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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

ABEL ACOSTA ORTIZ, an individual, on
behalf of Plaintiff, and on behalf of all persons
similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

ORGANIC MILLING, INC, a California
corporation; ROSKAM BAKING COMPANY,
LLC, a Michigan limited liability company;
ROSKAM FOODS, an unknown business
entity; 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 PROVIDE ACCURATE
2 ITEMIZED STATEMENTS IN
3 VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE § 226;
4 7) FAILURE TO PROVIDE WAGES WHEN
5 DUE IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB.
6 CODE §§ 201, 202 AND 203;
7 8) FAILURE TO REIMBURSE EMPLOYEES
8 FOR REQUIRED EXPENSES IN
9 VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE § 2802.

10 **DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL**

11 PLAINTIFF ABEL ACOSTA ORTIZ (“PLAINTIFF”), an individual, on behalf of
12 PLAINTIFF and all other similarly situated current and former employees, alleges on information
13 and belief, except for their own acts and knowledge which are based on personal knowledge, the
14 following:

15 **PRELIMINARY ALLEGATIONS**

16 1. Defendant ORGANIC MILLING, INC. (“Defendant Organic Milling”) is a
17 California corporation that at all relevant times mentioned herein conducted and continues to
18 conduct substantial and regular business throughout California.

19 2. Defendant ROSKAM BAKING COMPANY, LLC (“Defendant Roskam Baking”)
20 is a Michigan limited liability company that at all relevant times mentioned herein conducted and
21 continues to conduct substantial and regular business throughout California.

22 3. Defendant ROSKAM FOODS (“Defendant Roskam Foods”) is an unknown
23 business entity that at all relevant times mentioned herein conducted and continues to conduct
24 substantial and regular business throughout California

25 4. Defendant Organic Milling, Defendant Roskam Baking, and Defendant Roskam
26 Foods were the joint employers of PLAINTIFF as evidenced by the documents issued to
27 PLAINTIFF, by the company PLAINTIFF performed work for respectively, and as these entities
28 each exerted control over the hours, wages and/or working conditions of PLAINTIFF, and are
therefore jointly responsible as employers for the conduct alleged herein as “DEFENDANTS.”

5. DEFENDANTS own and operate food manufacturing facilities in California,
including in the County of Los Angeles, where PLAINTIFF worked.

1 6. PLAINTIFF was employed by DEFENDANTS in California from March of 2022
2 to September of 2024, as a non-exempt employee, paid on an hourly basis, and entitled to the legally
3 required meal and rest periods and payment of minimum and overtime wages due for all time
4 worked.

5 7. PLAINTIFF reserves the right to seek leave to amend this complaint to add new
6 Plaintiffs, if necessary, in order to establish suitable representative(s) pursuant to *La Sala v.*
7 *American Savings and Loan Association* (1971) 5 Cal.3d 864, 872, and other applicable law.

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

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

26 10. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, subsidiary,
27 partnership, associate or otherwise of DEFENDANTS DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are presently
28 unknown to PLAINTIFF who therefore sues these DEFENDANTS by such fictitious names

1 pursuant to California Civil Procedure Code Section 474. PLAINTIFF will seek leave to amend
2 this Complaint to allege the true names and capacities of DEFENDANTS DOES 1 through 50,
3 inclusive, when they are ascertained. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and based upon that
4 information and belief alleges, that the DEFENDANTS named in this Complaint, including
5 DEFENDANTS DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are responsible in some manner for one or more of
6 the events and happenings that proximately caused the injuries and damages hereinafter alleged.

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

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

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

26 14. DEFENDANTS' uniform policies and practices alleged herein were unlawful,
27 unfair, and deceptive business practices whereby DEFENDANTS retained and continue to retain
28 wages due to PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

15. PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS seek an injunction enjoining such conduct by DEFENDANTS in the future, relief for the named PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS who has been economically injured by DEFENDANTS' past and current unlawful conduct, and all other appropriate legal and equitable relief.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

16. This Court has jurisdiction over this Action pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 410.10 and California Business and Professions Code Section 17203. This action is brought as a Class Action on behalf of PLAINTIFF and similarly situated employees of DEFENDANTS pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 382.

17. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure, Sections 395 and 395.5, because DEFENDANTS operate in locations across California, employ 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

18. In violation of the applicable sections of the California Labor Code and the requirements of the Industrial Welfare Commission (“IWC”) Wage Order, DEFENDANTS 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 to compensate PLAINTIFF and the 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 the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS meal and rest premiums at the regular rate of pay, failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS redeemed sick pay at the regular rate of pay, failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for business expenses, and failed to issue to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with accurate itemized wage statements showing, among other things, all

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

7 **A. Meal Period Violations**

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

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

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

13 **B. Rest Period Violations**

14 21. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF 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 DEFENDANTS’ 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 shifts
20 worked of between six (6) and eight (8) hours from time to time, and a first, second and third rest
21 period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of ten (10) hours or more from time to
22 time. When they were provided with rest breaks, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
23 members were, from time to time, required to remain on duty and/or on call. Further,
24 DEFENDANTS from time to time required PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
25 members to maintain cordless communication devices in order to receive and respond to work-
26 related communications during what was supposed to be their off-duty rest breaks. PLAINTIFF
27 and other CALIFORNIA CLASS members were also not provided with one-hour wages *in lieu*
28 thereof. As a result of their rigorous work schedules and DEFENDANTS’ inadequate staffing,

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

3 **C. Unreimbursed Business Expenses**

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

15 23. In the course of their employment, DEFENDANTS required PLAINTIFF and other
16 CALIFORNIA CLASS members to incur personal expenses for the use of their personal cell
17 phones , as a result of and in furtherance of their job duties. Specifically, PLAINTIFF and other
18 CALIFORNIA CLASS members were required to use their personal cell phones in order to
19 perform work related tasks. However, DEFENDANTS unlawfully failed to reimburse
20 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS members for the use of their personal cell phones .
21 As a result, in the course of their employment with DEFENDANTS, the PLAINTIFF and other
22 CALIFORNIA CLASS members incurred unreimbursed business expenses that included, but were
23 not limited to, costs related to the use of their personal cell phones, all on behalf of and for the
24 benefit of DEFENDANTS.

25 **D. Wage Statement Violations**

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

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

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

14 26. Further, DEFENDANTS from time to time failed to provide PLAINTIFF and the
15 CALIFORNIA CLASS members with wage statements that accurately provided the name and
16 address of the legal entity that is the employer, in violation of California Labor Code Section
17 226(a)(8).

18 27. In addition to the foregoing, DEFENDANTS, from time to time, failed to provide
19 PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with wage statements that comply with
20 California Labor Code Section 226.

21 28. As a result, DEFENDANTS issued PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
22 members with wage statements that violate California Lab. Code § 226(a)(1)-(9). Further,
23 DEFENDANTS' violations are knowing and intentional, and were not isolated due to an
24 unintentional payroll error due to clerical or inadvertent mistake.

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

26 29. During the CLASS PERIOD, from time-to-time DEFENDANTS failed and
27 continues to fail to accurately pay PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
28 for all hours worked.

1 30. During the CLASS PERIOD, from time-to-time DEFENDANTS required
2 PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to perform pre-shift or post-shift
3 work, sending and receiving work-related communications and performing keyholder duties. This
4 resulted in PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS members having to work while off-the-
5 clock.

6 31. DEFENDANTS directed and directly benefited from the undercompensated off-the-
7 clock work performed by PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS members.

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

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

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

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

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

24 37. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
25 forfeited wages due to them for all hours worked at DEFENDANTS' direction, control, and benefit
26 for the time spent working while off-the-clock, including but not limited to, sending and receiving
27 work-related communications performing keyholder duties. DEFENDANTS' uniform policy and
28

1 practice to not pay PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS wages for all hours
2 worked in accordance with applicable law is evidenced by DEFENDANTS' business records.

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

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

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

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

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

1 rather than just all non-overtime hours worked. Management and supervisors described the
2 incentive/bonus program to potential and new employees as part of the compensation package. As
3 a matter of law, the incentive compensation received by PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
4 CLASS members must be included in the “regular rate of pay.” The failure to do so has resulted in
5 a systematic underpayment of overtime and double time compensation, meal and rest period
6 premium payments, and redeemed sick pay to PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
7 members by DEFENDANTS. Specifically, California Labor Code Section 246 mandates that paid
8 sick time for non-exempt employees shall be calculated in the same manner as the regular rate of
9 pay for the workweek in which the non-exempt employee uses paid sick time, whether or not the
10 employee actually works overtime in that workweek. DEFENDANTS’ conduct, as articulated
11 herein, by failing to include the incentive compensation as part of the “regular rate of pay” for
12 purposes of sick pay compensation was in violation of California Labor Code Section 246, the
13 underpayment of which is recoverable under California Labor Code Sections 201, 202, 203, and/or
14 204.

15 42. In violation of the applicable sections of the California Labor Code and the
16 requirements of the Industrial Welfare Commission (“IWC”) Wage Order, DEFENDANTS as a
17 matter of company policy, practice, and procedure, intentionally and knowingly failed to
18 compensate PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS at the correct rate
19 of pay for all overtime and double time worked, meal and rest period premiums, and redeemed sick
20 pay as required by California law which allowed DEFENDANTS 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 DEFENDANTS, the CLASS
23 PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.

24 **G. Unlawful Deductions**

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

1 **H. Timekeeping Manipulation**

2 44. During the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS, from time-to-time, did not have an
3 immutable timekeeping system to accurately record and pay PLAINTIFF and other members of
4 the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the actual time PLAINTIFF and other members of the
5 CALIFORNIA CLASS worked each day, including regular time, overtime hours, sick pay, meal
6 and rest breaks. As a result, DEFENDANTS were able to and did in fact, unlawfully, and
7 unilaterally alter the time recorded in DEFENDANTS' timekeeping system for PLAINTIFF and
8 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in order to avoid paying these employees for all
9 hours worked, applicable overtime compensation, applicable sick pay, missed meal breaks and
10 missed rest breaks.

11 45. As a result, PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, from
12 time to time, forfeited time worked by working without their time being accurately recorded and
13 without compensation at the applicable pay rates.

14 46. The mutability of the timekeeping system also allowed DEFENDANTS to alter
15 employee time records by recording fictitious thirty (30) minute meal breaks in DEFENDANTS'
16 timekeeping system to create the appearance that PLAINTIFF and other members of the
17 CALIFORNIA CLASS clocked out for thirty (30) minute meal breaks when, in fact, the employees
18 were not provided an off-duty meal break at all times. This practice is a direct result of
19 DEFENDANTS' uniform policy and practice of denying employees uninterrupted thirty (30)
20 minute off-duty meal breaks each day or otherwise failing to compensate them for missed meal
21 breaks.

22 47. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
23 forfeited wages due to them for all hours worked at DEFENDANTS' direction, control and benefit
24 for the time the timekeeping system was inoperable. DEFENDANTS' uniform policy and practice
25 to not pay PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS wages for all hours worked
26 in accordance with applicable law is evidenced by DEFENDANTS' business records.

27
28 ///

1 **I. Unlawful Rounding Practices**

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

14 49. Further, the mutability of DEFENDANTS' timekeeping system and unlawful
15 rounding policy and practice resulted in PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS members' time
16 being inaccurately recorded. As a result, from time to time, DEFENDANTS' unlawful rounding
17 policy and practice caused PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS members to perform work as
18 ordered by DEFENDANTS for more than five (5) hours during a shift without receiving an off-
19 duty meal break.

20 **J. Violations for Untimely Payment of Wages**

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

26 51. Pursuant to California Labor Code Section 201, "If an employer discharges an
27 employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately."
28 Pursuant to California Labor Code Section 202, if an employee quits his or her employment, "his

1 or her wages shall become due and payable not later than 72 hours thereafter, unless the employee
2 has given 72 hours previous notice of his or her intention to quit, in which case the employee is
3 entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting.” PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS
4 members were, from time to time, not timely provided the wages earned and unpaid at the time of
5 their discharge and/or at the time of quitting, in violation of California Labor Code Sections 201
6 and 202.

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

10 **K. Sick Pay Violations**

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

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

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

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

14 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

15 56. PLAINTIFF brings this Class Action on behalf of PLAINTIFF, and a California
16 class defined as all persons who are or previously were employed by Defendant Organic Milling
17 and/or Defendant Roskam Baking and/or Defendant Roskam Foods in California and classified as
18 non-exempt employees (the "CALIFORNIA CLASS") at any time during the period beginning four
19 (4) years prior to the filing of this Complaint and ending on the date as determined by the Court
20 (the "CLASS PERIOD").

21 57. PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS members have uniformly been
22 deprived of wages and penalties from unpaid wages earned and due, including but not limited to
23 unpaid minimum wages, unpaid overtime compensation, unpaid meal and rest period premiums,
24 illegal meal and rest period policies, failure to reimburse for business expenses, failure to
25 compensate for off-the-clock work, failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements, failure to
26 maintain required records, and interest, statutory and civil penalties, attorney's fees, costs, and
27 expenses.

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1 58. The members of the class are so numerous that joinder of all class members is
2 impractical.

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

- 11 a. Whether DEFENDANTS maintained legally compliant meal period policies and
12 practices;
- 13 b. Whether DEFENDANTS maintained legally compliant rest period policies and
14 practices;
- 15 c. Whether DEFENDANTS failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS
16 members accurate premium payments for missed meal and rest periods;
- 17 d. Whether DEFENDANTS failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS
18 members accurate overtime wages;
- 19 e. Whether DEFENDANTS failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS
20 members at least minimum wage for all hours worked;
- 21 f. Whether DEFENDANTS failed to compensate PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA
22 CLASS members for required business expenses;
- 23 g. Whether DEFENDANTS issued legally compliant wage statements;
- 24 h. Whether DEFENDANTS committed an act of unfair competition by systematically
25 failing to record and pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA
26 CLASS for all time worked;
- 27 i. Whether DEFENDANTS committed an act of unfair competition by systematically
28 failing to record all meal and rest breaks missed by PLAINTIFF and other

CALIFORNIA CLASS members, even though DEFENDANTS enjoyed the benefit of this work, required employees to perform this work and permits or suffers to permit this work;

- j. Whether DEFENDANTS committed an act of unfair competition in violation of California Business and Professions Code Sections 17200, *et seq.* (the “UCL”), by failing to provide the PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with the legally required meal and rest periods.

60. PLAINTIFF is a member of the CALIFORNIA CLASS and suffered damages as a result of DEFENDANTS’ conduct and actions alleged herein.

61. PLAINTIFFS’ claims are typical of the claims of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, and PLAINTIFF has the same interests as the other members of the class.

62. PLAINTIFF will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the CALIFORNIA CLASS members.

63. PLAINTIFF retained able class counsel with extensive experience in class action litigation.

64. Further, PLAINTIFF’S interests are coincident with, and not antagonistic to, the interest of the other CALIFORNIA CLASS members.

65. There is a strong community of interest among PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to, inter alia, ensure that the combined assets of DEFENDANTS are sufficient to adequately compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the injuries sustained.

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

67. 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

1 individually to redress the wrongs done to them. Without class certification and determination of
2 declaratory, injunctive, statutory, and other legal questions within the class format, prosecution of
3 separate actions by individual members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS will create the risk of:

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

11 68. Class treatment provides manageable judicial treatment calculated to bring an
12 efficient and rapid conclusion to all litigation of all wage and hour related claims arising out of the
13 conduct of DEFENDANTS.

14 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

15 **Unlawful Business Practices**

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

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

18 69. 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 70. DEFENDANTS are each a “person” as that term is defined under California
22 Business and Professions Code Section 17021.

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

27 Any person who engages, has engaged, or proposes to engage in unfair competition
28 may be enjoined in any court of competent jurisdiction. The court may make such
orders or judgments, including the appointment of a receiver, as may be necessary to
prevent the use or employment by any person of any practice which constitutes unfair

1 competition, as defined in this chapter, or as may be necessary to restore to any person
2 in interest any money or property, real or personal, which may have been acquired
3 by means of such unfair competition. (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203).

4 72. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANTS have engaged and continues to
5 engage in business practices which violate California law, including but not limited to, the
6 applicable Wage Order(s), the California Code of Regulations and the California Labor Code
7 including Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, and
8 2802, for which this Court should issue declaratory and other equitable relief pursuant to California
9 Business and Professions Code Section 17203 as may be necessary to prevent and remedy the
10 conduct held to constitute unfair competition, including restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.

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

16 74. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANTS' practices were deceptive and
17 fraudulent in that DEFENDANTS' uniform policy and practice failed to provide the legally
18 mandated meal and rest periods and the required amount of compensation for missed meal and rest
19 periods, failed to pay minimum and overtime wages owed, and failed to reimburse all necessary
20 business expenses incurred, due to a systematic business practice that cannot be justified, pursuant
21 to the applicable California Labor Code and Industrial Welfare Commission requirements in
22 violation of California Business and Professions Code Sections 17200, *et seq.*, and for which this
23 Court should issue injunctive and equitable relief, pursuant to California Business and Professions
24 Code Section 17203, including restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.

25 75. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANTS' practices were also unlawful,
26 unfair, and deceptive in that DEFENDANTS' employment practices caused PLAINTIFF and the
27 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to be underpaid during their employment with
28 DEFENDANTS.

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1 76. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANTS' practices were also unfair and
2 deceptive in that DEFENDANTS' uniform policies, practices and procedures failed to provide
3 mandatory meal and/or rest breaks to PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members as
4 required by California Labor Code Sections 226.7 and 512.

5 77. Therefore, PLAINTIFF demands on behalf of PLAINTIFF and on behalf of each
6 CALIFORNIA CLASS member, one (1) hour of pay for each workday in which an off-duty meal
7 period was not timely provided for each five (5) hours of work, and/or one (1) hour of pay for each
8 workday in which a second off-duty meal period was not timely provided for each ten (10) hours
9 of work.

10 78. PLAINTIFF further demands on behalf of PLAINTIFF and on behalf of each
11 CALIFORNIA CLASS member, one (1) hour of pay for each workday in which a rest period was
12 not timely provided as required by law.

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

19 80. All the acts described herein as violations of, among other things, the Industrial
20 Welfare Commission Wage Orders, the California Code of Regulations, and the California Labor
21 Code, were unlawful and in violation of public policy, were immoral, unethical, oppressive, and
22 unscrupulous, were deceptive, and thereby constitute unlawful, unfair, and deceptive business
23 practices in violation of California Business and Professions Code Sections 17200, *et seq.*

24 81. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are entitled to,
25 and do, seek such relief as may be necessary to restore to them the money and property which
26 DEFENDANTS have acquired, or of which PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
27 CALIFORNIA CLASS have been deprived, by means of the above described unlawful and unfair
28 business practices, including earned but unpaid wages for all time worked.

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

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

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Failure To Pay Minimum Wages

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

(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against DEFENDANTS)

83. 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.

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

85. Pursuant to California Labor Code Section 204, other applicable laws and regulations, and public policy, an employer must timely pay its employees for all hours worked.

86. California Labor Code Section 1197 provides the minimum wage for employees fixed by the commission is the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a less wage than the minimum so fixed is unlawful.

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1 87. California Labor Code Section 1194 establishes an employee's right to recover
2 unpaid wages, including minimum wage compensation and interest thereon, together with the costs
3 of suit.

4 88. DEFENDANTS maintained a uniform wage practice of paying PLAINTIFF and the
5 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS without regard to the correct amount of time they
6 work. As set forth herein, DEFENDANTS' uniform policy and practice was to unlawfully and
7 intentionally deny timely payment of wages due to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
8 CALIFORNIA CLASS.

9 89. DEFENDANTS' uniform pattern of unlawful wage and hour practices manifested,
10 without limitation, applicable to the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a whole, as a result of implementing
11 a uniform policy and practice that denies accurate compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other
12 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in regard to minimum wage pay.

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

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

22 92. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
23 CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid less for time worked than they were entitled to, constituting a
24 failure to pay all earned wages.

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

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

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

18 96. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS therefore request
19 recovery of all unpaid wages, according to proof, interest, statutory costs, as well as the assessment
20 of any statutory penalties against DEFENDANTS, in a sum as provided by the California Labor
21 Code and/or other applicable statutes. To the extent minimum wage compensation is determined
22 to be owed to the CALIFORNIA CLASS members who have terminated their employment,
23 DEFENDANTS' conduct also violates Labor Code Sections 201 and/or 202, and therefore these
24 individuals are also be entitled to waiting time penalties under California Labor Code Section 203,
25 which penalties are sought herein on behalf of these CALIFORNIA CLASS members.
26 DEFENDANTS' conduct as alleged herein was willful, intentional and not in good faith. Further,
27 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS members are entitled to seek and recover statutory
28 costs.

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1 other CALIFORNIA CLASS members and denied accurate compensation to PLAINTIFF and the
2 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for overtime worked, including, the overtime work
3 performed in excess of eight (8) hours in a workday, and/or twelve (12) hours in a workday, and/or
4 forty (40) hours in any workweek.

5 104. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, DEFENDANTS
6 inaccurately recorded overtime worked and consequently underpaid the overtime worked by
7 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS members. DEFENDANTS acted in an illegal
8 attempt to avoid the payment of all earned wages, and other benefits in violation of the California
9 Labor Code, the Industrial Welfare Commission requirements and other applicable laws and
10 regulations.

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

14 106. California Labor Code Section 515 sets out various categories of employees who are
15 exempt from the overtime requirements of the law. None of these exemptions are applicable to
16 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS. Further, PLAINTIFF and the
17 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are not subject to a valid collective bargaining
18 agreement that would preclude the causes of action contained herein this Complaint. Rather,
19 PLAINTIFF brings this Action on behalf of PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS based on
20 DEFENDANTS' violations of non-negotiable, non-waivable rights provided by the State of
21 California.

22 107. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
23 CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid less for overtime worked than they were entitled to, constituting
24 a failure to pay all earned wages.

25 108. DEFENDANTS failed to accurately pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
26 CALIFORNIA CLASS overtime wages for the time they worked which was in excess of the
27 maximum hours permissible by law as required by California Labor Code Sections 510, 1194, and
28 1198, even though PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were

1 regularly required to work, and did in fact work overtime, and did in fact work overtime as to which
2 DEFENDANTS failed to accurately record and pay as evidenced by DEFENDANTS' business
3 records and witnessed by employees.

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

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

16 111. 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, DEFENDANTS acted and continues to act
19 intentionally, oppressively, and maliciously toward PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
20 CALIFORNIA CLASS with a conscious of 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.

24 112. Therefore, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS request
25 recovery of overtime wages, according to proof, interest, statutory costs, as well as the assessment
26 of any statutory penalties against DEFENDANTS, in a sum as provided by the California Labor
27 Code and/or other applicable statutes. To the extent overtime compensation is determined to be
28 owed to the CALIFORNIA CLASS members who have terminated their employment,

1 DEFENDANTS' conduct also violates California Labor Code Sections 201 and/or 202, and
2 therefore these individuals are also be entitled to waiting time penalties under California Labor
3 Code 203, which penalties are sought herein. DEFENDANTS' conduct as alleged herein was
4 willful, intentional, and not in good faith. Further, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
5 members are entitled to seek and recover statutory costs.

6 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

7 **Failure To Provide Required Meal Periods**

8 **(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 & 512)**

9 **(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against DEFENDANTS)**

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

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

27 115. DEFENDANTS further violated California Labor Code Section 226.7 and the
28 applicable IWC Wage Order by failing to compensate PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS

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

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

7 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

8 **Failure To Provide Required Rest Periods**

9 **(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 & 512)**

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

11 117. 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.

14 118. From time to time, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS members were
15 required to work in excess of four (4) hours without being provided ten (10) minute rest periods.
16 Further, these employees were denied their first rest periods of at least ten (10) minutes for some
17 shifts worked of at least two (2) to four (4) hours, a first and second rest period of at least ten (10)
18 minutes for some shifts worked of between six (6) and eight (8) hours, and a first, second and third
19 rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of ten (10) hours or more. PLAINTIFF
20 and other CALIFORNIA CLASS members were also not provided with one-hour wages *in lieu*
21 thereof. As a result of their rigorous work schedules, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
22 members were periodically denied their proper rest periods by DEFENDANTS and
23 DEFENDANTS' managers. In addition, DEFENDANTS failed to compensate PLAINTIFF and
24 other CALIFORNIA CLASS members for their rest periods as required by the applicable Wage
25 Order and Labor Code. As a result, DEFENDANTS' failure to provide PLAINTIFF and the
26 CALIFORNIA CLASS members with all the legally required paid rest periods is evidenced by
27 DEFENDANTS' business records.
28

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

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

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Failure To Provide Accurate Itemized Statements

(Cal. Lab. Code § 226)

(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against DEFENDANTS)

121. 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.

122. California Labor Code Section 226 provides that an employer must furnish employees with an "accurate itemized" statement in writing showing:

- a. Gross wages earned,
- b. 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,

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

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

17 124. In addition to the foregoing, DEFENDANTS failed to provide itemized wage
18 statements to PLAINTIFF and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS that complied with the
19 requirements of California Labor Code Section 226(a)(1)-(9).

20 125. DEFENDANTS knowingly and intentionally failed to comply with California Labor
21 Code Section 226(a)(1)-(9), causing injury and damages to PLAINTIFF and the other members of
22 the CALIFORNIA CLASS. These damages include, but are not limited to, costs expended
23 calculating the correct wages for all missed meal and rest breaks and the amount of employment
24 taxes which were not properly paid to state and federal tax authorities. These damages are difficult
25 to estimate. Therefore, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS may elect
26 to recover liquidated damages of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the initial pay period in which the
27 violation occurred, and one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each violation in a subsequent pay period
28 pursuant to California Labor Code Section 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).

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Failure To Pay Wages When Due

(Cal. Lab. Code § 203)

(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against DEFENDANTS)

126. 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.

127. California Labor Code Section 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 labor to be paid for is performed personally by the person demanding payment.

128. California Labor Code Section 201 provides, in relevant part, that "If an employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately."

129. California Labor Code Section 202 provides, in relevant part, that:

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

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

131. California Labor Code Section 203 provides:

If an employer willfully fails to pay, without abatement or reduction, in accordance with Sections 201, 201.5, 202, and 205.5, any wages of an employee who is discharged or

1 who quits, the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date
2 thereof at the same rate until paid or until an action therefor is commenced; but the
3 wages shall not continue for more than 30 days.

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

7 133. Therefore, as provided by California Labor Code Section 203, on behalf of
8 themselves and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS whose employment has ended,
9 PLAINTIFF demands up to thirty (30) days of pay as penalty for not paying all wages due at time
10 of termination for all employees who terminated employment during the CLASS PERIOD and
11 demand an accounting and payment of all wages due, plus interest and statutory costs as allowed
12 by law.

13 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

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

15 **(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 2802)**

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

17 134. 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.

20 135. California Labor Code Section 2802 provides, in relevant part, that:
21 An employer shall indemnify his or her employee for all necessary expenditures or
22 losses incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of his or her
23 duties, or of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer, even though
24 unlawful, unless the employee, at the time of obeying the directions, believed them to
25 be unlawful.

26 136. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS violated California
27 Labor Code Section 2802, by failing to indemnify and reimburse PLAINTIFF and the
28 CALIFORNIA CLASS members for required expenses incurred in the discharge of their job duties
for DEFENDANTS' benefit. DEFENDANTS failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF and the
CALIFORNIA CLASS members for expenses which included, but were not limited to, the use of
their personal cell phones , all on behalf of and for the benefit of DEFENDANTS. Specifically,

1 DEFENDANTS required PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS members to use their
2 personal cell phones to execute their essential job duties on behalf of DEFENDANTS.
3 DEFENDANTS' uniform policy, practice and procedure was to not reimburse PLAINTIFF and
4 the CALIFORNIA CLASS members for expenses resulting from the use of their personal cell
5 phones , within the course and scope of their employment for DEFENDANTS. These expenses
6 were necessary to complete their principal job duties. DEFENDANTS are estopped by
7 DEFENDANTS' conduct to assert any waiver of this expectation. Although these expenses were
8 necessary expenses incurred by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members,
9 DEFENDANTS failed to indemnify and reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS
10 members for these expenses as an employer is required to do under the laws and regulations of
11 California.

12 137. PLAINTIFF therefore demands reimbursement for expenditures or losses incurred
13 by them and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members in the discharge of their job duties for
14 DEFENDANTS, or their obedience to the directions of DEFENDANTS, with interest at the
15 statutory rate and costs under California Labor Code Section 2802.

16 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

17 WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF prays for a judgment against all DEFENDANTS, 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 California Code of Civil Procedure Section 382;
22 b. An order temporarily, preliminarily and permanently enjoining and restraining
23 DEFENDANTS from engaging in similar unlawful conduct as set forth herein;
24 c. An order requiring DEFENDANTS 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 DEFENDANTS' ill-gotten gains into a fluid fund
28 for restitution of the sums incidental to DEFENDANTS' violations due to

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

2 2. On behalf of the CALIFORNIA CLASS:

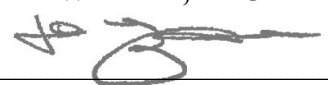
- 3 a. That the Court certify the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth
4 Causes of Action asserted by the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a class action pursuant
5 to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 382;
- 6 b. Compensatory damages, according to proof at trial, including compensatory
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 California Labor Code Sections
11 226.7, 512 and 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 California Labor Code Section 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 California Labor Code Section 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.
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3. On all claims:
- a. An award of interest, including prejudgment interest at the legal rate;
 - b. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable; and
 - c. An award of penalties, attorneys’ fees, and costs of suit, as allowable under the law, including and pursuant to, but not limited to, California Labor Code Sections 218.5, 226, 246 and/or 1194.

DATED: February 28, 2025

JCL LAW FIRM, APC
By: 
Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq.
Attorney for PLAINTIFF

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DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL

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

DATED: February 28, 2025

JCL LAW FIRM, APC

By: 
Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq.
Attorney for PLAINTIFF