

SUMMONS

(CITACION JUDICIAL)

FOR COURT USE ONLY
(SOLO PARA USO DE LA CORTE)

ELECTRONICALLY FILED
Superior Court of California,
County of San Diego
05/17/2024 at 10:44:36 AM
Clerk of the Superior Court
By Eva Noriega, Deputy Clerk

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):

MHF MV MANAGER VI LLC a Delaware limited liability company; (Additional Parties Attachment is Attached)

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):

LAN HO, an individual, in her representative capacity, on behalf of herself and fellow current and former aggrieved employees,

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. **¡AVISO!** Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. **AVISO:** Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is:
(El nombre y dirección de la corte es): San Diego Superior Court
Hall of Justice - 330 West Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101

CASE NUMBER:
(Número del Caso):

37-2024-00023073-CU-OE-CTL

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:
(El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq. T: (619) 599-8292 JCL Law Firm, APC - 5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600, San Diego, CA 92121

DATE: 05/20/2024
(Fecha)

Clerk, by  , Deputy
(Secretario) (Adjunto)

(For proof of service of this summons, use Proof of Service of Summons (form POS-010).)
(Para prueba de entrega de esta citación use el formulario Proof of Service of Summons, (POS-010)).

[SEAL]



NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served

1. ☐ as an individual defendant.
2. ☐ as the person sued under the fictitious name of (specify):
3. ☐ on behalf of (specify):
under: ☐ CCP 416.10 (corporation) ☐ CCP 416.60 (minor)
☐ CCP 416.20 (defunct corporation) ☐ CCP 416.70 (conservatee)
☐ CCP 416.40 (association or partnership) ☐ CCP 416.90 (authorized person)
☐ other (specify):
4. ☐ by personal delivery on (date):

SHORT TITLE:

Ho v. MHF MV Manager VI LLC, et al.

CASE NUMBER:

37-2024-00023073-CU-OE-CTL

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

- This form may be used as an attachment to any summons if space does not permit the listing of all parties on the summons.
- If this attachment is used, insert the following statement in the plaintiff or defendant box on the summons: "Additional Parties Attachment form is attached."

List additional parties (Check only one box. Use a separate page for each type of party.):

☐ Plaintiff ☒ Defendant ☐ Cross-Complainant ☐ Cross-Defendant

MHF MV OPERATING VI LLC dba COURTYARD SAN DIEGO MISSION VALLEY/HOTEL CIRCLE, a Delaware limited liability company; MHF MV VI LLC, a Delaware limited liability company; and DOES 1-50, Inclusive,

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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

LAN HO, an individual, in her representative capacity, on behalf of herself and fellow current and former aggrieved employees,

Plaintiff,

v.

MHF MV MANAGER VI LLC a Delaware limited liability company; MHF MV OPERATING VI LLC dba COURTYARD SAN DIEGO MISSION VALLEY/HOTEL CIRCLE, a Delaware limited liability company; MHF MV VI LLC, a Delaware limited liability company; and DOES 1-50, Inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No: 37-2024-00023073-CU-OE-CTL

**REPRESENTATIVE ACTION
COMPLAINT FOR:**

- 1) VIOLATIONS OF THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT [LABOR CODE §§ 2698 ET SEQ]

1 PLAINTIFF LAN HO (“PLAINTIFF”), an individual, in her representative capacity and on
2 behalf of herself, the State of California, and fellow current and former AGGRIEVED
3 EMPLOYEES, defined *supra*, against Defendant MHF MV MANAGER VI LL, a Delaware limited
4 liability company; Defendant MHF MV OPERATING VI LLC dba COURTYARD SAN DIEGO
5 MISSION VALLEY/HOTEL CIRCLE, a Delaware limited liability company; and/or Defendant
6 MHF MV VI LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (“DEFENDANTS”), alleges on
7 information and belief, except for her own acts and knowledge which are based on personal
8 knowledge, the following:

9 **INTRODUCTION**

10 1. PLAINTIFF brings this representative action pursuant to the Private Attorneys
11 General Act of 2004, California Labor Code § 2698, *et seq.* (“PAGA”) on behalf of the LWDA
12 and other current and former aggrieved employees of DEFENDANT for engaging in a pattern
13 and practice of wage and hour violations under the California Labor Code.

14 2. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that DEFENDANT
15 decreased their employment-related costs by systematically violating California wage and hour
16 laws.

17 3. DEFENDANT’S systematic pattern of wage and hour and IWC Wage Order
18 violations toward PLAINTIFF and other aggrieved employees in California include, *inter alia*:

- 19 a. Failure to provide compliant meal and rest periods;
- 20 b. Failure to allow employees to take duty-free meal and rest periods;
- 21 c. Failure to pay all minimum, sick pay, regular and overtime wages;
- 22 d. Failure to correctly calculate the regular rate of pay;
- 23 e. Failure to pay within seven (7) days of the close of payroll;
- 24 f. Failure to pay for all hours worked;
- 25 g. Failure to maintain true and accurate records;
- 26 h. Failure to reimburse for required business expenses;
- 27 i. Failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements; and
- 28 j. Failure to timely pay wages due during, and upon termination of employment.

4. PLAINTIFF brings this representative action against DEFENDANT on behalf of the LWDA and all other aggrieved employees of DEFENDANT in California seeking all civil penalties and unpaid wages permitted pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699, *et seq.*

5. PLAINTIFF reserves the right to name additional representatives throughout the State of California.

THE PARTIES

6. Defendant MHF MV MANAGER VI LLC (“Defendant MHF Manager”) is a Delaware limited liability company that at all relevant times mentioned herein conducted and continues to conduct substantial and regular business throughout California.

7. Defendant MHF MV OPERATING VI LLC dba COURTYARD SAN DIEGO MISSION VALLEY/HOTEL CIRCLE (“Defendant MHF Operating”) is a Delaware limited liability company that at all relevant times mentioned herein conducted and continues to conduct substantial and regular business throughout California.

8. Defendant MHF MV VI LLC (“Defendant MHF”) is a Delaware limited liability company that at all relevant times mentioned herein conducted and continues to conduct substantial and regular business throughout California.

9. Defendant MHF Manager, Defendant MHF Operating, and/or Defendant MHF were the joint employers of PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES as evidenced by the documents issued to PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES, by the company PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES performed work for respectively, and as these entities each exerted control over the hours, wages and/or working conditions of PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES. Therefore, Defendant MHF Manager, Defendant MHF Operating, and Defendant MHF are jointly responsible as employers for the conduct alleged herein as “DEFENDANTS” and/or “DEFENDANT.”

10. DEFENDANTS own and operate hotels in San Diego, California, where PLAINTIFF worked.

11. PLAINTIFF was employed by DEFENDANTS in California from September of 2019 to October of 2023 as a non-exempt employee, paid on an hourly basis, and entitled to the

1 legally required meal and rest periods and payment of minimum and overtime wages due for all
2 time worked.

3 12. PLAINTIFF, and such persons that may be added from time to time who satisfy
4 the requirements and exhaust the administrative procedures under the Private Attorney General
5 Act, bring this Representative Action on behalf of the State of California with respect to herself
6 and all individuals who are or previously were employed by Defendant MHF Manager and/or
7 Defendant MHF Operating and/or Defendant MHF in California and classified as non-exempt
8 employees (“AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES”) during the time period of March 11, 2023 and the
9 present (“PAGA Period”).

10 13. PLAINTIFF is an “AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEE” within the meaning of Labor
11 Code § 2699(c) because she was employed by DEFENDANTS and suffered one or more of the
12 alleged Labor Code violations committed by DEFENDANTS.

13 14. PLAINTIFF and all other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES are, and at all relevant
14 times were, employees of DEFENDANTS, within the meanings set forth in the California Labor
15 Code and the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order.

16 15. Each of the fictitiously named Defendants participated in the acts alleged in this
17 Complaint. The true names and capacities of the Defendants named as DOES 1 THROUGH 50,
18 inclusive, are presently unknown to PLAINTIFF. PLAINTIFF will amend this Complaint, setting
19 forth the true names and capacities of these fictitiously named Defendants when their true names
20 are ascertained. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that each of the
21 fictitious Defendants have participated in the acts alleged in this Complaint.

22 16. DEFENDANTS, including DOES 1 THROUGH 50 (hereinafter collectively
23 “DEFENDANTS”), were PLAINTIFF’S employers or persons acting on behalf of PLAINTIFF’S
24 employer, within the meaning of California Labor Code § 558, who violated or caused to be
25 violated, a section of Part 2, Chapter 1 of the California Labor Code or any provision regulating
26 hours and days of work in any order of the Industrial Welfare Commission and, as such, are
27 subject to civil penalties for each underpaid employee, as set forth in Labor Code § 558, at all
28 relevant times.

17. DEFENDANTS were PLAINTIFF'S employer or persons acting on behalf of PLAINTIFF'S employer either individually or as an officer, agent, or employee of another person, within the meaning of California Labor Code § 1197.1, who paid or caused to be paid to any employee a wage less than the minimum fixed by California state law, and as such, are subject to civil penalties for each underpaid employee.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

18. This Court has jurisdiction over this Action pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure, Section 410.10 and California Business & Professions Code, Section 17203. This Court has jurisdiction over AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES' claims for civil penalties under the Private Attorney General Act of 2004, California Labor Code §2698, *et seq.*

19. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure, Sections 395 and 395.5, because DEFENDANTS (i) currently maintain and at all relevant times maintained offices and facilities in this County and/or conduct substantial business in this County, and (ii) committed the wrongful conduct herein alleged in this County against AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES.

THE CONDUCT

20. In violation of the applicable sections of the California Labor Code and the requirements of the Industrial Welfare Commission (“IWC”) Wage Order, DEFENDANT as a matter of company policy, practice, and procedure, intentionally, knowingly, and systematically failed to provide legally compliant meal and rest periods, failed to accurately compensate PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for missed meal and rest periods, failed to pay PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for all time worked, failed compensate PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for off-the-clock work, failed to pay PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES overtime at the correct regular rate of pay, failed to compensate PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES meal rest premiums at the regular rate, failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for business expenses, and failed to issue to PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES with accurate itemized wage statements showing, all required information as required by Labor code section 226(a), including but not

1 limited to all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay periods and the corresponding amount
2 of time worked at each hourly rate. DEFENDANT's uniform policies and practices are intended
3 to purposefully avoid the accurate and full payment for all time worked as required by California
4 law which allows DEFENDANT to illegally profit and gain an unfair advantage over competitors
5 who comply with the law. To the extent equitable tolling operates to toll claims by the
6 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES against DEFENDANT, the PAGA PERIOD should be adjusted
7 accordingly.

8 **A. Meal Period Violations**

9 21. Pursuant to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, DEFENDANT was
10 required to pay PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for all their time worked, meaning
11 the time during which an employee is subject to the control of an employer, including all the time
12 the employee is suffered or permitted to work. From time to time during the PAGA PERIOD,
13 DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES to work without paying
14 them for all the time they were under DEFENDANT's control. Specifically, DEFENDANT
15 required PLAINTIFF to work while clocked out during what was supposed to be PLAINTIFF'S
16 off-duty meal break. Indeed, there were many days where PLAINTIFF did not even receive a
17 partial lunch. As a result, the PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES forfeited
18 minimum wage and overtime compensation by regularly working without their time being
19 accurately recorded and without compensation at the applicable minimum wage and overtime
20 rates. DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice not to pay PLAINTIFF and other
21 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for all time worked is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business
22 records.

23 22. From time to time during the PAGA PERIOD, as a result of their rigorous work
24 schedules and DEFENDANT's inadequate staffing practices, PLAINTIFF and other
25 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES are from time to time unable to take thirty (30) minute off duty
26 meal breaks and were not fully relieved of duty for their meal periods. PLAINTIFF and other
27 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES are required to perform work as ordered by DEFENDANT for more
28 than five (5) hours during some shifts without receiving a meal break. Further, DEFENDANT

1 fails to provide PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES with a second off-duty meal
2 period for some workdays in which these employees are required by DEFENDANT to work ten
3 (10) hours of work. The nature of the work performed by PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED
4 EMPLOYEES does not qualify for the limited and narrowly construed “on-duty” meal period
5 exception. When they were provided with meal periods, PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED
6 EMPLOYEES were, from time to time, required to remain on duty and on call. DEFENDANT’s
7 failure to provide PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES Members with legally
8 required meal breaks is evidenced by DEFENDANT’s business records. PLAINTIFF and
9 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES therefore forfeit meal breaks without additional compensation and
10 in accordance with DEFENDANT’s strict corporate policy and practice.

11 **B. Rest Period Violations**

12 23. From time to time during the PAGA PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and other
13 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were also required to work in excess of four (4) hours without being
14 provided ten (10) minute rest periods as a result of their rigorous work requirements and
15 DEFENDANT’s inadequate staffing. Further, for the same reasons, these employees were denied
16 their first rest periods of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of at least two (2) to four
17 (4) hours from time to time, a first and second rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some
18 shifts worked between six (6) and eight (8) hours from time to time, and a first, second and third
19 rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of ten (10) hours or more from time
20 to time. When they were provided with rest breaks, PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED
21 EMPLOYEES were, from time to time, required to remain on premises, on duty and/or on call
22 and/or on the premises. PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were also not
23 provided with one-hour wages *in lieu* thereof. As a result of their rigorous work schedules and
24 DEFENDANT’s inadequate staffing, PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were
25 from time to time denied their proper rest periods by DEFENDANT and DEFENDANT’s
26 managers.

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1 **C. Unreimbursed Business Expenses**

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

13 25. In the course of their employment, DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFF and other
14 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES to incur personal expenses for the use of their personal cell phones
15 and were required to maintain a specific uniform as a result of and in furtherance of their job
16 duties, including but not limited to receiving and/or responding to work-related communications
17 and performing work-related duties in their uniform. However, DEFENDANT unlawfully failed
18 to reimburse PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for the use of their personal
19 cell phones and for uniforms. As a result, in the course of their employment with DEFENDANT,
20 the PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES incurred unreimbursed business
21 expenses that included, but were not limited to, costs related to the use of their personal cell
22 phones, computers, and home internet.

23 **D. Wage Statement Violations**

24 26. California Labor Code Section 226 required an employer to furnish its employees
25 and accurate itemized wage statement in writing showing (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours
26 worked, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece-rate, (4) all deductions,
27 (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid, (7) the
28 name of the employee and only the last four digits of the employee's social security number or an

1 employee identification number other than a social security number, (8) the name and address of
2 the legal entity that is the employer, and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay
3 period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.

4 27. From time to time during the PAGA PERIOD, when PLAINTIFF and other
5 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES missed meal and rest breaks, or were paid inaccurately for missed
6 meal and rest period premiums, or were not paid for all hours worked, DEFENDANT also failed
7 to provide PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES with complete and accurate wage
8 statements which failed to show, among other things, all required items under Labor Code section
9 226(a), including but not limited to: all deductions, the total hours worked and all applicable
10 hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding amount of time worked at each
11 hourly rate, correct rates of pay for penalty payments or missed meal and rest periods.

12 28. In addition to the foregoing, DEFENDANT, from time to time, failed to provide
13 PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES Members with wage statements that comply
14 with Cal. Lab. Code § 226.

15 29. As a result, DEFENDANTS issued PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED
16 EMPLOYEES with wage statements that violate Cal. Lab. Code § 226. Further, DEFENDANT's
17 violations are knowing and intentional, were not isolated due to an unintentional payroll error due
18 to clerical or inadvertent mistake.

19 **E. Off-the-Clock Work Resulting in Minimum Wage and Overtime Violations**

20 30. During the PAGA PERIOD, from time-to-time DEFENDANTS failed and
21 continue to fail to accurately pay PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for all hours
22 worked.

23 31. During the PAGA PERIOD, from time-to-time DEFENDANT required
24 PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES to perform pre-shift or post-shift work. This
25 resulted in PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES to have to work while off-the-clock.
26 DEFENDANTS required PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES to perform pre-shift
27 COVID-19 screenings (temperature checks and questionnaires) off-the-clock. PLAINTIFF and
28 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were not compensated for this time.

1 32. DEFENDANTS directed and directly benefited from the undercompensated off-
2 the-clock work performed by PLAINTIFF and the other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES.

3 33. DEFENDANTS controlled the work schedules, duties, and protocols, applications,
4 assignments, and employment conditions of PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES.

5 34. DEFENDANTS were able to track the amount of time PLAINTIFF and
6 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES spent working; however, DEFENDANT failed to document, track,
7 or pay PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES all wages earned and owed for all the work
8 they performed.

9 35. PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were non-exempt employees,
10 subject to the requirements of the California Labor Code.

11 36. DEFENDANT's policies and practices deprived PLAINTIFF and the other
12 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES of all minimum regular, overtime, and double time wages owed for
13 the off-the-clock work activities. Because PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES
14 typically worked over forty (40) hours in a workweek, and more than eight (8) hours per day,
15 DEFENDANT's policies and practices also deprived them of overtime pay.

16 37. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED
17 EMPLOYEES' off-the-clock work was compensable under the law.

18 38. As a result, PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES forfeited wages due to
19 them for all hours worked at DEFENDANT's direction, control, and benefit for the time spent
20 working while off-the-clock, including, performing pre-shift COVID-19 screenings (temperature
21 checks and questionnaires) off-the-clock. DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice to not pay
22 PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES wages for all hours worked in accordance with
23 applicable law is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records.

24 **F. Regular Rate Violation – Overtime, Double Time, Meal and Rest Period Premiums,**
25 **and Redeemed Sick Pay**

26 39. From time to time during the PAGA PERIOD, DEFENDANT failed and continues
27 to fail to accurately calculate and pay PLAINTIFF and the other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES
28 for their overtime and double time hours worked, meal and rest period premiums, and redeemed

1 sick pay. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES forfeited wages
2 due to them for working overtime without compensation at the correct overtime and double time
3 rates, meal and rest period premiums, and redeemed sick pay rates. DEFENDANT's uniform
4 policy and practice not to pay the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES Members at the correct rate for
5 all overtime and double time worked, meal and rest period premiums, and redeemed sick pay in
6 accordance with applicable law is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records.

7 40. State law provides that employees must be paid overtime at one-and-one-half times
8 their "regular rate of pay." PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were
9 compensated at an hourly rate plus incentive pay that was tied to specific elements of an
10 employee's performance.

11 41. The second component of PLAINTIFF'S and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES'
12 compensation was DEFENDANTS' non-discretionary incentive program that paid PLAINTIFF
13 and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES' incentive wages based on their performance for
14 DEFENDANTS. The non-discretionary bonus program provided all employees paid on an hourly
15 basis with bonus compensation when the employees met the various performance goals set by
16 DEFENDANTS.

17 42. However, from-time-to-time, when calculating the regular rate of pay, in those pay
18 periods where PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES worked overtime, double time,
19 paid meal and rest period premium payments, and/or redeemed sick pay, and earned non-
20 discretionary bonus, DEFENDANTS failed to accurately include the non-discretionary bonus
21 compensation as part of the employees' "regular rate of pay" and/or calculated all hours worked
22 rather than just all non-overtime hours worked. Management and supervisors described the
23 incentive/bonus program to potential and new employees as part of the compensation package. As
24 a matter of law, the incentive compensation received by PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED
25 EMPLOYEES must be included in the "regular rate of pay." The failure to do so has resulted in a
26 systematic underpayment of overtime and double time compensation, meal and rest period
27 premiums, and redeemed sick pay to PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES by
28 DEFENDANTS. Specifically, California Labor Code Section 246 mandates that paid sick time for

1 non-exempt employees shall be calculated in the same manner as the regular rate of pay for the
2 workweek in which the non-exempt employee uses paid sick time, whether or not the employee
3 actually works overtime in that workweek. DEFENDANTS' conduct, as articulated herein, by
4 failing to include the incentive compensation as part of the "regular rate of pay" for purposes of
5 sick pay compensation was in violation of Cal. Lab. Code § 246 the underpayment of which is
6 recoverable under Cal. Labor Code Sections 201, 202, 203 and/or 204.

7 43. In violation of the applicable sections of the California Labor Code and the
8 requirements of the Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") Wage Order, DEFENDANT as a
9 matter of company policy, practice, and procedure, intentionally and knowingly failed to
10 compensate PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES at the correct rate of pay for all
11 overtime and double time worked, meal and rest period premiums, and redeemed sick pay as
12 required by California law which allowed DEFENDANTS to illegally profit and gain an unfair
13 advantage over competitors who complied with the law. To the extent equitable tolling operates
14 to toll claims by the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES members against DEFENDANT, the PAGA
15 PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.

16 **G. Sick Pay Violations**

17 44. Cal. Labor Code Section 246 (a)(1) mandates that "An employee who, on or after
18 July 1, 2015, works in California for the same employer for 30 or more days within a year from
19 the commencement of employment is entitled to paid sick days as specified in this section."
20 Further, Cal. Labor Code Sections 246(b)-(d) provide for the sick day accrual requirements. From
21 time to time, DEFENDANT failed to have a policy or practice in place that provided PLAINTIFF
22 and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES with sick days and/or paid sick leave. As of January 1, 2024,
23 Defendants failed to adhere to the law in that they failed to provide and allow employees to use
24 at least 40 hours or five days of paid sick leave per year.

25 45. California Labor Code Section 246(i) requires an employer to furnish its
26 employees with written wage statements setting forth the amount of paid sick leave available.
27 From time to time, DEFENDANT violated Cal. Lab. Code § 246 by failing to furnish PLAINTIFF
28

1 and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES with wage statements setting forth the amount of paid sick
2 leave available.

3 **H. Violations for Untimely Payment of Wages**

4 46. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 204, PLAINTIFF and the
5 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES members were entitled to timely payment of wages during their
6 employment. PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES members, from time to time, did
7 not receive payment of all wages, including, but not limited to, overtime wages, minimum wages,
8 meal period premium wages, and rest period premium wages within permissible time period.

9 47. Pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 201, “If an employer discharges an employee, the
10 wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately.” Pursuant to
11 Cal. Lab. Code § 202, if an employee quits his or her employment, “his or her wages shall become
12 due and payable not later than 72 hours thereafter, unless the employee has given 72 hours
13 previous notice of his or her intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her
14 wages at the time of quitting.” PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were, from time
15 to time, not timely provided the wages earned and unpaid at the time of their discharge and/or at
16 the time of quitting, in violation of Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201 and 202.

17 48. As such, PLAINTIFF demands up to thirty days of pay as penalty for not timely
18 paying all wages due at time of termination for all AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES whose
19 employment ended during the PAGA PERIOD.

20 **I. Unlawful Deductions**

21 49. DEFENDANTS, from time-to-time unlawfully deducted wages from PLAINTIFF
22 and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES’ pay without explanations and without authorization to do so
23 or notice to PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES Members. As a result,
24 DEFENDANTS violated Labor Code § 221.

25 **J. Unlawful Rounding Practices**

26 50. During the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES PERIOD, DEFENDANTS did not have
27 in place an immutable timekeeping system to accurately record and pay PLAINTIFF and other
28 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for the actual time these employees worked each day, including

1 overtime hours. Specifically, DEFENDANTS had in place an unlawful rounding policy and
2 practice that resulted in PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES being undercompensated
3 for all of their time worked. As a result, DEFENDANTS were able to and did in fact unlawfully,
4 and unilaterally round the time recorded in DEFENDANT'S timekeeping system for PLAINTIFF
5 and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES in order to avoid paying these employees for all their time
6 worked, including the applicable overtime compensation for overtime worked. As a result,
7 PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES, from time to time, forfeited compensation
8 for their time worked by working without their time being accurately recorded and without
9 compensation at the applicable overtime rates.

10 51. Further, the mutability of DEFENDANT'S timekeeping system and unlawful
11 rounding policy and practice resulted in PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES' time
12 being inaccurately recorded. As a result, from time to time, DEFENDANT'S unlawful rounding
13 policy and practice caused PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES to perform work as
14 ordered by DEFENDANTS for more than five (5) hours during a shift without receiving an off-
15 duty meal break.

16 **K. Timekeeping Manipulation**

17 52. During the PAGA PERIOD, DEFENDANTS, from time-to-time, did not have an
18 immutable timekeeping system to accurately record and pay PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED
19 EMPLOYEES for the actual time PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES worked each
20 day, including regular time, overtime hours, sick pay, meal and rest breaks. As a result,
21 DEFENDANTS were able to and did in fact, unlawfully, and unilaterally alter the time recorded
22 in DEFENDANTS' timekeeping system for PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES in
23 order to avoid paying these employees for all hours worked, applicable overtime compensation,
24 applicable sick pay, missed meal breaks and missed rest break.

25 53. As a result, PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES, from time-to-time,
26 forfeited time worked by working without their time being accurately recorded and without
27 compensation at the applicable pay rates.

28 ///

1 54. The mutability of the timekeeping system also allowed DEFENDANTS to alter
2 employee time records by recording fictitious thirty (30) minute meal breaks in DEFENDANTS'
3 timekeeping system so as to create the appearance that PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED
4 EMPLOYEES clocked out for thirty (30) minute meal break when in fact the employees were not
5 at all times provided an off-duty meal break. This practice is a direct result of DEFENDANTS'
6 uniform policy and practice of denying employees uninterrupted thirty (30) minute off-duty meal
7 breaks each day or otherwise compensate them for missed meal breaks.

8 55. As a result, PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES forfeited wages due
9 them for all hours worked at DEFENDANT'S direction, control and benefit for the time the
10 timekeeping system was inoperable. DEFENDANT'S uniform policy and practice to not pay
11 PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES wages for all hours worked in accordance with
12 applicable law is evidenced by DEFENDANT'S business records.

13 **L. Tip Pooling**

14 56. During the PAGA PERIOD, pursuant to DEFENDANTS' company policies and
15 practices, PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were forced to forfeit gratuities left for
16 them by customers to DEFENDANTS' agents who provided no service to the customers that
17 resulted in the gratuity. DEFENDANTS routinely added gratuity tips and service charges to its
18 food and beverage bills. These gratuities and service charges reasonably appear to be gratuities
19 for the service staff. It is typical and customary in the hospitality industry that establishments
20 impose gratuity charges on the food and beverage bill. Thus, when customers paid these charges,
21 it is reasonable for them to have believed they were gratuities to be paid to the service staff.
22 Indeed, because many of these charges are depicted to customers, and the custom in the food and
23 beverage industry that gratuities are paid for food and beverage service, customers paid these
24 charges reasonably believing they were remitted to the service staff. However, DEFENDANTS
25 have not remitted the total proceeds of these gratuities to the non-managerial employees who
26 serve the food and beverages. Instead, DEFENDANTS have a policy and practice of using a
27 portion of these gratuities to pay managers or other non-service employees. As a result,
28

1 PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES have not received the total proceeds of the
2 gratuities, to which they are entitled to under California law.

3 57. DEFENDANTS are generally in the business of owning and operating a hotel and
4 banquet business. During the PAGA PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES
5 were in the “chain of service” and earned gratuities based on their service for their customers.
6 However, PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were forced to forfeit portions of their
7 gratuities, which said gratuities were kept by DEFENDANTS’ employees who were not in the
8 chain of service from which the gratuity resulted. PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES
9 contend that any gratuities kept by DEFENDANTS’ non-service employees were illegal and in
10 violation of California law because PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES provided the
11 service for to whom the gratuity should have been paid.

12 58. California Labor Code § 351 establishes the requirements for an employer
13 regarding the payment of gratuities. Specifically, gratuities are the sole property of the employees.
14 California Labor Code § 351 expressly prohibits employers and their agents from collecting,
15 taking, or receiving any portion of a gratuity. California Labor Code § 350(e) defines the term
16 “gratuity” as including any money that has been paid or given or left for an employee by a patron
17 of a business over and above the actual amount due the business for services rendered or for
18 goods, food, drink or articles sold or served to such patron. Labor Code § 353 requires employers
19 to keep accurate records of all gratuities they receive, directly or indirectly.

20 59. Although tip pooling is not expressly prohibited by the Labor Code, employees
21 who mandate tip pooling must only distribute pooled tips to employees in the “chain of service.”
22 By distributing tips to employees who were not in the “chain of service,” DEFENDANTS have
23 violated and continue to violate the legal requirements for handling pooled tips.

24 60. Specifically, as to PLAINTIFF, PLAINTIFF was from time to time unable to take
25 off duty meal and rest breaks and was not fully relieved of duty for her rest and meal periods.
26 PLAINTIFF was required to perform work as ordered by DEFENDANTS for more than five (5)
27 hours during a shift without receiving an off-duty meal break. Further, DEFENDANTS failed to
28 provide PLAINTIFF with a second off-duty meal period each workday in which she was required

1 by DEFENDANTS to work ten (10) hours of work. When DEFENDANTS provided PLAINTIFF
2 with a rest break, they required PLAINTIFF to remain on-duty and on-call for the rest break.
3 DEFENDANTS policy caused PLAINTIFF to remain on-call and on-duty during what was
4 supposed to be her off-duty meal periods. PLAINTIFF therefore forfeited meal and rest breaks
5 without additional compensation and in accordance with DEFENDANTS' strict corporate policy
6 and practice. Moreover, DEFENDANTS also provided PLAINTIFF with paystubs that failed to
7 comply with Cal. Lab. Code § 226. Further, DEFENDANTS also failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF
8 for required business expenses related to the personal expenses incurred for the use of her personal
9 cell phone and personal computer, on behalf of and in furtherance of her employment with
10 DEFENDANTS. To date, DEFENDANTS have not fully paid PLAINTIFF the minimum,
11 overtime and double time compensation still owed to her or any penalty wages owed to her under
12 Cal. Lab. Code § 203. The amount in controversy for PLAINTIFF individually does not exceed
13 the sum or value of \$75,000.

14 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

15 **VIOLATION OF THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT**

16 **(Cal. Lab. Code §§2698 et seq.)**

17 **(Alleged by PLAINTIFF against all Defendants)**

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

20 62. PAGA is a mechanism by which the State of California itself can enforce state
21 labor laws through the employee suing under the PAGA who do so as the proxy or agent of the
22 state's labor law enforcement agencies. An action to recover civil penalties under PAGA is
23 fundamentally a law enforcement action designed to protect the public and not to benefit private
24 parties. The purpose of the PAGA is not to recover damages or restitution, but to create a means
25 of "deputizing" citizens as private attorneys general to enforce the Labor Code. In enacting
26 PAGA, the California Legislature specified that "it was ... in the public interest to allow
27 aggrieved employees, acting as private attorneys general to recover civil penalties for Labor
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Code violations ..." Stats. 2003, ch. 906, § 1. Accordingly, PAGA claims cannot be subject to arbitration.

63. PLAINTIFF, and such persons that may be added from time to time who satisfy the requirements and exhaust the administrative procedures under the Private Attorney General Act, bring this Representative Action on behalf of the State of California with respect to herself and all individuals who are or previously were employed by Defendant MHF Manager, Defendant MHF Operating, and Defendant MHF in California and classified as non-exempt employees ("AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES") during the time period of March 11, 2023, and the present ("PAGA Period").

64. At all relevant times, for the reasons described herein, and others, PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were aggrieved employees of DEFENDANTS within the meaning of Labor Code Section 2699(c).

65. Labor Code Sections 2699(a) and (g) authorize an AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEE, like PLAINTIFF, on behalf of herself and other current or former employees, to bring a civil action to recover civil penalties pursuant to the procedures specified in Labor Code Section 2699.3

66. PLAINTIFF complied with the procedures for bringing suit specified in Labor Code Section 2699.3. By certified letter, return receipt requested, dated March 11, 2024, PLAINTIFF gave written notice to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and to DEFENDANTS of the specific provisions of the Labor Code alleged to have been violated, including the facts and theories to support the alleged violations. See Exhibit #1.

67. As of the date of this complaint, more than sixty-five (65) days after serving the LWDA with notice of DEFENDANT'S violations, the LWDA has not provided any notice by certified mail of its intent to investigate the DEFENDANT'S alleged violations as mandated by Labor Code Section 2699.3(a)(2)(A). Accordingly, pursuant to Labor Code Section 2699.3(a)(2)A, PLAINTIFF may commence and is authorized to pursue this cause of action.

68. Pursuant to Labor Code Sections 2699(a) and (f), PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES are entitled to civil penalties for DEFENDANTS' violations of

1 Labor Code Section 201, 201.3, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 221, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7,
2 227.3, 246, 351, 510, 512, 558, 1174(d), 1174.5, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1197.14, 1198, 1198.5,
3 1199, 2802 and 2804 in the following amounts:

4 a. For violation of Labor Code Sections 201, 202, 203, and 204, one hundred
5 dollars (\$100) for each AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEE per pay period for the
6 initial violation and two hundred dollars (\$200) for AGGRIEVED
7 EMPLOYEE per pay period for each subsequent violation [penalty per Labor
8 Code Section 2699(f)(2)];

9 b. For violations of Labor Code Section 226(a), a civil penalty in the amount
10 of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEE for
11 any initial violation and one thousand dollars for each subsequent violation
12 [penalty per Labor Code Section 226.3];

13 c. For violations of Labor Code Sections 204, a civil penalty in the amount of
14 one hundred dollars (\$100) for each AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEE for any initial
15 violation and two hundred dollars (\$200) for AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEE for
16 each subsequent violation [penalty per Labor Code Section 210];

17 d. For violations of Labor Code Sections 226.7, 510 and 512, a civil penalty
18 in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50) for each underpaid AGGRIEVED
19 EMPLOYEE for the initial violation and hundred dollars (\$100) for each
20 underpaid AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEE for each subsequent violation [penalty
21 per Labor Code Section 558];

22 e. For violations of Labor Code Section 2269(a), a civil penalty in the amount
23 of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEE per
24 violation in an initial citation and one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per
25 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEE for each subsequent violation [penalty per Labor
26 Code Section 226.3];

27 f. For violations of Labor Code Section 1174(d), a civil penalty in the amount
28 of five hundred (\$500) dollars for per AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEE [penalty per

1 Labor Code Section 1174.5].

2 g. For violations of Labor Code Sections 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198 and 1199,
3 a civil penalty in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100) per AGGRIEVED
4 EMPLOYEE per pay period for the initial violation and two hundred dollars
5 fifty (\$250) per AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEE per pay period for each subsequent
6 violation [penalty per Labor Code Section].

7 69. For all provisions of the Labor Code for which civil penalty is not specifically
8 provided, Labor Code § 2699(f) imposes upon Defendant a penalty of one hundred dollars (\$100)
9 for each AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEE per pay period for the initial violation and two hundred
10 dollars (\$200) for each AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEE per pay period for each subsequent
11 violation. PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES are entitled to an award of
12 reasonable attorney's fees and costs in connection with their claims for civil penalties pursuant
13 to Labor Code Section 2699(g)(1).

14 70. To the extent that any of the conduct and violations alleged herein did not affect
15 PLAINTIFF during the PAGA PERIOD, PLAINTIFF seeks penalties for those violations that
16 affected other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES. (*Carrington v. Starbucks Corp.* (2018) 30
17 Cal.App.5th 504, 519; See also *Huff v. Securitas Security Services USA, Inc.* (2018) 23 Cal. App.
18 5th 745, 751 ["PAGA allows an "aggrieved employee"—a person affected by at least one Labor
19 Code violation committed by an employer—to pursue penalties for all the Labor Code violations
20 committed by that employer."], Emphasis added, reh'g denied (June 13, 2018).)

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1. For reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit to the extent permitted by law, including pursuant to Labor Code § 2699, *et seq.*;
2. For civil penalties to the extent permitted by law pursuant to the Labor Code under the Private Attorneys General Act; and
3. For such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

JCL LAW FIRM, APC

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EXHIBIT 1

March 11, 2024

Via Online Filing to LWDA and Certified Mail to Defendants

Labor and Workforce Development Agency

Online Filing

MHF MV MANAGER VI LLC

c/o CSC – Lawyer Incorporating Service
2710 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 150N
Sacramento, CA 95833

Via Certified U.S. Mail with Return Receipt No. 9589 0710 5270 0410 5645 64

**MHF MV MANAGER VI LLC dba COURTYARD SAN DIEGO MISSION
VALLEY/HOTEL CIRCLE**

c/o CSC – Lawyer Incorporating Service
2710 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 150N
Sacramento, CA 95833

Via Certified U.S. Mail with Return Receipt No. 9589 0710 5270 0410 5672 99

MHF MV VI LLC

c/o CSC – Lawyer Incorporating Service
2710 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 150N
Sacramento, CA 95833

Via Certified U.S. Mail with Return Receipt No. 9589 0710 5270 0410 5645 71

Re: Notice of Violations of California Labor Code Sections 201, 201.3, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 221, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 227.3, 246, 510, 512, 558, 1174(d), 1174.5, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1197.14, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2802, and 2804, Violation of Applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order(s) and California Regulations, and Pursuant to California Labor Code Section 2699.5

Dear Sir/Madam:

Our offices represent Plaintiff Lan Ho (“Plaintiff”), and other aggrieved employees in a proposed lawsuit against Defendants MHF MV Manager VI LLC dba Courtyard San Diego Mission Valley/Hotel Circle, MNH MV Operating VI LLC, and MHF MV VI LLC. (“Defendants”). Plaintiff was employed by Defendants in California from September 2019 to October 2023, as a non-exempt employee, paid on an hourly basis and entitled to payment of all wages and the legally required breaks, among other things. Defendants, however, unlawfully failed to record and pay Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees for all of their time worked, failed to pay employees at the correct regular rate of pay, when applicable, failed to reimburse employees for necessary business expenditures and for all of their meal and rest breaks. Further, Defendants failed to timely pay Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees for earned wages and failed to provide Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees with compliant meal and rest breaks.

As a consequence of the aforementioned violations, Plaintiff further contends that

Defendants failed to provide accurate wage statements to her and other aggrieved employees, which among other violations of California Labor Code section 226(a). Said conduct, in addition to the foregoing Labor Code §§ 201, 201.3, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 221, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 227.3, 246, 510, 512, 558, 1174(d), 1174.5, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1197.14, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2802, and 2804, violates the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order(s) and California Regulations, and is therefore actionable under California Labor Code section 2699.3.

Plaintiff seeks to represent a group of aggrieved employees defined as all non-exempt employees who worked for Defendant MHF Manager and/or Defendant MHF Operating and/or Defendant MHF in California during the relevant claim period.

A true and correct copy of the proposed Complaint by Plaintiff against Defendants, which (1) identifies the alleged violations, (2) details the facts and theories which support the alleged violations, (3) details the specific work performed by Plaintiff, (4) sets forth the people/entities, dates, classifications, violations, events, and actions which are at issue to the extent known to Plaintiff, and (5) sets forth the illegal practices used by Defendants, 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.

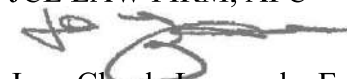
To the extent that entities and/or individuals are named and charged with violations of the Labor Code—making them liable on an individual basis as permitted by numerous Labor Code Sections including, but not limited to 558, 558.1, and 1197.1—Plaintiff reserves any and all rights to add, substitute, or change the name of employer entities and/or individuals responsible for the violations at issue.

Any further amendments and changes to this notice shall relate back to the date of this notice. Consequently, Defendants are on notice that Plaintiff continues their investigation, with the full intent to amend and/or change this notice, to add any undiscovered violations of any of the provisions of the California Labor Code—to the extent that are applicable to this case—and to change and/or add the identities of any entities and/or individuals responsible for the violations contained herein.

This notice is provided to enable Plaintiff to proceed with the Complaint against Defendants as authorized by California Labor Code section 2695, *et seq.* The lawsuit consists of other aggrieved employees. As counsel, our intention is to vigorously prosecute the claims as alleged in the Complaint, and to procure civil penalties as provided by the Private Attorney General Statue of 2004 on behalf of Plaintiff and all aggrieved California employees.

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

Very truly yours,
JCL LAW FIRM, APC



Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq.

JCL LAW FIRM, APC

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Facsimile: (858) 404-9203

shani@zakaylaw.com

Attorneys for PLAINTIFF

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

LAN HO, an individual, on behalf of herself,
and on behalf of all persons similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

MHF MV MANAGER VI LLC a Delaware
limited liability company; MHF MV
OPERATING VI LLC dba COURTYARD
SAN DIEGO MISSION VALLEY/HOTEL
CIRCLE, a Delaware limited liability company;
MHF MV VI LLC, a Delaware limited liability
company; and DOES 1-50, Inclusive,

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, *et seq*;
- 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 REIMBURSE EMPLOYEES FOR REQUIRED EXPENSES IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE § 2802;
- 7) FAILURE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE ITEMIZED STATEMENTS IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE § 226;
- 8) FAILURE TO PROVIDE WAGES WHEN DUE IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 201, 202 AND 203.
- 9) FAILURE TO PROVIDE GRATUITIES IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE § 351

DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL

PLAINTIFF LAN HO (“PLAINTIFF”), an individual, on behalf of herself and all other similarly situated current and former employees, allege on information and belief, except for her own acts and knowledge which are based on personal knowledge, the following:

PRELIMINARY ALLEGATIONS

1. Defendant MHF MV MANAGER VI LLC (“Defendant MHF Manager”) is a Delaware limited liability company that at all relevant times mentioned herein conducted and continues to conduct substantial and regular business throughout California.

2. Defendant MHF MV OPERATING VI LLC dba COURTYARD SAN DIEGO MISSION VALLEY/HOTEL CIRCLE (“Defendant MHF Operating”) is a Delaware limited liability company that at all relevant times mentioned herein conducted and continues to conduct substantial and regular business throughout California.

3. Defendant MHF MV VI LLC (“Defendant MHF”) is a Delaware limited liability company that at all relevant times mentioned herein conducted and continues to conduct substantial and regular business throughout California.

4. Defendant MHF Manager, Defendant MHF Operating, and Defendant MHF employed PLAINTIFF as evidenced by the documents issued to PLAINTIFF and by the company PLAINTIFF performed work for respectively and are therefore jointly responsible as the employer for the conduct alleged herein as “DEFENDANT or DEFENDANTS.”

5. DEFENDANTS own and operate hotels in San Diego, California, where

1 PLAINTIFF worked.

2 6. PLAINTIFF was employed by DEFENDANTS in California from September of
3 2019 to October of 2023 as a non-exempt employee, paid on an hourly basis, and entitled to the
4 legally required meal and rest periods and payment of minimum and overtime wages due for all
5 time worked.

6 7. PLAINTIFF brings this Class Action on behalf of herself and a California class,
7 defined as all persons who are or previously were employed by Defendant MHF Manager and/or
8 Defendant MHF Operating and/or Defendant MHF and classified as non-exempt employees (the
9 “CALIFORNIA CLASS”) at any time during the period beginning four (4) years prior to the filing
10 of this Complaint and ending on the date as determined by the Court (the “CLASS PERIOD”).
11 The amount in controversy for the aggregate claim of the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members is
12 under five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00).

13 8. PLAINTIFF brings this Class Action on behalf of herself and a CALIFORNIA
14 CLASS in order to fully compensate the CALIFORNIA CLASS for their losses incurred during
15 the CLASS PERIOD caused by DEFENDANTS’ uniform policy and practice which failed to
16 lawfully compensate these employees. DEFENDANTS’ uniform policy and practice alleged
17 herein was an unlawful, unfair, and deceptive business practice whereby DEFENDANTS retained
18 and continue to retain wages due to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA
19 CLASS. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS seek an injunction
20 enjoining such conduct by DEFENDANTS in the future, relief for the named PLAINTIFF and
21 the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS who have been economically injured by
22 DEFENDANTS’ past and current unlawful conduct, and all other appropriate legal and equitable
23 relief.

24 9. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, subsidiary,
25 partnership, associate or otherwise of DEFENDANT DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are presently
26 unknown to PLAINTIFF who therefore sues these DEFENDANTS by such fictitious names
27 pursuant to Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 474. PLAINTIFF will seek leave to amend this Complaint to
28 allege the true names and capacities of Does 1 through 50, inclusive, when they are ascertained.

1 PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and based upon that information and belief alleges, that the
2 DEFENDANTS named in this Complaint, including DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are
3 responsible in some manner for one or more of the events and happenings that proximately caused
4 the injuries and damages hereinafter alleged.

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

12 11. DEFENDANT was PLAINTIFF'S employer or person acting on behalf of the
13 PLAINTIFF'S employer, within the meaning of California Labor Code § 558, who violated or
14 caused to be violated, a section of Part 2, Chapter 1 of the California Labor Code or any provision
15 regulating hours and days of work in any order of the Industrial Welfare Commission and, as
16 such, are subject to civil penalties for each underpaid employee, as set forth in Labor Code § 558,
17 at all relevant times.

18 12. DEFENDANT was PLAINTIFF'S employer or person acting on behalf of
19 PLAINTIFF'S employer either individually or as an officer, agent, or employee of another person,
20 within the meaning of California Labor Code § 1197.1, who paid or caused to be paid to any
21 employee a wage less than the minimum fixed by California state law, and as such, are subject to
22 civil penalties for each underpaid employee.

23 13. DEFENDANTS' uniform policies and practices alleged herein were unlawful,
24 unfair, and deceptive business practices whereby DEFENDANT retained and continue to retain
25 wages due to PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

26 14. PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS seek an injunction
27 enjoining such conduct by DEFENDANTS in the future, relief for the named PLAINTIFF and
28 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS who has been economically injured by

1 DEFENDANT's past and current unlawful conduct, and all other appropriate legal and equitable
2 relief.

3 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

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

8 16. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure,
9 Sections 395 and 395.5, because DEFENDANTS operate in locations across California, employs
10 the CALIFORNIA CLASS across California, including in this County, and committed the
11 wrongful conduct herein alleged in this County against the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

12 **THE CONDUCT**

13 17. In violation of the applicable sections of the California Labor Code and the
14 requirements of the Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") Wage Order, DEFENDANTS as a
15 matter of company policy, practice, and procedure, intentionally, knowingly, and systematically
16 failed to provide legally compliant meal and rest periods, failed to accurately compensate
17 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for missed meal and rest
18 periods, failed to provide gratuities in violation of Labor Code section 351, failed to pay
19 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all time worked, failed
20 compensate PLAINTIFF for off-the-clock work, failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the other members
21 of the CALIFORNIA CLASS overtime at the correct regular rate of pay, failed to compensate
22 PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS meal rest premiums at the regular
23 rate, failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for business
24 expenses, and failed to issue to PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with
25 accurate itemized wage statements showing, all required information as required by Labor code
26 section 226(a), including but not limited to all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay
27 periods and the corresponding amount of time worked at each hourly rate. DEFENDANTS'
28 uniform policies and practices are intended to purposefully avoid the accurate and full payment

1 for all time worked as required by California law which allows DEFENDANTS to illegally profit
2 and gain an unfair advantage over competitors who comply with the law. To the extent equitable
3 tolling operates to toll claims by the CALIFORNIA CLASS against DEFENDANTS, the CLASS
4 PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.

5 **A. Meal Period Violations**

6 18. Pursuant to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, DEFENDANTS
7 were required to pay PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all their time worked,
8 meaning the time during which an employee is subject to the control of an employer, including
9 all the time the employee is suffered or permitted to work. From time to time during the CLASS
10 PERIOD, DEFENDANTS required PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to work
11 without paying them for all the time they were under DEFENDANTS' control. Specifically,
12 DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFF to work while clocked out during what was supposed to be
13 PLAINTIFF's off-duty meal break. Indeed, there were many days where PLAINTIFF did not
14 even receive a partial lunch. As a result, the PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
15 Members forfeited minimum wage and overtime compensation by regularly working without their
16 time being accurately recorded and without compensation at the applicable minimum wage and
17 overtime rates. DEFENDANTS' uniform policy and practice not to pay PLAINTIFF and other
18 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all time worked is evidenced by DEFENDANTS' business
19 records.

20 19. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, as a result of their rigorous work
21 schedules and DEFENDANTS' inadequate staffing practices, PLAINTIFF and other
22 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members are from time to time unable to take thirty (30) minute off duty
23 meal breaks and were not fully relieved of duty for their meal periods. PLAINTIFF and other
24 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members are required to perform work as ordered by DEFENDANT for
25 more than five (5) hours during some shifts without receiving a meal break. Further,
26 DEFENDANTS fail to provide PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with a second
27 off-duty meal period for some workdays in which these employees are required by
28 DEFENDANTS to work ten (10) hours of work. The nature of the work performed by

1 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members does not qualify for the limited and
2 narrowly construed “on-duty” meal period exception. When they were provided with meal
3 periods, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were, from time to time,
4 required to remain on duty and on call. Further, DEFENDANTS from time to time required
5 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to maintain cordless communication
6 devices in order to receive and respond to work-related communications during what was
7 supposed to be their off-duty meal breaks. DEFENDANTS’ failure to provide PLAINTIFF and
8 the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with legally required meal breaks is evidenced by
9 DEFENDANTS’ business records. PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA
10 CLASS therefore forfeit meal breaks without additional compensation and in accordance with
11 DEFENDANTS’ strict corporate policy and practice.

12 **B. Rest Period Violations**

13 20. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and other
14 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were also required to work in excess of four (4) hours without
15 being provided ten (10) minute rest periods as a result of their rigorous work requirements and
16 DEFENDANTS’ inadequate staffing. Further, for the same reasons, these employees were denied
17 their first rest periods of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of at least two (2) to four
18 (4) hours from time to time, a first and second rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some
19 shifts worked of between six (6) and eight (8) hours from time to time, and a first, second and
20 third rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of ten (10) hours or more from
21 time to time. When they were provided with rest breaks, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
22 CLASS Members were, from time to time, required to remain on duty and/or on call. Further,
23 DEFENDANTS from time to time required PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
24 Members to maintain cordless communication devices in order to receive and respond to work-
25 related communications during what was supposed to be their off-duty rest breaks. PLAINTIFF
26 and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were also not provided with one-hour wages *in lieu*
27 thereof. As a result of their rigorous work schedules and DEFENDANTS’ inadequate staffing,
28

1 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were from time to time denied their
2 proper rest periods by DEFENDANTS and DEFENDANTS' managers.

3 **C. Unreimbursed Business Expenses**

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

15 22. In the course of their employment, DEFENDANTS required PLAINTIFF and
16 other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to use their personal cell phones and were required to
17 maintain a specific uniform as a result of and in furtherance of their job duties, including but not
18 limited to receiving and/or responding to work-related communications and performing work-
19 related duties in their uniform. However, DEFENDANTS unlawfully failed to reimburse
20 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for the use of their personal cell phones
21 and for uniforms. As a result, in the course of their employment with DEFENDANTS, the
22 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members incurred unreimbursed business
23 expenses that included, but were not limited to, costs related to the use of their personal cell
24 phones, computers, and home internet.

25 **D. Wage Statement Violations**

26 23. California Labor Code Section 226 required an employer to furnish its employees
27 and accurate itemized wage statement in writing showing (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours
28 worked, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece-rate, (4) all deductions,

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

6 24. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, when PLAINTIFF and other
7 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members missed meal and rest breaks, or were paid inaccurately for
8 missed meal and rest period premiums, or were not paid for all hours worked, DEFENDANTS
9 also failed to provide PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with complete and
10 accurate wage statements which failed to show, among other things, all required items under
11 Labor Code section 226(a), including but not limited to: all deductions, the total hours worked
12 and all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding amount of
13 time worked at each hourly rate, correct rates of pay for penalty payments or missed meal and rest
14 periods.

15 25. In addition to the foregoing, DEFENDANTS, from time to time, failed to provide
16 PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with wage statements that comply with
17 Cal. Lab. Code § 226.

18 26. As a result, DEFENDANTS issued PLAINTIFF and other members of the
19 CALIFORNIA CLASS with wage statements that violate Cal. Lab. Code § 226. Further,
20 DEFENDANTS' violations are knowing and intentional, were not isolated due to an unintentional
21 payroll error due to clerical or inadvertent mistake.

22 **E. Off-the-Clock Work Resulting in Minimum Wage and Overtime Violations**

23 27. During the CLASS PERIOD, from time-to-time DEFENDANTS failed and
24 continue to fail to accurately pay PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
25 for all hours worked.

26 28. During the CLASS PERIOD, from time-to-time DEFENDANTS required
27 PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to perform pre-shift or post-shift
28 work. This resulted in PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to have to

1 work while off-the-clock. DEFENDANTS required PLAINTIFF and other members of the
2 CALIFORNIA CLASS to perform pre-shift COVID-19 screenings (temperature checks and
3 questionnaires) off-the-clock. PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
4 were not compensated for this time.

5 29. DEFENDANTS directed and directly benefited from the undercompensated off-
6 the-clock work performed by PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

7 30. DEFENDANTS controlled the work schedules, duties, and protocols, applications,
8 assignments, and employment conditions of PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
9 CALIFORNIA CLASS.

10 31. DEFENDANTS were able to track the amount of time PLAINTIFF and the other
11 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS spent working; however, DEFENDANTS failed to
12 document, track, or pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS all
13 wages earned and owed for all the work they performed.

14 32. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were non-
15 exempt employees, subject to the requirements of the California Labor Code.

16 33. DEFENDANT's policies and practices deprived PLAINTIFF and the other
17 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members of all minimum regular, overtime, and double time wages owed
18 for the off-the-clock work activities. Because PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
19 CALIFORNIA CLASS typically worked over forty (40) hours in a workweek, and more than
20 eight (8) hours per day, DEFENDANTS' policies and practices also deprived them of overtime
21 pay.

22 34. DEFENDANTS knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other
23 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS off-the-clock work was compensable under the law.

24 35. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
25 forfeited wages due to them for all hours worked at DEFENDANTS' direction, control, and
26 benefit for the time spent working while off-the-clock. DEFENDANTS' uniform policy and
27 practice to not pay PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS wages for all
28

1 hours worked in accordance with applicable law is evidenced by DEFENDANTS' business
2 records.

3 **F. Regular Rate Violation – Overtime, Double Time, Meal and Rest Period Premiums,**
4 **and Redeemed Sick Pay**

5 36. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS failed and
6 continue to fail to accurately calculate and pay PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS
7 Members for their overtime and double time hours worked, meal and rest period premiums, and
8 redeemed sick pay. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
9 forfeited wages due to them for working overtime without compensation at the correct overtime
10 and double time rates, meal and rest period premiums, and redeemed sick pay rates.
11 DEFENDANTS' uniform policy and practice not to pay the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members at
12 the correct rate for all overtime and double time worked, meal and rest period premiums, and sick
13 pay in accordance with applicable law is evidenced by DEFENDANTS' business records.

14 37. State law provides that employees must be paid overtime at one-and-one-half times
15 their "regular rate of pay." PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were
16 compensated at an hourly rate plus incentive pay that was tied to specific elements of an
17 employee's performance.

18 38. The second component of PLAINTIFF's and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
19 Members' compensation was DEFENDANTS' non-discretionary incentive program that paid
20 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members incentive wages based on their
21 performance for DEFENDANTS. The non-discretionary bonus program provided all employees
22 paid on an hourly basis with bonus compensation when the employees met the various
23 performance goals set by DEFENDANTS.

24 39. However, from time to time, when calculating the regular rate of pay in those pay
25 periods where PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members worked overtime, double
26 time, paid meal and rest period premium payments, and/or redeemed sick pay, and earned non-
27 discretionary bonuses, DEFENDANTS failed to accurately include the non-discretionary bonus
28 compensation as part of the employee's "regular rate of pay" and/or calculated all hours worked

1 rather than just all non-overtime hours worked. Management and supervisors described the
2 incentive/bonus program to potential and new employees as part of the compensation package.
3 As a matter of law, the incentive compensation received by PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
4 CLASS Members must be included in the “regular rate of pay.” The failure to do so has resulted
5 in a systematic underpayment of overtime and double time compensation, meal and rest period
6 premium payments, and redeemed sick pay to PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
7 Members by DEFENDANTS. Specifically, California Labor Code Section 246 mandates that
8 paid sick time for non-exempt employees shall be calculated in the same manner as the regular
9 rate of pay for the workweek in which the non-exempt employee uses paid sick time, whether or
10 not the employee actually works overtime in that workweek. DEFENDANTS’ conduct, as
11 articulated herein, by failing to include the incentive compensation as part of the “regular rate of
12 pay” for purposes of sick pay compensation was in violation of Cal. Lab. Code § 246 the
13 underpayment of which is recoverable under Cal. Lab. Code Sections 201, 202, 203, and/or 204.

14 40. In violation of the applicable sections of the California Labor Code and the
15 requirements of the Industrial Welfare Commission (“IWC”) Wage Order, DEFENDANTS as a
16 matter of company policy, practice, and procedure, intentionally and knowingly failed to
17 compensate PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS at the correct rate
18 of pay for all overtime and double time worked, meal and rest period premiums, and redeemed
19 sick pay as required by California law which allowed DEFENDANTS to illegally profit and gain
20 an unfair advantage over competitors who complied with the law. To the extent equitable tolling
21 operates to toll claims by the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members against DEFENDANTS, the
22 CLASS PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.

23 **G. Violations for Untimely Payment of Wages**

24 41. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 204, PLAINTIFF and the
25 CALIFORNIA CLASS members were entitled to timely payment of wages during their
26 employment. PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members, from time to time, did not
27 receive payment of all wages, including, but not limited to, overtime wages, minimum wages,
28 meal period premium wages, and rest period premium wages within permissible time period.

1 42. Pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 201, “If an employer discharges an employee, the
2 wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately.” Pursuant to
3 Cal. Lab. Code § 202, if an employee quits his or her employment, “his or her wages shall become
4 due and payable not later than 72 hours thereafter, unless the employee has given 72 hours
5 previous notice of his or her intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her
6 wages at the time of quitting.” PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were, from
7 time to time, not timely provided the wages earned and unpaid at the time of their discharge and/or
8 at the time of quitting, in violation of Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201 and 202.

9 43. As such, PLAINTIFF demands up to thirty days of pay as penalty for not timely
10 paying all wages due at time of termination for all CALIFORNIA CLASS Members whose
11 employment ended during the CLASS PERIOD.

12 **H. Unlawful Deductions**

13 44. DEFENDANTS, from time-to-time unlawfully deducted wages from PLAINTIFF
14 and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members’ pay without explanations and without authorization to do
15 so or notice to PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members. As a result,
16 DEFENDANTS violated Labor Code § 221.

17 **I. Timekeeping Manipulation**

18 45. During the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS, from time-to-time, did not have an
19 immutable timekeeping system to accurately record and pay PLAINTIFF and other members of
20 the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the actual time PLAINTIFF and other members of the
21 CALIFORNIA CLASS worked each day, including regular time, overtime hours, sick pay, meal
22 and rest breaks. As a result, DEFENDANTS were able to and did in fact, unlawfully, and
23 unilaterally alter the time recorded in DEFENDANTS’ timekeeping system for PLAINTIFF and
24 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in order to avoid paying these employees for all
25 hours worked, applicable overtime compensation, applicable sick pay, missed meal breaks and
26 missed rest breaks.

27
28 ///

1 46. As a result, PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, from
2 time-to-time, forfeited time worked by working without their time being accurately recorded and
3 without compensation at the applicable pay rates.

4 47. The mutability of the timekeeping system also allowed DEFENDANTS to alter
5 employee time records by recording fictitious thirty (30) minute meal breaks in DEFENDANTS'
6 timekeeping system so as to create the appearance that PLAINTIFF and other members of the
7 CALIFORNIA CLASS clocked out for thirty (30) minute meal break when in fact the employees
8 were not at all times provided an off-duty meal break. This practice is a direct result of
9 DEFENDANTS' uniform policy and practice of denying employees uninterrupted thirty (30)
10 minute off-duty meal breaks each day or otherwise compensate them for missed meal breaks.

11 48. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
12 forfeited wages due them for all hours worked at DEFENDANTS' direction, control and benefit
13 for the time the timekeeping system was inoperable. DEFENDANTS' uniform policy and
14 practice to not pay PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS wages for all
15 hours worked in accordance with applicable law is evidenced by DEFENDANTS' business
16 records.

17 **J. Unlawful Rounding Practices**

18 49. During the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS did not have in
19 place an immutable timekeeping system to accurately record and pay PLAINTIFF and other
20 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for the actual time these employees worked each day,
21 including overtime hours. Specifically, DEFENDANTS had in place an unlawful rounding
22 policy and practice that resulted in PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members being
23 undercompensated for all of their time worked. As a result, DEFENDANTS were able to and did
24 in fact unlawfully, and unilaterally round the time recorded in DEFENDANTS' timekeeping
25 system for PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in order to avoid paying
26 these employees for all their time worked, including the applicable overtime compensation for
27 overtime worked. As a result, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, from
28 time to time, forfeited compensation for their time worked by working without their time being

1 accurately recorded and without compensation at the applicable overtime rates.

2 50. Further, the mutability of DEFENDANTS' timekeeping system and unlawful
3 rounding policy and practice resulted in PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members' time
4 being inaccurately recorded. As a result, from time to time, DEFENDANTS' unlawful rounding
5 policy and practice caused PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to perform work
6 as ordered by DEFENDANTS for more than five (5) hours during a shift without receiving an
7 off-duty meal break.

8 **K. Sick Pay Violations**

9 51. Cal. Labor Code Section 246 (a)(1) mandates that "An employee who, on or after
10 July 1, 2015, works in California for the same employer for 30 or more days within a year from
11 the commencement of employment is entitled to paid sick days as specified in this section."
12 Further, Cal. Labor Code Sections 246(b)-(d) provide for the sick day accrual requirements. From
13 time to time, DEFENDANTS failed to have a policy or practice in place that provided
14 PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with sick days and/or paid sick
15 leave. As of January 1, 2024, Defendants failed to adhere to the law in that they failed to provide
16 and allow employees to use at least 40 hours or five days of paid sick leave per year.

17 52. California Labor Code Section 246(i) requires an employer to furnish its
18 employees with written wage statements setting forth the amount of paid sick leave available.
19 From time to time, DEFENDANTS violated Cal. Lab. Code § 246 by failing to furnish
20 PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with wage statements setting forth
21 the amount of paid sick leave available.

22 **L. Tip Pooling**

23 53. During the CALIFORNIA CLASS period, pursuant to DEFENDANTS' company
24 policies and practices, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were forced to
25 forfeit gratuities left for them by customers to DEFENDANTS' agents who provided no service
26 to the customers that resulted in the gratuity. DEFENDANTS routinely added gratuity tips and
27 service charges to its food and beverage bills. These gratuities and service charges reasonably
28 appear to be gratuities for the service staff. It is typical and customary in the hospitality industry

1 that establishments impose gratuity charges on the food and beverage bill. Thus, when customers
2 paid these charges, it is reasonable for them to have believed they were gratuities to be paid to the
3 service staff. Indeed, because many of these charges are depicted to customers, and the custom in
4 the food and beverage industry that gratuities are paid for food and beverage service, customers
5 paid these charges reasonably believing they were remitted to the service staff. However,
6 DEFENDANTS have not remitted the total proceeds of these gratuities to the non-managerial
7 employees who serve the food and beverages. Instead, DEFENDANTS have a policy and practice
8 of using a portion of these gratuities to pay managers or other non-service employees. As a result,
9 PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members have not received the total proceeds of the
10 gratuities, to which they are entitled to under California law.

11 54. DEFENDANTS are generally in the business of owning and operating a hotel and
12 banquet business. During the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and other
13 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were in the “chain of service” and earned gratuities based on
14 their service for their customers. However, PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
15 were forced to forfeit portions of their gratuities, which said gratuities were kept by
16 DEFENDANTS’ employees who were not in the chain of service from which the gratuity resulted.
17 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members contend that any gratuities kept by
18 DEFENDANTS’ non-service employees were illegal and in violation of California law because
19 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members provided the service for to whom the
20 gratuity should have been paid.

21 55. California Labor Code § 351 establishes the requirements for an employer
22 regarding the payment of gratuities. Specifically, gratuities are the sole property of the employees.
23 California Labor Code § 351 expressly prohibits employers and their agents from collecting,
24 taking, or receiving any portion of a gratuity. California Labor Code § 350(e) defines the term
25 “gratuity” as including any money that has been paid or given or left for an employee by a patron
26 of a business over and above the actual amount due the business for services rendered or for
27 goods, food, drink or articles sold or served to such patron. Labor Code § 353 requires employers
28 to keep accurate records of all gratuities they receive, directly or indirectly.

1 56. Although tip pooling is not expressly prohibited by the Labor Code, employees
2 who mandate tip pooling must only distribute pooled tips to employees in the “chain of service.”
3 By distributing tips to employees who were not in the “chain of service,” DEFENDANTS have
4 violated and continue to violate the legal requirements for handling pooled tips

5 57. Specifically, as to PLAINTIFF, PLAINTIFF was from time to time unable to take
6 off duty meal and rest breaks and were not fully relieved of duty for her rest and meal periods.
7 PLAINTIFF was required to perform work as ordered by DEFENDANTS for more than five (5)
8 hours during a shift without receiving an off-duty meal break. Further, DEFENDANTS failed to
9 provide PLAINTIFF with a second off-duty meal period each workday in which they were
10 required by DEFENDANTS to work ten (10) hours of work. When DEFENDANTS provided
11 PLAINTIFF with a rest break, they required PLAINTIFF to remain on-duty and on-call for the
12 rest break. DEFENDANTS policy caused PLAINTIFF to remain on-call and on-duty during what
13 was supposed to be her off-duty meal periods. PLAINTIFF therefore forfeited meal and rest
14 breaks without additional compensation and in accordance with DEFENDANTS’ strict corporate
15 policy and practice. Moreover, DEFENDANTS also provided PLAINTIFF with paystubs that
16 failed to comply with Cal. Lab. Code § 226. Further, DEFENDANTS also failed to reimburse
17 PLAINTIFF for required business expenses related to the use of her personal cell phone and
18 personal computer, on behalf of and in furtherance of her employment with DEFENDANTS. To
19 date, DEFENDANTS have not fully paid PLAINTIFF the minimum, overtime and double time
20 compensation still owed to them or any penalty wages owed to them under Cal. Lab. Code § 203.
21 The amount in controversy for PLAINTIFF individually does not exceed the sum or value of
22 \$75,000.

23 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

24 58. PLAINTIFF brings this Class Action on behalf of herself, and a California class
25 defined as all persons who are or previously were employed by Defendant MHF Manager and/or
26 Defendant MHF Operating and/or Defendant MHF in California and classified as non-exempt
27 employees (the “CALIFORNIA CLASS”) at any time during the period beginning four (4) years
28 prior to the filing of this Complaint and ending on the date as determined by the Court (the

1 “CLASS PERIOD”).

2 59. PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members have uniformly been
3 deprived of wages and penalties from unpaid wages earned and due, including but not limited to
4 unpaid minimum wages, unpaid overtime compensation, unpaid meal and rest period premiums,
5 illegal meal and rest period policies, failed to reimburse for business expenses, failed compensate
6 for off-the-clock work, failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements, failure to maintain
7 required records, and interest, statutory and civil penalties, attorney’s fees, costs, and expenses.

8 60. The members of the class are so numerous that joinder of all class members is
9 impractical.

10 61. Common questions of law and fact regarding DEFENDANTS’ conduct, including
11 but not limited to, off-the-clock work, unpaid meal and rest period premiums, failure to
12 accurately calculate the regular rate of pay for overtime compensation, failure to accurately
13 calculate the regular rate of compensation for missed meal and rest period premiums, failing to
14 provide legally compliant meal and rest periods, failed to reimburse for business expenses,
15 failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements accurate, and failure to ensure they are paid
16 at least minimum wage and overtime, exist as to all members of the class and predominate over
17 any questions affecting solely any individual members of the class. Among the questions of law
18 and fact common to the class are:

- 19 a. Whether DEFENDANTS maintained legally compliant meal period policies and
20 practices;
21 b. Whether DEFENDANTS maintained legally compliant rest period policies and
22 practices;
23 c. Whether DEFENDANTS failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA
24 CLASS Members accurate premium payments for missed meal and rest periods;
25 d. Whether DEFENDANTS failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA
26 CLASS Members accurate overtime wages;
27 e. Whether DEFENDANTS failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA
28 CLASS Members at least minimum wage for all hours worked;

- 1 f. Whether DEFENDANTS failed to compensate PLAINTIFF and the
2 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for required business expenses;
- 3 g. Whether DEFENDANTS issued legally compliant wage statements;
- 4 h. Whether DEFENDANTS failed to provide gratuities;
- 5 i. Whether DEFENDANTS committed an act of unfair competition by
6 systematically failing to record and pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
7 CALIFORNIA CLASS for all time worked;
- 8 j. Whether DEFENDANTS committed an act of unfair competition by
9 systematically failing to record all meal and rest breaks missed by PLAINTIFF
10 and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, even though DEFENDANT enjoyed
11 the benefit of this work, required employees to perform this work and permits or
12 suffers to permit this work;
- 13 k. Whether DEFENDANTS committed an act of unfair competition in violation of
14 the UCL, by failing to provide the PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
15 CALIFORNIA CLASS with the legally required meal and rest periods.
- 16 62. PLAINTIFF are members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS and suffered damages as
17 a result of DEFENDANTS' conduct and actions alleged herein.
- 18 63. PLAINTIFF'S claims are typical of the claims of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, and
19 PLAINTIFF have the same interests as the other members of the class.
- 20 64. PLAINTIFF will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the
21 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.
- 22 65. PLAINTIFF retained able class counsel with extensive experience in class action
23 litigation.
- 24 66. Further, PLAINTIFF'S interests are coincident with, and not antagonistic to, the
25 interest of the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.
- 26 67. There is a strong community of interest among PLAINTIFF and the members of
27 the CALIFORNIA CLASS to, inter alia, ensure that the combined assets of DEFENDANTS are
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1 sufficient to adequately compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the injuries
2 sustained.

3 68. The questions of law and fact common to the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
4 predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, including legal and factual
5 issues relating to liability and damages.

6 69. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient
7 adjudication of this controversy because joinder of all class members is impractical. Moreover,
8 since the damages suffered by individual members of the class may be relatively small, the
9 expense and burden of individual litigation makes it practically impossible for the members of
10 the class individually to redress the wrongs done to them. Without class certification and
11 determination of declaratory, injunctive, statutory, and other legal questions within the class
12 format, prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
13 will create the risk of:

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

21 70. Class treatment provides manageable judicial treatment calculated to bring an
22 efficient and rapid conclusion to all litigation of all wage and hour related claims arising out of
23 the conduct of DEFENDANT.

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1 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **Unlawful Business Practices**

3 **(Cal. Bus. And Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*)**

4 **(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against Defendants)**

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

8 72. DEFENDANTS are a “person” as that term is defined under Cal. Bus. And Prof.
9 Code § 17021.

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

14 Any person who engages, has engaged, or proposes to engage in unfair competition may
15 be enjoined in any court of competent jurisdiction. The court may make such orders or
16 judgments, including the appointment of a receiver, as may be necessary to prevent the
17 use or employment by any person of any practice which constitutes unfair competition, as
18 defined in this chapter, or as may be necessary to restore to any person in interest any
19 money or property, real or personal, which may have been acquired by means of such
20 unfair competition. (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203).

21 74. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANTS have engaged and continue to
22 engage in a business practice which violates California law, including but not limited to, the
23 applicable Wage Order(s), the California Code of Regulations and the California Labor Code
24 including Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, and
25 2802, for which this Court should issue declaratory and other equitable relief pursuant to Cal.
26 Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203 as may be necessary to prevent and remedy the conduct held to
27 constitute unfair competition, including restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.

28 75. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANTS’ practices were unlawful and
unfair in that these practices violated public policy, were immoral, unethical, oppressive
unscrupulous or substantially injurious to employees, and were without valid justification or
utility for which this Court should issue equitable and injunctive relief pursuant to Section 17203

1 of the California Business & Professions Code, including restitution of wages wrongfully
2 withheld.

3 76. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANTS' practices were deceptive and
4 fraudulent in that DEFENDANTS' uniform policy and practice failed to provide the legally
5 mandated meal and rest periods and the required amount of compensation for missed meal and
6 rest periods, failed to pay minimum and overtime wages owed, and failed to reimburse all
7 necessary business expenses incurred, due to a systematic business practice that cannot be
8 justified, pursuant to the applicable Cal. Lab. Code, and Industrial Welfare Commission
9 requirements in violation of Cal. Bus. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, and for which this Court should
10 issue injunctive and equitable relief, pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203, including
11 restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.

12 77. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANTS' practices were also unlawful,
13 unfair, and deceptive in that DEFENDANTS' employment practices caused PLAINTIFF and the
14 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to be underpaid during their employment with
15 DEFENDANTS.

16 78. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANTS' practices were also unfair and
17 deceptive in that DEFENDANTS' uniform policies, practices and procedures failed to provide
18 mandatory meal and/or rest breaks to PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members as
19 required by Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 and 512.

20 79. Therefore, PLAINTIFF demands on behalf of herself and on behalf of each
21 CALIFORNIA CLASS member, one (1) hour of pay for each workday in which an off-duty meal
22 period was not timely provided for each five (5) hours of work, and/or one (1) hour of pay for
23 each workday in which a second off-duty meal period was not timely provided for each ten (10)
24 hours of work.

25 80. PLAINTIFF further demands on behalf of herself and on behalf of each
26 CALIFORNIA CLASS member, one (1) hour of pay for each workday in which a rest period
27 was not timely provided as required by law.

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1 81. By and through the unlawful and unfair business practices described herein,
2 DEFENDANTS have obtained valuable property, money and services from PLAINTIFF and the
3 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, including earned wages for all time worked, and
4 has deprived them of valuable rights and benefits guaranteed by law and contract, all to the
5 detriment of these employees and to the benefit of DEFENDANTS so as to allow
6 DEFENDANTS to unfairly compete against competitors who comply with the law.

7 82. All the acts described herein as violations of, among other things, the Industrial
8 Welfare Commission Wage Orders, the California Code of Regulations, and the California Labor
9 Code, were unlawful and in violation of public policy, were immoral, unethical, oppressive, and
10 unscrupulous, were deceptive, and thereby constitute unlawful, unfair, and deceptive business
11 practices in violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

12 83. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are entitled to,
13 and do, seek such relief as may be necessary to restore to them the money and property which
14 DEFENDANTS has acquired, or of which PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
15 CALIFORNIA CLASS have been deprived, by means of the above described unlawful and
16 unfair business practices, including earned but unpaid wages for all time worked.

17 84. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are further
18 entitled to, and do, seek a declaration that the described business practices are unlawful, unfair,
19 and deceptive, and that injunctive relief should be issued restraining DEFENDANTS from
20 engaging in any unlawful and unfair business practices in the future.

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

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1 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **Failure To Pay Minimum Wages**

3 **(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194, 1197 and 1197.1)**

4 **Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against Defendants)**

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

8 87. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS bring a claim
9 for DEFENDANTS' willful and intentional violations of the California Labor Code and the
10 Industrial Welfare Commission requirements for DEFENDANTS' failure to accurately calculate
11 and pay minimum wages to PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

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

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

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

19 91. DEFENDANTS maintained a uniform wage practice of paying PLAINTIFF and
20 the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS without regard to the correct amount of time
21 they work. As set forth herein, DEFENDANTS' uniform policy and practice was to unlawfully
22 and intentionally deny timely payment of wages due to PLAINTIFF and the other members of
23 the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

24 92. DEFENDANTS' uniform pattern of unlawful wage and hour practices manifested,
25 without limitation, applicable to the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a whole, as a result of
26 implementing a uniform policy and practice that denies accurate compensation to PLAINTIFF
27 and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in regard to minimum wage pay.

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1 93. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, DEFENDANTS
2 inaccurately calculated the correct time worked and consequently underpaid the actual time
3 worked by PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS. DEFENDANTS
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 and
6 other applicable laws and regulations.

7 94. As a direct result of DEFENDANTS' unlawful wage practices as alleged herein,
8 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS did not receive the correct
9 minimum wage compensation for their time worked for DEFENDANTS.

10 95. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
11 CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid less for time worked than they were entitled to, constituting a
12 failure to pay all earned wages.

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

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

25 98. In performing the acts and practices herein alleged in violation of California labor
26 laws, and refusing to compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all time worked
27 and provide them with the requisite compensation, DEFENDANTS acted and continue to act
28 intentionally, oppressively, and maliciously toward PLAINTIFF and the other members of the

1 CALIFORNIA CLASS with a conscious and utter disregard for their legal rights, or the
2 consequences to them, and with the despicable intent of depriving them of their property and
3 legal rights, and otherwise causing them injury in order to increase company profits at the
4 expense of these employees.

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

16 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

17 **Failure To Pay Overtime Compensation**

18 **(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 204, 510, 1194 and 1198)**

19 **(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against Defendants)**

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

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

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

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

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

10 105. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
11 were required by DEFENDANTS to work for DEFENDANTS and were not paid for all the time
12 they worked, including overtime work.

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

20 107. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, DEFENDANTS
21 inaccurately recorded overtime worked and consequently underpaid the overtime worked by
22 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members. DEFENDANTS acted in an illegal
23 attempt to avoid the payment of all earned wages, and other benefits in violation of the California
24 Labor Code, the Industrial Welfare Commission requirements and other applicable laws and
25 regulations.

26 108. As a direct result of DEFENDANTS' unlawful wage practices as alleged herein,
27 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS did not receive the correct
28 overtime compensation for their time worked for DEFENDANTS.

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

9 110. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
10 CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid less for overtime worked than they were entitled to,
11 constituting a failure to pay all earned wages.

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

19 112. By virtue of DEFENDANTS' unlawful failure to accurately pay all earned
20 compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the true
21 amount of overtime they worked, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA
22 CLASS have suffered and will continue to suffer an economic injury in amounts which are
23 presently unknown to them, and which will be ascertained according to proof at trial.

24 113. DEFENDANTS knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other
25 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were undercompensated for their time worked.
26 DEFENDANTS systematically elected, either through intentional malfeasance or gross
27 nonfeasance, to not pay them for their labor as a matter of uniform company policy, practice and
28 procedure, and DEFENDANTS perpetrated this systematic scheme by refusing to pay

1 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS the correct overtime wages
2 for their overtime worked.

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

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

21 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

22 **Failure To Provide Required Meal Periods**

23 **(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 & 512)**

24 **(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against Defendants)**

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

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1 117. During the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS failed to provide all the legally
2 required off-duty meal breaks to PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members as
3 required by the applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. The nature of the work performed by
4 PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members did not prevent these employees from being
5 relieved of all of their duties for the legally required off-duty meal periods. As a result of their
6 rigorous work schedules, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were often
7 not fully relieved of duty by DEFENDANTS for their meal periods. Additionally,
8 DEFENDANTS' failure to provide PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with
9 legally required meal breaks prior to their fifth (5th) hour of work is evidenced by
10 DEFENDANTS' business records. Further, DEFENDANTS failed to provide PLAINTIFF and
11 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with a second off-duty meal period in some workdays in which
12 these employees were required by DEFENDANTS to work ten (10) hours of work. As a result,
13 PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS forfeited meal breaks without
14 additional compensation and in accordance with DEFENDANTS' strict corporate policy and
15 practice.

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

21 119. As a proximate result of the aforementioned violations, PLAINTIFF and
22 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members have been damaged in an amount according to proof at trial,
23 and seek all wages earned and due, interest, penalties, expenses and costs of suit.
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1 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **Failure To Provide Required Rest Periods**

3 **(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 & 512)**

4 **(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against Defendants)**

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

8 121. From time to time, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were
9 required to work in excess of four (4) hours without being provided ten (10) minute rest periods.
10 Further, these employees were denied their first rest periods of at least ten (10) minutes for some
11 shifts worked of at least two (2) to four (4) hours, a first and second rest period of at least ten
12 (10) minutes for some shifts worked of between six (6) and eight (8) hours, and a first, second
13 and third rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of ten (10) hours or more.
14 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were also not provided with one-hour
15 wages *in lieu* thereof. As a result of their rigorous work schedules, PLAINTIFF and other
16 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were periodically denied their proper rest periods by
17 DEFENDANTS and DEFENDANTS' managers. In addition, DEFENDANTS failed to
18 compensate PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for their rest periods as
19 required by the applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. As a result, DEFENDANTS' failure to
20 provide PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with all the legally required paid
21 rest periods is evidenced by DEFENDANTS' business records.

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

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

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Failure To Reimburse Employees For Required Expenses

(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 2802)

(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against Defendants)

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

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

An employer shall indemnify his or her employee for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the 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.

126. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS violated Cal. Lab. Code § 2802, by failing to indemnify and reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members for required expenses incurred in the discharge of their job duties for DEFENDANTS' benefit. DEFENDANTS failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members for expenses which included, but were not limited to, their personal cell phones and computers as a result of and in furtherance of their job duties, including but not limited to receiving and/or responding to work-related communications and performing work-related duties. Specifically, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required by DEFENDANTS to use their personal cell phones and wear uniforms to execute their essential job duties on behalf of DEFENDANTS. DEFENDANTS' uniform policy, practice and procedure was to not reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members for expenses resulting from using their personal cell phones and uniforms for DEFENDANTS within the course and scope of their employment for DEFENDANTS. These expenses were necessary to complete their principal job duties. DEFENDANTS are estopped by DEFENDANTS' conduct

1 to assert any waiver of this expectation. Although these expenses were necessary expenses
2 incurred by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members, DEFENDANTS failed to
3 indemnify and reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members for these
4 expenses as an employer is required to do under the laws and regulations of California.

5 127. PLAINTIFF therefore demands reimbursement for expenditures or losses incurred
6 by them and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members in the discharge of their job duties for
7 DEFENDANTS, or their obedience to the directions of DEFENDANTS, with interest at the
8 statutory rate and costs under Cal. Lab. Code § 2802.

9 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

10 **Failure To Provide Accurate Itemized Statements**

11 **(Cal. Lab. Code § 226)**

12 **(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against Defendants)**

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

16 129. Cal. Labor Code § 226 provides that an employer must furnish employees with an
17 “accurate itemized” statement in writing showing:

- 18 a. Gross wages earned,
- 19 b. (2) total hours worked by the employee, except for any employee whose
20 compensation is solely based on a salary and who is exempt from payment of
21 overtime under subdivision (a) of Section 515 or any applicable order of the
22 Industrial Welfare Commission,
- 23 c. the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee
24 is paid on a piece-rate basis,
- 25 d. all deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee
26 may be aggregated and shown as one item,
- 27 e. net wages earned,
- 28 f. the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid,

- 1 g. the name of the employee and his or her social security number, except that by
2 January 1, 2008, only the last four digits of his or her social security number of an
3 employee identification number other than social security number may be shown
4 on the itemized statement,
- 5 h. the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and
- 6 i. all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding
7 number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.

8 130. When DEFENDANTS did not accurately record PLAINTIFF'S and other
9 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members' missed meal and rest breaks, or were paid inaccurate missed
10 meal and rest break premiums, or were not paid for all hours worked, DEFENDANTS violated
11 Cal. Lab. Code § 226 in that DEFENDANTS failed to provide PLAINTIFF and other
12 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with complete and accurate wage statements which failed to
13 show, among other things, all deductions, the accurate gross wages earned, net wages earned,
14 the total hours worked and all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the
15 corresponding amount of time worked at each hourly rate, and correct rates of pay for penalty
16 payments or missed meal and rest periods.

17 131. In addition to the foregoing, DEFENDANTS failed to provide itemized wage
18 statements to PLAINTIFF and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS that complied with the
19 requirements of California Labor Code Section 226.

20 132. DEFENDANTS knowingly and intentionally failed to comply with Cal. Lab. Code
21 § 226, causing injury and damages to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA
22 CLASS. These damages include, but are not limited to, costs expended calculating the correct
23 wages for all missed meal and rest breaks and the amount of employment taxes which were not
24 properly paid to state and federal tax authorities. These damages are difficult to estimate.
25 Therefore, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS may elect to
26 recover liquidated damages of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the initial pay period in which the
27 violation occurred, and one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each violation in a subsequent pay
28 period pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 226, in an amount according to proof at the time of trial (but

1 in no event more than four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) for PLAINTIFF and each respective
2 member of the CALIFORNIA CLASS herein).

3 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

4 **Failure To Pay Wages When Due**

5 **(Cal. Lab. Code § 203)**

6 **(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against Defendants)**

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

10 134. Cal. Lab. Code § 200 provides that:

11 As used in this article:

- 12 (d) "Wages" includes all amounts for labor performed by employees of every
13 description, whether the amount is fixed or ascertained by the standard of time,
14 task, piece, Commission basis, or other method of calculation.
15 (e) "Labor" includes labor, work, or service whether rendered or performed under
16 contract, subcontract, partnership, station plan, or other agreement if the to be
17 paid for is performed personally by the person demanding payment.

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

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

22 If an employee not having a written contract for a definite period quits his or her
23 employment, his or her wages shall become due and payable not later than 72 hours
24 thereafter, unless the employee has given 72 hours previous notice of his or her intention
25 to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting.
26 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an employee who quits without providing a
27 72-hour notice shall be entitled to receive payment by mail if he or she so requests and
28 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.

137. There was no definite term in PLAINTIFF'S or any CALIFORNIA CLASS
Members' employment contract.

138. Cal. Lab. Code § 203 provides:

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

1 the same rate until paid or until an action therefor is commenced; but the wages shall not
2 continue for more than 30 days.

3 139. The employment of PLAINTIFF and many CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
4 terminated, and DEFENDANTS have not tendered payment of wages to these employees who
5 missed meal and rest breaks, as required by law.

6 140. Therefore, as provided by Cal Lab. Code § 203, on behalf of herself and the
7 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS whose employment has, PLAINTIFF demands up to
8 thirty (30) days of pay as penalty for not paying all wages due at time of termination for all
9 employees who terminated employment during the CLASS PERIOD and demands an accounting
10 and payment of all wages due, plus interest and statutory costs as allowed by law.

11 **NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

12 **FAILURE TO PAY STATUTORY GRATUITIES**

13 **(Cal. Lab. Code § 351 et seq.)**

14 **(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS and against all**
15 **DEFENDANTS)**

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

19 142. DEFENDANT's conduct, as set forth above, in failing to remit to non-managerial
20 employees the total proceeds of gratuities added to customers' bills constitutes a violation of
21 California Labor Code Section 351. This violation is enforceable pursuant to the California Unfair
22 Competition Law, Cal. Bus. And Prof. Code 17200 et seq. DEFENDANT's conduct constitutes
23 unlawful, unfair, and/or fraudulent business acts or practices, in that DEFENDANT has violated
24 California Labor Code Section 351 in not remitting to the non-managerial service employees the
25 total gratuities that were charged to customers.

26 143. As a proximate result of the aforementioned violations, PLAINTIFF and
27 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members have been damaged in an amount according to proof at trial,
28 including the loss of gratuities to which they were entitled. and seek all wages earned and due,
interest, penalties, expenses and costs of suit.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF pray for a judgment against each DEFENDANT, jointly and severally, as follows:

1. On behalf of the CALIFORNIA CLASS:

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

2. On behalf of the CALIFORNIA CLASS:

- a. That the Court certify the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Causes of Action asserted by the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a class action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382;
- b. Compensatory damages, according to proof at trial, including compensatory damages for overtime compensation due to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, during the applicable CLASS PERIOD plus interest thereon at the statutory rate;
- c. Meal and rest period compensation pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7, 512 and the applicable IWC Wage Order;
- d. The greater of all actual damages or fifty dollars (\$50) for the initial pay period in which a violation occurs and one hundred dollars (\$100) per each member of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for each violation in a subsequent pay period, not exceeding an aggregate penalty of four thousand dollars (\$4,000), and an award of costs for

violation of Cal. Lab. Code § 226

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

f. The amount of the expenses PLAINTIFF and each member of the CALIFORNIA CLASS incurred in the course of their job duties, plus interest, and costs of sui

3. On all claims:

a. An award of interest, including prejudgment interest at the legal rate;

b. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable; and

c. An award of penalties, attorneys' fees, and costs of suit, as allowable under the law, including, but not limited to, pursuant to Labor Code § 218.5, § 226, and/or § 1194.

DATED: March 11, 2024

JCL LAW FIRM, APC

By: 

Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq.
Attorney for PLAINTIFF

DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL

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

DATED: March 11, 2024

JCL LAW FIRM, APC

By: 

Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq.
Attorney for PLAINTIFF

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

MHF MV Manager VI LLC dba Courtyard
San Diego Mission Valley/Hotel Circle
c/o CSC-Lawyers Incorporating Service
2710 Gateway Oaks Dr, Suite 150N
Sacramento, CA 95833



9590 9402 8151 3030 1460 66

2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

589 0710 5270 0410 5672 99

PS Form 3811, July 2020 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature

X

- ☐
- Agent
-
- ☐
- Address

B. Received by (Printed Name)

C. Date of Delivery

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes
If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

H0

002-599

03/

3. Service Type

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Adult Signature | ☐ Priority Mail Express |
| ☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery | ☐ Registered Mail™ |
| ☐ Certified Mail® | ☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery |
| ☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery | ☐ Signature Confirmation |
| ☐ Collect on Delivery | ☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery |
| ☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery | |
| ☐ Insured Mail | |
| ☐ Insured Mail Restricted Delivery (over \$500) | |

Domestic Return Receipt

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

MHF MV VI LLC
c/o CSC-Lawyers Incorporating Service
2710 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 150N
Sacramento, CA 95833



9590 9402 8151 3030 1460 73

2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

89 0710 5270 0410 5645 71

PS Form 3811, July 2020 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature

X

- ☐
- Agent
-
- ☐
- Address

B. Received by (Printed Name)

C. Date of Delivery

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes
If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

H0

002-599

03/

3. Service Type

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Adult Signature | ☐ Priority Mail Express® |
| ☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery | ☐ Registered Mail™ |
| ☐ Certified Mail® | ☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery |
| ☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery | ☐ Signature Confirmation |
| ☐ Collect on Delivery | ☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery |
| ☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery | |
| ☐ Insured Mail | |
| ☐ Insured Mail Restricted Delivery (over \$500) | |

Domestic Return Receipt

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

MHF MV Manager VI LLC

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature

X

- ☐
- Agent
-
- ☐
- Address

B. Received by (Printed Name)

C. Date of Delivery

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes
If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

H0