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January 30, 2024

CA3216

VIA ONLINE FILING TO LWDA AND CERTIFIED MAIL TO DEFENDANT

Labor and Workforce Development Agency
Online Filing

SDC Restaurants LLC
Certified Mail #9589071052700182377485
CODY WONG
16169 VERIDIAN CIRCLE
SAN DIEGO, CA 92127

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

Dear Sir/Madam:

“Aggrieved Employees” refers to all individuals who are or previously were employed by SDC Restaurants LLC in California, including any employees staffed with SDC Restaurants LLC by a third party, and classified as non-exempt employees during the time period of January 30, 2023 until a date as determined by the Court. Our offices represent Plaintiff Jacob Lozada (“Plaintiff”) and other Aggrieved Employees in a lawsuit against SDC Restaurants LLC (“Defendant”). Plaintiff was employed by Defendant in California as a non-exempt employee from August of 2023 to September 9, 2023 and entitled to the legally required meal and rest breaks and payment for all time worked under Defendant’s control. 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, for all of their missed meal and rest breaks (and paying for meal and rest break premiums at the correct regular rate), 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 Plaintiff, and other Aggrieved Employees, in violation of California Labor Code section 226(a) *et seq.* Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees are 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 provides to Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees fails to identify such information. More specifically, the wage statements fails to identify the accurate total hours worked each pay period. When the hours shown on the wage statements are added up, they do not equal the actual total hours worked during the pay period in violation of Cal. Lab. Code 226(a)(2). Additionally, Plaintiff contends that Defendant failed to comply with Industrial Wage Order 7(A)(3) in that Defendant failed to keep time records showing when Plaintiff began and ended each shift and meal period. Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees perform tasks that reasonably permit sitting, and a seat would not interfere with their performance of any of their tasks that may require them to stand. Defendant failed to provide Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees with suitable seats. Said conduct, in addition to the foregoing, as well as the conduct alleged in the incorporated Complaint, violates Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204 *et seq.*, 210, 218, 221, 226(a), 226.7, 227.3, 246, 510, 512, 558(a)(1)(2), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2802, California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 11040, Subdivision 5(A)-(B), California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 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 SANTA CLARA**

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

12
13 Plaintiff,

14 vs.

15 SDC RESTAURANTS LLC, a California Limited
16 Liability 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 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 PROVIDE WAGES WHEN DUE IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 201, 202 AND 203;
9. FAILURE TO PAY SICK PAY WAGES IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 201-204, 233, 246; and,
10. DISCRIMINATION AND RETALIATION VIOLATION OF FEHA; and,
11. CONSTRUCTIVE DISCHARGE AND OTHER ADVERSE EMPLOYMENT ACTIONS IN VIOLATION OF PUBLIC POLICY.

DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL

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

4 **THE PARTIES**

5 1. SDC Restaurants LLC (“DEFENDANT”) is a California limited liability
6 corporation that at all relevant times mentioned herein conducted and continues to conduct
7 substantial business in the state of California.

8 2. DEFENDANT owns and operates fast food restaurants in California.

9 3. PLAINTIFF was employed by DEFENDANT in California from August of 2022
10 to December 20, 2022 and then again from August of 2023 to September 9, 2023 and was at
11 all times classified by DEFENDANT as a non-exempt employee, paid on an hourly basis, and
12 entitled to the legally required meal and rest periods and payment of minimum and overtime
13 wages due for all time worked.

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

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

future, relief for the named PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS who have been economically injured by DEFENDANT's past and current unlawful conduct, and all other appropriate legal and equitable relief.

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

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

THE CONDUCT

8. Pursuant to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, DEFENDANT was required to pay PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all their time worked, meaning the time during which an employee is subject to the control of an employer, including all the time the employee is suffered or permitted to work. DEFENDANT requires PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to work without paying them for all the time they are under DEFENDANT's control. Among other things, 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 clocking 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
other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, DEFENDANT failed to include the incentive

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

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

21 12. During the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and other
22 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were also required from time to time to work in excess of
23 four (4) hours without being provided ten (10) minute rest periods. Further, these employees
24 were denied their first rest periods of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of at
25 least two (2) to four (4) hours from time to time, a first and second rest period of at least ten
26 (10) minutes for some shifts worked of between six (6) and eight (8) hours from time to
27 time, and a first, second and third rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts
28 worked of ten (10) hours or more from time to time. PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
CLASS Members were also not provided with one hour wages in lieu thereof. Additionally,

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

13 13. During the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT failed to
14 accurately record and pay PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for the
15 actual amount of time these employees worked. Pursuant to the Industrial Welfare
16 Commission Wage Orders, DEFENDANT was required to pay PLAINTIFF and other
17 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all time worked, meaning the time during which an
18 employee was subject to the control of an employer, including all the time the employee was
19 permitted or suffered to permit this work. DEFENDANT required these employees to work
20 off the clock without paying them for all the time they were under DEFENDANT's control.
21 As such, DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other
22 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were under compensated for all time worked. As a
23 result, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members forfeited time worked by
24 working without their time being accurately recorded and without compensation at the
25 applicable minimum wage and overtime wage rates. To the extent that the time worked off
26 the clock does not qualify for overtime premium payment, DEFENDANT fails to pay
27 minimum wages for the time worked off-the-clock in violation of Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194,
28 1197, and 1197.1.

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

15. Cal. Lab. Code § 204(d) provides, the requirements of this section shall be deemed satisfied by the payment of wages for weekly, biweekly, or semimonthly payroll if the wages are paid not more than seven (7) calendar days following the close of the payroll period. Cal. Lab. Code § 210 provides:

in [I]n addition to, and entirely independent and apart from, any other penalty provided this article, every person who fails to pay the wages of each employee as provided in Sections. . . .204. . .shall be subject to a civil penalty as follows: (1) For any initial violation, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each failure to pay each employee; (2) For each subsequent violation, or any willful or intentional violation, two hundred dollars (\$200) for each failure to pay each employee, plus 25 percent of the amount unlawfully withheld.

1 16. DEFENDANT from time to time failed to pay PLAINTIFF and members of
2 the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members within seven (7) days of the close of the
3 payroll period in accordance with Cal. Lab. Code § 204(d), including but not limited to for
4 the “Hourly” regular wage payments.

5 17. DEFENDANT underpaid sick pay wages to PLAINTIFF and other
6 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members by failing to pay such wages at the regular rate of pay in
7 violation of Cal. Lab. Code Section 246. Specifically, PLAINTIFF and other non-exempt
8 employees earn non-discretionary remuneration. Rather than pay sick pay at the regular rate
9 of pay, DEFENDANT underpaid sick pay to PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
10 Members at their base rates of pay.

11 18. Cal. Lab. Code Section 246(1)(2) requires that paid sick time for nonexempt
12 employees be calculated by dividing the employee’s total wages, not including overtime
13 premium pay, by the employee’s total hours worked in the full pay periods of the prior 90
14 days of employment.

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

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

1 21. Pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code Section 221, "It shall be unlawful for any employer
2 to collect or receive from an employee any part of wages theretofore paid by said employer
3 to said employee." DEFENDANT failed to pay all compensation due to PLAINTIFF and
4 other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members, made unlawful deductions from
5 compensation payable to PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members,
6 failed to disclose all aspects of the deductions from compensation payable to PLAINTIFF
7 and CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members, and thereby failed to pay these
8 employees all wages due at each applicable pay period and upon termination. PLAINTIFF
9 and members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS seek recovery of all illegal
10 deductions from wages according to proof, related penalties, interest, attorney fees and costs.

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

21 23. In the course of their employment PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
22 CLASS Members as a business expense, were required by DEFENDANT to use their own
23 personal cellular phones as a result of and in furtherance of their job duties as employees for
24 DEFENDANT but are not reimbursed or indemnified by DEFENDANT for the cost
25 associated with the use of their personal cellular phones for DEFENDANT's benefit.
26 Specifically, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required by
27 DEFENDANT to use their personal cellular phones. As a result, in the course of their
28 employment with DEFENDANT, PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA

1 CLASS incurred unreimbursed business expenses which included, but were not limited to,
2 costs related to the use of their personal cellular phones all on behalf of and for the benefit
3 of DEFENDANT.

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

10 25. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and other
11 Aggrieved Employees were entitled to suitable seating and/or were entitled to sit when it did
12 not interfere with the performance of their duties, and that DEFENDANT did not provide
13 suitable seating and/or did not allow them to sit when it did not interfere with the
14 performance of their duties.

15 26. By reason of this conduct applicable to PLAINTIFF and all Aggrieved
16 Employees, DEFENDANT violated California Labor Code Section 1198 and California
17 Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 11070(14) (Failure to Provide Seating), Wage Order
18 4-2001, Section 14 by failing to provide suitable seats. PLAINTIFF seeks penalties on
19 behalf of PLAINTIFF and other Aggrieved Employees as provided herein. Providing
20 suitable seating is the DEFENDANT's burden. As a result of DEFENDANT's intentional
21 disregard of the obligation to meet this burden, DEFENDANT violated the California Labor
22 Code and regulations promulgated thereunder as herein alleged.

23 27. Specifically as to PLAINTIFF, DEFENDANT failed to provide all the legally
24 required off-duty meal and rest breaks to PLAINTIFF as required by the applicable Wage
25 Order and Labor Code and failed to pay PLAINTIFF all minimum and overtime wages due
26 to PLAINTIFF. DEFENDANT did not have a policy or practice which provided timely off-
27 duty meal and rest breaks to PLAINTIFF and also failed to compensate PLAINTIFF for
28 PLAINTIFF's missed meal and rest breaks. The nature of the work performed by the

1 PLAINTIFF did not prevent PLAINTIFF from being relieved of all of PLAINTIFF's duties
2 for the legally required off-duty meal periods. As a result, DEFENDANT's failure to
3 provide PLAINTIFF with the legally required meal periods is evidenced by DEFENDANT's
4 business records. The amount in controversy for PLAINTIFF individually do not exceed
5 the sum or value of \$75,000.

6 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

7 28. This Court has jurisdiction over this Action pursuant to California Code of
8 Civil Procedure, Section 410.10 and California Business & Professions Code, Section
9 17203. This action is brought as a Class Action on behalf of PLAINTIFF and similarly
10 situated employees of DEFENDANT pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382.

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

17 **THE CALIFORNIA CLASS**

18 30. PLAINTIFF brings the First Cause of Action for Unfair, Unlawful and
19 Deceptive Business Practices pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* (the
20 "UCL") as a Class Action, pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382, on behalf of a
21 California class, defined as all individuals who are or previously were employed by
22 DEFENDANT in California, including any employees staffed with DEFENDANT by a third
23 party, and classified as non-exempt employees (the "CALIFORNIA CLASS") at any time
24 during the period beginning four (4) years prior to the filing of this Complaint and ending on
25 the date as determined by the Court (the "CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD"). The amount
26
27
28

1 in controversy for the aggregate claim of CALIFORNIA CLASS Members is under five
2 million dollars (\$5,000,000.00).

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

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

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

22 34. The CALIFORNIA CLASS, is so numerous that joinder of all CALIFORNIA
23 CLASS Members is impracticable.

24 35. DEFENDANT violated the rights of the CALIFORNIA CLASS under
25 California law by:

- 26 (a) Committing an act of unfair competition in violation of , Cal. Bus. &
27 Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* (the "UCL"), by unlawfully, unfairly
28 and/or deceptively having in place company policies, practices and

1 procedures that failed to record and pay PLAINTIFF and the other
2 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all time worked, including
3 minimum wages owed and overtime wages owed for work performed
4 by these employees; and,

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

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

- 10 (a) The persons who comprise the CALIFORNIA CLASS are so numerous
11 that the joinder of all such persons is impracticable and the disposition
12 of their claims as a class will benefit the parties and the Court;
- 13 (b) Nearly all factual, legal, statutory, declaratory and injunctive relief
14 issues that are raised in this Complaint are common to the
15 CALIFORNIA CLASS will apply to every member of the
16 CALIFORNIA CLASS;
- 17 (c) The claims of the representative PLAINTIFF are typical of the claims
18 of each member of the CALIFORNIA CLASS. PLAINTIFF, like all
19 the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, was classified as a
20 non-exempt employee paid on an hourly basis who was subjected to the
21 DEFENDANT's deceptive practice and policy which failed to provide
22 the legally required meal and rest periods to the CALIFORNIA CLASS
23 and thereby underpaid compensation to PLAINTIFF and
24 CALIFORNIA CLASS. PLAINTIFF sustained economic injury as a
25 result of DEFENDANT's employment practices. PLAINTIFF and the
26 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were and are similarly or
27 identically harmed by the same unlawful, deceptive and unfair
28 misconduct engaged in by DEFENDANT; and,

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

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

11 (a) Without class certification and determination of declaratory, injunctive,
12 statutory and other legal questions within the class format, prosecution
13 of separate actions by individual members of the CALIFORNIA
14 CLASS will create the risk of:

15 1) Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual
16 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS which would establish
17 incompatible standards of conduct for the parties opposing the
18 CALIFORNIA CLASS; and/or,

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

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

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

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

1) The interests of the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in individually controlling the prosecution or defense of separate actions in that the substantial expense of individual actions will be avoided to recover the relatively small amount of economic losses sustained by the individual CALIFORNIA CLASS Members when compared to the substantial expense and burden of individual prosecution of this litigation;

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

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

1 B. Adjudications with respect to individual members of the
2 CALIFORNIA CLASS would as a practical matter be
3 dispositive of the interests of the other members not
4 parties to the adjudication or substantially impair or
5 impede their ability to protect their interests;

6 3) In the context of wage litigation because a substantial number of
7 individual CALIFORNIA CLASS Members will avoid asserting
8 their legal rights out of fear of retaliation by DEFENDANT,
9 which may adversely affect an individual's job with
10 DEFENDANT or with a subsequent employer, the Class Action
11 is the only means to assert their claims through a representative;
12 and,

13 4) A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair
14 and efficient adjudication of this litigation because class
15 treatment will obviate the need for unduly and unnecessary
16 duplicative litigation that is likely to result in the absence of
17 certification of this action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. §
18 382.

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

21 (a) The questions of law and fact common to the CALIFORNIA CLASS
22 predominate over any question affecting only individual CALIFORNIA
23 CLASS Members because the DEFENDANT's employment practices
24 are applied with respect to the CALIFORNIA CLASS;

25 (b) A Class Action is superior to any other available method for the fair
26 and efficient adjudication of the claims of the members of the
27 CALIFORNIA CLASS because in the context of employment litigation
28 a substantial number of individual CALIFORNIA CLASS Members

1 will avoid asserting their rights individually out of fear of retaliation or
2 adverse impact on their employment;

3 (c) The members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are so numerous that it is
4 impractical to bring all members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS before
5 the Court;

6 (d) PLAINTIFF, and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, will not
7 be able to obtain effective and economic legal redress unless the action
8 is maintained as a Class Action;

9 (e) There is a community of interest in obtaining appropriate legal and
10 equitable relief for the acts of unfair competition, statutory violations
11 and other improprieties, and in obtaining adequate compensation for
12 the damages and injuries which DEFENDANT's actions have inflicted
13 upon the CALIFORNIA CLASS;

14 (f) There is a community of interest in ensuring that the combined assets of
15 DEFENDANT are sufficient to adequately compensate the members of
16 the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the injuries sustained;

17 (g) DEFENDANT has acted or refused to act on grounds generally
18 applicable to the CALIFORNIA CLASS, thereby making final class-
19 wide relief appropriate with respect to the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a
20 whole;

21 (h) The members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are readily ascertainable
22 from the business records of DEFENDANT; and,

23 (i) Class treatment provides manageable judicial treatment calculated to
24 bring about an efficient and rapid conclusion to all litigation of all wage and
25 hour related claims arising out of the conduct of DEFENDANT as to
26 the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

27 39. DEFENDANT maintains records from which the Court can ascertain and
28 identify by job title each of DEFENDANT's employees who have been intentionally

1 subjected to DEFENDANT's company policy, practices and procedures as herein alleged.
2 PLAINTIFF will seek leave to amend the Complaint to include any additional job titles of
3 similarly situated employees when they have been identified.

4
5 **THE CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS**

6 40. PLAINTIFF further brings the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh,
7 Eighth and Ninth causes Action on behalf of a California sub-class, defined as all members
8 of the CALIFORNIA CLASS who are or previously were employed by DEFENDANT in
9 California, including any employees staffed with DEFENDANT by a third party, and
10 classified as non exempt employees (the "CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS") at any
11 time during the period three (3) years prior to the filing of the complaint and ending on the
12 date as determined by the Court (the "CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD")
13 pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382. The amount in controversy for the aggregate
14 claim of CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members is under five million dollars
15 (\$5,000,000.00).

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

28 42. DEFENDANT maintains records from which the Court can ascertain and

1 identify by name and job title, each of DEFENDANT's employees who have been
2 intentionally subjected to DEFENDANT's company policy, practices and procedures as
3 herein alleged. PLAINTIFF will seek leave to amend the complaint to include any
4 additional job titles of similarly situated employees when they have been identified.

5 43. The CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS is so numerous that joinder of all
6 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members is impracticable.

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

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

22 45. DEFENDANT violated the rights of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
23 CLASS under California law by:

- 24 (a) Violating Cal. Lab. Code § 510, by failing to correctly pay the
25 PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
26 CLASS all wages due for overtime worked, for which DEFENDANT is
27 liable pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 1194;
- 28

- 1 (b) Violating Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194, 1197 & 1197.1 *et seq.*, by failing to
2 accurately pay PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA
3 LABOR SUB-CLASS the correct minimum wage pay for which
4 DEFENDANT is liable pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194 and 1197;
- 5 (c) Violating Cal. Lab. Code § 226, by failing to provide PLAINTIFF and
6 the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS with an
7 accurate itemized statement in writing showing the corresponding
8 correct amount of wages earned by the employee;
- 9 (d) Violating Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 and 512, by failing to provide
10 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR
11 SUB-CLASS with all legally required off-duty, uninterrupted thirty
12 (30) minute meal breaks and the legally required off-duty rest breaks;
- 13 (e) Violating Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201, 202 and/or 203, which provides that
14 when an employee is discharged or quits from employment, the
15 employer must pay the employee all wages due without abatement, by
16 failing to tender full payment and/or restitution of wages owed or in the
17 manner required by California law to the members of the
18 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS who have terminated their
19 employment; and,
- 20 (f) Violating Cal. Lab. Code § 2802 by failing to reimburse PLAINTIFF
21 and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS members with necessary
22 expenses incurred in the discharge of their job duties.

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

- 25 (a) The persons who comprise the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS
26 are so numerous that the joinder of all CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
27 CLASS Members is impracticable and the disposition of their claims as
28 a class will benefit the parties and the Court;

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

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

- 27 (a) Without class certification and determination of declaratory, injunctive,
28 statutory and other legal questions within the class format, prosecution

1 of separate actions by individual members of the CALIFORNIA
2 LABOR SUB-CLASS will create the risk of:

- 3 1) Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual
4 members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS which
5 would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the
6 parties opposing the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS; or,
7 2) Adjudication with respect to individual members of the
8 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS which would as a
9 practical matter be dispositive of interests of the other members
10 not party to the adjudication or substantially impair or impede
11 their ability to protect their interests.

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

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

- 26 1) The interests of the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR
27 SUB-CLASS in individually controlling the prosecution or
28 defense of separate actions in that the substantial expense of

1 individual actions will be avoided to recover the relatively small
2 amount of economic losses sustained by the individual
3 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members when compared
4 to the substantial expense and burden of individual prosecution
5 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 LABOR SUB-
10 CLASS, which would establish incompatible standards of
11 conduct for the DEFENDANT; and/or,
 - 12 B. Adjudications with respect to individual members of the
13 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS would as a
14 practical matter be dispositive of the interests of the other
15 members not parties to the adjudication or substantially
16 impair or impede their ability to protect their interests;
- 17 3) In the context of wage litigation because a substantial number of
18 individual CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members will
19 avoid asserting their legal rights out of fear of retaliation by
20 DEFENDANT, which may adversely affect an individual's job
21 with DEFENDANT or with a subsequent employer, the Class
22 Action is the only means to assert their claims through a
23 representative; 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 48. 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 LABOR
6 SUB-CLASS predominate over any question affecting only individual
7 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members;
- 8 (b) A Class Action is superior to any other available method for the fair
9 and efficient adjudication of the claims of the members of the
10 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS because in the context of
11 employment litigation a substantial number of individual
12 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members will avoid asserting
13 their rights individually out of fear of retaliation or adverse impact on
14 their employment;
- 15 (c) The members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS are so
16 numerous that it is impractical to bring all members of the
17 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS before the Court;
- 18 (d) PLAINTIFF, and the other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS
19 Members, will not be able to obtain effective and economic legal
20 redress unless the action 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 LABOR SUB-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 LABOR SUB-CLASS for the injuries sustained;

- 1 (g) DEFENDANT has acted or refused to act on grounds generally
2 applicable to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, thereby
3 making final class-wide relief appropriate with respect to the
4 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as a whole;
- 5 (h) The members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS are readily
6 ascertainable from the business records of DEFENDANT. The
7 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS consists of all CALIFORNIA
8 CLASS Members who worked for DEFENDANT in California at any
9 time during the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD; and,
- 10 (i) Class treatment provides manageable judicial treatment calculated to
11 brings a efficient and rapid conclusion to all litigation of all wage and
12 hour related claims arising out of the conduct of DEFENDANT as to
13 the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS.

14
15 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

16 **For Unlawful Business Practices**

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

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

19 49. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege
20 and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of
21 this Complaint.

22 50. DEFENDANT is a “person” as that term is defined under Cal. Bus. and Prof.
23 Code § 17021.

24 51. California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* (the “UCL”)
25 defines unfair competition as any unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business act or practice.
26 Section 17203 authorizes injunctive, declaratory, and/or other equitable relief with respect to
27 unfair competition as follows:
28

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

9 Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203.

10 52. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT has engaged and continues to
11 engage in a business practice which violates California law, including but not limited to, the
12 applicable Industrial Wage Order(s), the California Code of Regulations and the California
13 Labor Code including Sections 204, 210, 221, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 1194, 1197, 1197.1,
14 1198, 2802 and the Fair Labor Standards Act and federal regulations promulgated
15 thereunder, for which this Court should issue declaratory and other equitable relief pursuant
16 to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203 as may be necessary to prevent and remedy the conduct
17 held to constitute unfair competition, including restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.

18 53. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were unlawful and
19 unfair in that these practices violate public policy, were immoral, unethical, oppressive,
20 unscrupulous or substantially injurious to employees, and were without valid justification or
21 utility for which this Court should issue equitable and injunctive relief pursuant to Section
22 17203 of the California Business & Professions Code, including restitution of wages
23 wrongfully withheld.

24 54. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were deceptive and
25 fraudulent in that DEFENDANT's policy and practice failed to provide the legally mandated
26 meal and rest periods, the required amount of compensation for missed meal and rest
27 periods and overtime and minimum wages owed, failed to timely pay wages, and failed to
28 reimburse all necessary business expenses incurred, and failed to provide Fair Labor
Standards Act overtime wages due for overtime worked as a result of failing to include non-
discretionary incentive compensation into their regular rates of pay for purposes of
computing the proper overtime pay due to a business practice that cannot be justified,

1 pursuant to the applicable Cal. Lab. Code, and Industrial Welfare Commission requirements
2 in violation of Cal. Bus. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, and for which this Court should issue
3 injunctive and equitable relief, pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203, including
4 restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.

5 55. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were also unlawful,
6 unfair and deceptive in that DEFENDANT's employment practices caused PLAINTIFF and
7 the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to be underpaid during their employment
8 with DEFENDANT.

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

13 57. Therefore, PLAINTIFF demand on behalf of himself and on behalf of each
14 CALIFORNIA CLASS Member, one (1) hour of pay for each workday in which an off-duty
15 meal period was not timely provided for each five (5) hours of work, and/or one (1) hour of
16 pay for each workday in which a second off-duty meal period was not timely provided for
17 each ten (10) hours of work.

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

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

27 60. All the acts described herein as violations of, among other things, the
28 Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, the California Code of Regulations, and the

1 California Labor Code, were unlawful and in violation of public policy, were immoral,
2 unethical, oppressive and unscrupulous, were deceptive, and thereby constitute unlawful,
3 unfair and deceptive business practices in violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et*
4 *seq.*

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

10 62. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are further
11 entitled to, and do, seek a declaration that the described business practices are unlawful,
12 unfair and deceptive, and that injunctive relief should be issued restraining DEFENDANT
13 from engaging in any unlawful and unfair business practices in the future.

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

21 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

22 **For Failure To Pay Minimum Wages**

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

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

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

1 65. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
2 CLASS brings a claim for DEFENDANT's willful and intentional violations of the
3 California Labor Code and the Industrial Welfare Commission requirements for
4 DEFENDANT's failure to accurately calculate and pay minimum wages to PLAINTIFF and
5 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

6 66. Pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 204, other applicable laws and regulations, and
7 public policy, an employer must timely pay its employees for all hours worked.

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

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

14 69. DEFENDANT maintained a wage practice of paying PLAINTIFF and the
15 other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS without regard to the correct
16 amount of time they work. As set forth herein, DEFENDANT's policy and practice was to
17 unlawfully and intentionally deny timely payment of wages due to PLAINTIFF and the
18 other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS.

19 70. DEFENDANT's unlawful wage and hour practices manifested, without
20 limitation, applicable to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as a whole, as a result of
21 implementing a policy and practice that denies accurate compensation to PLAINTIFF and
22 the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS in regards to minimum
23 wage pay.

24 71. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, DEFENDANT
25 inaccurately calculated the correct time worked and consequently underpaid the actual time
26 worked by PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS.
27 DEFENDANT acted in an illegal attempt to avoid the payment of all earned wages, and
28

1 other benefits in violation of the California Labor Code, the Industrial Welfare Commission
2 requirements and other applicable laws and regulations.

3 72. As a direct result of DEFENDANT's unlawful wage practices as alleged
4 herein, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS did
5 not receive the correct minimum wage compensation for their time worked for
6 DEFENDANT.

7 73. During the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT
8 required, permitted or suffered PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS
9 Members to work without paying them for all the time they were under DEFENDANT's
10 control. During the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the
11 other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS were paid less for time worked
12 that they were entitled to, constituting a failure to pay all earned wages.

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

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

26 76. In performing the acts and practices herein alleged in violation of California
27 labor laws, and refusing to compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
28 CLASS for all time worked and provide them with the requisite compensation,

1 DEFENDANT acted and continues to act intentionally, oppressively, and maliciously
2 toward PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS
3 with a conscious and utter disregard for their legal rights, or the consequences to them, and
4 with the despicable intent of depriving them of their property and legal rights, and otherwise
5 causing them injury in order to increase company profits at the expense of these employees.

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

18 19 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

20 **For Failure To Pay Overtime Compensation**

21 **[Cal. Lab. Code § 510]**

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

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

27 79. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
28 CLASS brings a claim for DEFENDANT's willful and intentional violations of the

1 California Labor Code and the Industrial Welfare Commission requirements for
2 DEFENDANT's failure to pay these employees for all overtime worked, including, work
3 performed in excess of eight (8) hours in a workday, and/or twelve (12) hours in a workday,
4 and/or forty (40) hours in any workweek.

5 80. Pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 204, other applicable laws and regulations, and
6 public policy, an employer must timely pay its employees for all hours worked.

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

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

16 83. During the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and
17 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members were required, permitted or suffered by
18 DEFENDANT to work for DEFENDANT and were not paid for all the time they worked,
19 including overtime work.

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

1 85. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, DEFENDANT
2 inaccurately recorded overtime worked and consequently underpaid the overtime worked by
3 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR-SUB CLASS Members. DEFENDANT
4 acted in an illegal attempt to avoid the payment of all earned wages, and other benefits in
5 violation of the California Labor Code, the Industrial Welfare Commission requirements
6 and other applicable laws and regulations. As a direct result of DEFENDANT's unlawful
7 wage practices as alleged herein, the PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
8 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS did not receive full compensation for overtime
9 worked.

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

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

21 88. DEFENDANT failed to accurately pay the PLAINTIFF and the other
22 members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS overtime wages for the time they
23 worked which was in excess of the maximum hours permissible by law as required by Cal.
24 Lab. Code §§ 510, 1194 & 1198, even though PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
25 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS were required to work, and did in fact work, overtime
26 as to which DEFENDANT failed to accurately record and pay as evidenced by
27 DEFENDANT's business records and witnessed by employees.
28

1 89. By virtue of DEFENDANT's unlawful failure to accurately pay all earned
2 compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
3 CLASS for the true amount of time they worked, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
4 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS have suffered and will continue to suffer an
5 economic injury in amounts which are presently unknown to them and which will be
6 ascertained according to proof at trial.

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

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

22 92. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
23 CLASS therefore request recovery of all overtime wages, according to proof, interest,
24 statutory costs, as well as the assessment of any statutory penalties against DEFENDANT,
25 in a sum as provided by the California Labor Code and/or other applicable statutes. To the
26 extent minimum and/or overtime compensation is determined to be owed to the
27 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members who have terminated their employment,
28 DEFENDANT's conduct also violates Labor Code §§ 201 and/or 202, and therefore these

1 individuals are also be entitled to waiting time penalties under Cal. Lab. Code § 203, which
2 penalties are sought herein on behalf of these CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS
3 Members. DEFENDANT's conduct as alleged herein was willful, intentional and not in
4 good faith. Further, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members
5 are entitled to seek and recover statutory costs.

6
7 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

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

9 **[Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 & 512]**

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

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

15 94. During the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT from time to time
16 failed to provide all the legally required off-duty meal breaks to PLAINTIFF and the other
17 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members as required by the applicable Wage Order
18 and Labor Code. The nature of the work performed by PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA
19 LABOR SUB-CLASS MEMBERS did not prevent these employees from being relieved of
20 all of their duties for the legally required off-duty meal periods. As a result of their rigorous
21 work schedules, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members
22 were from time to time not fully relieved of duty by DEFENDANT for their meal periods.
23 Additionally, DEFENDANT's failure to provide PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA
24 LABOR SUB-CLASS Members with legally required meal breaks prior to their fifth (5th)
25 hour of work is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records from time to time. Further,
26 DEFENDANT failed to provide PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with a
27 second off-duty meal period in some workdays in which these employees were required by
28 DEFENDANT to work ten (10) hours of work from time to time. As a result, PLAINTIFF

1 and other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS therefore forfeited meal
2 breaks without additional compensation and in accordance with DEFENDANT's strict
3 corporate policy and practice.

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

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

13
14 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 100. As a proximate result of the aforementioned violations, PLAINTIFF and
11 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members have been damaged in an amount according
12 to proof at trial, and seek all wages earned and due, interest, penalties, expenses and costs of
13 suit.

14 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

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

16 **[Cal. Lab. Code § 226]**

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

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

22 102. Cal. Labor Code § 226 provides that an employer must furnish employees with
23 an "accurate itemized" statement in writing showing:

- 24 (1) gross wages earned,
25 (2) total hours worked by the employee, except for any employee whose
26 compensation is solely based on a salary and who is exempt from payment of
27 overtime under subdivision (a) of Section 515 or any applicable order of the
28 Industrial Welfare Commission,
(3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee
is paid on a piece-rate basis,
(4) all deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the
employee may be aggregated and shown as one item,

1 (5) net wages earned,
2 (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid,
3 (7) the name of the employee and his or her social security number, except that by
4 January 1, 2008, only the last four digits of his or her social security number or an
5 employee identification number other than a social security number may be shown on
6 the itemized statement,
7 (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and
8 (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding
9 number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.

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

104. DEFENDANT knowingly and intentionally failed to comply with Cal. Lab.
Code § 226, causing injury and damages to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the

1 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS. These damages include, but are not limited to, costs
2 expended calculating the correct wages for all missed meal and rest breaks and the amount
3 of employment taxes which were not properly paid to state and federal tax authorities.
4 These damages are difficult to estimate. Therefore, PLAINTIFF and the other members of
5 the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS may elect to recover liquidated damages of fifty
6 dollars (\$50.00) for the initial pay period in which the violation occurred, and one hundred
7 dollars (\$100.00) for each violation in a subsequent pay period pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code §
8 226, in an amount according to proof at the time of trial (but in no event more than four
9 thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) for PLAINTIFF and each respective member of the
10 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS herein).

11
12 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

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

14 **[Cal. Lab. Code § 2802]**

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

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

20 106. Cal. Lab. Code § 2802 provides, in relevant part, that:

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

24 107. At all relevant times herein, DEFENDANT violated Cal. Lab. Code § 2802,
25 by failing to indemnify and reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
26 CLASS members for required expenses incurred in the discharge of their job duties for
27 DEFENDANT's benefit. DEFENDANT failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF and the
28

1 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS members for expenses which included, but were not
2 limited to, costs related to using their personal cellular phones on behalf of and for the
3 benefit of DEFENDANT. Specifically, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR
4 SUB-CLASS Members were required by DEFENDANT to use their personal cellular
5 phones and home offices in order to perform work related job tasks. DEFENDANT's policy
6 and practice was to not reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
7 CLASS members for expenses resulting from using their personal cellular phones and home
8 offices for DEFENDANT within the course and scope of their employment for
9 DEFENDANT. These expenses were necessary to complete their principal job duties.
10 DEFENDANT is estopped by DEFENDANT's conduct to assert any waiver of this
11 expectation. Although these expenses were necessary expenses incurred by PLAINTIFF
12 and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS members, DEFENDANT failed to indemnify
13 and reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS members for
14 these expenses as an employer is required to do under the laws and regulations of California.

15 108. PLAINTIFF therefore demand reimbursement for expenditures or losses
16 incurred by them and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS members in the discharge of
17 their job duties for DEFENDANT, or their obedience to the directions of DEFENDANT,
18 with interest at the statutory rate and costs under Cal. Lab. Code § 2802.

19
20 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

21 **For Failure to Pay Wages When Due**

22 **[Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201, 202, 203]**

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

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

28 110. Cal. Lab. Code § 200 provides, in relevant part, that:

As used in this article:

(a) "Wages" includes all amounts for labor performed by employees of every description, whether the amount is fixed or ascertained by the standard of time, task, piece, Commission basis, or other method of calculation.

(b) "Labor" includes labor, work, or service whether rendered or performed under contract, subcontract, partnership, station plan, or other agreement if the labor to be paid for is performed personally by the person demanding payment.

111. Cal. Lab. Code § 201 provides, in relevant part, "that If an employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately."

112. Cal. Lab. Code § 202 provides, in relevant part, that:

If an employee not having a written contract for a definite period quits his or her employment, his or her wages shall become due and payable not later than 72 hours thereafter, unless the employee has given 72 hours previous notice of his or her intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an employee who quits without providing a 72-hour notice shall be entitled to receive payment by mail if he or she so requests and designates a mailing address. The date of the mailing shall constitute the date of payment for purposes of the requirement to provide payment within 72 hours of the notice of quitting.

113. There was no definite term in PLAINTIFF's or any CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members' employment contract.

114. Cal. Lab. Code § 203 provides, in relevant part, that:

If an employer willfully fails to pay, without abatement or reduction, in accordance with Sections 201, 201.5, 202, and 205.5, any wages of an employee who is discharged or who quits, the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or until an action therefor is commenced; but the wages shall not continue for more than 30 days.

115. The employment of PLAINTIFF and many CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members has terminated and DEFENDANT has not tendered payment of all wages owed as required by law. Additionally, at all times during the term of PLAINTIFF's employment with DEFENDANT, PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members earned and accrued vested vacation and holiday time on the date of their termination pursuant to DEFENDANT's uniform vacation policies and applicable California law. The amount of vacation pay PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-

1 CLASS Members earned and accumulated is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business
2 records. Additionally, DEFENDANT also underpaid accrued vested vacation wages to
3 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS MEMBERS by failing to pay
4 such wages at the regular rate of pay and more specifically the final rate of pay that included
5 all non-discretionary incentive compensation. Rather than pay vacation wages at the regular
6 rate of pay, DEFENDANT underpaid vacation wages to PLAINTIFF and other
7 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members at their base rates of pay, instead of
8 including all of PLAINTIFF's and CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members' non-
9 discretionary incentive compensation into the vacation wage payment calculations.
10 DEFENDANT failed to specify in DEFENDANT's written vacation policy the rate at which
11 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR CLASS Members would be paid vacation
12 upon leaving employment with DEFENDANT. As a result of DEFENDANT's unlawful
13 practice, policy and procedure to deny paying the PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
14 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS all of their vested vacation and holiday time,
15 DEFENDANT failed to pay the PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA
16 LABOR SUB-CLASS all vested vacation time as wages due upon employment termination,
17 in violation of the California Labor Code, Sections 201, 202, 203 and 227.3. Similarly,
18 DEFENDANT underpaid waiting time penalties to PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
19 LABOR SUB-CLASS Members at their base rates of pay, instead of including all of
20 PLAINTIFF's' and CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members' non-discretionary
21 compensation into the waiting time penalty calculations. This failure by DEFENDANT is
22 believed to be the result of DEFENDANT's unlawful, unfair and deceptive refusal to
23 provide compensation for earned, accrued and vested vacation and holiday time, as well as
24 the corresponding waiting time penalties that were paid. DEFENDANT perpetrated this
25 unlawful, unfair and deceptive practice to the detriment of the PLAINTIFF and the members
26 of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS . DEFENDANT's uniform practice and policy
27 of failing to pay the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members for all vested vacation
28

1 and holiday time accumulated at employment termination violated and continues to violate
2 Section 227.3 of the California Labor Code.

3 116. Therefore, as provided by Cal Lab. Code § 203, on behalf of himself and the
4 members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS whose employment has terminated
5 and who have not been fully paid their wages due to them, PLAINTIFF demand thirty days
6 of pay as penalty for not paying all wages due at time of termination for all employees who
7 terminated employment during the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD and
8 demands an accounting and payment of all wages due, plus interest and statutory costs as
9 allowed by law.

10
11 **NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

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

13 **[Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201-204, 210, 233, 246]**

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

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

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

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

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

16 120. Cal. Lab. Code § 204 provides that wages generally are due and payable twice
17 during each calendar month and are to be paid no later than the payday for the next regular
18 payroll period. Consistent with Cal. Lab. Code § 204, Cal. Lab. Code § 246 specifically
19 requires that, upon use of accrued sick leave, vested sick pay wages are due and to be paid
20 no later than the payday for the next regular payroll period after accrued sick leave is used as
21 paid sick time. Similarly, Cal. Lab. Code § 201 provides that if an employer discharges an
22 employee, wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable
23 immediately. Cal. Lab. Code § 202 provides that an employee is entitled to receive all
24 unpaid wages no later than 72 hours after an employee quits his or her employment, unless
25 the employee has given 72-hour notice of his or her intention to quit, in which case the
26 employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting. The Labor Code penalizes
27 untimely payments. For example, Cal. Lab. Code § 203 provides that if an employer
28 willfully fails to pay wages owed in accordance with Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201-202, then the

1 wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date, and at the same rate
2 until paid, but the wages shall not continue for more than thirty (30) days. Likewise, Cal.
3 Lab. Code § 210 provides penalties for violations of Cal. Lab. Code § 204 and untimely
4 payments during employment. Under Cal. Lab. Code §§ 203, 210 and 218, employees may
5 sue to recover applicable penalties.

6 121. As alleged herein and as a matter of policy and practice, DEFENDANT
7 routinely underpays sick pay wages and thus did not timely pay PLAINTIFF and the other
8 members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR-SUB-CLASS all owing and underpaid sick pay
9 wages. As a result, DEFENDANT violates Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201-204, 210, 233, and 246,
10 among other Labor Code provisions. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes that
11 DEFENDANT was advised by skilled lawyers and knew, or should have known, of the
12 mandates of the Labor Code as it relates to PLAINTIFF's allegations, especially since the
13 California Supreme Court has explained that "[c]ourts have recognized that 'wages' also
14 include those benefits to which an employee is entitled as a part of his or her compensation,
15 including money, room, board, clothing, vacation pay, and sick pay." *Murphy v. Kenneth*
16 *Cole Prods., Inc.*, 40 Cal. 4th 1094, 1103 (2007)(emphasis added). Because DEFENDANT
17 willfully fails to timely pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA
18 LABOR-SUB-CLASS all sick pay wages due, DEFENDANT is subject to applicable
19 penalties.

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

24 ///

25 ///

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

1 **TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **[Discrimination and Retaliation For the Exercise of Rights Guaranteed Under the**
3 **FEHA, Participating in Protected Activities, and/or Opposing DEFENDANT's Failure**
4 **to Provide Such Rights]**

5 **Violation of FEHA Government Section 12900, et. seq.**

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

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

9 124. In August of 2023 PLAINTIFF went on leave due to felling overworked and
10 sick and as a of his health condition of having HIV. DEFENDANT knew of PLAINTIFF's
11 HIV Diagnosis and of PLAINTIFF's previous formal complaints regarding labor code
12 violations, harassment, and discrimination as PLAINTIFF had brought these issues to
13 DEFENDANT in writing. When PLAINTIFF came back to work in August of 2023 his
14 hourly were drastically cut by more than half and his District Manager retaliated against him
15 and discriminated against him as a result of his HIV diagnosis and needing time off from
16 work. Subsequent to PLAINTIFF's participation in protective activity by going on leave for
17 his HIV Diagnosis and also complaining to his managers about the unlawful employment
18 practices, DEFENDANT subjected PLAINTIFF to adverse employment actions by
19 retaliating against PLAINTIFF. Specifically, PLAINTIFF's working environment became
20 unbearable and impossible to return to and PLAINTIFF's hours were cut by over half.
21 PLAINTIFF's managers continuously harassed him by giving him unreasonable working
22 demands and very little scheduled hours. During this time, PLAINTIFF was plagued with
23 ongoing work pressures, obligations, and mistreatment by his supervisors, including but not
24 limited to, belittling and making false accusations about PLAINTIFF's performance. As a
25 result, there is a causal link between the protected activity and DEFENDANT's decision to
26 retaliate against PLAINTIFF, which is against public policy and Section 1102.5 of the
27 California Labor Code. As a direct consequence of PLAINTIFF's going on protected leave
28 for his HIV diagnosis and his complaints to DEFENDANT, DEFENDANT retaliated

1 against PLAINTIFF by taking adverse employment actions described herein. Left with no
2 other choice, on or around September 9, 2023, PLAINTIFF made the decision to resign
3 from his employment due to the hostile environment described above and DEFENDANT's
4 failure to take his complaints seriously. Prior to filing this action PLAINTIFF exhausted his
5 administrative remedies by filing a timely administrative complaint with the Department of
6 Fair Employment and Housing ("DFEH") and received a DFEH Right to Sue letter on
7 January 30, 2024..

8 125. DEFENDANT's conduct, as alleged, violated FEHA, Government Code
9 Section 12900, *et seq.*, and DEFENDANT committed unlawful employment practices,
10 including the following bases for liability:

11 a. Taking adverse employment actions against PLAINTIFF, including
12 discharging, barring, refusing to transfer, retain, hire, select, and/or employ, and/or
13 otherwise discriminating against PLAINTIFF, in whole or in part on the basis of
14 PLAINTIFF's sexual orientation/medical condition in violation of Government Code
15 Section 12940(a);

16 b. Harassing PLAINTIFF and/or creating a hostile work environment, in
17 whole or in part on the basis of PLAINTIFF's sexual orientation/medical condition;

18 c. Failing to take all reasonable steps to prevent discrimination and
19 harassment based on age and/or medical condition in violation of Government Code section
20 12940(k);

21 d. Retaliating against PLAINTIFF for seeking to exercise rights
22 guaranteed under FEHA, participating in protected activities, and/or opposing
23 DEFENDANT's failure to provide such rights, in violation of Government Code Section
24 12940(h).

25 126. As a proximate result of DEFENDANT's willful, knowing, and intentional
26 discrimination against PLAINTIFF, PLAINTIFF has sustained and continues to sustain
27 substantial losses of earnings and other employment benefits.

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

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

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

ELEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Constructive Discharge and Other Adverse Employment Actions

(By PLAINTIFF Against All Defendants)

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

131. In August of 2023 PLAINTIFF went on leave due to felling overworked and sick and as a of his health condition of having HIV. DEFENDANT knew of PLAINTIFF's HIV Diagnosis and of PLAINTIFF's previous formal complaints regarding labor code violations, harassment, and discrimination as PLAINTIFF had brought these issues to DEFENDANT in writing. When PLAINTIFF came back to work in August of 2023 his hourly were drastically cut by more than half and his District Manager retaliated against him and discriminated against him as a result of his HIV diagnosis and needing time off from work.

132. Subsequent to PLAINTIFF's participation in protective activity by going on leave for his HIV Diagnosis and also complaining to his managers about the unlawful employment practices, DEFENDANT subjected PLAINTIFF to adverse employment

1 actions by retaliating against PLAINTIFF. Specifically, PLAINTIFF's working
2 environment became unbearable and impossible to return to and PLAINTIFF's hours were
3 cut by over half. PLAINTIFF's managers continuously harassed him by giving him
4 unreasonable working demands and very little scheduled hours. During this time,
5 PLAINTIFF was plagued with ongoing work pressures, obligations, and mistreatment by his
6 supervisors, including but not limited to, belittling and making false accusations about
7 PLAINTIFF's performance. As a result, there is a causal link between the protected activity
8 and DEFENDANT's decision to retaliate against PLAINTIFF, which is against public
9 policy and Section 1102.5 of the California Labor Code. As a direct consequence of
10 PLAINTIFF's going on protected leave for his HIV diagnosis and his complaints to
11 DEFENDANT, DEFENDANT retaliated against PLAINTIFF by taking adverse
12 employment actions described herein.

13 133. Left with no other choice, on or around September 9, 2023, PLAINTIFF made
14 the decision to resign from his employment due to the hostile environment described above
15 and DEFENDANT's failure to take his complaints seriously.

16 134. PLAINTIFF raised complaints of illegality while PLAINTIFF worked for
17 DEFENDANT and was believed to be willing to raise complaints, and DEFENDANT
18 retaliated against PLAINTIFF by taking adverse employment actions against PLAINTIFF.

19 135. As a proximate result of DEFENDANT'S willful, knowing, and intentional,
20 conduct, PLAINTIFF has suffered and continues to suffer humiliation, emotional distress,
21 and mental and physical pain and anguish, all to PLAINTIFF's damage in a sum according
22 to proof.

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

26 137. DEFENDANT's misconduct was committed intentionally, in a malicious,
27 oppressive manner, and fraudulent manner entitling PLAINTIFF to punitive damages.
28

1 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

2 WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF pray for judgment against each Defendant, jointly and
3 severally, as follows:

4 1. On behalf of the CALIFORNIA CLASS:

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

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

- 16 A) That the Court certify the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth
17 and Ninth Causes of Action asserted by the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
18 CLASS as a class action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382;
19 B) Compensatory damages, according to proof at trial, including compensatory
20 damages for minimum and overtime compensation due PLAINTIFF and the other
21 members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, during the applicable
22 CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD plus interest thereon at the
23 statutory rate;
24 C) The greater of all actual damages or fifty dollars (\$50) for the initial pay period
25 in which a violation occurs and one hundred dollars (\$100) per each member of
26 the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS for each violation in a subsequent pay
27 period, not exceeding an aggregate penalty of four thousand dollars (\$4,000), and
28 an award of costs for violation of Cal. Lab. Code § 226;

- 1 D) Meal and rest period compensation pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7, 512 and
2 the applicable IWC Wage Order;
- 3 E) For liquidated damages pursuant to California Labor Code Sections 1194.2 and
4 1197;
- 5 F) The amount of the expenses PLAINTIFF and each member of the CALIFORNIA
6 LABOR SUBCLASS incurred in the course of their job duties, plus interest, and
7 costs of suit.; and,
- 8 G) The wages of all terminated employees in the CALIFORNIA LABOR
9 SUB-CLASS as a penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or
10 until an action therefore is commenced, in accordance with Cal. Lab. Code § 203.
- 11 3. On behalf of Plaintiff Lozada for the Tenth cause of action:
- 12 A) Compensatory damages, according to proof at trial, but in excess of \$25,000.
- 13 B) Special and General damages according to proof;
- 14 C) Statutory damages, penalties and attorney's fees;
- 15 D) For punitive damages in an amount necessary to make an example of and to
16 punish DEFENDANT and deter DEFENDANT from engaging in future similar
17 conduct;
- 18 E) For loss of earnings (both past and future); and,
- 19 F) For interest at the legal rate in an amount according to proof.
- 20 4. 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,
25 §1194,and/or §2802.

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Dated: January 30, 2024 BLUMENTHAL NORDREHAUG BHOWMIK DE BLOUW LLP

By: _____
Nicholas J. De Blouw
Attorneys for Plaintiff

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DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL

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

Dated: January 30, 2024

BLUMENTHAL NORDREHAUG BHOWMIK DE BLOUW LLP

By: _____
Nicholas J. De Blouw
Attorneys for Plaintiff