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Superior Court of California

County of Alameda

01/16/2024

Chad Finke, Executive Officer / Clerk of the Court

By: D. Drew Deputy

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

WALTER CRUZ and ANTONIO ANGELO
LARRANAGA, individuals, on behalf of
themselves, and on behalf of all persons
similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

TRISTRUX LLC, a Delaware limited liability
company, LEONE ELECTRIC COMPANY
LLC, a Delaware limited liability company; and
DOES 1-50, Inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No: 23CV047527

**FIRST AMENDED 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 WAGES WHEN
DUE IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB.
CODE §§ 201, 202 AND 203;

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- 8) FAILURE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE
ITEMIZED STATEMENTS IN
VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE § 226;
9) VIOLATION OF THE PRIVATE
ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT [LABOR
CODE §§ 2698 ET SEQ

DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL

PLAINTIFFS WALTER CRUZ and ANTONIO ANGELO LARRANAGA (hereinafter
“PLAINTIFF” and/or “PLAINTIFFS”), individuals, on behalf of themselves and all other similarly
situated current and former employees, allege on information and belief, except for their own acts
and knowledge which are based on personal knowledge, the following:

PRELIMINARY ALLEGATIONS

1. Defendant TRISTRUX LLC (“Defendant Tristrux”) 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 LEONE ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC (“Defendant Leone”) 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 Tristrux and Defendant Leone were the joint employers of PLAINTIFF
as evidenced by the documents issued to PLAINTIFF and by the company PLAINTIFF performed
work for respectively and are therefore jointly responsible as employers for the conduct alleged
herein as “DEFENDANTS” and/or “DEFENDANT.”

4. DEFENDANTS provide telecommunications services throughout the state of
California, including the county of Alameda, where PLAINTIFF CRUZ worked and the County
of San Bernardino where PLAINTIFF LARRANAGA worked.

5. PLAINTIFF CRUZ was employed by DEFENDANT in California from
December of 2021 to May of 2023 as a non-exempt employee, paid an hourly basis, and entitled

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

3 6. PLAINTIFF LARRANAGA was employed by DEFENDANT in California from
4 June 2022 to December of 2022 as a non-exempt employee, paid an hourly basis, and entitled to
5 the legally required meal and rest periods and payment of minimum and overtime wages due for
6 all time worked.

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

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

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

1 Complaint to allege the true names and capacities of Does 1 through 50, inclusive, when they are
2 ascertained. PLAINTIFFS are informed and believe, and based upon that information and belief
3 alleges, that the DEFENDANTS named in this Complaint, including DOES 1 through 50,
4 inclusive, are responsible in some manner for one or more of the events and happenings that
5 proximately caused the injuries and damages hereinafter alleged.

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

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

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

25 13. DEFENDANTS' uniform policies and practices alleged herein were unlawful,
26 unfair, and deceptive business practices whereby DEFENDANTS retained and continue to retain
27 wages due to PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.
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14. PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS seek an injunction enjoining such conduct by DEFENDANT in the future, relief for the named PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS who has been economically injured by DEFENDANT's past and current unlawful conduct, and all other appropriate legal and equitable relief.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

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

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

THE CONDUCT

17. 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 PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for missed meal and rest periods, failed to pay PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all time worked, failed compensate PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for off-the-clock work, failed to pay PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS overtime at the correct regular rate of pay, failed to compensate PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS meal rest premiums at the regular rate, failed to reimburse PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for business expenses, and failed to issue to PLAINTIFFS and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with accurate itemized wage statements showing, among other things, all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay

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

7 **A. Meal Period Violations**

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

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

1 off-duty meal period for some workdays in which these employees are required by DEFENDANT
2 to work ten (10) hours of work. The nature of the work performed by PLAINTIFFS and other
3 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members does not qualify for the limited and narrowly construed “on-
4 duty” meal period exception. When they were provided with meal periods, PLAINTIFFS and
5 other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were, from time to time, required to remain on duty, on
6 call, and required to carry cordless communication devices. Further, PLAINTIFFS and other
7 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required to respond to and send work-related
8 communications on their cordless communication devices. DEFENDANT’s failure to provide
9 PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with legally required meal breaks is
10 evidenced by DEFENDANT’s business records. PLAINTIFFS and other members of the
11 CALIFORNIA CLASS therefore forfeit meal breaks without additional compensation and in
12 accordance with DEFENDANT’s strict corporate policy and practice.

13 **B. Rest Period Violations**

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

1 were from time to time denied their proper rest periods by DEFENDANT and DEFENDANT's
2 managers.

3 **C. Unreimbursed Business Expenses**

4 21. DEFENDANT as a matter of corporate policy, practice, and procedure,
5 intentionally, knowingly, and systematically failed to reimburse and indemnify the PLAINTIFFS
6 and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for required business expenses incurred by the
7 PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members in direct consequence of discharging
8 their duties on behalf of DEFENDANT. 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, DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFFS and
16 other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to incur personal expenses for the use of their personal
17 cell phones and computers as a result of and in furtherance of their job duties. Specifically,
18 PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required to use their personal cell
19 phones and computers in order to perform work related tasks. However, DEFENDANT
20 unlawfully failed to reimburse PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for the
21 personal expenses incurred for the use of their personal cell phones and computers. As a result, in
22 the course of their employment with DEFENDANT, the PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA
23 CLASS Members incurred unreimbursed business expenses that included, but were not limited
24 to, costs related to the use of their personal cell phones and computers, all on behalf of and for the
25 benefit of DEFENDANT.

26 **D. Wage Statement Violations**

27 23. California Labor Code Section 226 required an employer to furnish its employees
28 and accurate itemized wage statement in writing showing (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours

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

7 24. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, when PLAINTIFFS and other
8 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members missed meal and rest breaks, or were paid inaccurately for
9 missed meal and rest period premiums, or were not paid for all hours worked, DEFENDANT also
10 failed to provide PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with complete and
11 accurate wage statements which failed to show, among other things, all deductions, the total hours
12 worked and all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period, and the corresponding
13 amount of time worked at each hourly rate, correct rates of pay for penalty payments or missed
14 meal and rest periods.

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

18 26. As a result, DEFENDANT issued PLAINTIFFS and other members of the
19 CALIFORNIA CLASS with wage statements that violate Cal. Lab. Code § 226. Further,
20 DEFENDANT's 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 DEFENDANT failed and
24 continues to fail to accurately pay PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
25 for all hours worked.

26 28. During the CLASS PERIOD, from time-to-time DEFENDANT required
27 PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to perform pre-shift or post-shift
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1 working. This resulted in PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to have
2 to work while off-the-clock.

3 29. DEFENDANT directed and directly benefited from the undercompensated off-the-
4 clock work performed by PLAINTIFFS and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

5 30. DEFENDANT controlled the work schedules, duties, and protocols, applications,
6 assignments, and employment conditions of PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the
7 CALIFORNIA CLASS.

8 31. DEFENDANT was able to track the amount of time PLAINTIFFS and the other
9 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS spent working; however, DEFENDANT failed to
10 document, track, or pay PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS all
11 wages earned and owed for all the work they performed.

12 32. PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were non-
13 exempt employees, subject to the requirements of the California Labor Code.

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

20 34. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFFS and the other
21 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS off-the-clock work was compensable under the law.

22 35. As a result, PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
23 forfeited wages due to them for all hours worked at DEFENDANT's direction, control, and
24 benefit for the time spent working while off-the-clock. DEFENDANT's uniform policy and
25 practice to not pay PLAINTIFFS and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS wages for all
26 hours worked in accordance with applicable law is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business
27 records.

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

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

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

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

23 39. However, from-time-to-time, when calculating the regular rate of pay, in those pay
24 periods where PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS members worked overtime, double
25 time, paid meal and rest period premium payments, and/or redeemed sick pay, and earned non-
26 discretionary bonus, DEFENDANTS failed to accurately include the non-discretionary bonus
27 compensation as part of the employees' "regular rate of pay" and/or calculated all hours worked
28 rather than just all non-overtime hours worked. Management and supervisors described the

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

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

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

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

3 **H. Unlawful Rounding Violations**

4 42. During the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT did not have in place
5 an immutable timekeeping system to accurately record and pay PLAINTIFFS and other
6 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for the actual time these employees worked each day, including
7 overtime hours. Specifically, DEFENDANT had in place an unlawful rounding policy and
8 practice that resulted in PLAINTIFFS and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members being
9 undercompensated for all of their time worked. As a result, DEFENDANT was able to and did in
10 fact unlawfully, and unilaterally round the time recorded in DEFENDANT'S timekeeping system
11 for PLAINTIFFS and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in order to avoid paying these
12 employees for all their time worked, including the applicable overtime compensation for overtime
13 worked. As a result, PLAINTIFFS, and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, from time to
14 time, forfeited compensation for their time worked by working without their time being accurately
15 recorded and without compensation at the applicable overtime rates.

16 43. Further, the mutability of DEFENDANT'S timekeeping system and unlawful
17 rounding policy and practice resulted in PLAINTIFFS and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members'
18 time being inaccurately recorded. As a result, from time to time, DEFENDANT'S unlawful
19 rounding policy and practice caused PLAINTIFFS and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to
20 perform work as ordered by DEFENDANT for more than five (5) hours during a shift without
21 receiving an off-duty meal break. Additionally, DEFENDANT'S unlawful rounding policy and
22 practice caused PLAINTIFFS and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to perform work as ordered
23 by DEFENDANT for more than ten (10) hours during a shift without receiving a second off-duty
24 meal break.

25 **I. Unlawful Deductions**

26 44. DEFENDANTS, from time-to-time unlawfully deducted wages from
27 PLAINTIFFS and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members' pay without explanations and without
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1 authorization to do so or notice to PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members. As a
2 result, DEFENDANTS violated Labor Code § 221.

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

21 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

22 46. PLAINTIFFS bring this Class Action on behalf of himself, and a California class
23 defined as all persons who are or previously were employed by Defendant Tristrux and/or
24 Defendant Leone in California and classified as non-exempt employees (the "CALIFORNIA
25 CLASS") at any time during the period beginning four (4) years prior to the filing of this
26 Complaint and ending on the date as determined by the Court (the "CLASS PERIOD").

27 47. PLAINTIFFS and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members have uniformly been
28 deprived of wages and penalties from unpaid wages earned and due, including but not limited to

1 unpaid minimum wages, unpaid overtime compensation, unpaid meal and rest period premiums,
2 illegal meal and rest period policies, failed to reimburse for business expenses, failed compensate
3 for off-the-clock work, failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements, failure to maintain
4 required records, and interest, statutory and civil penalties, attorney's fees, costs, and expenses.

5 48. The members of the class are so numerous that joinder of all class members is
6 impractical.

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

- 16 a. Whether DEFENDANT maintained legally compliant meal period policies and
17 practices;
- 18 b. Whether DEFENDANT maintained legally compliant rest period policies and
19 practices;
- 20 c. Whether DEFENDANT failed to pay PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA
21 CLASS Members accurate premium payments for missed meal and rest periods;
- 22 d. Whether DEFENDANT failed to pay PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA
23 CLASS Members accurate overtime wages;
- 24 e. Whether DEFENDANT failed to pay PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA
25 CLASS Members at least minimum wage for all hours worked;
- 26 f. Whether DEFENDANT failed to compensate PLAINTIFFS and the
27 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for required business expenses;
- 28 g. Whether DEFENDANT issued legally compliant wage statements;

- 1 h. Whether DEFENDANT committed an act of unfair competition by systematically
2 failing to record and pay PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the
3 CALIFORNIA CLASS for all time worked;
- 4 i. Whether DEFENDANT committed an act of unfair competition by systematically
5 failing to record all meal and rest breaks missed by PLAINTIFFS and other
6 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, even though DEFENDANT enjoyed the benefit
7 of this work, required employees to perform this work and permits or suffers to
8 permit this work;
- 9 j. Whether DEFENDANT committed an act of unfair competition in violation of the
10 UCL, by failing to provide the PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the
11 CALIFORNIA CLASS with the legally required meal and rest periods.

12 50. PLAINTIFFS are members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS and suffered damages
13 as a result of DEFENDANT's conduct and actions alleged herein.

14 51. PLAINTIFFS' claims are typical of the claims of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, and
15 PLAINTIFFS have the same interests as the other members of the class.

16 52. PLAINTIFFS will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the
17 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

18 53. PLAINTIFFS retained able class counsel with extensive experience in class action
19 litigation.

20 54. Further, PLAINTIFFS'S interests are coincident with, and not antagonistic to, the
21 interest of the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

22 55. There is a strong community of interest among PLAINTIFFS and the members of
23 the CALIFORNIA CLASS to, inter alia, ensure that the combined assets of DEFENDANT are
24 sufficient to adequately compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the injuries
25 sustained.

26 56. The questions of law and fact common to the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
27 predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, including legal and factual
28 issues relating to liability and damages.

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

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

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

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Unlawful Business Practices

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

(Alleged by PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all Defendants)

59. PLAINTIFFS, 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.

60. DEFENDANT is a “person” as that term is defined under Cal. Bus. And Prof. Code § 17021.

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

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

9 62. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT has engaged and continues to
10 engage in a business practice which violates California law, including but not limited to, the
11 applicable Wage Order(s), the California Code of Regulations and the California Labor Code
12 including Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, and
13 2802, for which this Court should issue declaratory and other equitable relief pursuant to Cal.
14 Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203 as may be necessary to prevent and remedy the conduct held to
15 constitute unfair competition, including restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.

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

21 64. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT’s practices were deceptive and
22 fraudulent in that DEFENDANT’s uniform policy and practice failed to provide the legally
23 mandated meal and rest periods and the required amount of compensation for missed meal and
24 rest periods, failed to pay minimum and overtime wages owed, and failed to reimburse all
25 necessary business expenses incurred, due to a systematic business practice that cannot be
26 justified, pursuant to the applicable Cal. Lab. Code, and Industrial Welfare Commission
27 requirements in violation of Cal. Bus. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, and for which this Court should
28

1 issue injunctive and equitable relief, pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203, including
2 restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.

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

7 66. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were also unfair and
8 deceptive in that DEFENDANT's uniform policies, practices and procedures failed to provide
9 mandatory meal and/or rest breaks to PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members as
10 required by Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 and 512.

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

16 68. PLAINTIFFS further demands on behalf of himself and on behalf of each
17 CALIFORNIA CLASS member, one (1) hour of pay for each workday in which a rest period was
18 not timely provided as required by law.

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

25 70. All the acts described herein as violations of, among other things, the Industrial
26 Welfare Commission Wage Orders, the California Code of Regulations, and the California Labor
27 Code, were unlawful and in violation of public policy, were immoral, unethical, oppressive, and
28

1 unscrupulous, were deceptive, and thereby constitute unlawful, unfair, and deceptive business
2 practices in violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

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

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

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

19 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

20 **Failure To Pay Minimum Wages**

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

22 **(Alleged by PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against ALL Defendants)**

23 74. PLAINTIFFS, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and
24 incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this
25 Complaint.

26 75. PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS bring a claim
27 for DEFENDANT's willful and intentional violations of the California Labor Code and the
28

1 Industrial Welfare Commission requirements for DEFENDANT's failure to accurately calculate
2 and pay minimum wages to PLAINTIFFS and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

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

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

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

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

15 80. DEFENDANT's uniform pattern of unlawful wage and hour practices manifested,
16 without limitation, applicable to the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a whole, as a result of
17 implementing a uniform policy and practice that denies accurate compensation to PLAINTIFFS
18 and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in regard to minimum wage pay.

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

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

1 83. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the
2 CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid less for time worked that they were entitled to, constituting a
3 failure to pay all earned wages.

4 84. By virtue of DEFENDANT's unlawful failure to accurately pay all earned
5 compensation to PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the true
6 time they worked, PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS have
7 suffered and will continue to suffer an economic injury in amounts which are presently unknown
8 to them, and which will be ascertained according to proof at trial.

9 85. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFFS and the other
10 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were under-compensated for their time worked.
11 DEFENDANT systematically elected, either through intentional malfeasance or gross
12 nonfeasance, to not pay employees for their labor as a matter of uniform company policy, practice
13 and procedure, and DEFENDANT perpetrated this systematic scheme by refusing to pay
14 PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS the correct minimum wages
15 for their time worked.

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

24 87. PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS therefore
25 request recovery of all unpaid wages, according to proof, interest, statutory costs, as well as the
26 assessment of any statutory penalties against DEFENDANT, in a sum as provided by the
27 California Labor Code and/or other applicable statutes. To the extent minimum wage
28 compensation is determined to be owed to the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members who have

1 terminated their employment, DEFENDANT's conduct also violates Labor Code §§ 201 and/or
2 202, and therefore these individuals are also be entitled to waiting time penalties under Cal. Lab.
3 Code § 203, which penalties are sought herein on behalf of these CALIFORNIA CLASS
4 Members. DEFENDANT's conduct as alleged herein was willful, intentional and not in good
5 faith. Further, PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members are entitled to seek and
6 recover statutory costs.

7 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

8 **Failure To Pay Overtime Compensation**

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

10 **(Alleged by PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against ALL Defendants)**

11 88. PLAINTIFFS, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and
12 incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this
13 Complaint.

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

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

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

24 92. Cal. Lab. Code § 1194 establishes an employee's right to recover unpaid wages,
25 including minimum and overtime compensation and interest thereon, together with the costs of
26 suit. Cal. Lab. Code § 1198 further states that the employment of an employee for longer hours
27 than those fixed by the Industrial Welfare Commission is unlawful.
28

1 93. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFFS and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
2 were required by DEFENDANT to work for DEFENDANT and were not paid for all the time
3 they worked, including overtime work.

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

11 95. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, DEFENDANT
12 inaccurately recorded overtime worked and consequently underpaid the overtime worked by
13 PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members. DEFENDANT acted in an illegal
14 attempt to avoid the payment of all earned wages, and other benefits in violation of the California
15 Labor Code, the Industrial Welfare Commission requirements and other applicable laws and
16 regulations.

17 96. As a direct result of DEFENDANT's unlawful wage practices as alleged herein,
18 PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS did not receive the correct
19 overtime compensation for their time worked for DEFENDANT.

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

1 98. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the
2 CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid less for overtime worked that they were entitled to, constituting
3 a failure to pay all earned wages.

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

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

16 101. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFFS and the other
17 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were undercompensated for their time worked.
18 DEFENDANT systematically elected, either through intentional malfeasance or gross
19 nonfeasance, to not pay them for their labor as a matter of uniform company policy, practice and
20 procedure, and DEFENDANT perpetrated this systematic scheme by refusing to pay
21 PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS the correct overtime wages
22 for their overtime worked.

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

1 rights, and otherwise causing them injury in order to increase company profits at the expense of
2 these employees.

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

13 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

14 **Failure To Provide Required Meal Periods**

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

16 **(Alleged by PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all Defendants)**

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

20 105. During the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT failed to provide all the legally
21 required off-duty meal breaks to PLAINTIFFS and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members as
22 required by the applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. The nature of the work performed by
23 PLAINTIFFS and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members did not prevent these employees from being
24 relieved of all of their duties for the legally required off-duty meal periods. As a result of their
25 rigorous work schedules, PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were often
26 not fully relieved of duty by DEFENDANT for their meal periods. Additionally, DEFENDANT's
27 failure to provide PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with legally required
28 meal breaks prior to their fifth (5th) hour of work is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business

1 records. Further, DEFENDANT failed to provide PLAINTIFFS and CALIFORNIA CLASS
2 Members with a second off-duty meal period in some workdays in which these employees were
3 required by DEFENDANT to work ten (10) hours of work. As a result, PLAINTIFFS and other
4 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS forfeited meal breaks without additional compensation
5 and in accordance with DEFENDANT's strict corporate policy and practice.

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

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

14 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

15 **Failure To Provide Required Rest Periods**

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

17 **(Alleged by PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all Defendants)**

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

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

1 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were periodically denied their proper rest periods by
2 DEFENDANT and DEFENDANT's managers. In addition, DEFENDANT failed to compensate
3 PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for their rest periods as required by the
4 applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. As a result, DEFENDANT's failure to provide
5 PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with all the legally required paid rest
6 periods is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records.

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

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

15 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

16 **Failure To Reimburse Employees for Required Expenses**

17 **(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 2802)**

18 **(Alleged by PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all Defendants)**

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

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

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

28 114. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT violated Cal. Lab.
Code § 2802, by failing to indemnify and reimburse PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS
members for required expenses incurred in the discharge of their job duties for DEFENDANT's

benefit. DEFENDANT failed to reimburse PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members for expenses which included, but were not limited to, personal expenses incurred for the use of personal cell phones and computers all on behalf of and for the benefit of DEFENDANT. Specifically, PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required by DEFENDANT to use their own cell phones and computers to execute their essential job duties on behalf of DEFENDANT. DEFENDANT's uniform policy, practice and procedure was to not reimburse PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members for expenses resulting from the use of personal cell phones and computers for DEFENDANT within the course and scope of their employment for DEFENDANT. These expenses were necessary to complete their principal job duties. DEFENDANT is estopped by DEFENDANT's conduct to assert any waiver of this expectation. Although these expenses were necessary expenses incurred by PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members, DEFENDANT failed to indemnify and reimburse PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members for these expenses as an employer is required to do under the laws and regulations of California.

115. PLAINTIFFS therefore demand reimbursement for expenditures or losses incurred by him and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members in the discharge of their job duties for DEFENDANT, or their obedience to the directions of DEFENDANT, with interest at the statutory rate and costs under Cal. Lab. Code § 2802.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Failure To Provide Accurate Itemized Statements

(Cal. Lab. Code § 226)

(Alleged by PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all Defendants)

116. PLAINTIFFS, 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.

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

a. Gross wages earned,

- 1 b. (2) total hours worked by the employee, except for any employee whose
2 compensation is solely based on a salary and who is exempt from payment of
3 overtime under subdivision (a) of Section 515 or any applicable order of the
4 Industrial Welfare Commission,
5 c. the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee
6 is paid on a piece-rate basis,
7 d. all deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee
8 may be aggregated and shown as one item,
9 e. net wages earned,
10 f. the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid,
11 g. the name of the employee and his or her social security number, except that by
12 January 1, 2008, only the last four digits of his or her social security number of an
13 employee identification number other than social security number may be shown
14 on the itemized statement,
15 h. the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and
16 i. all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding
17 number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.

18 118. When DEFENDANT did not accurately record PLAINTIFFS'S and other
19 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members' missed meal and rest breaks, or were paid inaccurate missed
20 meal and rest break premiums, or were not paid for all hours worked, DEFENDANT violated Cal.
21 Lab. Code § 226 in that DEFENDANT failed to provide PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA
22 CLASS Members with complete and accurate wage statements which failed to show, among other
23 things, all deductions, the accurate gross wages earned, net wages earned, the total hours worked
24 and all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding amount of
25 time worked at each hourly rate, and correct rates of pay for penalty payments or missed meal
26 and rest periods.

119. In addition to the foregoing, DEFENDANT failed to provide itemized wage statements to PLAINTIFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS that complied with the requirements of California Labor Code Section 226.

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

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Failure To Pay Wages When Due

(Cal. Lab. Code § 203)

(Alleged by PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all Defendants)

121. PLAINTIFFS, 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.

122. Cal. Lab. Code § 200 provides that:

As used in this article:

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

1 123. Cal. Lab. Code § 201 provides, in relevant part, that “If an employer discharges
2 an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable
3 immediately.”

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

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

10 125. There was no definite term in PLAINTIFFS’S or any CALIFORNIA CLASS
11 Members’ employment contract.

12 126. Cal. Lab. Code § 203 provides:

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

16 127. The employment of PLAINTIFFS and many CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
17 terminated, and DEFENDANT has not tendered payment of wages to these employees who
18 missed meal and rest breaks, as required by law.

19 128. Therefore, as provided by Cal Lab. Code § 203, on behalf of himself and the
20 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS whose employment has, PLAINTIFFS demand up to
21 thirty (30) days of pay as penalty for not paying all wages due at time of termination for all
22 employees who terminated employment during the CLASS PERIOD and demand an accounting
23 and payment of all wages due, plus interest and statutory costs as allowed by law.

24 //

25 //

NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION
VIOLATION OF THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT
(Cal. Lab. Code §§2698 et seq.)
(Alleged by PLAINTIFFS against all Defendants)

129. PLAINTIFFS realleges and incorporates by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this First Amended Complaint.

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

131. PLAINTIFFS, 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 himself and all employees who worked for Defendant in California during the time period of August 5, 2021 until the present (the "AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES").

132. On June 21, 2023, PLAINTIFF CRUZ gave written notice by online submission to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (the "Agency") and certified mail to the employer of the specific provisions of this code alleged to have been violated as required by Labor Code § 2699.3. See Exhibit #1, attached hereto and incorporated by this reference herein. The statutory waiting period for PLAINTIFF to add these allegations to the Complaint has expired. As a result, pursuant to Section 2699.3, PLAINTIFFS may now commence a

1 representative civil action under PAGA pursuant to Section 2699 as the proxy of the State of
2 California with respect to all AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES as herein defined.

3 133. On October 5, 2023, PLAINTIFF LARRANAGA gave written notice by online
4 submission to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (the "Agency") and certified
5 mail to the employer of the specific provisions of this code alleged to have been violated as
6 required by Labor Code § 2699.3. See Exhibit #2, attached hereto and incorporated by this
7 reference herein. The statutory waiting period for PLAINTIFF to add these allegations to the
8 Complaint has expired. As a result, pursuant to Section 2699.3, PLAINTIFF may now
9 commence a representative civil action under PAGA pursuant to Section 2699 as the proxy of
10 the State of California with respect to all AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES as herein defined.

11 134. The policies, acts and practices heretofore described were and are an unlawful
12 business act or practice because DEFENDANTS (a) failed to pay AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES
13 minimum wages and overtime wages, (b) failed to provide AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES legally
14 required meal and rest breaks, (c) failed to pay AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES at the correct
15 regular rate of pay, (d) failed to pay AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for all time worked, and (e)
16 failed to timely pay wages, all in violation of the applicable Labor Code sections listed in Labor
17 Code §2699.5, including but not limited to Labor Code §§ 201, 201.3, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5,
18 218.6, 221, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 558, 1174(d), 1174.5, 1194, 1197, 1197.1,
19 1197.14, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2802, 2804, and the applicable Industrial Wage Order(s), and
20 thereby gives rise to statutory penalties as a result of such conduct. PLAINTIFFS hereby seek
21 recovery of civil penalties as prescribed by the Labor Code Private Attorney General Act of 2004
22 as the representative of the State of California for the illegal conduct perpetrated on
23 PLAINTIFFS and the other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES.

24 135. Pursuant to Labor Code §§ 2699(a), 2699.3 and 2699.5, PLAINTIFFS are entitled
25 to recover civil penalties, in addition to other remedies, for violations of the Labor Code sections
26 cited above.

27 136. For bringing this action, PLAINTIFFS are entitled to attorney's fees and costs
28 incurred herein.

1 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

2 WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFFS pray for a judgment against each DEFENDANT, jointly
3 and severally, as follows:

4 1. On behalf of the CALIFORNIA CLASS:

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

15 2. On behalf of the CALIFORNIA CLASS:

- 16 a. That the Court certify the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth
17 Causes of Action asserted by the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a class action pursuant
18 to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382;
19 b. Compensatory damages, according to proof at trial, including compensatory
20 damages for overtime compensation due to PLAINTIFFS and the other members
21 of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, during the applicable CLASS PERIOD plus interest
22 thereon at the statutory rate;
23 c. Meal and rest period compensation pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7, 512 and
24 the applicable IWC Wage Order;
25 d. The greater of all actual damages or fifty dollars (\$50) for the initial pay period in
26 which a violation occurs and one hundred dollars (\$100) per each member of the
27 CALIFORNIA CLASS for each violation in a subsequent pay period, not exceeding
28 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 PLAINTIFFS and each member of the CALIFORNIA CLASS incurred in the course of their job duties, plus interest, and costs of suit.

3. On behalf of the State of California and with respect to all AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES:

a. Recovery of civil penalties as prescribe by the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004; and

b. An Award of penalties, attorneys' fees and costs of suit, as allowable under the law.

4. 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, §1194, §2699 *et seq.*, and/or § 2802.

d. For prejudgment and post judgment interest on each of the foregoing at the legal rate from the date the obligation became due through the date of judgment in this matter.

e. For any other relief that is just and proper.

DATED: December 11, 2023

BARVIE LAW, APC

By: _____

Nicole Barvié

Attorney for PLAINTIFFS

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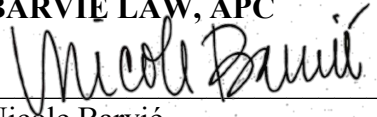
DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL

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

DATED: December 11, 2023

BARVIE LAW, APC

By: _____



Nicole Barvié

Attorney for PLAINTIFFS

EXHIBIT #1



Client # 52301

June 21, 2023

Via Online Filing to LWDA and Certified Mail to Defendants

Labor and Workforce Development Agency

Online Filing

TRISTRUX LLC

c/o CSC – Lawyers Incorporating Service

2710 Gateway Oaks Dr.

Sacramento, CA 95833

Sent via Certified Mail and Return Receipt No. 9589 0710 5270 0625 6791 14

LEONE ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC

c/o CSC – Lawyers Incorporating Service

2710 Gateway Oaks Dr.

Sacramento, CA 95833

Sent via Certified Mail and Return Receipt No. 9589 0710 5270 0625 6791 07

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, 246, 510, 512, 558, 1174(d), 1174.5, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1197.14, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2802, 2804, and Violation of Applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order(s), and Pursuant to California Labor Code Section 2699.5

Dear Sir/Madam:

Our offices represent Plaintiff WALTER CRUZ (“Plaintiff”), and other aggrieved employees in a proposed lawsuit against Defendant TRISTRUX LLC (“Defendant Tristrux”) and LEONE ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC (“Defendant Leone”) (hereinafter collectively “Defendants”). Plaintiff was employed by Defendants in California from December of 2021 to May of 2023 as a non-exempt employee, paid on an hourly basis, and entitled to payment of all wages and the legally required meal and rest breaks and payment of minimum and overtime wages due for all time worked. Defendants, however, unlawfully failed to record and pay Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees for all of their time worked, and for all of their meal breaks and rest breaks. Further, Defendants failed to timely pay Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees for earned wages.

As a consequence, Plaintiff contends that Defendants failed to fully compensate him and other similarly situated and aggrieved employees, for all earned wages and failed to provide California-compliant meal and rest breaks and accurate wage statements. Accordingly, Plaintiff contends that Defendants’ conduct violated Labor Code sections §§ 201, 201.3, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 221, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 558, 1174(d), 1174.5, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1197.14, 1198, 1199, 2802, 2804, and applicable wage orders, and is therefore actionable pursuant to section 2698 *et seq.*

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

A true and correct copy of the proposed Complaint is attached hereto. The Complaint (i) identifies the alleged violations, (ii) details the facts and theories which support the alleged violations, (iii) details the specific work performed by Plaintiff, (iv) sets forth the people/entities, dates, classifications, violations, events, and actions which are at issue to the extent known to the Plaintiff, and (v) 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 his 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 Act 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.

Sincerely,



Shani O. Zakay
Attorney for Plaintiff

Copies to:
Matthew Disbrow, Esq.
mdisbrow@honigman.com

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 ALAMEDA

WALTER CRUZ, an individual, on behalf of
himself, and on behalf of all persons similarly
situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

TRISTRUX LLC, a Delaware limited liability
company, LEONE ELECTRIC COMPANY
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;

- 1 6) FAILURE TO REIMBURSE EMPLOYEES
2 FOR REQUIRED EXPENSES IN
3 VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE § 2802;
4 7) FAILURE TO PROVIDE WAGES WHEN
5 DUE IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB.
6 CODE §§ 201, 202 AND 203;
7 8) FAILURE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE
8 ITEMIZED STATEMENTS IN
9 VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE § 226;
10 9) VIOLATION OF THE PRIVATE
11 ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT [LABOR
12 CODE §§ 2698 ET SEQ

13 **DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL**

14 PLAINTIFF WALTER CRUZ (“PLAINTIFF”), an individual, on behalf of himself and all
15 other similarly situated current and former employees, allege on information and belief, except for
16 his own acts and knowledge which are based on personal knowledge, the following:

17 **PRELIMINARY ALLEGATIONS**

18 1. Defendant TRISTRUX LLC (“Defendant Tristrux”) is a Delaware limited liability
19 company that at all relevant times mentioned herein conducted and continues to conduct
20 substantial and regular business throughout California.

21 2. Defendant LEONE ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC (“Defendant Leone”) is a
22 Delaware limited liability company that at all relevant times mentioned herein conducted and
23 continues to conduct substantial and regular business throughout California.

24 3. Defendant Tristrux and Defendant Leone were the joint employers of PLAINTIFF
25 as evidenced by the documents issued to PLAINTIFF and by the company PLAINTIFF performed
26 work for respectively and are therefore jointly responsible as employers for the conduct alleged
27 herein as “DEFENDANTS” and/or “DEFENDANT.”

28 4. DEFENDANTS provide telecommunications services throughout the state of
California, including the county of Alameda, where PLAINTIFF worked.

5. PLAINTIFF was employed by DEFENDANT in California from December of
2021 to May of 2023 as a non-exempt employee, paid an hourly basis, and entitled to the legally

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

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

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

21 8. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, subsidiary,
22 partnership, associate or otherwise of DEFENDANTS DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are
23 presently unknown to PLAINTIFF who therefore sues these DEFENDANTS by such fictitious
24 names pursuant to Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 474. PLAINTIFF will seek leave to amend this
25 Complaint to allege the true names and capacities of Does 1 through 50, inclusive, when they are
26 ascertained. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and based upon that information and belief
27 alleges, that the DEFENDANTS named in this Complaint, including DOES 1 through 50,
28

1 inclusive, are responsible in some manner for one or more of the events and happenings that
2 proximately caused the injuries and damages hereinafter alleged.

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

4 14. 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 15. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure,
9 Sections 395 and 395.5, because DEFENDANT operates 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 16. In violation of the applicable sections of the California Labor Code and the
14 requirements of the Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") Wage Order, DEFENDANT 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 pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all
19 time worked, failed compensate PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
20 for off-the-clock work, failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA
21 CLASS overtime at the correct regular rate of pay, failed to compensate PLAINTIFF and other
22 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS meal rest premiums at the regular rate, failed to reimburse
23 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for business expenses, and failed to issue
24 to PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with accurate itemized wage
25 statements showing, among other things, all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay
26 periods and the corresponding amount of time worked at each hourly rate. DEFENDANT's
27 uniform policies and practices are intended to purposefully avoid the accurate and full payment
28 for all time worked as required by California law which allows DEFENDANT to illegally profit

1 and gain an unfair advantage over competitors who comply with the law. To the extent equitable
2 tolling operates to toll claims by the CALIFORNIA CLASS against DEFENDANT, the CLASS
3 PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.

4 **A. Meal Period Violations**

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

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

1 duty” meal period exception. When they were provided with meal periods, PLAINTIFF and other
2 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were, from time to time, required to remain on duty, on call,
3 and required to carry cordless communication devices. Further, PLAINTIFF and other
4 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required to respond to and send work-related
5 communications on their cordless communication devices. DEFENDANT’s failure to provide
6 PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with legally required meal breaks is
7 evidenced by DEFENDANT’s business records. PLAINTIFF and other members of the
8 CALIFORNIA CLASS therefore forfeit meal breaks without additional compensation and in
9 accordance with DEFENDANT’s strict corporate policy and practice.

10 **B. Rest Period Violations**

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

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1 **C. Unreimbursed Business Expenses**

2 20. 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 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for required business expenses incurred by the
5 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members in direct consequence of discharging
6 their duties on behalf of DEFENDANT. Under California Labor Code Section 2802, employers
7 are 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 21. In the course of their employment, DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFF and other
14 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to incur personal expenses for the use of their personal cell
15 phones and computers as a result of and in furtherance of their job duties. Specifically,
16 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required to use their personal cell
17 phones and computers in order to perform work related tasks. However, DEFENDANT
18 unlawfully failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for the
19 personal expenses incurred for the use of their personal cell phones and computers. As a result, in
20 the course of their employment with DEFENDANT, the PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
21 CLASS Members incurred unreimbursed business expenses that included, but were not limited
22 to, costs related to the use of their personal cell phones and computers, all on behalf of and for the
23 benefit of DEFENDANT.

24 **D. Wage Statement Violations**

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

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

5 23. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, when PLAINTIFF and other
6 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members missed meal and rest breaks, or were paid inaccurately for
7 missed meal and rest period premiums, or were not paid for all hours worked, DEFENDANT also
8 failed to provide PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with complete and
9 accurate wage statements which failed to show, among other things, all deductions, the total hours
10 worked and all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period, and the corresponding
11 amount of time worked at each hourly rate, correct rates of pay for penalty payments or missed
12 meal and rest periods.

13 24. In addition to the foregoing, DEFENDANT, from time to time, failed to provide
14 PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with wage statements that comply with
15 Cal. Lab. Code § 226.

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

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

21 26. During the CLASS PERIOD, from time-to-time DEFENDANT failed and
22 continues to fail to accurately pay PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
23 for all hours worked.

24 27. During the CLASS PERIOD, from time-to-time DEFENDANT required
25 PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to perform pre-shift or post-shift
26 working. This resulted in PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to have
27 to work while off-the-clock.
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1 28. DEFENDANT directed and directly benefited from the undercompensated off-the-
2 clock work performed by PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

3 29. DEFENDANT controlled the work schedules, duties, and protocols, applications,
4 assignments, and employment conditions of PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
5 CALIFORNIA CLASS.

6 30. DEFENDANT was able to track the amount of time PLAINTIFF and the other
7 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS spent working; however, DEFENDANT failed to
8 document, track, or pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS all
9 wages earned and owed for all the work they performed.

10 31. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were non-
11 exempt employees, subject to the requirements of the California Labor Code.

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

18 33. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other
19 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS off-the-clock work was compensable under the law.

20 34. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
21 forfeited wages due to them for all hours worked at DEFENDANT's direction, control, and
22 benefit for the time spent working while off-the-clock. DEFENDANT's uniform policy and
23 practice to not pay PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS wages for all
24 hours worked in accordance with applicable law is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business
25 records.

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

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

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

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

23 38. However, from-time-to-time, when calculating the regular rate of pay, in those pay
24 periods where PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS members worked overtime, double
25 time, paid meal and rest period premium payments, and/or redeemed sick pay, and earned non-
26 discretionary bonus, DEFENDANTS failed to accurately include the non-discretionary bonus
27 compensation as part of the employees' "regular rate of pay" and/or calculated all hours worked
28 rather than just all non-overtime hours worked. Management and supervisors described the

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

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

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

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

3 **H. Unlawful Rounding Violations**

4 41. During the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT did not have in place
5 an immutable timekeeping system to accurately record and pay PLAINTIFF and other
6 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for the actual time these employees worked each day, including
7 overtime hours. Specifically, DEFENDANT had in place an unlawful rounding policy and
8 practice that resulted in PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members being
9 undercompensated for all of their time worked. As a result, DEFENDANT was able to and did in
10 fact unlawfully, and unilaterally round the time recorded in DEFENDANT'S timekeeping system
11 for PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in order to avoid paying these
12 employees for all their time worked, including the applicable overtime compensation for overtime
13 worked. As a result, PLAINTIFF, and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, from time to time,
14 forfeited compensation for their time worked by working without their time being accurately
15 recorded and without compensation at the applicable overtime rates.

16 42. Further, the mutability of DEFENDANT'S timekeeping system and unlawful
17 rounding policy and practice resulted in PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members' time
18 being inaccurately recorded. As a result, from time to time, DEFENDANT'S unlawful rounding
19 policy and practice caused PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to perform work
20 as ordered by DEFENDANT for more than five (5) hours during a shift without receiving an off-
21 duty meal break. Additionally, DEFENDANT'S unlawful rounding policy and practice caused
22 PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to perform work as ordered by DEFENDANT
23 for more than ten (10) hours during a shift without receiving a second off-duty meal break.

24 **I. Unlawful Deductions**

25 43. DEFENDANTS, from time-to-time unlawfully deducted wages from PLAINTIFF
26 and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members' pay without explanations and without authorization to do
27 so or notice to PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members. As a result,
28 DEFENDANTS violated Labor Code § 221.

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

19 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

20 45. PLAINTIFF bring this Class Action on behalf of himself, and a California class
21 defined as all persons who are or previously were employed by Defendant Tristrux and/or
22 Defendant Leone in California and classified as non-exempt employees (the “CALIFORNIA
23 CLASS”) at any time during the period beginning four (4) years prior to the filing of this
24 Complaint and ending on the date as determined by the Court (the “CLASS PERIOD”).

25 46. PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members have uniformly been
26 deprived of wages and penalties from unpaid wages earned and due, including but not limited to
27 unpaid minimum wages, unpaid overtime compensation, unpaid meal and rest period premiums,
28 illegal meal and rest period policies, failed to reimburse for business expenses, failed compensate

1 for off-the-clock work, failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements, failure to maintain
2 required records, and interest, statutory and civil penalties, attorney's fees, costs, and expenses.

3 47. The members of the class are so numerous that joinder of all class members is
4 impractical.

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

- 14 a. Whether DEFENDANT maintained legally compliant meal period policies and
15 practices;
- 16 b. Whether DEFENDANT maintained legally compliant rest period policies and
17 practices;
- 18 c. Whether DEFENDANT failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS
19 Members accurate premium payments for missed meal and rest periods;
- 20 d. Whether DEFENDANT failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS
21 Members accurate overtime wages;
- 22 e. Whether DEFENDANT failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS
23 Members at least minimum wage for all hours worked;
- 24 f. Whether DEFENDANT failed to compensate PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA
25 CLASS Members for required business expenses;
- 26 g. Whether DEFENDANT issued legally compliant wage statements;

1 h. Whether DEFENDANT committed an act of unfair competition by systematically
2 failing to record and pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA
3 CLASS for all time worked;

4 i. Whether DEFENDANT committed an act of unfair competition by systematically
5 failing to record all meal and rest breaks missed by PLAINTIFF and other
6 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, even though DEFENDANT enjoyed the benefit
7 of this work, required employees to perform this work and permits or suffers to
8 permit this work;

9 j. Whether DEFENDANT committed an act of unfair competition in violation of the
10 UCL, by failing to provide the PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
11 CALIFORNIA CLASS with the legally required meal and rest periods.

12 49. PLAINTIFF are members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS and suffered damages as
13 a result of DEFENDANT's conduct and actions alleged herein.

14 50. PLAINTIFF'S claims are typical of the claims of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, and
15 PLAINTIFF have the same interests as the other members of the class.

16 51. PLAINTIFF will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the
17 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

18 52. PLAINTIFF retained able class counsel with extensive experience in class action
19 litigation.

20 53. Further, PLAINTIFF'S interests are coincident with, and not antagonistic to, the
21 interest of the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

22 54. There is a strong community of interest among PLAINTIFF and the members of
23 the CALIFORNIA CLASS to, inter alia, ensure that the combined assets of DEFENDANT are
24 sufficient to adequately compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the injuries
25 sustained.

26 55. The questions of law and fact common to the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
27 predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, including legal and factual
28 issues relating to liability and damages.

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

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

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

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Unlawful Business Practices

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

(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all Defendants)

58. 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.

59. DEFENDANT is a “person” as that term is defined under Cal. Bus. And Prof. Code § 17021.

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

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

12 61. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT has engaged and continues to
13 engage in a business practice which violates California law, including but not limited to, the
14 applicable Wage Order(s), the California Code of Regulations and the California Labor Code
15 including Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, and
16 2802, for which this Court should issue declaratory and other equitable relief pursuant to Cal.
17 Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203 as may be necessary to prevent and remedy the conduct held to
18 constitute unfair competition, including restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.

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

24 63. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT’s practices were deceptive and
25 fraudulent in that DEFENDANT’s uniform policy and practice failed to provide the legally
26 mandated meal and rest periods and the required amount of compensation for missed meal and
27 rest periods, failed to pay minimum and overtime wages owed, and failed to reimburse all
28 necessary business expenses incurred, due to a systematic business practice that cannot be
justified, pursuant to the applicable Cal. Lab. Code, and Industrial Welfare Commission
requirements in violation of Cal. Bus. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, and for which this Court should

1 issue injunctive and equitable relief, pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203, including
2 restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.

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

7 65. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were also unfair and
8 deceptive in that DEFENDANT's uniform policies, practices and procedures failed to provide
9 mandatory meal and/or rest breaks to PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members as
10 required by Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 and 512.

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

16 67. PLAINTIFF further demands on behalf of himself and on behalf of each
17 CALIFORNIA CLASS member, one (1) hour of pay for each workday in which a rest period was
18 not timely provided as required by law.

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

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

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

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

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

19 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

20 **Failure To Pay Minimum Wages**

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

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

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

26 74. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS bring a claim for
27 DEFENDANT's willful and intentional violations of the California Labor Code and the Industrial
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1 Welfare Commission requirements for DEFENDANT's failure to accurately calculate and pay
2 minimum wages to PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 82. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
2 CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid less for time worked that they were entitled to, constituting a
3 failure to pay all earned wages.

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

9 84. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other
10 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were under-compensated for their time worked.
11 DEFENDANT systematically elected, either through intentional malfeasance or gross
12 nonfeasance, to not pay employees for their labor as a matter of uniform company policy, practice
13 and procedure, and DEFENDANT perpetrated this systematic scheme by refusing to pay
14 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS the correct minimum wages
15 for their time worked.

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

24 86. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS therefore request
25 recovery of all unpaid wages, according to proof, interest, statutory costs, as well as the
26 assessment of any statutory penalties against DEFENDANT, in a sum as provided by the
27 California Labor Code and/or other applicable statutes. To the extent minimum wage
28 compensation is determined to be owed to the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members who have

1 terminated their employment, DEFENDANT's conduct also violates Labor Code §§ 201 and/or
2 202, and therefore these individuals are also be entitled to waiting time penalties under Cal. Lab.
3 Code § 203, which penalties are sought herein on behalf of these CALIFORNIA CLASS
4 Members. DEFENDANT's conduct as alleged herein was willful, intentional and not in good
5 faith. Further, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members are entitled to seek and
6 recover statutory costs.

7 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

8 **Failure To Pay Overtime Compensation**

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 91. Cal. Lab. Code § 1194 establishes an employee's right to recover unpaid wages,
25 including minimum and overtime compensation and interest thereon, together with the costs of
26 suit. Cal. Lab. Code § 1198 further states that the employment of an employee for longer hours
27 than those fixed by the Industrial Welfare Commission is unlawful.
28

1 92. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
2 were required by DEFENDANT to work for DEFENDANT and were not paid for all the time
3 they worked, including overtime work.

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

11 94. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, DEFENDANT
12 inaccurately recorded overtime worked and consequently underpaid the overtime worked by
13 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members. DEFENDANT acted in an illegal
14 attempt to avoid the payment of all earned wages, and other benefits in violation of the California
15 Labor Code, the Industrial Welfare Commission requirements and other applicable laws and
16 regulations.

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

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

1 97. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
2 CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid less for overtime worked that they were entitled to, constituting
3 a failure to pay all earned wages.

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

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

16 100. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other
17 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were undercompensated for their time worked.
18 DEFENDANT systematically elected, either through intentional malfeasance or gross
19 nonfeasance, to not pay them for their labor as a matter of uniform company policy, practice and
20 procedure, and DEFENDANT perpetrated this systematic scheme by refusing to pay PLAINTIFF
21 and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS the correct overtime wages for their
22 overtime worked.

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

1 rights, and otherwise causing them injury in order to increase company profits at the expense of
2 these employees.

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

13 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

14 **Failure To Provide Required Meal Periods**

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

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

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

20 104. During the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT failed to provide all the legally
21 required off-duty meal breaks to PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members as
22 required by the applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. The nature of the work performed by
23 PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members did not prevent these employees from being
24 relieved of all of their duties for the legally required off-duty meal periods. As a result of their
25 rigorous work schedules, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were often not
26 fully relieved of duty by DEFENDANT for their meal periods. Additionally, DEFENDANT's
27 failure to provide PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with legally required
28 meal breaks prior to their fifth (5th) hour of work is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business

1 records. Further, DEFENDANT failed to provide PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS
2 Members with a second off-duty meal period in some workdays in which these employees were
3 required by DEFENDANT to work ten (10) hours of work. As a result, PLAINTIFF and other
4 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS forfeited meal breaks without additional compensation
5 and in accordance with DEFENDANT's strict corporate policy and practice.

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

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

14 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

15 **Failure To Provide Required Rest Periods**

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

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

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

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

1 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were periodically denied their proper rest periods by
2 DEFENDANT and DEFENDANT's managers. In addition, DEFENDANT failed to compensate
3 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for their rest periods as required by the
4 applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. As a result, DEFENDANT's failure to provide
5 PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with all the legally required paid rest
6 periods is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records.

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

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

15 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

16 **Failure To Reimburse Employees for Required Expenses**

17 **(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 2802)**

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

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

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

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

28 113. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT 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 DEFENDANT's

benefit. DEFENDANT failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members for expenses which included, but were not limited to, personal expenses incurred for the use of personal cell phones and computers all on behalf of and for the benefit of DEFENDANT. Specifically, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required by DEFENDANT to use their own cell phones and computers to execute their essential job duties on behalf of DEFENDANT. DEFENDANT's uniform policy, practice and procedure was to not reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members for expenses resulting from the use of personal cell phones and computers for DEFENDANT within the course and scope of their employment for DEFENDANT. These expenses were necessary to complete their principal job duties. DEFENDANT is estopped by DEFENDANT's conduct to assert any waiver of this expectation. Although these expenses were necessary expenses incurred by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members, DEFENDANT failed to indemnify and reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members for these expenses as an employer is required to do under the laws and regulations of California.

114. PLAINTIFF therefore demand reimbursement for expenditures or losses incurred by him and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members in the discharge of their job duties for DEFENDANT, or their obedience to the directions of DEFENDANT, with interest at the statutory rate and costs under Cal. Lab. Code § 2802.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Failure To Provide Accurate Itemized Statements

(Cal. Lab. Code § 226)

(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all Defendants)

115. 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.

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

a. Gross wages earned,

- b. (2) total hours worked by the employee, except for any employee whose compensation is solely based on a salary and who is exempt from payment of overtime under subdivision (a) of Section 515 or any applicable order of the Industrial Welfare Commission,
- c. the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis,
- d. all deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item,
- e. net wages earned,
- f. the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid,
- g. the name of the employee and his or her social security number, except that by January 1, 2008, only the last four digits of his or her social security number of an employee identification number other than social security number may be shown on the itemized statement,
- h. the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and
- i. all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.

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

118. In addition to the foregoing, DEFENDANT failed to provide itemized wage statements to PLAINTIFF and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS that complied with the requirements of California Labor Code Section 226.

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

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Failure To Pay Wages When Due

(Cal. Lab. Code § 203)

(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all Defendants)

120. 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.

121. Cal. Lab. Code § 200 provides that:

As used in this article:

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

1 122. Cal. Lab. Code § 201 provides, in relevant part, that “If an employer discharges
2 an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable
3 immediately.”

4 123. Cal. Lab. Code § 202 provides, in relevant part, that:
5 If an employee not having a written contract for a definite period quits his or her
6 employment, his or her wages shall become due and payable not later than 72 hours
7 thereafter, unless the employee has given 72 hours previous notice of his or her intention
8 to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting.
9 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an employee who quits without providing a
72-hour notice shall be entitled to receive payment by mail if he or she so requests and
designates a mailing address. The date of the mailing shall constitute the date of payment
for purposes of the requirement to provide payment within 72 hours of the notice of
quitting.

10 124. There was no definite term in PLAINTIFF’S or any CALIFORNIA CLASS
11 Members’ employment contract.

12 125. Cal. Lab. Code § 203 provides:
13 If an employer willfully fails to pay, without abatement or reduction, in accordance with
14 Sections 201, 201.5, 202, and 205.5, any wages of an employee who is discharged or who
15 quits, the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date thereof at
the same rate until paid or until an action therefor is commenced; but the wages shall not
continue for more than 30 days.

16 126. The employment of PLAINTIFF and many CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
17 terminated, and DEFENDANT has not tendered payment of wages to these employees who
18 missed meal and rest breaks, as required by law.

19 127. Therefore, as provided by Cal Lab. Code § 203, on behalf of himself and the
20 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS whose employment has, PLAINTIFF demand up to thirty
21 (30) days of pay as penalty for not paying all wages due at time of termination for all employees
22 who terminated employment during the CLASS PERIOD and demand an accounting and payment
23 of all wages due, plus interest and statutory costs as allowed by law.

24 //

25 //

NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION
VIOLATION OF THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT
(Cal. Lab. Code §§2698 et seq.)
(Alleged by PLAINTIFF against all Defendants)

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

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

130. 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 himself and all employees who worked for Defendant in California during the time period of August 5, 2021 until the present (the "AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES").

131. On August 5, 2022, PLAINTIFF gave written notice by certified mail to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (the "Agency") and the employer of the specific provisions of this code alleged to have been violated as required by Labor Code § 2699.3. See Exhibit #1, attached hereto and incorporated by this reference herein. The statutory waiting period for Plaintiff to add these allegations to the First Amended Complaint has expired. As a result, pursuant to Section 2699.3, Plaintiff may now commence a representative civil action

1 under PAGA pursuant to Section 2699 as the proxy of the State of California with respect to all
2 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES as herein defined.

3 132. The policies, acts and practices heretofore described were and are an unlawful
4 business act or practice because DEFENDANTS (a) failed to pay AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES
5 minimum wages and overtime wages, (b) failed to provide AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES legally
6 required meal and rest breaks, (c) failed to pay AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES at the correct
7 regular rate of pay, (d) failed to pay AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for all time worked, and (e)
8 failed to timely pay wages, all in violation of the applicable Labor Code sections listed in Labor
9 Code §2699.5, including but not limited to Labor Code §§ 201, 201.3, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5,
10 218.6, 221, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 558, 1174(d), 1174.5, 1194, 1197, 1197.1,
11 1197.14, 1198, 1199, 2802, 2804, and the applicable Industrial Wage Order(s), and thereby gives
12 rise to statutory penalties as a result of such conduct. PLAINTIFF hereby seeks recovery of civil
13 penalties as prescribed by the Labor Code Private Attorney General Act of 2004 as the
14 representative of the State of California for the illegal conduct perpetrated on PLAINTIFF and
15 the other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES.

16
17 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

18 WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF pray for a judgment against each Defendant, jointly and
19 severally, as follows:

20 1. On behalf of the CALIFORNIA CLASS:

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

1 for restitution of the sums incidental to DEFENDANT's violations due to
2 PLAINTIFF and to the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

3 2. On behalf of the CALIFORNIA CLASS:

- 4 a. That the Court certify the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth
5 Causes of Action asserted by the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a class action pursuant
6 to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382;
- 7 b. Compensatory damages, according to proof at trial, including compensatory
8 damages for overtime compensation due to PLAINTIFF and the other members of
9 the CALIFORNIA CLASS, during the applicable CLASS PERIOD plus interest
10 thereon at the statutory rate;
- 11 c. Meal and rest period compensation pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7, 512 and
12 the applicable IWC Wage Order;
- 13 d. The greater of all actual damages or fifty dollars (\$50) for the initial pay period in
14 which a violation occurs and one hundred dollars (\$100) per each member of the
15 CALIFORNIA CLASS for each violation in a subsequent pay period, not exceeding
16 an aggregate penalty of four thousand dollars (\$4,000), and an award of costs for
17 violation of Cal. Lab. Code § 226
- 18 e. The wages of all terminated employees from the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a
19 penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or until an action
20 therefore is commenced, in accordance with Cal. Lab. Code § 203.
- 21 f. The amount of the expenses PLAINTIFF and each member of the CALIFORNIA
22 CLASS incurred in the course of their job duties, plus interest, and costs of suit.
- 23 3. On behalf of the State of California and with respect to all AGGRIEVED
24 EMPLOYEES: Recovery of civil penalties as prescribe by the Labor Code Private
25 Attorneys General Act of 2004.
- 26 4. On all claims:
- 27 a. An award of interest, including prejudgment interest at the legal rate;
- 28 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: June __, 2023

ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC

By: _____
Shani O. Zakay
Attorney for PLAINTIFF

DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL

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

DATED: June __, 2023

ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC

By: _____
Shani O. Zakay
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:

Leone Electric Company LLC
c/o CSC- Lawyers Incorporating Service
2710 Gateway Oaks Dr.
Sacramento, CA 95833



9590 9402 8211 3030 8618 23

2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

9589 0710 5270 0625 6791 07

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

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature

X☐ Agent☐ Addressee

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

6/21 Cruz 002-370

3. Service Type

- ☐ Adult Signature
- ☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Certified Mail®
- ☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Collect on Delivery
- ☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Insured Mail
- ☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery (over \$500)

☐ Priority Mail Express®☐ Registered Mail™☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery☐ Signature Confirmation™☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

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:

Tristrux LLC
c/o CSC- Lawyers Incorporating Service
2710 Gateway Oaks Dr.
Sacramento, CA 95833



9590 9402 8211 3030 8618 16

2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

9589 0710 5270 0625 6791 14

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

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature

X☐ Agent☐ Addressee

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C. Date of Delivery

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If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

6/21 Cruz 002-370

3. Service Type

- ☐ Adult Signature
- ☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Certified Mail®
- ☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Collect on Delivery
- ☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Insured Mail
- ☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery (over \$500)

☐ Priority Mail Express®☐ Registered Mail™☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery☐ Signature Confirmation™☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

Domestic Return Receipt

EXHIBIT #2

October 5, 2023

VIA ONLINE FILING TO LWDA and CERTIFIED MAIL TO EMPLOYER

Labor & Workforce Development Agency Attn. PAGA Administrator 1515 Clay Street, Ste. 801 Oakland, CA 94612 PAGA@dir.ca.gov <i>Via Online Submission</i>	TRISTRUX LLC c/o CSC – Lawyers Incorporating Service 2710 Gateway Oaks Dr. Sacramento, CA 95833 <i>Via Certified Mail</i> LEONE ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC c/o CSC – Lawyers Incorporating Service 2710 Gateway Oaks Dr. Sacramento, CA 95833 <i>Via Certified Mail</i>
--	---

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, 246, 510, 512, 558, 1174(d), 1174.5, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1197.14, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2802, 2804, and Violation of Applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order(s), and Pursuant to California Labor Code Section 2699.5

Dear Sir/Madam:

Our offices represent Plaintiff ANTONIO ANGELO LARRANAGA (“Plaintiff”), and other aggrieved employees in a proposed lawsuit against Defendant TRISTRUX LLC (“Defendant Tristrux”) and LEONE ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC (“Defendant Leone”) (hereinafter collectively “Defendants”). Plaintiff was employed by Defendants in California from June 16, 2022 to December 20, 2022 as a non-exempt employee, paid on an hourly basis, and entitled to payment of all wages and the legally required meal and rest breaks and payment of minimum and overtime wages due for all time worked. Defendants, however, unlawfully failed to record and pay Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees for all of their time worked, and for all of their meal breaks and rest breaks. Further, Defendants failed to timely pay Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees for earned wages.

As a consequence, Plaintiff contends that Defendants failed to fully compensate him and other similarly situated and aggrieved employees, for all earned wages and failed to provide California-compliant meal and rest breaks and accurate wage statements. Accordingly, Plaintiff contends that Defendants’ conduct violated Labor Code sections §§ 201, 201.3, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 221, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 558, 1174(d), 1174.5, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1197.14, 1198, 1199, 2802, 2804, and applicable wage orders, and is therefore actionable pursuant to section 2698 *et seq.*





October 5, 2023

Page 2

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

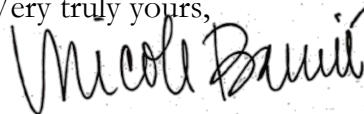
A true and correct copy of the proposed Complaint is attached hereto. The Complaint (i) identifies the alleged violations, (ii) details the facts and theories which support the alleged violations, (iii) details the specific work performed by Plaintiff, (iv) sets forth the people/entities, dates, classifications, violations, events, and actions which are at issue to the extent known to the Plaintiff, and (v) 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 his 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 Act 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,


Nicole Barvié, Esq.
Attorney for Plaintiff

BARVIE LAW, APC

Nicole Barvie, (State Bar #282352)

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San Diego, CA 92101

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nbarvie@gmail.com

Attorneys for PLAINTIFF

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

ANGELO LARRANAGA, an individual, on
behalf of himself, and on behalf of all persons
similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

TRISTRUX LLC, a Delaware limited liability
company, LEONE ELECTRIC COMPANY
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 WAGES WHEN
DUE IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB.
CODE §§ 201, 202 AND 203;
- 8) FAILURE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE
ITEMIZED STATEMENTS IN
VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE § 226;
- 9) VIOLATION OF THE PRIVATE
ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT [LABOR
CODE §§ 2698 ET SEQ

DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL

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

PRELIMINARY ALLEGATIONS

1. Defendant TRISTRUX LLC (“Defendant Tristrux”) 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 LEONE ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC (“Defendant Leone”) 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 Tristrux and Defendant Leone were the joint employers of PLAINTIFF as evidenced by the documents issued to PLAINTIFF and by the company PLAINTIFF performed work for respectively and are therefore jointly responsible as employers for the conduct alleged herein as “DEFENDANTS” and/or “DEFENDANT.”

4. DEFENDANTS provide telecommunications services throughout the state of California.

5. PLAINTIFF was employed by DEFENDANT as a field technician, in California from June 2022 to December of 2022 as a non-exempt employee, paid an hourly basis, and entitled to the legally required meal and rest periods and payment of minimum and overtime wages due for all time worked.

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

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

19 8. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, subsidiary,
20 partnership, associate or otherwise of DEFENDANTS DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are
21 presently unknown to PLAINTIFF who therefore sues these DEFENDANTS by such fictitious
22 names pursuant to Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 474. PLAINTIFF will seek leave to amend this
23 Complaint to allege the true names and capacities of Does 1 through 50, inclusive, when they are
24 ascertained. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and based upon that information and belief
25 alleges, that the DEFENDANTS named in this Complaint, including DOES 1 through 50,
26 inclusive, are responsible in some manner for one or more of the events and happenings that
27 proximately caused the injuries and damages hereinafter alleged.
28

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

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

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

20 12. DEFENDANT's uniform policies and practices alleged herein were unlawful,
21 unfair, and deceptive business practices whereby DEFENDANT retained and continue to retain
22 wages due to PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

23 13. PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS seek an injunction
24 enjoining such conduct by DEFENDANT in the future, relief for the named PLAINTIFF and
25 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS who has been economically injured by
26 DEFENDANT's past and current unlawful conduct, and all other appropriate legal and equitable
27 relief.

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

15. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure, Sections 395 and 395.5, because DEFENDANT operates in locations across California, employs the CALIFORNIA CLASS across California, including in this County, and committed the wrongful conduct herein alleged in this County against the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

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16. 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 the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for missed meal and rest periods, failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all time worked, failed compensate PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for off-the-clock work, failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS overtime at the correct regular rate of pay, failed to compensate PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS meal rest premiums at the regular rate, failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for business expenses, and failed to issue to PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with accurate itemized wage statements showing, among other things, all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay periods and the corresponding amount of time worked at each hourly rate. DEFENDANT’s uniform policies and practices are intended to purposefully avoid the accurate and full payment for all time worked as required by California law which allows DEFENDANT to illegally profit and gain an unfair advantage over competitors who comply with the law. To the extent equitable

1 tolling operates to toll claims by the CALIFORNIA CLASS against DEFENDANT, the CLASS
2 PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.

3 **A. Meal Period Violations**

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

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

1 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were, from time to time, required to remain on duty, on call,
2 and required to carry cordless communication devices. Further, PLAINTIFF and other
3 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required to respond to and send work-related
4 communications on their cordless communication devices. DEFENDANT's failure to provide
5 PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with legally required meal breaks is
6 evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records. PLAINTIFF and other members of the
7 CALIFORNIA CLASS therefore forfeit meal breaks without additional compensation and in
8 accordance with DEFENDANT's strict corporate policy and practice.

9 **B. Rest Period Violations**

10 19. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and other
11 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were also required to work in excess of four (4) hours without
12 being provided ten (10) minute rest periods as a result of their rigorous work requirements and
13 DEFENDANT's inadequate staffing. Further, for the same reasons, these employees were denied
14 their first rest periods of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of at least two (2) to four
15 (4) hours from time to time, a first and second rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some
16 shifts worked of between six (6) and eight (8) hours from time to time, and a first, second and
17 third rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of ten (10) hours or more from
18 time to time. When they were provided with rest breaks, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
19 CLASS Members were, from time to time, required to remain on duty, on call, and required to
20 carry cordless communication devices. Further, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
21 Members were required to respond to and send work-related communications on their cordless
22 communication devices. PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members 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 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
25 were 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 20. 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 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for required business expenses incurred by the
5 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members in direct consequence of discharging
6 their duties on behalf of DEFENDANT. Under California Labor Code Section 2802, employers
7 are 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 21. In the course of their employment, DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFF and other
14 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to incur personal expenses for the use of their personal cell
15 phones and computers as a result of and in furtherance of their job duties. Specifically,
16 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required to use their personal cell
17 phones and computers in order to perform work related tasks. However, DEFENDANT
18 unlawfully failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for the
19 personal expenses incurred for the use of their personal cell phones and computers. As a result, in
20 the course of their employment with DEFENDANT, the PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
21 CLASS Members incurred unreimbursed business expenses that included, but were not limited
22 to, costs related to the use of their personal cell phones and computers, all on behalf of and for the
23 benefit of DEFENDANT.

24 **D. Wage Statement Violations**

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

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

5 23. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, when PLAINTIFF and other
6 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members missed meal and rest breaks, or were paid inaccurately for
7 missed meal and rest period premiums, or were not paid for all hours worked, DEFENDANT also
8 failed to provide PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with complete and
9 accurate wage statements which failed to show, among other things, all deductions, the total hours
10 worked and all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period, and the corresponding
11 amount of time worked at each hourly rate, correct rates of pay for penalty payments or missed
12 meal and rest periods.

13 24. In addition to the foregoing, DEFENDANT, from time to time, failed to provide
14 PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with wage statements that comply with
15 Cal. Lab. Code § 226.

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

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

21 26. During the CLASS PERIOD, from time-to-time DEFENDANT failed and
22 continues to fail to accurately pay PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
23 for all hours worked.

24 27. During the CLASS PERIOD, from time-to-time DEFENDANT required
25 PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to perform pre-shift or post-shift
26 working. This resulted in PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to have
27 to work while off-the-clock.
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1 28. DEFENDANT directed and directly benefited from the undercompensated off-the-
2 clock work performed by PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

3 29. DEFENDANT controlled the work schedules, duties, and protocols, applications,
4 assignments, and employment conditions of PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
5 CALIFORNIA CLASS.

6 30. DEFENDANT was able to track the amount of time PLAINTIFF and the other
7 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS spent working; however, DEFENDANT failed to
8 document, track, or pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS all
9 wages earned and owed for all the work they performed.

10 31. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were non-
11 exempt employees, subject to the requirements of the California Labor Code.

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

18 33. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other
19 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS off-the-clock work was compensable under the law.

20 34. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
21 forfeited wages due to them for all hours worked at DEFENDANT's direction, control, and
22 benefit for the time spent working while off-the-clock. DEFENDANT's uniform policy and
23 practice to not pay PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS wages for all
24 hours worked in accordance with applicable law is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business
25 records.

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

35. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT failed and continues to fail to accurately calculate and pay PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for their overtime and double time hours worked, meal and rest period premiums, and redeemed sick pay. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members forfeited wages due to them for working overtime without compensation at the correct overtime and double time rates, meal and rest period premiums, and redeemed sick pay rates. DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice not to pay the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members at the correct rate for all overtime and double time worked, meal and rest period premiums, and redeemed sick pay in accordance with applicable law is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records.

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

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

38. However, from-time-to-time, when calculating the regular rate of pay, in those pay periods where PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS members worked overtime, double time, paid meal and rest period premium payments, and/or redeemed sick pay, and earned non-discretionary bonus, DEFENDANTS failed to accurately include the non-discretionary bonus compensation as part of the employees' "regular rate of pay" and/or calculated all hours worked rather than just all non-overtime hours worked. Management and supervisors described the

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

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

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

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

3 **H. Unlawful Rounding Violations**

4 41. During the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT did not have in place
5 an immutable timekeeping system to accurately record and pay PLAINTIFF and other
6 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for the actual time these employees worked each day, including
7 overtime hours. Specifically, DEFENDANT had in place an unlawful rounding policy and
8 practice that resulted in PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members being
9 undercompensated for all of their time worked. As a result, DEFENDANT was able to and did in
10 fact unlawfully, and unilaterally round the time recorded in DEFENDANT'S timekeeping system
11 for PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in order to avoid paying these
12 employees for all their time worked, including the applicable overtime compensation for overtime
13 worked. As a result, PLAINTIFF, and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, from time to time,
14 forfeited compensation for their time worked by working without their time being accurately
15 recorded and without compensation at the applicable overtime rates.

16 42. Further, the mutability of DEFENDANT'S timekeeping system and unlawful
17 rounding policy and practice resulted in PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members' time
18 being inaccurately recorded. As a result, from time to time, DEFENDANT'S unlawful rounding
19 policy and practice caused PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to perform work
20 as ordered by DEFENDANT for more than five (5) hours during a shift without receiving an off-
21 duty meal break. Additionally, DEFENDANT'S unlawful rounding policy and practice caused
22 PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to perform work as ordered by DEFENDANT
23 for more than ten (10) hours during a shift without receiving a second off-duty meal break.

24 **I. Unlawful Deductions**

25 43. DEFENDANTS, from time-to-time unlawfully deducted wages from PLAINTIFF
26 and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members' pay without explanations and without authorization to do
27 so or notice to PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members. As a result,
28 DEFENDANTS violated Labor Code § 221.

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

19 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

20 45. PLAINTIFF bring this Class Action on behalf of himself, and a California class
21 defined as all persons who are or previously were employed by Defendant Tristrux and/or
22 Defendant Leone in California and classified as non-exempt employees (the "CALIFORNIA
23 CLASS") at any time during the period beginning four (4) years prior to the filing of this
24 Complaint and ending on the date as determined by the Court (the "CLASS PERIOD").

25 46. PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members have uniformly been
26 deprived of wages and penalties from unpaid wages earned and due, including but not limited to
27 unpaid minimum wages, unpaid overtime compensation, unpaid meal and rest period premiums,
28 illegal meal and rest period policies, failed to reimburse for business expenses, failed compensate

1 for off-the-clock work, failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements, failure to maintain
2 required records, and interest, statutory and civil penalties, attorney's fees, costs, and expenses.

3 47. The members of the class are so numerous that joinder of all class members is
4 impractical.

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

- 14 a. Whether DEFENDANT maintained legally compliant meal period policies and
15 practices;
 - 16 b. Whether DEFENDANT maintained legally compliant rest period policies and
17 practices;
 - 18 c. Whether DEFENDANT failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS
19 Members accurate premium payments for missed meal and rest periods;
 - 20 d. Whether DEFENDANT failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS
21 Members accurate overtime wages;
 - 22 e. Whether DEFENDANT failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS
23 Members at least minimum wage for all hours worked;
 - 24 f. Whether DEFENDANT failed to compensate PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA
25 CLASS Members for required business expenses;
 - 26 g. Whether DEFENDANT issued legally compliant wage statements;
- 27
28

1 h. Whether DEFENDANT committed an act of unfair competition by systematically
2 failing to record and pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA
3 CLASS for all time worked;

4 i. Whether DEFENDANT committed an act of unfair competition by systematically
5 failing to record all meal and rest breaks missed by PLAINTIFF and other
6 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, even though DEFENDANT enjoyed the benefit
7 of this work, required employees to perform this work and permits or suffers to
8 permit this work;

9 j. Whether DEFENDANT committed an act of unfair competition in violation of the
10 UCL, by failing to provide the PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
11 CALIFORNIA CLASS with the legally required meal and rest periods.

12 49. PLAINTIFF are members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS and suffered damages as
13 a result of DEFENDANT's conduct and actions alleged herein.

14 50. PLAINTIFF'S claims are typical of the claims of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, and
15 PLAINTIFF have the same interests as the other members of the class.

16 51. PLAINTIFF will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the
17 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

18 52. PLAINTIFF retained able class counsel with extensive experience in class action
19 litigation.

20 53. Further, PLAINTIFF'S interests are coincident with, and not antagonistic to, the
21 interest of the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

22 54. There is a strong community of interest among PLAINTIFF and the members of
23 the CALIFORNIA CLASS to, inter alia, ensure that the combined assets of DEFENDANT are
24 sufficient to adequately compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the injuries
25 sustained.

26 55. The questions of law and fact common to the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
27 predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, including legal and factual
28 issues relating to liability and damages.

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

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

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

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Unlawful Business Practices

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

(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all Defendants)

58. 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.

59. DEFENDANT is a “person” as that term is defined under Cal. Bus. And Prof. Code § 17021.

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

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

12 61. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT has engaged and continues to
13 engage in a business practice which violates California law, including but not limited to, the
14 applicable Wage Order(s), the California Code of Regulations and the California Labor Code
15 including Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, and
16 2802, for which this Court should issue declaratory and other equitable relief pursuant to Cal.
17 Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203 as may be necessary to prevent and remedy the conduct held to
18 constitute unfair competition, including restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.

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

24 63. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT’s practices were deceptive and
25 fraudulent in that DEFENDANT’s uniform policy and practice failed to provide the legally
26 mandated meal and rest periods and the required amount of compensation for missed meal and
27 rest periods, failed to pay minimum and overtime wages owed, and failed to reimburse all
28 necessary business expenses incurred, due to a systematic business practice that cannot be
justified, pursuant to the applicable Cal. Lab. Code, and Industrial Welfare Commission
requirements in violation of Cal. Bus. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, and for which this Court should

1 issue injunctive and equitable relief, pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203, including
2 restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.

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

7 65. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were also unfair and
8 deceptive in that DEFENDANT's uniform policies, practices and procedures failed to provide
9 mandatory meal and/or rest breaks to PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members as
10 required by Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 and 512.

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

16 67. PLAINTIFF further demands on behalf of himself and on behalf of each
17 CALIFORNIA CLASS member, one (1) hour of pay for each workday in which a rest period was
18 not timely provided as required by law.

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

25 69. All the acts described herein as violations of, among other things, the Industrial
26 Welfare Commission Wage Orders, the California Code of Regulations, and the California Labor
27 Code, were unlawful and in violation of public policy, were immoral, unethical, oppressive, and
28

1 unscrupulous, were deceptive, and thereby constitute unlawful, unfair, and deceptive business
2 practices in violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

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

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

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

19 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

20 **Failure To Pay Minimum Wages**

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

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

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

26 74. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS bring a claim for
27 DEFENDANT's willful and intentional violations of the California Labor Code and the Industrial
28

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 82. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
2 CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid less for time worked that they were entitled to, constituting a
3 failure to pay all earned wages.

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

9 84. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other
10 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were under-compensated for their time worked.
11 DEFENDANT systematically elected, either through intentional malfeasance or gross
12 nonfeasance, to not pay employees for their labor as a matter of uniform company policy, practice
13 and procedure, and DEFENDANT perpetrated this systematic scheme by refusing to pay
14 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS the correct minimum wages
15 for their time worked.

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

24 86. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS therefore request
25 recovery of all unpaid wages, according to proof, interest, statutory costs, as well as the
26 assessment of any statutory penalties against DEFENDANT, in a sum as provided by the
27 California Labor Code and/or other applicable statutes. To the extent minimum wage
28 compensation is determined to be owed to the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members who have

1 terminated their employment, DEFENDANT's conduct also violates Labor Code §§ 201 and/or
2 202, and therefore these individuals are also be entitled to waiting time penalties under Cal. Lab.
3 Code § 203, which penalties are sought herein on behalf of these CALIFORNIA CLASS
4 Members. DEFENDANT's conduct as alleged herein was willful, intentional and not in good
5 faith. Further, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members are entitled to seek and
6 recover statutory costs.

7 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

8 **Failure To Pay Overtime Compensation**

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 91. Cal. Lab. Code § 1194 establishes an employee's right to recover unpaid wages,
25 including minimum and overtime compensation and interest thereon, together with the costs of
26 suit. Cal. Lab. Code § 1198 further states that the employment of an employee for longer hours
27 than those fixed by the Industrial Welfare Commission is unlawful.
28

1 92. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
2 were required by DEFENDANT to work for DEFENDANT and were not paid for all the time
3 they worked, including overtime work.

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

11 94. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, DEFENDANT
12 inaccurately recorded overtime worked and consequently underpaid the overtime worked by
13 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members. DEFENDANT acted in an illegal
14 attempt to avoid the payment of all earned wages, and other benefits in violation of the California
15 Labor Code, the Industrial Welfare Commission requirements and other applicable laws and
16 regulations.

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

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

1 97. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
2 CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid less for overtime worked that they were entitled to, constituting
3 a failure to pay all earned wages.

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

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

16 100. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other
17 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were undercompensated for their time worked.
18 DEFENDANT systematically elected, either through intentional malfeasance or gross
19 nonfeasance, to not pay them for their labor as a matter of uniform company policy, practice and
20 procedure, and DEFENDANT perpetrated this systematic scheme by refusing to pay PLAINTIFF
21 and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS the correct overtime wages for their
22 overtime worked.

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

1 rights, and otherwise causing them injury in order to increase company profits at the expense of
2 these employees.

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

13 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

14 **Failure To Provide Required Meal Periods**

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

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

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

20 104. During the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT failed to provide all the legally
21 required off-duty meal breaks to PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members as
22 required by the applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. The nature of the work performed by
23 PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members did not prevent these employees from being
24 relieved of all of their duties for the legally required off-duty meal periods. As a result of their
25 rigorous work schedules, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were often not
26 fully relieved of duty by DEFENDANT for their meal periods. Additionally, DEFENDANT's
27 failure to provide PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with legally required
28 meal breaks prior to their fifth (5th) hour of work is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business

1 records. Further, DEFENDANT failed to provide PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS
2 Members with a second off-duty meal period in some workdays in which these employees were
3 required by DEFENDANT to work ten (10) hours of work. As a result, PLAINTIFF and other
4 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS forfeited meal breaks without additional compensation
5 and in accordance with DEFENDANT's strict corporate policy and practice.

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

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

14 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

15 **Failure To Provide Required Rest Periods**

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

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

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

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

1 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were periodically denied their proper rest periods by
2 DEFENDANT and DEFENDANT's managers. In addition, DEFENDANT failed to compensate
3 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for their rest periods as required by the
4 applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. As a result, DEFENDANT's failure to provide
5 PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with all the legally required paid rest
6 periods is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records.

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

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

15 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

16 **Failure To Reimburse Employees for Required Expenses**

17 **(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 2802)**

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

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

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

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

28 113. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT 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 DEFENDANT's

benefit. DEFENDANT failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members for expenses which included, but were not limited to, personal expenses incurred for the use of personal cell phones and computers all on behalf of and for the benefit of DEFENDANT. Specifically, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required by DEFENDANT to use their own cell phones and computers to execute their essential job duties on behalf of DEFENDANT. DEFENDANT's uniform policy, practice and procedure was to not reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members for expenses resulting from the use of personal cell phones and computers for DEFENDANT within the course and scope of their employment for DEFENDANT. These expenses were necessary to complete their principal job duties. DEFENDANT is estopped by DEFENDANT's conduct to assert any waiver of this expectation. Although these expenses were necessary expenses incurred by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members, DEFENDANT failed to indemnify and reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members for these expenses as an employer is required to do under the laws and regulations of California.

114. PLAINTIFF therefore demand reimbursement for expenditures or losses incurred by him and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members in the discharge of their job duties for DEFENDANT, or their obedience to the directions of DEFENDANT, with interest at the statutory rate and costs under Cal. Lab. Code § 2802.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Failure To Provide Accurate Itemized Statements

(Cal. Lab. Code § 226)

(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all Defendants)

115. 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.

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

a. Gross wages earned,

- b. (2) total hours worked by the employee, except for any employee whose compensation is solely based on a salary and who is exempt from payment of overtime under subdivision (a) of Section 515 or any applicable order of the Industrial Welfare Commission,
- c. the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis,
- d. all deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item,
- e. net wages earned,
- f. the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid,
- g. the name of the employee and his or her social security number, except that by January 1, 2008, only the last four digits of his or her social security number of an employee identification number other than social security number may be shown on the itemized statement,
- h. the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and
- i. all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.

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

118. In addition to the foregoing, DEFENDANT failed to provide itemized wage statements to PLAINTIFF and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS that complied with the requirements of California Labor Code Section 226.

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

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Failure To Pay Wages When Due

(Cal. Lab. Code § 203)

(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all Defendants)

120. 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.

121. Cal. Lab. Code § 200 provides that:

As used in this article:

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

1 122. Cal. Lab. Code § 201 provides, in relevant part, that “If an employer discharges
2 an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable
3 immediately.”

4 123. Cal. Lab. Code § 202 provides, in relevant part, that:
5 If an employee not having a written contract for a definite period quits his or her
6 employment, his or her wages shall become due and payable not later than 72 hours
7 thereafter, unless the employee has given 72 hours previous notice of his or her intention
8 to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting.
9 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an employee who quits without providing a
72-hour notice shall be entitled to receive payment by mail if he or she so requests and
designates a mailing address. The date of the mailing shall constitute the date of payment
for purposes of the requirement to provide payment within 72 hours of the notice of
quitting.

10 124. There was no definite term in PLAINTIFF’S or any CALIFORNIA CLASS
11 Members’ employment contract.

12 125. Cal. Lab. Code § 203 provides:
13 If an employer willfully fails to pay, without abatement or reduction, in accordance with
14 Sections 201, 201.5, 202, and 205.5, any wages of an employee who is discharged or who
15 quits, the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date thereof at
the same rate until paid or until an action therefor is commenced; but the wages shall not
continue for more than 30 days.

16 126. The employment of PLAINTIFF and many CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
17 terminated, and DEFENDANT has not tendered payment of wages to these employees who
18 missed meal and rest breaks, as required by law.

19 127. Therefore, as provided by Cal Lab. Code § 203, on behalf of himself and the
20 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS whose employment has, PLAINTIFF demand up to thirty
21 (30) days of pay as penalty for not paying all wages due at time of termination for all employees
22 who terminated employment during the CLASS PERIOD and demand an accounting and payment
23 of all wages due, plus interest and statutory costs as allowed by law.

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NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT

(Cal. Lab. Code §§2698 et seq.)

(Alleged by PLAINTIFF against all Defendants)

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

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

130. 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 himself and all employees who worked for Defendant in California during the time period of August 5, 2021 until the present (the "AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES").

131. On August 5, 2022, PLAINTIFF gave written notice by certified mail to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (the "Agency") and the employer of the specific provisions of this code alleged to have been violated as required by Labor Code § 2699.3. See Exhibit #1, attached hereto and incorporated by this reference herein. The statutory waiting period for Plaintiff to add these allegations to the First Amended Complaint has expired. As a result, pursuant to Section 2699.3, Plaintiff may now commence a representative civil action

1 under PAGA pursuant to Section 2699 as the proxy of the State of California with respect to all
2 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES as herein defined.

3 132. The policies, acts and practices heretofore described were and are an unlawful
4 business act or practice because DEFENDANTS (a) failed to pay AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES
5 minimum wages and overtime wages, (b) failed to provide AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES legally
6 required meal and rest breaks, (c) failed to pay AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES at the correct
7 regular rate of pay, (d) failed to pay AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for all time worked, and (e)
8 failed to timely pay wages, all in violation of the applicable Labor Code sections listed in Labor
9 Code §2699.5, including but not limited to Labor Code §§ 201, 201.3, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5,
10 218.6, 221, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 558, 1174(d), 1174.5, 1194, 1197, 1197.1,
11 1197.14, 1198, 1199, 2802, 2804, and the applicable Industrial Wage Order(s), and thereby gives
12 rise to statutory penalties as a result of such conduct. PLAINTIFF hereby seeks recovery of civil
13 penalties as prescribed by the Labor Code Private Attorney General Act of 2004 as the
14 representative of the State of California for the illegal conduct perpetrated on PLAINTIFF and
15 the other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES.

16 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

17 WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF pray for a judgment against each Defendant, jointly and
18 severally, as follows:

19 1. On behalf of the CALIFORNIA CLASS:

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

1 PLAINTIFF and to the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

2 2. On behalf of the CALIFORNIA CLASS:

- 3 a. That the Court certify the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth
4 Causes of Action asserted by the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a class action pursuant
5 to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382;
- 6 b. Compensatory damages, according to proof at trial, including compensatory
7 damages for overtime compensation due to PLAINTIFF and the other members of
8 the CALIFORNIA CLASS, during the applicable CLASS PERIOD plus interest
9 thereon at the statutory rate;
- 10 c. Meal and rest period compensation pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7, 512 and
11 the applicable IWC Wage Order;
- 12 d. The greater of all actual damages or fifty dollars (\$50) for the initial pay period in
13 which a violation occurs and one hundred dollars (\$100) per each member of the
14 CALIFORNIA CLASS for each violation in a subsequent pay period, not exceeding
15 an aggregate penalty of four thousand dollars (\$4,000), and an award of costs for
16 violation of Cal. Lab. Code § 226
- 17 e. The wages of all terminated employees from the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a
18 penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or until an action
19 therefore is commenced, in accordance with Cal. Lab. Code § 203.
- 20 f. The amount of the expenses PLAINTIFF and each member of the CALIFORNIA
21 CLASS incurred in the course of their job duties, plus interest, and costs of suit.

22 3. On behalf of the State of California and with respect to all AGGRIEVED
23 EMPLOYEES: Recovery of civil penalties as prescribe by the Labor Code Private
24 Attorneys General Act of 2004.

25 4. On all claims:

- 26 a. An award of interest, including prejudgment interest at the legal rate;
- 27 b. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable; and
- 28 c. An award of penalties, attorneys' fees, and costs of suit, as allowable under the law,

1 including, but not limited to, pursuant to Labor Code § 218.5, § 226, and/or § 1194.

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3 DATED: July __, 2023

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BARVIE LAW, APC

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By: _____

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Nicole Barvie, Esq.

Attorney for PLAINTIFF

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DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL

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

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11 DATED: July __, 2023

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BARVIE LAW, APC

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By: _____

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Nicole Barvie, Esq.

Attorney for PLAINTIFF

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