employment.” Under Cal Lab. Code §§ 218 and
2 233, employees may sue to recover underpaid sick pay wages as damages.

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

15 115. Cal. Lab. Code § 246 specifically requires that, upon use of accrued sick
16 leave, vested sick pay wages are due and to be paid no later than the payday for the next
17 regular payroll period after accrued sick leave is used as paid sick time. Similarly, Cal. Lab.
18 Code § 201 provides that if an employer discharges an employee, wages earned and unpaid
19 at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately. Cal. Lab. Code § 202 provides
20 that an employee is entitled to receive all unpaid wages no later than 72 hours after an
21 employee quits his or her employment, unless the employee has given 72-hour notice of his
22 or her intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time
23 of quitting. The Labor Code penalizes untimely payments. For example, Cal. Lab. Code §
24 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to pay wages owed in accordance with Cal.
25 Lab. Code §§ 201-202, then the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the
26 due date, and at the same rate until paid, but the wages shall not continue for more than
27 thirty (30) days. Under Cal. Lab. Code §§ 203 and 218, employees may sue to recover
28 applicable penalties.

116. 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.

117. 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

Failure to Comply with California Quota Laws

[Cal. Labor Code § 2100 et seq.]

(By PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS

and Against All Defendants)

118. PLAINTIFF re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in the preceding and subsequent paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

119. Labor Code § 2101 provides that each employer that employs 100 or

1 more employees at a single warehouse distribution center in California, or 1,000 employees
2 at one or more warehouse distribution centers in California, shall provide upon hire or
3 within 30 days of the effective date of this part, a written description of each quota to which
4 the employee is subject, including the quantified number of tasks to be performed or
5 materials to be produced or handled, within the defined time period, and any potential
6 adverse employment action that could result from failure to meet the quota.

7 120. Labor Code § 2102 provides that an employee shall not be required to meet a
8 quota that prevents compliance with meal or rest periods, use of bathroom facilities,
9 including reasonable travel time to and from bathroom facilities, or occupational health and
10 safety laws in the Labor Code or division standards. An employer shall not take adverse
11 employment action against an employee for failure to meet a quota that does not allow a
12 worker to comply with meal and rest periods, or occupational health and safety laws in the
13 Labor Code or division standards, or for failure to meet a quota that has not been disclosed
14 to the employee pursuant to Section 2101.

15 121. Labor Code § 2103 provides:

16 (a) Any actions taken by an employee to comply with occupational
17 health and safety laws in the Labor Code or division standards shall be
18 considered time on task and productive time for purposes of any quota
19 or monitoring system.

20 (b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), consistent with existing law,
21 meal and rest breaks are not considered productive time unless the
22 employee is required to remain on call.

23 122. DEFENDANT failed to provide employees with a written description of
24 applicable quotas and any potential adverse employment action that could result from failure
25 to meet the quota. DEFENDANT also required PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS
26 Members to meet quotas that prevented compliance with meal and rest periods and use of
27 bathroom facilities, including reasonable travel time to and from bathroom facilities.
28 Similarly, the quota system prevented PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS

1 members from taking breaks because it failed to account for or treat time traveling to and
2 from break areas as productive in the quota such that PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
3 CLASS Members were penalized under the quota for taking breaks.

4 123. DEFENDANT took adverse employment actions against PLAINTIFF and
5 other Class members for failure to meet a quota that did not allow them to take meal and rest
6 periods and use the bathroom facilities, including reasonable travel time to and from
7 bathroom facilities, and for failure to meet a quota that had never been disclosed to them as
8 required by § 2101.

9 124. DEFENDANT took adverse employment actions against PLAINTIFF and
10 other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, for failure to meet a quota that did not allow them
11 to take meal and rest periods and use the bathroom facilities, including reasonable travel
12 time to and from bathroom facilities, and for failure to meet a quota that had never been
13 disclosed to them as required by § 2101. PLAINTIFF on behalf of himself and other
14 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members seeks injunctive relief for Defendant's violation of the
15 quota laws. PLAINTIFF also seeks costs and reasonable attorneys' fees.

16
17 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**
18

19 WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF prays for judgment against each Defendant, jointly and
20 severally, as follows:
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22 1. On behalf of the CALIFORNIA CLASS:

- 23 A) That the Court certify the First Cause of Action asserted by the CALIFORNIA
24 CLASS as a class action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382;
25 B) An order temporarily, preliminarily and permanently enjoining and restraining
26 DEFENDANT from engaging in similar unlawful conduct as set forth herein;
27 C) An order requiring DEFENDANT to pay all wages and all sums unlawfully
28 withheld from compensation due to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
CALIFORNIA CLASS; and,

1 D) Restitutionary disgorgement of DEFENDANT's ill-gotten gains into a fluid fund
2 for restitution of the sums incidental to DEFENDANT's violations due to
PLAINTIFF and to the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

3 2. On behalf of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS:
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5 A) That the Court certify the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth
6 and Ninth Causes of Action asserted by the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
CLASS as a class action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382;

7 B) Compensatory damages, according to proof at trial, including compensatory
8 damages for minimum and overtime compensation due PLAINTIFF and the other
9 members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, during the applicable
CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD plus interest thereon at the
statutory rate;

10 C) The greater of all actual damages or fifty dollars (\$50) for the initial pay period
11 in which a violation occurs and one hundred dollars (\$100) per each member of
12 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;

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

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

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

18 G) The wages of all terminated employees in the CALIFORNIA LABOR
19 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.

20 3. On all claims:

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

22 B) Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable; and,

23 C) An award of penalties, attorneys' fees and cost of suit, as allowable under the
24 law, including, but not limited to, pursuant to Labor Code §221, §226, §1194,

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1 and/or §2802.

2 Dated: March 26, 2024

BLUMENTHAL NORDREHAUG BHOWMIK DE BLOUW LLP

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By: /s/ Nicholas De Blouw
Norman B. Blumenthal
Nicholas J. De Blouw

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Attorneys for Plaintiff

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DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL

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

Dated: March 26, 2024 BLUMENTHAL NORDREHAUG BHOWMIK DE BLOUW LLP

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