# SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

**NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:** (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):

PACIFIC PRODUCTION PLUMBING, a California corporation; and DOES 1-50, Inclusive,

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

THOMAS E. WEATHERMON III, an individual, on behalf of himself and on behalf of all persons similarly situated,

#### ELECTRONICALLY FILED

Superior Court of California, County of San Diego

02/14/2023 at 12:01:00 AM

Clerk of the Superior Court By Alma Rhodes, Deputy Clerk

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

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association.

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

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de

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(El nomb	e and address of the are y dirección de la c ego Superior Cou		ouse	CASE NUMBER: (Número del Caso): 37-2023-00006167-CU-OE-CTL	
	est Broadway	are Train of Justice Courtin	ouse		
San Di	ego, CA 92101				
<i>(El nomb</i> Jean-Cl	re, la dirección y el l aude Lapuyade, l	phone number of plaintiff's attorn número de teléfono del abogado Esq. SBN:248676 440 Morehouse Drive, Sui	o del demandante, o del de Tel: (619) 599-8292	mandante que no tiene abogado Fax: (858) 599-8291	, es):
DATE: (Fecha)	02/14/2023		Clerk, by (Secretario)	— A. Khodes A. Rhodes	, Deputy (Adjunto)
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		NOTICE TO THE PERSON		* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	
[SEAL]		1. as an individual de	fendant.		
		2. as the person sued	I under the fictitious name	of (specify):	

	. NOTICE TO THE LENGON SERVED. TOO BIG SERVED
[SEAL]	1. as an individual defendant.
of Court of Call	2. as the person sued under the fictitious name of (specify):
(AA-)	3. on behalf of (specify):
(一)	under: CCP 416.10 (corporation) CCP 416.60 (minor)
(c)	CCP 416.20 (defunct corporation) CCP 416.70 (conservatee)
or San Dis	CCP 416.40 (association or partnership) CCP 416.90 (authorized pe
	other (specify):
	4. Dy personal delivery on (date):

Page 1 of 1

.90 (authorized person)

1	JCL LAW FIRM, APC	
2	Jean-Claude Lapuyade (State Bar #248676) Sydney Castillo-Johnson (State Bar #343881)	ELECTRONICALLY FILED Superior Court of California,
	Monnett De La Torre (State Bar #272884)	County of San Diego 02/14/2023 at 12:01:00 AM
3	5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600 San Diego, CA 92121	Clerk of the Superior Court
4	Telephone: (619) 599-8292 Facsimile: (619) 599-8291	By Alma Rhodes Deputy Clerk
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12	Attorneys for Plaintiff	
13	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
14	IN AND FOR THE COU	NTV OF SAN DIFGO
15	IN AND FOR THE COU	
16	THOMAS E. WEATHERMON III, an individual, on behalf of himself and on behalf of	Case No: 37-2023-00006167-CU-0E-CTL
17	all persons similarly situated,	<b>CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR:</b>
18	Plaintiff,	1) UNFAIR COMPETITION IN VIOLATION OF CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE §17200 e
19	V.	seq; 2) FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES IN
20	PACIFIC PRODUCTION PLUMBING, a California corporation; and DOES 1-50,	VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 1194, 1197 & 1197.1;
21	Inclusive,	3) FAILURE TO PAY OVERTIME WAGES IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §
22	Defendants.	510 et seq; 4) FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIREI
23		MEAL PERIODS IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 226.7 & 512 AND
24		THE APPLICABLE IWC WAGE ORDER; 5) FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED  PROVIDE ATTOMOR OF CALL
25		REST PERIODS IN VIOLATION OF CAL LAB. CODE §§ 226.7 & 512 AND THE APPLICABLE IWC WAGE ORDER;
26		6) FAILURE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE ITEMIZED STATEMENTS IN
27		VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE § 226; 7) FAILURE TO PROVIDE WAGES WHEN
28		DUE IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB CODE §§ 201, 202 AND 203;
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1 2 3 4	8) FAILURE TO REIMBURSE EMPLOYEE FOR REQUIRED EXPENSES I VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE § 2802 9) RETALIATION IN VIOLATION OF CAI LAB. CODE §§ 98.6 and 1102.5; 10) VIOLATION OF THE PRIVAT ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT [LABO CODE §§ 2698 ET SEQ.
5	DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL
6	Plaintiff THOMAS E. WEATHERMON III ("PLAINTIFF"), an individual, on behal
7	of himself and all other similarly situated current and former employees, alleges on information and
8	belief, except for his own acts and knowledge which are based on personal knowledge, the
9	following:
10	THE PARTIES
l 1	1. Defendant PACIFIC PRODUCTION PLUMBING ("DEFENDANT" and/or
12	"DEFENDANTS") is a California corporation that at all relevant times mentioned herein
13	conducted and continues to conduct substantial and regular business in the state of California
14	2. DEFENDANTS provide plumbing services to private, commercial and
15	constriction company customers in the state of California, including San Diego County, where
16	PLAINTIFF worked.
17	3. PLAINTIFF has been employed by DEFENDANTS in California since August of
18	2018 as a foreman, and was at all times classified by DEFENDANTS as a non-exempt employee,
19	paid on a piece-rate basis, and entitled to the legally required meal and rest periods and payment
20	of minimum and overtime wages due for all time worked. PLAINTIFF was paid by piece-rate
21	only while he was performing installation jobs for DEFENDANTS in accordance with
22	DEFENDANTS' compensation package. Importantly, PLAINTIFF was not provided with
23	minimum wages for his non-production work time. PLAINTIFF also did not receive paid rest
24	breaks as required by California law. DEFENDANTS failed to pay PLAINTIFF the correct
25	amount of compensation because DEFENDANTS established an illegal pay practice of paying
26	PLAINTIFF on a piece rate basis when conducting installation jobs assigned by DEFENDANTS.
27	DEFENDANTS however failed to pay minimum wages for compensable time worked, including
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- wages for all overtime worked, thereby uniformly resulting in PLAINTIFF being underpaid for all time worked during his employment, including overtime worked. To date, DEFENDANTS have not fully and timely paid the PLAINTIFF for all his wages still owed to him or any penalty wages owed to him under California Labor Code § 203.
- 4. PLAINTIFF brings this Class Action on behalf of himself and a California class, defined as all persons who are or previously were employed by DEFENDANTS in California who were classified as non-exempt employees, including those who were paid in whole or in part on a piece rate basis (the "CALIFORNIA CLASS") at any time during the period beginning four years from the date of filing of this Complaint and ending on the date as determined by the Court (the "CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD"). The amount in controversy for the aggregate claim of the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members is under five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00).
- 5. PLAINTIFF brings this Class Action on behalf of himself and a CALIFORNIA CLASS in order to fully compensate the CALIFORNIA CLASS for their losses incurred during the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD caused by DEFENDANTS' uniform policy and practice which failed to lawfully compensate these employees. DEFENDANTS' uniform policy and practice alleged herein was an unlawful, unfair, and deceptive business practice whereby DEFENDANTS retained and continue to retain wages due PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS seek an injunction enjoining such conduct by DEFENDANTS in the future, relief for the named PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS who have been economically injured by DEFENDANTS' past and current unlawful conduct, and all other appropriate legal and equitable relief.
- 6. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, subsidiary, partnership, associate or otherwise of defendants DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are presently unknown to PLAINTIFF who therefore sues these Defendants by such fictitious names pursuant to Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 474. PLAINTIFF will seek leave to amend this Complaint to allege the true names and capacities of Does 1 through 50, inclusive, when they are ascertained. PLAINTIFF

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

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

#### **THE CONDUCT**

8. Pursuant to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, DEFENDANTS were required to pay PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all their time worked, meaning the time during which an employee is subject to the control of an employer, including all the time the employee is suffered or permitted to work. DEFENDANTS required PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to work without paying them for all the time they were under DEFENDANTS' control. Importantly, PLAINTIFF was not provided with minimum wages for all of his non-installation work time when DEFENDANTS only paid PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members a flat piece rate per job, regardless of how many hours were worked, and regardless of how much time was spent working before or after each job. PLAINTIFF also did not receive compliant meal breaks as required by California law when being paid a piece rate by DEFENDANT. As a result, the PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members forfeited minimum wage and overtime compensation by regularly working without their time being accurately recorded and without compensation at the applicable minimum wage and overtime rates, or separate compensation for rest breaks. DEFENDANTS' uniform policy and

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practice not to pay PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all time worked is evidenced by DEFENDANTS' business records.

A. Meal Break Violations

- 9. Pursuant to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, DEFENDANT was required to pay PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all their time worked, meaning the time during which an employee is subject to the control of an employer, including all the time the employee is suffered or permitted to work. From time-to-time during the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to work without paying them for all the time they were under DEFENDANT's control. Specifically, as a result of PLAINTIFF's demanding work requirements and DEFENDANT'S understaffing, DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFF to work during what was supposed to be PLAINTIFF's off-duty meal break. Indeed, there were many days where PLAINTIFF did not even receive a partial lunch. As a result, the PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members forfeited minimum wage and overtime wages by regularly working without their time being accurately recorded and without compensation at the applicable minimum wage and overtime rates. DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice not to pay PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all time worked is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records.
- 10. From time-to-time during the CLASS PERIOD, as a result of their rigorous work requirements and DEFENDANT's inadequate staffing practices, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were from time to time unable to take thirty (30) minute off-duty meal breaks and were not fully relieved of duty for their meal periods. PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required from time to time to perform work as ordered by DEFENDANT for more than five (5) hours during some shifts without receiving a meal break. Further, DEFENDANT from time to time failed to provide PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with a second off-duty meal period for some workdays in which these employees were required by DEFENDANT to work ten (10) hours of work from time to time. Specifically, PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were from time to time required to perform work-related tasks for DEFENDANTS' supervisors and clients during what

was supposed to be their off-duty meal periods. Additionally, PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required to carry cordless communication devices in order to receive and respond to work-related communications during their off-duty meal periods. The nature of the work performed by PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members does not qualify for limited and narrowly construed "on-duty" meal period exception. When they were provided with meal periods, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were, from time to time, required to remain on duty, on call and/or on premises. PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members therefore forfeited meal breaks without additional compensation and in accordance with DEFENDANT's strict corporate policy and practice.

#### B. Rest Break Violations

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- 11. During the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were also required to work in excess of four (4) hours without being provided ten (10) minute rest periods. Further, these employees were denied their first rest periods of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of at least two (2) to four (4) hours from time to time, a first and second rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of between six (6) and eight (8) hours from time to time, and a first, second and third rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of ten (10) hours or more from time to time. PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were also not provided with one-hour wages in lieu thereof. As a result of their rigorous work schedules, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were from time to time denied their proper rest periods by DEFENDANTS and DEFENDANTS' managers. Additionally, PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required to carry cordless communication devices in order to receive and respond to work-related communications during their off-duty rest periods. When they were provided with rest breaks, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were, from time to time, required to remain on duty, on call and/or on premises.
- 12. In addition, because of DEFENDANTS' pay plan for PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members (being paid a flat rate per-job only), DEFENDANTS failed to compensate PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for their rest periods as required

by the applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. DEFENDANTS did not have a policy or practice which paid for off-duty rest periods to PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members when they were paid piece rate pay only. As a result, DEFENDANTS' failure to provide PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with all the legally required paid rest periods is evidenced by DEFENDANTS' business records.

#### C. Wage Statement Violations

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- 13. California Labor Code Section 226 requires an employer to furnish its employees an accurate itemized statement in writing showing (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece-rate, (4) all deductions, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee and only the last four digits of the employee's social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer and, (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.
- 14. When PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were from time to time required to miss meal and rest breaks, and/or were not paid all minimum and overtime wages owed to them, DEFENDANTS also failed to provide PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with complete and accurate wage statements which failed to show, among other things, the correct wages paid, including the wages paid for missed meal and rest breaks. Cal. Lab. Code § 226 provides that every employer shall furnish each of his or her employees with an accurate itemized wage statement in writing showing, among other things, gross wages earned and all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding amount of time worked at each hourly rate. Aside from the violations listed above in this paragraph, DEFENDANTS failed to issue to PLAINTIFF an itemized wage statement that lists all the requirements under California Labor Code 226 et seq. As a result, DEFENDANTS from time to time provided PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with wage statements which violated Cal. Lab. Code § 226.

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

16. In the course of their employment, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members as a business expense, were required by DEFENDANTS to use their own personal cellular phones and personal vehicles as a result of and in furtherance of their job duties as employees for DEFENDANTS but were not reimbursed or indemnified by DEFENDANTS for the costs associated with the use of their personal cellular phones and personal vehicles for DEFENDANTS' benefit. Specifically, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required by DEFENDANTS to use their personal cell phones and personal vehicles to conduct work related business. As a result, in the course of their employment with DEFENDANT the PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS incurred unreimbursed business expenses which included, but were not limited to, costs related to the use of their personal cellular phones and personal vehicles all on behalf of and for the benefit of DEFENDANTS.

#### E. Minimum Wage and Overtime Violations

17. From time-to-time during the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid in part on a piece-rate basis. In those instances where PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid in part on a piece-rate basis, PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were entitled to be separately compensated for all non-productive

time at an hourly rate that is no less than the applicable minimum wage. Notwithstanding, in 1 those instances where PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid in part on a piece-2 rate basis, DEFENDANTS failed to separately compensate PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA 3 CLASS for all non-productive time, including but not limited to, paid rest periods, at an hourly rate that is no less than the applicable minimum wage. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the 5 CALIFORNIA CLASS forfeited minimum wages and overtime wages by DEFENDANTS' failure to separately compensate their non-productive time at an hourly rate that is no less than the applicable minimum wage. 8 9 10 11

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

18. 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.

- 19. 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.
- 20. 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

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21. 4 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 5 time, paid meal and rest period premium payments, and/or redeemed sick pay, and earned nondiscretionary 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 8 rather than just all non-overtime hours worked. Management and supervisors described the incentive/bonus program to potential and new employees as part of the compensation package. 10 As a matter of law, the incentive compensation received by PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA 11 CLASS members must be included in the "regular rate of pay." The failure to do so has resulted 12 in a systematic underpayment of overtime and double time compensation, meal and rest period 13 premiums, and redeemed sick pay to PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS members by 14 15 DEFENDANTS. Specifically, California Labor Code Section 246 mandates that paid sick time for non-employees shall be calculated in the same manner as the regular rate of pay for the 16 workweek in which the non-exempt employee uses paid sick time, whether or not the employee 17 actually works overtime in that workweek. DEFENDANTS' conduct, as articulated herein, by 18 failing to include the incentive compensation as part of the "regular rate of pay" for purposes of 19 sick pay compensation was in violation of Cal. Lab. Code § 246 the underpayment of which is 20

recoverable under Cal. Labor Code Sections 201, 202, 203 and/or 204.

22. 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 and knowingly failed to compensate PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS at the correct rate of pay for all overtime and double time worked, meal and rest period premiums, and sick pay. This uniform policy and practice of DEFENDANT is intended to purposefully avoid the payment of the correct overtime and double time compensation, meal and rest period premiums, and sick

pay as required by California law which allowed DEFENDANT to illegally profit and gain an unfair advantage over competitors who complied with the law. To the extent equitable tolling operates to toll claims by the CALIFORNIA CLASS members against DEFENDANT, the CLASS PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.

#### **G.** Unlawful Rounding Practices

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- 23. During the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS did not have in place an immutable timekeeping system to accurately record and pay PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for the actual time these employees worked each day, including overtime hours. Specifically, DEFENDANTS had in place an unlawful rounding policy and practice that resulted in PLAINTIFFS and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members being undercompensated for all of their time worked. As a result, DEFENDANTS were able to and did in fact unlawfully, and unilaterally round the time recorded in DEFENDANTS' timekeeping system for PLAINTIFFS and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in order to avoid paying these employees for all their time worked, including the applicable overtime compensation for overtime worked. As a result, PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, from time to time, forfeited compensation for their time worked by working without their time being accurately recorded and without compensation at the applicable overtime rates.
- 24. Further, the mutability of DEFENDANTS' timekeeping system and unlawful rounding policy and practice resulted in PLAINTIFFS and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members' time being inaccurately recorded. As a result, from time to time, DEFENDANTS' unlawful rounding policy and practice caused PLAINTIFFS and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to perform work as ordered by DEFENDANTS for more than five (5) hours during a shift without receiving an off-duty meal break.

#### H. Timekeeping Manipulation

25. During the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS, from time-to-time, did not have an immutable timekeeping system to accurately record and pay PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the actual time PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS worked each day, including regular time, overtime hours, sick pay, meal

and rest breaks. Specifically, due to DEFENDANT's error-prone timekeeping system, approximately five to eight minutes of PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Member's time worked were taken each day. As a result, DEFENDANT was able to and did in fact, unlawfully, and unilaterally alter the time recorded in DEFENDANTS' timekeeping system for PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in order to avoid paying these employees for all hours worked, applicable overtime compensation, applicable sick pay, missed meal breaks and missed rest break.

- 26. As a result, PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, from time-to-time, forfeited time worked by working without their time being accurately recorded and without compensation at the applicable pay rates.
- 27. The mutability of the timekeeping system also allowed DEFENDANTS to alter employee time records by recording fictitious thirty (30) minute meal breaks in DEFENDANTS' timekeeping system so as to create the appearance that PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS clocked out for thirty (30) minute meal break when in fact the employees were not at all times provided an off-duty meal break. This practice is a direct result of DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice of denying employees uninterrupted thirty (30) minute off-duty meal breaks each day or otherwise compensate them for missed meal breaks.
- 28. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS forfeited wages due them for all hours worked at DEFENDANTS' direction, control and benefit for the time the timekeeping system was inoperable. DEFENDANTS' uniform policy and practice to not pay PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS wages for all hours worked in accordance with applicable law is evidenced by DEFENDANTS' business records.

#### I. Violations for Untimely Payment of Wages

29. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 204, PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members were entitled to timely payment of wages during their employment. PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members, from time to time, did not receive payment of all wages, including, but not limited to, overtime wages, minimum wages,

# J. Unlawful Deductions

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

#### K. <u>Unfair Competition Violations</u>

- 31. 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 compensate PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for missed meal and rest periods. This uniform policy and practice of DEFENDANT is intended to purposefully avoid the payment for all time worked as required by California law which allows DEFENDANT to illegally profit and gain an unfair advantage over competitors who complied with the law. To the extent equitable tolling operates to toll claims by the CALIFORNIA CLASS against DEFENDANT, the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.
- 32. By reason of this uniform conduct applicable to PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, DEFENDANTS committed acts of unfair competition in violation of the California Unfair Competition law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq. (the "UCL"), by engaging in a uniform company-wide policy, practice, and procedure which failed to accurately calculate and record all missed meal and rest periods by PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members. The proper recording of these employees' missed meal and rest breaks is the DEFENDANTS' burden. As a result of DEFENDANTS' intentional disregard of the obligation to meet this burden, DEFENDANTS failed to properly calculate and/or pay all required compensation for work performed by the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS and violated the California Labor Code and regulations promulgated thereunder as herein alleged.
- 33. Specifically, as to PLAINTIFF, DEFENDANTS failed to provide all the legally required off-duty meal and rest breaks to him as required by the applicable Wage Order and Labor

Code and failed to pay him all minimum and overtime wages due to him. DEFENDANTS did not have a policy or practice which provided timely off-duty meal and rest breaks to PLAINTIFF, and also failed to compensate PLAINTIFF for his missed meal and rest breaks. The nature of the work performed by the PLAINTIFF did not prevent him from being relieved of all of his duties for the legally required off-duty meal periods. As a result, DEFENDANTS' failure to provide PLAINTIFF with the legally required meal periods is evidenced by DEFENDANTS' business records. As a result of DEFENDANTS not accurately recording all missed meal and rest periods and/or the correct overtime rate, and/or separately compensated rest breaks, the wage statements issued to PLAINTIFF by DEFENDANTS violated California law, and in particular, Labor Code Section 226(a). To date, DEFENDANTS have yet to pay PLAINTIFF all of his overtime wages due to him and DEFENDANTS has failed to pay any penalty wages owed to him under California Labor Code Section 203 and/or 204. The amount in controversy for PLAINTIFF individually does not exceed the sum or value of \$75,000.

### L. Plaintiff's Individual Claims

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- 34. PLAINTIFF has been employed by DEFENDANT in California since August of 2018.
- 35. On or around September 27, 2022 and October 27, 2022, PLAINTIFF, through his counsel of record, requested his employee file from DEFENDANT.
- 36. On or around November of 2022, DEFENDANT began instituting a series of adverse employment actions against PLAINTIFF. Specifically, after PLAINTIFF requested his employee file, DEFENDANT began decreasing the amount of compensation PLAINTIFF could earn for his piece-rate work. Additionally, PLAINTIFF began noticing that his vouchers for piece-rate work would go missing, despite having submitted them to DEFENDANT. As a result of the voucher forms going missing, PLAINTIFF'S compensation would also decrease. On information and belief, PLAINTIFF alleges DEFENDANT purposely decreased PLAINTIFF'S piece-rate rates and misplaced his voucher forms as a result of PLAINTIFF requesting his employee file and in retaliation for PLAINTIFF'S legal exercise of his right to do so pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226, 432 and 1198.5.

37. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and upon such information and belief alleges that, DEFENDANT'S conduct in decreasing his piece-rate rates and misplacing his voucher forms was part of a pattern of behavior by DEFENDANT aimed at discrimination, harassment, and retaliation against PLAINTIFF for exercising his legal right to do so pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226, 432 and 1198.5.

# JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 38. 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 PLAINTIFFS and similarly situated employees of DEFENDANTS pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382.
- 39. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure, Sections 395 and 395.5, because PLAINTIFF worked in this County for DEFENDANTS and DEFENDANTS (i) currently maintain and at all relevant times maintained offices and facilities in this County and/or conducts substantial business in this County, and (ii) committed the wrongful conduct herein alleged in this County against members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

#### THE CALIFORNIA CLASS

- 40. PLAINTIFF brings the First Cause of Action for Unfair, Unlawful and Deceptive Business Practices pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq. (the "UCL") as a Class Action, pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382, on behalf of a California class, defined as all persons who are or previously were employed by DEFENDANTS in California who were classified as non-exempt employees, including those who were paid in whole or in part on a piece rate basis (the "CALIFORNIA CLASS") at any time during the period beginning four years from the date of the filing of this Complaint and ending on the date as determined by the Court (the "CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD") The amount in controversy for the aggregate claim of the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members is under five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00).
- 41. To the extent equitable tolling operates to toll claims by the CALIFORNIA CLASS against DEFENDANTS, the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.

- 42. DEFENDANTS, as a matter of company policy, practice, and procedure, and in violation of the applicable Labor Code, Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") Wage Order requirements, and the applicable provisions of California law, intentionally, knowingly, and willfully, engaged in a practice whereby DEFENDANTS systematically failed 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.
- A3. DEFENDANTS have the legal burden to establish that each and every CALIFORNIA CLASS Member was paid accurately for all meal and rest breaks missed as required by California laws. DEFENDANTS, however, as a matter of uniform and systematic policy and procedure failed to have in place during the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD and still fail to have in place a policy or practice to ensure that each and every CALIFORNIA CLASS Member is paid as required by law. This common business practice is applicable to each and every CALIFORNIA CLASS Member can be adjudicated on a class- wide basis as unlawful, unfair, and/or deceptive under Cal. Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq. (the "UCL") as causation, damages, and reliance are not elements of this claim.
- 44. The CALIFONRIA CLASS is so numerous that joinder of all CALIFORNIA CLASS Members is impracticable.
- 45. DEFENDANTS uniformly violated the rights of the CALIFORNIA CLASS under California law by:
  - a. Committing an act of unfair competition in violation of, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq. (the "UCL"), by unlawfully, unfairly and/or deceptively having in place company policies, practices and procedures that uniformly and systematically failed to record and pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all time worked, including minimum wages owed and overtime wages owed for work performed by these employees;

- b. Committing an act of unfair competition in violation of the UCL, by failing to provide mandatory meal and/or rest breaks to PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members; and
- c. Committing an act of unfair competition in violation of the UCL, by failing to separately compensate PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for their rest breaks.
- 46. The Class Action meets the statutory prerequisites for the maintenance of a Class Action as set forth in Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382, in that:
  - a. The persons who comprise the CALIFORNIA CLASS are so numerous that the joinder of all such persons is impracticable and the disposition of their claims as a class will benefit the parties and the Court;
  - b. Nearly all factual, legal, statutory, declaratory and injunctive relief issues that are raised in this Complaint are common to the CALIFORNIA CLASS will apply uniformly to every member of the CALIFORNIA CLASS;
  - c. The claims of the representative PLAINTIFF are typical of the claims of each member of the CALIFORNIA CLASS. PLAINTIFF, like all the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, was classified as a non-exempt employee paid on a piece-rate basis who was subjected to the DEFENDANTS' deceptive practice and policy which failed to provide the legally required meal and rest periods to the CALIFORNIA CLASS and thereby systematically underpaid compensation to PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS. PLAINTIFF sustained economic injury as a result of DEFENDANTS' employment practices. PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were and are similarly or identically harmed by the same unlawful, deceptive, unfair and pervasive pattern of misconduct engaged in by DEFENDANTS; and
  - d. The representative PLAINTIFF will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interest of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, and have retained counsel who are competent and experienced in Class Action litigation. There are no material

conflicts between the claims of the representative PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS that would make class certification inappropriate. Counsel for the CALIFORNIA CLASS will vigorously assert the claims of all CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

- 47. In addition to meeting the statutory prerequisites to a Class Action, this action is properly maintained as a Class Action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382, in that:
  - a. 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:
    - 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;
    - ii. Adjudication with respect to individual members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS which would as a practical matter be dispositive of interests of the other members not party to the adjudication or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests.
  - b. The parties opposing the CALIFORNIA CLASS have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the CALIFORNIA CLASS, making appropriate class-wide relief with respect to the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a whole in that DEFENDANTS uniformly failed to pay all wages due to members of the CALIFONRIA CLASS as required by law;
    - i. With respect to the First Cause of Action, the final relief on behalf of the CALIFORNIA CLASS sought does not relate exclusively to restitution because through this claim PLAINTIFF seeks declaratory relief holding that the DEFENDANTS' policy and practices constitute unfair competition, along with declaratory relief, injunctive relief, and incidental

equitable relief as may be necessary to prevent and remedy the conduct declared to constitute unfair competition;

- c. Common questions of law and fact exist as to the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, with respect to the practices and violations of California law as listed above, and predominate over any question affecting only individual CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, and a Class Action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy, including consideration of:
  - i. The interests of the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in individually controlling the prosecution or defense of separate actions in that the substantial expense of individual actions will be avoided to recover the relatively small amount of economic losses sustained by the individual CALIFORNIA CLASS Members when compared to the substantial expense and burden of individual prosecution of this litigation;
  - ii. Class certification will obviate the need for unduly duplicative litigation that would create the risk of:
    - Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, which would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the DEFENDANTS; and/or;
    - Adjudications with respect to individual members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS would as a practical matter be dispositive of the interests of the other members not parties to the adjudication or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests;
  - iii. In the context of wage litigation, because a substantial number of individual CALIFORNIA CLASS Members will avoid asserting their legal rights out of fear of retaliation by DEFENDANTS, which may adversely affect an individual's job with DEFENDANTS or with a subsequent

employer, the Class Action is the only means to assert their claims through a representative; and

- iv. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this litigation because class treatment will obviate the need for unduly and unnecessary duplicative litigation that is likely to result in the absence of certification of this action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382.
- 48. The Court should permit this action to be maintained as a Class Action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382 because:
  - a. The questions of law and fact common to the CALIFORNIA CLASS predominate over any question affecting only individual CALIFORNIA CLASS Members because the DEFENDANTS' employment practices were uniform and systematically applied with respect to the CALIFORNIA CLASS.
  - b. A Class Action is superior to any other available method for the fair and efficient adjudication of the claims of the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS because in the context of employment litigation a substantial number of individual CALIFORNIA CLASS Members will avoid asserting their rights individually out of fear of retaliation or adverse impact on their employment;
  - c. The members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are so numerous that it is impractical to bring all members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS before the Court;
  - d. PLAINTIFF, and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, will not be able to obtain effective and economic legal redress unless the action is maintained as a Class Action;
  - e. There is a community of interest in obtaining appropriate legal and equitable relief for the acts of unfair competition, statutory violations and other improprieties, and in obtaining adequate compensation for the damages and injuries which DEFENDANTS' actions have inflicted upon the CALIFORNIA CLASS;

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- f. There is a community of interest in ensuring that the combined assets of DEFENDANTS are sufficient to adequately compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the injuries sustained;
- g. DEFENDANTS have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the CALIFORNIA CLASS, thereby making final class-wide relief appropriate with respect to the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a whole;
- h. The members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are readily ascertainable from the business records of DEFENDANTS; and
- i. 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 DEFENDANTS as to the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.
- 49. DEFENDANTS maintain records from which the Court can ascertain and identify by job title each of DEFENDANTS' employees who as have been systematically, intentionally, and uniformly subjected to DEFENDANTS' company policy, practices and procedures as herein alleged. PLAINTIFF will seek leave to amend the Complaint to include any additional job titles of similarly situated employees when they have been identified.

#### **THE CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS**

50. PLAINTIFF further brings the Second, Third, Fourth Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth causes of Action on behalf of a California sub-class, defined as all persons who are or previously were employed by Defendant Dreamstyle LLC and/or Defendant Dreamstyle Inc. and/or Defendant Dreamstyle Remodeling in California who were classified as non-exempt employees, including those who were paid in whole or in part on a piece rate basis (the "CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS") at any time during the period beginning three years from the date of the filing of this Complaint and ending on the date as determined by the Court (the "CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD") pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382. The amount in controversy for the aggregate claim of CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members is under five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00).

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- 51. DEFENDANTS, as a matter of company policy, practice and procedure, and in violation of the applicable Labor Code, Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") Wage Order requirements, and the applicable provisions of California law, intentionally, knowingly, willfully, and systematically willfully, engaged in a practice whereby DEFENDANTS failed to correctly calculate compensation for the time worked by PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS and separately compensated rest breaks owed to these employees, even though DEFENDANTS enjoyed the benefit of this work, required employees to perform this work and permitted or suffered to permit this work. DEFENDANTS have uniformly denied these CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members wages to which these employees are entitled in order to unfairly cheat the competition and unlawfully profit. To the extent equitable tolling operates to toll claims by the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS against DEFENDANTS, the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.
- 52. DEFENDANTS maintain records from which the Court can ascertain and identify by name and job title, each of DEFENDANTS' employees who have been systematically, intentionally, and uniformly subjected to DEFENDANTS' company policy, practices, and procedures as herein alleged. PLAINTIFF will seek leave to amend the Complaint to include these additional job titles when they have been identified.
- 53. The CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS is so numerous that joinder of all CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members is impracticable.
- 54. Common questions of law and fact exist as to members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, including, but not limited, to the following:
  - a. Whether DEFENDANTS unlawfully failed to correctly calculate and pay compensation due to members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS for minimum wages, overtime wages, missed meal and rest breaks in violation of the California Labor Code and California regulations and the applicable California Wage Order;

- b. Whether DEFENDANTS failed to provide the PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS with accurate itemized wage statements:
- c. Whether DEFENDANTS have engaged in unfair competition by the above-listed conduct;
- d. The proper measure of damages and penalties owed to the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS; and
- e. Whether DEFENDANTS' conduct was willful.
- 55. DEFENDANTS violated the rights of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS under California law by:
  - a. Violating Cal. Lab. Code §§ 510, et seq., by failing to correctly pay the PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB- CLASS all wages due for overtime worked, for which DEFENDANTS are liable pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 1194;
  - b. Violating Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194, 1197 & 1197.1 et seq., by failing to accurately pay PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS the correct minimum wage pay for which DEFENDANTS are liable pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194 and 1197;
  - c. Violating Cal. Lab. Code § 226, by failing to provide PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS with an accurate itemized statement in writing showing the corresponding correct amount of wages earned by the employee;
  - d. Violating Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 and 512, by failing to provide PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with all legally required off-duty, uninterrupted thirty (30) minute meal breaks and the legally required rest breaks, and to separately compensate PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for rest breaks;

- e. Violating Cal. Lab. Code §201, 202 and/or 203, which provides that when an employee is discharged or quits from employment, the employer must pay the employee all wages due without abatement, by failing to tender full payment and/or restitution of wages owed or in the manner required by California law to the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS who have terminated their employment.
- 56. This Class Action meets the statutory prerequisites for the maintenance of a Class Action as set forth in Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382, in that:
  - a. The persons who comprise the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS are so numerous that the joinder of all CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members is impracticable and the disposition of their claims as a class will benefit the parties and the Court;
  - b. Nearly all factual, legal, statutory, declaratory and injunctive relief issues that are raised in this Complaint are common to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS and will apply uniformly to every member of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS;
  - c. The claims of the representative PLAINTIFF are typical of the claims of each member of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS. PLAINTIFF, like all the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, was a non-exempt employee paid on a piece-rate basis who was subjected to the DEFENDANTS' practice and policy which failed to pay the correct amount of wages due to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS. PLAINTIFF sustained economic injury as a result of DEFENDANTS' employment practices. PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS were and are similarly or identically harmed by the same unlawful, deceptive, unfair, and pervasive pattern of misconduct engaged in by DEFENDANTS; and
  - d. The representative PLAINTIFF will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interest of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, and has retained counsel

who are competent and experienced in Class Action litigation. There are no material conflicts between the claims of the representative PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS that would make class certification inappropriate. Counsel for the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS will vigorously assert the claims of all CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members.

- 57. In addition to meeting the statutory prerequisites to a Class Action, this action is properly maintained as a Class Action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382, in that:
  - a. 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 LABOR SUB-CLASS will create the risk of:
    - Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members
      of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS which would establish
      incompatible standards of conduct for the parties opposing the
      CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS; or
    - ii. Adjudication with respect to individual members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS which would as a practical matter be dispositive of interests of the other members not party to the adjudication or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests.
  - b. The parties opposing the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, making appropriate class-wide relief with respect to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as a whole in that DEFENDANTS uniformly fail to pay all wages due. Including the correct wages for all time worked by the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as required by law;
  - c. Common questions of law and fact predominate as to the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, with respect to the practices and violations

of California Law as listed above, and predominate over any question affecting only individual CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members, and a Class Action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy, including consideration of:

- i. The interests of the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS in individually controlling the prosecution or defense of separate actions in that the substantial expense of individual actions will be avoided to recover the relatively small amount of economic losses sustained by the individual CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members when compared to the substantial expense and burden of individual prosecution of this litigation;
- ii. Class certification will obviate the need for unduly duplicative litigation that would create the risk of:
  - Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, which would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the DEFENDANT; and/or,
  - Adjudications with respect to individual members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS would as a practical matter be dispositive of the interests of the other members not parties to the adjudication or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests;
- iii. In the context of wage litigation because a substantial number of individual CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members will avoid asserting their legal rights out of fear of retaliation by DEFENDANT, which may adversely affect an individual's job with DEFENDANT or with a subsequent employer, the Class Action is the only means to assert their claims through a representative; and,

- iv. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this litigation because class treatment will obviate the need for unduly and unnecessary duplicative litigation that is likely to result in the absence of certification of this action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382.
- 58. This Court should permit this action to be maintained as a Class Action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382 because:
  - a. The questions of law and fact common to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS predominate over any question affecting only individual CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members;
  - b. A Class Action is superior to any other available method for the fair and efficient adjudication of the claims of the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS because in the context of employment litigation a substantial number of individual CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members will avoid asserting their rights individually out of fear of retaliation or adverse impact on their employment;
  - c. The members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS are so numerous that it is impractical to bring all members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS before the Court;
  - d. PLAINTIFF, and the other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members, will
    not be able to obtain effective and economic legal redress unless the action is
    maintained as a Class Action;
  - e. There is a community of interest in obtaining appropriate legal and equitable relief for the acts of unfair competition, statutory violations and other improprieties, and in obtaining adequate compensation for the damages and injuries which DEFENDANT's actions have inflicted upon the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUBCLASS;

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Any person who engages, has engaged, or proposes to engage in unfair competition 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 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).

- 62. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT has engaged and continues to engage in a business practice which violates California law, including but not limited to, the applicable Wage Order(s), the California Code of Regulations and the California Labor Code including Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 226, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 558, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, and 2802, for which this Court should issue declaratory and other equitable relief pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203 as may be necessary to prevent and remedy the conduct held to constitute unfair competition, including restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.
- 63. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were unlawful and unfair in that these practices violated public policy, were immoral, unethical, oppressive unscrupulous or substantially injurious to employees, and were without valid justification or utility for which this Court should issue equitable and injunctive relief pursuant to Section 17203 of the California Business & Professions Code, including restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.
- 64. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were deceptive and fraudulent in that DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice failed to provide the legally mandated meal and rest periods and the required amount of compensation for missed meal and rest periods and, 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 issue injunctive and equitable relief, pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203, including restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.
- 65. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were also unlawful, unfair and deceptive in that DEFENDANT's employment practices caused PLAINTIFF and the

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other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to be underpaid during their employment with DEFENDANT.

- 66. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were also unfair and deceptive in that DEFENDANT's uniform policies, practices and procedures failed to provide legally required meal and/or rest breaks to PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members as required by Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 and 512.
- Therefore, PLAINTIFF demands on behalf of himself and on behalf of each 67. CALIFORNIA CLASS member, one (1) hour of pay for each workday in which an off-duty meal period was not timely provided for each five (5) hours of work, and/or one (1) hour of pay for each workday in which a second off-duty meal period was not timely provided for each ten (10) hours of work.
- 68. PLAINTIFF further demands on behalf of themselves and on behalf of each CALIFORNIA CLASS member, one (1) hour of pay for each workday in which a rest period was not timely provided as required by law.
- 69. By and through the unlawful and unfair business practices described herein, DEFENDANT has obtained valuable property, money and services from PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, including earned wages for all time worked, and has deprived them of valuable rights and benefits guaranteed by law and contract, all to the detriment of these employees and to the benefit of DEFENDANT so as to allow DEFENDANT to unfairly compete against competitors who comply with the law.
- 70. All the acts described herein as violations of, among other things, the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, the California Code of Regulations, and the California Labor Code, were unlawful and in violation of public policy, were immoral, unethical, oppressive and unscrupulous, were deceptive, and thereby constitute unlawful, unfair and deceptive business practices in violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq.
- 71. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are entitled to, and do, seek such relief as may be necessary to restore to them the money and property which DEFENDANT has acquired, or of which PLAINTIFF and the other members of the

- 77. Cal. Lab. Code § 1197 provides the minimum wage for employees fixed by the commission is the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a lesser wage than the minimum so fixed is unlawful.
- 78. Cal. Lab. Code § 1194 establishes an employee's right to recover unpaid wages, including minimum wage compensation and interest thereon, together with the costs of suit.
- 79. DEFENDANT maintained a uniform wage practice of paying PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS without regard to the correct amount of time they worked, and instead paying PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS on a piece-rate per-visit basis. As set forth herein, DEFENDANT'S uniform policy and practice was to unlawfully and intentionally deny timely payment of wages due to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS.
- 80. DEFENDANT'S uniform pattern of unlawful wage and hour practices manifested, without limitation, applicable to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as a whole, as a result of implementing a uniform policy and practice that denied accurate compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS in regards to minimum wage pay.
- 81. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, DEFENDANT inaccurately calculated the amount of time worked and consequently underpaid the actual time worked by PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS. DEFENDANT acted in an illegal attempt to avoid the payment of all earned wages, and other benefits in violation of the California Labor Code, the Industrial Welfare Commission requirements and other applicable laws and regulations.
- 82. As a direct result of DEFENDANT'S unlawful wage practices as alleged herein, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS did not receive the minimum wage compensation for all their time worked for DEFENDANT.
- 83. During the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS were paid less for time worked than they were entitled to, constituting a failure to pay all earned wages.

- 84. By virtue of DEFENDANT'S unlawful failure to accurately pay all earned compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS for the true time they worked, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS have suffered and will continue to suffer an economic injury in amounts which are presently unknown to them and which will be ascertained according to proof at trial.
- 85. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS are under-compensated for their time worked. DEFENDANT systematically elected, either through intentional malfeasance or gross nonfeasance, to not pay employees for their labor as a matter of uniform corporate policy, practice and procedure, and DEFENDANT perpetrated this systematic scheme by refusing to pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS the correct minimum wages for their time worked.
- 86. In performing the acts and practices herein alleged in violation of California labor laws, and refusing to compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS for all time worked and provide them with the requisite compensation, DEFENDANT acted and continues to act intentionally, oppressively, and maliciously toward PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS with a conscious and utter disregard for their legal rights, or the consequences to them, and with the despicable intent of depriving them of their property and legal rights, and otherwise causing them injury in order to increase company profits at the expense of these employees.
- 87. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS therefore request recovery of all unpaid wages, according to proof, interest, statutory costs, as well as the assessment of any statutory penalties against DEFENDANT, in a sum as provided by the California Labor Code and/or other applicable statutes. To the extent minimum wage compensation is determined to be owed to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members who have terminated their employment, DEFENDANT'S conduct also violates Labor Code §§ 201 and/or 202, and therefore these individuals are also be entitled to waiting time penalties under Cal. Lab. Code § 203, which penalties are sought herein on behalf of these CALIFORNIA

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- 93. During the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members were required by DEFENDANT to work for DEFENDANT and were not paid for all the time they worked, including overtime work.
- 94. DEFENDANT's uniform pattern of unlawful wage and hour practices manifested, without limitation, applicable to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as a whole, as a result of implementing a uniform policy and practice that failed to accurately record time worked, including overtime worked by PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members and denied accurate compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS for overtime worked, including, the overtime work performed in excess of eight (8) hours in a workday, and/or twelve (12) hours in a workday, and/or forty (40) hours in any workweek.
- 95. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, DEFENDANT inaccurately recorded overtime worked and consequently underpaid the overtime worked by PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR-SUB CLASS Members. DEFENDANT acted in an illegal attempt to avoid the payment of all earned wages, and other benefits in violation of the California Labor Code, the Industrial Welfare Commission requirements and other applicable laws and regulations.
- 96. As a direct result of DEFENDANT's unlawful wage practices as alleged herein, the PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS did not receive full compensation for overtime worked.
- 97. Cal. Lab. Code § 515 sets out various categories of employees who are exempt from the overtime requirements of the law. None of these exemptions are applicable to the PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS. Further, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS were not subject to a valid collective bargaining agreement that would preclude the causes of action contained herein this Complaint. Rather, PLAINTIFF brings this Action on behalf of himself and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS based on DEFENDANT's violations of non-negotiable, non-waivable rights provided by the State of California.

- 98. During the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS have been paid less for overtime worked that they are entitled to, constituting a failure to pay all earned wages.
- 99. DEFENDANT failed to accurately pay the PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS overtime wages for the time they worked which was in excess of the maximum hours permissible by law as required by Cal. Lab. Code §§ 510, 1194 & 1198, even though PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS were required to work, and did in fact work, overtime as to which DEFENDANT failed to accurately record and pay as evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records and witnessed by employees.
- 100. By virtue of DEFENDANT'S unlawful failure to accurately pay all earned compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS for all overtime worked by these employees, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS have suffered and will continue to suffer an economic injury in amounts which are presently unknown to them and which will be ascertained according to proof at trial.
- 101. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS were under compensated for all overtime worked. DEFENDANT systematically elected, either through intentional malfeasance or gross nonfeasance, to not pay employees for their labor as a matter of uniform company policy, practice and procedure, and DEFENDANT perpetrated this systematic scheme by refusing to pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS for overtime worked.
- 102. In performing the acts and practices herein alleged in violation of California labor laws, and refusing to compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS for all overtime worked and provide them with the requisite overtime compensation, DEFENDANT acted and continues to act intentionally, oppressively, and maliciously toward PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS with a conscious and utter

SUB-CLASS Members as required by the applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. The nature of

the work performed by PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS MEMBERS did

not prevent these employees from being relieved of all of their duties for the legally required off-

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1	duty meal periods. As a result of their rigorous work schedules, PLAINTIFF and other
2	CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members were often not fully relieved of duty by
3	DEFENDANT for their meal periods. Additionally, DEFENDANT's failure to provide
4	PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members with legally required meal
5	breaks prior to their fifth (5th) hour of work is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records.
6	Further, DEFENDANT failed to provide PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with
7	a second off-duty meal period in some workdays in which these employees were required by
8	DEFENDANT to work ten (10) hours of work. As a result, PLAINTIFF and other members of
9	the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS forfeited meal breaks without additional compensation
10	and in accordance with DEFENDANT's strict corporate policy and practice.
11	106. DEFENDANT further violated California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and the applicable
12	IWC Wage Order by failing to compensate PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
13	CLASS Members who were not provided a meal period, in accordance with the applicable Wage
14	Order, one additional hour of compensation at each employee's regular rate of pay for each
15	workday that a meal period was not provided.
16	107. As a proximate result of the aforementioned violations, PLAINTIFF and
17	CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members have been damaged in an amount according to
18	proof at trial, and seek all wages earned and due, interest, penalties, expenses and costs of suit.
19	FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION
20	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED REST PERIODS
21	(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 & 512)
22	(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS and against all
23	Defendants)
24	108. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS,
25	reallege and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of
26	this Complaint.
27	109. From time to time, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS
28	Members were required to work in excess of four (4) hours without being provided ten (10) minute

1	rest periods. Further, these employees were denied their first rest periods of at least ten (10)
2	minutes for some shifts worked of at least two (2) to four (4) hours, a first and second rest period
3	of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of between six (6) and eight (8) hours, and a
4	first, second and third rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of ten (10)
5	hours or more. PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members were also
6	not provided with one hour wages in lieu thereof. As a result of their rigorous work schedules,
7	PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members were periodically denied
8	their proper rest periods by DEFENDANT and DEFENDANT's managers. In addition, because
9	of DEFENDANT's pay plan for PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS
10	Members (being paid a flat rate only), DEFENDANT failed to compensate PLAINTIFF and
11	CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB- CLASS Members for their rest periods as required by the
12	applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. DEFENDANT did not have a policy or practice which
13	paid for off-duty rest periods to PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS
14	Members when they were paid piece rate pay only. As a result, DEFENDANT's failure to provide
15	PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members with all the legally required
16	paid rest periods is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records.
17	110. DEFENDANT further violated California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and the applicable
18	IWC Wage Order by failing to compensate PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
19	CLASS Members who were not provided a rest period, in accordance with the applicable Wage

e Order, one additional hour of compensation at each employee's regular rate of pay for each workday that rest period was not provided.

As a proximate result of the aforementioned violations, PLAINTIFF and 111. CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-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.

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114. When DEFENDANT did not accurately record PLAINTIFF's and other
CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members' wages, and missed meal and rest breaks, and
separately compensated rest periods, DEFENDANT violated Cal. Lab. Code § 226 in that
DEFENDANT failed to provide an accurate wage statement in writing that properly and
accurately itemizes all wages, and missed meal and rest periods and reporting time wages owed
to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS and thereby
also failed to set forth the correct wages earned by the employees. Aside from the violations listed
above in this paragraph, DEFENDANT failed to issue to PLAINTIFF an itemized wage statement
that lists all the requirements under California Labor Code 226 et seq.

§ 226, causing injury and damages to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-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 LABOR SUB-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 LABOR SUB-CLASS herein).

# **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### FAILURE TO PAY WAGES WHEN DUE

(Cal. Lab. Code § 203)

# (Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS and against all Defendants)

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

117. 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.
- 118. Cal. Lab. Code § 201 provides, in relevant part, that "If an employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately."
  - 119. Cal. Lab. Code § 202 provides, in relevant part, that:

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

- 120. There was no definite term in PLAINTIFF's or any CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members' employment contract.
  - 121. Cal. Lab. Code § 203 provides:

If an employer willfully fails to pay, without abatement or reduction, in accordance with Sections 201, 201.5, 202, and 205.5, any wages of an employee who is discharged or who quits, the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date thereof at

1	members for required expenses incurred in the discharge of their job duties for DEFENDANT'S
2	benefit. DEFENDANT failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
3	CLASS members for expenses which included, but were not limited to, costs related to using their
4	personal cellular phones and personal vehicles all on behalf of and for the benefit of
5	DEFENDANT. Specifically, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were
6	required by DEFENDANT to use their personal cell phones and personal vehicles for work-
7	related business. DEFENDANT'S uniform policy, practice and procedure was to not reimburse
8	PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS members for expenses resulting from
9	using their personal cellular phones and personal vehicles for DEFENDANT within the course
10	and scope of their employment for DEFENDANT. These expenses were necessary to complete
11	their principal job duties. DEFENDANT are estopped by DEFENDANT'S conduct to assert any
12	waiver of this expectation. Although these expenses were necessary expenses incurred by
13	PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS members, DEFENDANT failed to
14	indemnify and reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS members
15	for these expenses as an employer is required to do under the laws and regulations of California.
16	127. PLAINTIFF therefore demand reimbursement for expenditures or losses incurred

by them and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-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.

# **NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

# RETALIATION - Cal. Lab. Code §§ 98.6, 1102.5 and 6310 (Alleged by PLAINTIFF and against all DEFENDANTS)

- 128. PLAINTIFF realleges and incorporates by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 129. At all relevant times, California Labor Code section 98.6 was in effect and was binding on DEFENDANT. This statute prohibits DEFENDANT from retaliating against any employee, including PLAINTIFF, for raising complaints of illegality and/or belief that the employee may disclose illegality regarding Labor Code violations.

- 130. At all relevant times, California Labor Code section 1102.5 was in effect and was binding on DEFENDANT. This statute prohibits DEFENDANT from retaliating against any employee, including PLAINTIFF, for raising complaints of illegality and/or belief that the employee may disclose illegality.
- 131. PLAINTIFF raised complaints of illegality while he worked for DEFENDANT, and DEFENDANT retaliated against him by taking adverse employment actions including decreasing PLAINTIFF'S piece-rate rates and misplacing his voucher forms, which have directly decreased PLAINTIFF'S compensation for work performed for DEFENDANT.
- 132. As a proximate result of DEFENDANT's willful, knowing, and intentional violation(s) of Labor Code sections 98.6, 1102.5, PLAINTIFF has suffered and continues to suffer humiliation, emotional distress, and mental and physical pain and anguish, all to his damage in a sum according to proof.
- 133. As a result of DEFENDANT's adverse employment actions against PLAINTIFF, PLAINTIFF has suffered general and special damages in sums according to proof.
- 134. DEFENDANT's misconduct was committed intentionally, in a malicious, oppressive manner, and fraudulent manner, entitling PLAINTIFF to punitive damages against DEFENDANT.

#### **TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

# VIOLATION OF THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT

(Cal. Lab. Code §§2698 et seq.)

# (Alleged by PLAINTIFF against all Defendants)

- 135. PLAINTIFF realleges and incorporates by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 136. 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

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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.

137. 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 December 8, 2021 until the present (the "AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES").

138. On December 8, 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 Complaint has expired. As a result, pursuant to Section 2699.3, Plaintiff may now commence a representative civil action under PAGA pursuant to Section 2699 as the proxy of the State of California with respect to all AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES as herein defined.

139. The policies, acts and practices heretofore described were and are an unlawful business act or practice because DEFENDANTS (a) failed to pay AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES minimum wages and overtime wages, (b) failed to provide AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES legally required meal and rest breaks, (c) failed to pay AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES at the correct regular rate of pay, (d) failed to pay AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for all time worked, (e) failed to pay AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for rest periods and non-productive time at the correct regular rate of pay, and (f) failed to timely pay wages, all in violation of the applicable Labor Code sections listed in Labor Code §2699.5, including but not limited to Labor Code §§ 201, 201.3, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 558, 1174(d), 1174.5, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1197.14, 1198, 1199, 2802, and 2804, and the applicable Industrial Wage Order(s), and thereby gives rise to statutory penalties as a result of such conduct. PLAINTIFF hereby seeks recovery of civil penalties as prescribed by the Labor Code Private

which a violation occurs and one hundred dollars (\$100) per each member of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS for each violation in a subsequent pay period, not exceeding an aggregate penalty of four thousand dollars (\$4,000), and an award of costs for violation of Cal. Lab. Code § 226

- e. The wages of all terminated employees from the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as a penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or until an action therefore is commenced, in accordance with Cal. Lab. Code § 203.
- 3. On PLAINTIFF'S individual claims:
  - a. For all special damages which were sustained as a result of DEFENDANT's
    conduct, including but not limited to, back pay, front pay, lost compensation and job
    benefits that PLAINTIFF would have received but for the practices of
    DEFENDANT;
  - b. For all exemplary damages, according to proof, which were sustained as a result of DEFENDANT's conduct.
  - c. An award of interest, including prejudgment interest at the legal rate;
  - d. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable; and
  - e. An award of penalties, attorneys' fees and costs of suit, as allowable under the law.
- 4. On behalf of the State of California and with respect to all AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEYES: Recovery of civil penalties as prescribe by the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004;

1	5.	On all claims:	
2		a. An award of interest, including prejudgment interest at the legal rate;	
3		b. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable; and	
4		c. An award of penalties, attorneys' fees and costs of suit, as allowable under the law.	
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6	DATED:	February 14, 2023 JCL LAW FIRM, APC	
7		By:	
8		Jean-Claude Lapuyade	
9		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 14, 2023 **JCL LAW FIRM, APC** Jean-Claude Lapuyade Attorney for PLAINTIFF

# **EXHIBIT 1**



Client # 56501 **December 8, 2022** 

# Via Online Filing to LWDA and Certified Mail to Defendant Labor and Workforce Development Agency Online Filing

#### PACIFIC PRODUCTION PLUMBING

c/o C T Corporation System
28 Liberty Street
New York, NY 10005
Via Certified U.S. Mail with Return Receipt No. 7022 2410 0000 2184 0102

c/o C T Corporation System
Registered Agent
330 N. Brand Blvd., Suite 700
Glendale, CA 91203
Via Certified U.S. Mail with Return Receipt No. 7022 2410 0000 2184 0119

Re: Notice of Violations of California Labor Code Sections 201, 201.3, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 558, 1174(d), 1174.5, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1197.14, 1198, 1199, 2802, and 2804, 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 THOMAS E. WEATHERMON III ("Plaintiff"), and other aggrieved employees in a proposed lawsuit against Defendant PACIFIC PRODUCTION PLUMBING ("Defendant"). Plaintiff has been employed by Defendant in California since August of 2018 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. Plaintiff also worked at times for Defendant as a piece-rate based employee entitled to be separately compensated for his non-productive time, including rest periods. Defendant, 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, Defendant failed to timely pay Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees for earned wages.

As a consequence of the aforementioned violations, Plaintiff further contends that Defendant failed to provide accurate wage statements to him, and other aggrieved employees, in violation of California Labor Code section 226(a). Said conduct, in addition to the foregoing Labor Code §§ 201, 201.3, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 558, 1174(d), 1174.5, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1197.14, 1198, 1199, 2802, and 2804, violates the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order(s), and is therefore actionable under California Labor Code section 2699.3.

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

A true and correct copy of the proposed Complaint by Plaintiff against Defendant, which (1) identifies the alleged violations, (2) details the facts and theories which support the alleged violations, (3) details the specific work performed by Plaintiff, (4) sets forth the people/entities, dates, classifications, violations, events, and actions which are at issue to the extent known to Plaintiff, and (5) sets forth the illegal practices used by Defendant, is attached hereto. This information provides notice to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency of the facts and theories supporting the alleged violations for the agency's reference. Plaintiff therefore incorporates the allegations of the attached Complaint into this letter as if fully set forth herein. If the agency needs any further information, please do not hesitate to ask.

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

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

Sincerely,

Shani O. Zakay Attorney for Plaintiff

1	ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC Shani O. Zakay (State Bar #277924)				
	Jackland K. Hom (State Bar #327243)				
2	Julieann Alvarado (State Bar #334727)				
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,	San Diego, CA 92121				
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5	shani@zakaylaw.com				
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	julieann@zakaylaw.com				
7	ICLIAW FIDM ADC				
8	JCL LAW FIRM, APC Jean-Claude Lapuyade (State Bar #248676)				
	Sydney Castillo-Johnson (State Bar #343881)				
9	Monnett De La Torre (State Bar #272884)				
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12	jlapuyade@jcl-lawfirm.com				
12	scastillo@jcl-lawfirm.com				
13	mdelatorre@jcl-lawfirm.com				
14	Attorneys for Plaintiff				
15					
16	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA				
	IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO				
17					
18	THOMAS E. WEATHERMON III, an	Case No:			
19	individual, on behalf of himself and on behalf of all persons similarly situated,	<b>CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR:</b>			
	an persons similarly situated,				
20	Plaintiff,	1) UNFAIR COMPETITION IN VIOLATION OF CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE §17200			
21	V.	seq; 2) FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES I			
22	PACIFIC PRODUCTION PLUMBING, a	VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §			
22	California corporation; and DOES 1-50,	1194, 1197 & 1197.1; 3) FAILURE TO PAY OVERTIME WAGE			
23	Inclusive,	IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §			
24	Defendants.	510 et seq; 4) FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRE			
	Defendants.	MEAL PERIODS IN VIOLATIÒN O			
25		CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 226.7 & 512 AN THE APPLICABLE IWC WAGE ORDER			
26		5) FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRE			
27		REST PERIODS IN VIOLATION OF CAI LAB. CODE §§ 226.7 & 512 AND TH			
		APPLICABLE IWC WAGE ORDER;			
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1 2	6) FAILURE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE ITEMIZED STATEMENTS IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE § 226 7) FAILURE TO PROVIDE WAGES WHEN
3	DUE IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAE CODE §§ 201, 202 AND 203;
4	8) FAILURE TO REIMBURSE EMPLOYEES FOR REQUIRED EXPENSES IN
5	VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE § 2802 9) RETALIATION IN VIOLATION OF CAL LAB. CODE §§ 98.6 and 1102.5.
6	DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL
7	
8	PlaintiffTHOMAS E. WEATHERMON III ("PLAINTIFF"), an individual, on behalf
9	of himself and all other similarly situated current and former employees, alleges on information and
10	belief, except for his own acts and knowledge which are based on personal knowledge, the
11	following:
12	THE PARTIES
13	1. Defendant PACIFIC PRODUCTION PLUMBING ("DEFENDANT" and/or
14	"DEFENDANTS") is a California corporation that at all relevant times mentioned herein
15	conducted and continues to conduct substantial and regular business in the state of California
16	2. DEFENDANTS provide plumbing services to private, commercial and
17	constriction company customers in the state of California, including San Diego County, where
18	PLAINTIFF worked.
19	3. PLAINTIFF has been employed by DEFENDANTS in California since August of
20	2018 as a foreman, and was at all times classified by DEFENDANTS as a non-exempt employee,
21	paid on a piece-rate basis, and entitled to the legally required meal and rest periods and payment
22	of minimum and overtime wages due for all time worked. PLAINTIFF was paid by piece-rate
23	only while he was performing installation jobs for DEFENDANTS in accordance with
24	DEFENDANTS' compensation package. Importantly, PLAINTIFF was not provided with
25	minimum wages for his non-production work time. PLAINTIFF also did not receive paid rest
26	breaks as required by California law. DEFENDANTS failed to pay PLAINTIFF the correct
27	amount of compensation because DEFENDANTS established an illegal pay practice of paying
	   PLAINTIFF on a piece rate basis when conducting installation jobs assigned by DEFENDANTS

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DEFENDANTS however failed to pay minimum wages for compensable time worked, including time spent traveling between jobs, and time spent preparing for jobs by purchasing and gathering the required materials for each job. DEFENDANTS also failed to pay PLAINTIFF any overtime wages for all overtime worked, thereby uniformly resulting in PLAINTIFF being underpaid for all time worked during his employment, including overtime worked. To date, DEFENDANTS have not fully and timely paid the PLAINTIFF for all his wages still owed to him or any penalty wages owed to him under California Labor Code § 203.

- 4. PLAINTIFF brings this Class Action on behalf of himself and a California class, defined as all persons who are or previously were employed by DEFENDANTS in California who were classified as non-exempt employees, including those who were paid in whole or in part on a piece rate basis (the "CALIFORNIA CLASS") at any time during the period beginning four years from the date of filing of this Complaint and ending on the date as determined by the Court (the "CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD"). The amount in controversy for the aggregate claim of the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members is under five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00).
- 5. PLAINTIFF brings this Class Action on behalf of himself and a CALIFORNIA CLASS in order to fully compensate the CALIFORNIA CLASS for their losses incurred during the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD caused by DEFENDANTS' uniform policy and practice which failed to lawfully compensate these employees. DEFENDANTS' uniform policy and practice alleged herein was an unlawful, unfair, and deceptive business practice whereby DEFENDANTS retained and continue to retain wages due PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS seek an injunction enjoining such conduct by DEFENDANTS in the future, relief for the named PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS who have been economically injured by DEFENDANTS' past and current unlawful conduct, and all other appropriate legal and equitable relief.
- 6. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, subsidiary, partnership, associate or otherwise of defendants DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are presently unknown to PLAINTIFF who therefore sues these Defendants by such fictitious names pursuant

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to Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 474. PLAINTIFF will seek leave to amend this Complaint to allege the true names and capacities of Does 1 through 50, inclusive, when they are ascertained. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and based upon that information and belief alleges, that the Defendants named in this Complaint, including DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are responsible in some manner for one or more of the events and happenings that proximately caused the injuries and damages hereinafter alleged

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

#### THE CONDUCT

8. Pursuant to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, DEFENDANTS were required to pay PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all their time worked, meaning the time during which an employee is subject to the control of an employer, including all the time the employee is suffered or permitted to work. DEFENDANTS required PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to work without paying them for all the time they were under DEFENDANTS' control. Importantly, PLAINTIFF was not provided with minimum wages for all of his non-installation work time when DEFENDANTS only paid PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members a flat piece rate per job, regardless of how many hours were worked, and regardless of how much time was spent working before or after each job. PLAINTIFF also did not receive compliant meal breaks as required by California law when being paid a piece rate by DEFENDANT. As a result, the PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members forfeited minimum wage and overtime compensation by regularly working without their time being accurately recorded and without compensation at the applicable minimum wage and

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overtime rates, or separate compensation for rest breaks. DEFENDANTS' uniform policy and practice not to pay PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all time worked is evidenced by DEFENDANTS' business records.

# A. Meal Break Violations

- 9. Pursuant to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, DEFENDANT was required to pay PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all their time worked, meaning the time during which an employee is subject to the control of an employer, including all the time the employee is suffered or permitted to work. From time-to-time during the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to work without paying them for all the time they were under DEFENDANT's control. Specifically, as a result of PLAINTIFF's demanding work requirements and DEFENDANT'S understaffing, DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFF to work during what was supposed to be PLAINTIFF's off-duty meal break. Indeed, there were many days where PLAINTIFF did not even receive a partial lunch. As a result, the PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members forfeited minimum wage and overtime wages by regularly working without their time being accurately recorded and without compensation at the applicable minimum wage and overtime rates. DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice not to pay PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all time worked is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records.
- 10. From time-to-time during the CLASS PERIOD, as a result of their rigorous work requirements and DEFENDANT's inadequate staffing practices, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were from time to time unable to take thirty (30) minute off-duty meal breaks and were not fully relieved of duty for their meal periods. PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required from time to time to perform work as ordered by DEFENDANT for more than five (5) hours during some shifts without receiving a meal break. Further, DEFENDANT from time to time failed to provide PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with a second off-duty meal period for some workdays in which these employees were required by DEFENDANT to work ten (10) hours of work from time to time. Specifically, PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were from time to time

required to perform work-related tasks for DEFENDANTS' supervisors and clients during what was supposed to be their off-duty meal periods. Additionally, PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required to carry cordless communication devices in order to receive and respond to work-related communications during their off-duty meal periods. The nature of the work performed by PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members does not qualify for limited and narrowly construed "on-duty" meal period exception. When they were provided with meal periods, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were, from time to time, required to remain on duty, on call and/or on premises. PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members therefore forfeited meal breaks without additional compensation and in accordance with DEFENDANT's strict corporate policy and practice.

# **B.** Rest Break Violations

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- 11. During the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were also required to work in excess of four (4) hours without being provided ten (10) minute rest periods. Further, these employees were denied their first rest periods of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of at least two (2) to four (4) hours from time to time, a first and second rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of between six (6) and eight (8) hours from time to time, and a first, second and third rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of ten (10) hours or more from time to time. PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were also not provided with one-hour wages in lieu thereof. As a result of their rigorous work schedules, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were from time to time denied their proper rest periods by DEFENDANTS and DEFENDANTS' managers. Additionally, PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required to carry cordless communication devices in order to receive and respond to work-related communications during their off-duty rest periods. When they were provided with rest breaks, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were, from time to time, required to remain on duty, on call and/or on premises.
- 12. In addition, because of DEFENDANTS' pay plan for PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members (being paid a flat rate per-job only), DEFENDANTS failed to

compensate PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for their rest periods as required by the applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. DEFENDANTS did not have a policy or practice which paid for off-duty rest periods to PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members when they were paid piece rate pay only. As a result, DEFENDANTS' failure to provide PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with all the legally required paid rest periods is evidenced by DEFENDANTS' business records.

# C. Wage Statement Violations

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- 13. California Labor Code Section 226 requires an employer to furnish its employees an accurate itemized statement in writing showing (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece-rate, (4) all deductions, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee and only the last four digits of the employee's social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer and, (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.
- 14. When PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were from time to time required to miss meal and rest breaks, and/or were not paid all minimum and overtime wages owed to them, DEFENDANTS also failed to provide PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with complete and accurate wage statements which failed to show, among other things, the correct wages paid, including the wages paid for missed meal and rest breaks. Cal. Lab. Code § 226 provides that every employer shall furnish each of his or her employees with an accurate itemized wage statement in writing showing, among other things, gross wages earned and all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding amount of time worked at each hourly rate. Aside from the violations listed above in this paragraph, DEFENDANTS failed to issue to PLAINTIFF an itemized wage statement that lists all the requirements under California Labor Code 226 et seq. As a result, DEFENDANTS from time to time provided PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with wage statements which violated Cal. Lab. Code § 226.

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

16. In the course of their employment, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members as a business expense, were required by DEFENDANTS to use their own personal cellular phones and personal vehicles as a result of and in furtherance of their job duties as employees for DEFENDANTS but were not reimbursed or indemnified by DEFENDANTS for the costs associated with the use of their personal cellular phones and personal vehicles for DEFENDANTS' benefit. Specifically, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required by DEFENDANTS to use their personal cell phones and personal vehicles to conduct work related business. As a result, in the course of their employment with DEFENDANT the PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS incurred unreimbursed business expenses which included, but were not limited to, costs related to the use of their personal cellular phones and personal vehicles all on behalf of and for the benefit of DEFENDANTS.

# E. Minimum Wage and Overtime Violations

17. From time-to-time during the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid in part on a piece-rate basis. In those instances where PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid in part on a piece-rate basis, PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were entitled to be separately compensated for all non-productive

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time at an hourly rate that is no less than the applicable minimum wage. Notwithstanding, in those instances where PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid in part on a piece-rate basis, DEFENDANTS failed to separately compensate PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all non-productive time, including but not limited to, paid rest periods, at an hourly rate that is no less than the applicable minimum wage. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS forfeited minimum wages and overtime wages by DEFENDANTS' failure to separately compensate their non-productive time at an hourly rate that is no less than the applicable minimum wage.

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

- 18. 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.
- 19. 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.
- 20. 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

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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.

- 21. 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 nondiscretionary 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 incentive/bonus program to potential and new employees as part of the compensation package. As a matter of law, the incentive compensation received by PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS members must be included in the "regular rate of pay." The failure to do so has resulted in a systematic underpayment of overtime and double time compensation, meal and rest period premiums, and redeemed sick pay to PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS members by DEFENDANTS. Specifically, California Labor Code Section 246 mandates that paid sick time for non-employees shall be calculated in the same manner as the regular rate of pay for the workweek in which the non-exempt employee uses paid sick time, whether or not the employee actually works overtime in that workweek. DEFENDANTS' conduct, as articulated herein, by failing to include the incentive compensation as part of the "regular rate of pay" for purposes of sick pay compensation was in violation of Cal. Lab. Code § 246 the underpayment of which is recoverable under Cal. Labor Code Sections 201, 202, 203 and/or 204.
- 22. 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 and knowingly failed to compensate PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS at the correct rate of pay for all overtime and double time worked, meal and rest period premiums, and sick pay. This uniform policy and practice of DEFENDANT is intended to purposefully avoid the payment of the correct overtime and double time compensation, meal and rest period premiums, and sick

pay as required by California law which allowed DEFENDANT to illegally profit and gain an unfair advantage over competitors who complied with the law. To the extent equitable tolling operates to toll claims by the CALIFORNIA CLASS members against DEFENDANT, the CLASS PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.

#### **G.** Unlawful Rounding Practices

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- 23. During the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS did not have in place an immutable timekeeping system to accurately record and pay PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for the actual time these employees worked each day, including overtime hours. Specifically, DEFENDANTS had in place an unlawful rounding policy and practice that resulted in PLAINTIFFS and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members being undercompensated for all of their time worked. As a result, DEFENDANTS were able to and did in fact unlawfully, and unilaterally round the time recorded in DEFENDANTS' timekeeping system for PLAINTIFFS and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in order to avoid paying these employees for all their time worked, including the applicable overtime compensation for overtime worked. As a result, PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, from time to time, forfeited compensation for their time worked by working without their time being accurately recorded and without compensation at the applicable overtime rates.
- 24. Further, the mutability of DEFENDANTS' timekeeping system and unlawful rounding policy and practice resulted in PLAINTIFFS and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members' time being inaccurately recorded. As a result, from time to time, DEFENDANTS' unlawful rounding policy and practice caused PLAINTIFFS and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to perform work as ordered by DEFENDANTS for more than five (5) hours during a shift without receiving an off-duty meal break.

# H. Timekeeping Manipulation

25. During the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS, from time-to-time, did not have an immutable timekeeping system to accurately record and pay PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the actual time PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS worked each day, including regular time, overtime hours, sick pay, meal

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

and rest breaks. Specifically, due to DEFENDANT's error-prone timekeeping system, approximately five to eight minutes of PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Member's time worked were taken each day. As a result, DEFENDANT was able to and did in fact, unlawfully, and unilaterally alter the time recorded in DEFENDANTS' timekeeping system for PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in order to avoid paying these employees for all hours worked, applicable overtime compensation, applicable sick pay, missed meal breaks and missed rest break.

- 26. As a result, PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, from time-to-time, forfeited time worked by working without their time being accurately recorded and without compensation at the applicable pay rates.
- 27. The mutability of the timekeeping system also allowed DEFENDANTS to alter employee time records by recording fictitious thirty (30) minute meal breaks in DEFENDANTS' timekeeping system so as to create the appearance that PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS clocked out for thirty (30) minute meal break when in fact the employees were not at all times provided an off-duty meal break. This practice is a direct result of DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice of denying employees uninterrupted thirty (30) minute off-duty meal breaks each day or otherwise compensate them for missed meal breaks.
- 28. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS forfeited wages due them for all hours worked at DEFENDANTS' direction, control and benefit for the time the timekeeping system was inoperable. DEFENDANTS' uniform policy and practice to not pay PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS wages for all hours worked in accordance with applicable law is evidenced by DEFENDANTS' business records.

# I. Violations for Untimely Payment of Wages

29. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 204, PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members were entitled to timely payment of wages during their employment. PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members, from time to time, did not receive payment of all wages, including, but not limited to, overtime wages, minimum wages,

# J. Unlawful Deductions

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

# K. <u>Unfair Competition Violations</u>

- 31. 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 compensate PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for missed meal and rest periods. This uniform policy and practice of DEFENDANT is intended to purposefully avoid the payment for all time worked as required by California law which allows DEFENDANT to illegally profit and gain an unfair advantage over competitors who complied with the law. To the extent equitable tolling operates to toll claims by the CALIFORNIA CLASS against DEFENDANT, the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.
- 32. By reason of this uniform conduct applicable to PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, DEFENDANTS committed acts of unfair competition in violation of the California Unfair Competition law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq. (the "UCL"), by engaging in a uniform company-wide policy, practice, and procedure which failed to accurately calculate and record all missed meal and rest periods by PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members. The proper recording of these employees' missed meal and rest breaks is the DEFENDANTS' burden. As a result of DEFENDANTS' intentional disregard of the obligation to meet this burden, DEFENDANTS failed to properly calculate and/or pay all required compensation for work performed by the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS and violated the California Labor Code and regulations promulgated thereunder as herein alleged.
- 33. Specifically, as to PLAINTIFF, DEFENDANTS failed to provide all the legally required off-duty meal and rest breaks to him as required by the applicable Wage Order and Labor

Code and failed to pay him all minimum and overtime wages due to him. DEFENDANTS did not have a policy or practice which provided timely off-duty meal and rest breaks to PLAINTIFF, and also failed to compensate PLAINTIFF for his missed meal and rest breaks. The nature of the work performed by the PLAINTIFF did not prevent him from being relieved of all of his duties for the legally required off-duty meal periods. As a result, DEFENDANTS' failure to provide PLAINTIFF with the legally required meal periods is evidenced by DEFENDANTS' business records. As a result of DEFENDANTS not accurately recording all missed meal and rest periods and/or the correct overtime rate, and/or separately compensated rest breaks, the wage statements issued to PLAINTIFF by DEFENDANTS violated California law, and in particular, Labor Code Section 226(a). To date, DEFENDANTS have yet to pay PLAINTIFF all of his overtime wages due to him and DEFENDANTS has failed to pay any penalty wages owed to him under California Labor Code Section 203 and/or 204. The amount in controversy for PLAINTIFF individually does not exceed the sum or value of \$75,000.

# L. Plaintiff's Individual Claims

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- 34. PLAINTIFF has been employed by DEFENDANT in California since August of 2018.
- 35. On or around September 27, 2022 and October 27, 2022, PLAINTIFF, through his counsel of record, requested his employee file from DEFENDANT.
- 36. On or around November of 2022, DEFENDANT began instituting a series of adverse employment actions against PLAINTIFF. Specifically, after PLAINTIFF requested his employee file, DEFENDANT began decreasing the amount of compensation PLAINTIFF could earn for his piece-rate work. Additionally, PLAINTIFF began noticing that his vouchers for piece-rate work would go missing, despite having submitted them to DEFENDANT. As a result of the voucher forms going missing, PLAINTIFF'S compensation would also decrease. On information and belief, PLAINTIFF alleges DEFENDANT purposely decreased PLAINTIFF'S piece-rate rates and misplaced his voucher forms as a result of PLAINTIFF requesting his employee file and in retaliation for PLAINTIFF'S legal exercise of his right to do so pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226, 432 and 1198.5.

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37. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and upon such information and belief alleges that, DEFENDANT'S conduct in decreasing his piece-rate rates and misplacing his voucher forms was part of a pattern of behavior by DEFENDANT aimed at discrimination, harassment, and retaliation against PLAINTIFF for exercising his legal right to do so pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226, 432 and 1198.5.

# **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 38. 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 PLAINTIFFS and similarly situated employees of DEFENDANTS pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382.
- 39. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure, Sections 395 and 395.5, because PLAINTIFF worked in this County for DEFENDANTS and DEFENDANTS (i) currently maintain and at all relevant times maintained offices and facilities in this County and/or conducts substantial business in this County, and (ii) committed the wrongful conduct herein alleged in this County against members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

#### THE CALIFORNIA CLASS

- 40. PLAINTIFF brings the First Cause of Action for Unfair, Unlawful and Deceptive Business Practices pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq. (the "UCL") as a Class Action, pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382, on behalf of a California class, defined as all persons who are or previously were employed by DEFENDANTS in California who were classified as non-exempt employees, including those who were paid in whole or in part on a piece rate basis (the "CALIFORNIA CLASS") at any time during the period beginning four years from the date of the filing of this Complaint and ending on the date as determined by the Court (the "CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD") The amount in controversy for the aggregate claim of the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members is under five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00).
- 41. To the extent equitable tolling operates to toll claims by the CALIFORNIA CLASS against DEFENDANTS, the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.

- 42. DEFENDANTS, as a matter of company policy, practice, and procedure, and in violation of the applicable Labor Code, Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") Wage Order requirements, and the applicable provisions of California law, intentionally, knowingly, and willfully, engaged in a practice whereby DEFENDANTS systematically failed 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.
- CALIFORNIA CLASS Member was paid accurately for all meal and rest breaks missed as required by California laws. DEFENDANTS, however, as a matter of uniform and systematic policy and procedure failed to have in place during the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD and still fail to have in place a policy or practice to ensure that each and every CALIFORNIA CLASS Member is paid as required by law. This common business practice is applicable to each and every CALIFORNIA CLASS Member can be adjudicated on a class- wide basis as unlawful, unfair, and/or deceptive under Cal. Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* (the "UCL") as causation, damages, and reliance are not elements of this claim.
- 44. The CALIFONRIA CLASS is so numerous that joinder of all CALIFORNIA CLASS Members is impracticable.
- 45. DEFENDANTS uniformly violated the rights of the CALIFORNIA CLASS under California law by:
  - a. Committing an act of unfair competition in violation of, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq. (the "UCL"), by unlawfully, unfairly and/or deceptively having in place company policies, practices and procedures that uniformly and systematically failed to record and pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all time worked, including minimum wages owed and overtime wages owed for work performed by these employees;

- b. Committing an act of unfair competition in violation of the UCL, by failing to provide mandatory meal and/or rest breaks to PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members; and
- c. Committing an act of unfair competition in violation of the UCL, by failing to separately compensate PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for their rest breaks.
- 46. The Class Action meets the statutory prerequisites for the maintenance of a Class Action as set forth in Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382, in that:
  - a. The persons who comprise the CALIFORNIA CLASS are so numerous that the joinder of all such persons is impracticable and the disposition of their claims as a class will benefit the parties and the Court;
  - Nearly all factual, legal, statutory, declaratory and injunctive relief issues that are raised in this Complaint are common to the CALIFORNIA CLASS will apply uniformly to every member of the CALIFORNIA CLASS;
  - c. The claims of the representative PLAINTIFF are typical of the claims of each member of the CALIFORNIA CLASS. PLAINTIFF, like all the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, was classified as a non-exempt employee paid on a piece-rate basis who was subjected to the DEFENDANTS' deceptive practice and policy which failed to provide the legally required meal and rest periods to the CALIFORNIA CLASS and thereby systematically underpaid compensation to PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS. PLAINTIFF sustained economic injury as a result of DEFENDANTS' employment practices. PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were and are similarly or identically harmed by the same unlawful, deceptive, unfair and pervasive pattern of misconduct engaged in by DEFENDANTS; and
  - d. The representative PLAINTIFF will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interest of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, and have retained counsel who are competent and experienced in Class Action litigation. There are no material

conflicts between the claims of the representative PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS that would make class certification inappropriate. Counsel for the CALIFORNIA CLASS will vigorously assert the claims of all CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

- 47. In addition to meeting the statutory prerequisites to a Class Action, this action is properly maintained as a Class Action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382, in that:
  - a. 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:
    - 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;
    - ii. Adjudication with respect to individual members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS which would as a practical matter be dispositive of interests of the other members not party to the adjudication or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests.
  - b. The parties opposing the CALIFORNIA CLASS have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the CALIFORNIA CLASS, making appropriate class-wide relief with respect to the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a whole in that DEFENDANTS uniformly failed to pay all wages due to members of the CALIFONRIA CLASS as required by law;
    - i. With respect to the First Cause of Action, the final relief on behalf of the CALIFORNIA CLASS sought does not relate exclusively to restitution because through this claim PLAINTIFF seeks declaratory relief holding that the DEFENDANTS' policy and practices constitute unfair competition, along with declaratory relief, injunctive relief, and incidental

equitable relief as may be necessary to prevent and remedy the conduct declared to constitute unfair competition;

- c. Common questions of law and fact exist as to the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, with respect to the practices and violations of California law as listed above, and predominate over any question affecting only individual CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, and a Class Action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy, including consideration of:
  - i. The interests of the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in individually controlling the prosecution or defense of separate actions in that the substantial expense of individual actions will be avoided to recover the relatively small amount of economic losses sustained by the individual CALIFORNIA CLASS Members when compared to the substantial expense and burden of individual prosecution of this litigation;
  - ii. Class certification will obviate the need for unduly duplicative litigation that would create the risk of:
    - Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, which would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the DEFENDANTS; and/or;
    - Adjudications with respect to individual members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS would as a practical matter be dispositive of the interests of the other members not parties to the adjudication or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests;
  - iii. In the context of wage litigation, because a substantial number of individual CALIFORNIA CLASS Members will avoid asserting their legal rights out of fear of retaliation by DEFENDANTS, which may adversely affect an individual's job with DEFENDANTS or with a subsequent

employer, the Class Action is the only means to assert their claims through a representative; and

- iv. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this litigation because class treatment will obviate the need for unduly and unnecessary duplicative litigation that is likely to result in the absence of certification of this action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382.
- 48. The Court should permit this action to be maintained as a Class Action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382 because:
  - a. The questions of law and fact common to the CALIFORNIA CLASS predominate over any question affecting only individual CALIFORNIA CLASS Members because the DEFENDANTS' employment practices were uniform and systematically applied with respect to the CALIFORNIA CLASS.
  - b. A Class Action is superior to any other available method for the fair and efficient adjudication of the claims of the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS because in the context of employment litigation a substantial number of individual CALIFORNIA CLASS Members will avoid asserting their rights individually out of fear of retaliation or adverse impact on their employment;
  - c. The members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are so numerous that it is impractical to bring all members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS before the Court;
  - d. PLAINTIFF, and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, will not be able to obtain effective and economic legal redress unless the action is maintained as a Class Action;
  - e. There is a community of interest in obtaining appropriate legal and equitable relief for the acts of unfair competition, statutory violations and other improprieties, and in obtaining adequate compensation for the damages and injuries which DEFENDANTS' actions have inflicted upon the CALIFORNIA CLASS;

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- f. There is a community of interest in ensuring that the combined assets of DEFENDANTS are sufficient to adequately compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the injuries sustained;
- g. DEFENDANTS have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the CALIFORNIA CLASS, thereby making final class-wide relief appropriate with respect to the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a whole;
- h. The members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are readily ascertainable from the business records of DEFENDANTS; and
- i. 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 DEFENDANTS as to the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.
- 49. DEFENDANTS maintain records from which the Court can ascertain and identify by job title each of DEFENDANTS' employees who as have been systematically, intentionally, and uniformly subjected to DEFENDANTS' company policy, practices and procedures as herein alleged. PLAINTIFF will seek leave to amend the Complaint to include any additional job titles of similarly situated employees when they have been identified.

### **THE CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS**

50. PLAINTIFF further brings the Second, Third, Fourth Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth causes of Action on behalf of a California sub-class, defined as all persons who are or previously were employed by Defendant Dreamstyle LLC and/or Defendant Dreamstyle Inc. and/or Defendant Dreamstyle Remodeling in California who were classified as non-exempt employees, including those who were paid in whole or in part on a piece rate basis (the "CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS") at any time during the period beginning three years from the date of the filing of this Complaint and ending on the date as determined by the Court (the "CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD") pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382. The amount in controversy for the aggregate claim of CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members is under five million dollars (\$5,000,000.000).

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- 51. DEFENDANTS, as a matter of company policy, practice and procedure, and in violation of the applicable Labor Code, Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") Wage Order requirements, and the applicable provisions of California law, intentionally, knowingly, willfully, and systematically willfully, engaged in a practice whereby DEFENDANTS failed to correctly calculate compensation for the time worked by PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS and separately compensated rest breaks owed to these employees, even though DEFENDANTS enjoyed the benefit of this work, required employees to perform this work and permitted or suffered to permit this work. DEFENDANTS have uniformly denied these CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members wages to which these employees are entitled in order to unfairly cheat the competition and unlawfully profit. To the extent equitable tolling operates to toll claims by the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS against DEFENDANTS, the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.
- 52. DEFENDANTS maintain records from which the Court can ascertain and identify by name and job title, each of DEFENDANTS' employees who have been systematically, intentionally, and uniformly subjected to DEFENDANTS' company policy, practices, and procedures as herein alleged. PLAINTIFF will seek leave to amend the Complaint to include these additional job titles when they have been identified.
- 53. The CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS is so numerous that joinder of all CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members is impracticable.
- 54. Common questions of law and fact exist as to members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, including, but not limited, to the following:
  - a. Whether DEFENDANTS unlawfully failed to correctly calculate and pay compensation due to members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS for minimum wages, overtime wages, missed meal and rest breaks in violation of the California Labor Code and California regulations and the applicable California Wage Order;

- b. Whether DEFENDANTS failed to provide the PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS with accurate itemized wage statements:
- c. Whether DEFENDANTS have engaged in unfair competition by the above-listed conduct;
- d. The proper measure of damages and penalties owed to the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS; and
- e. Whether DEFENDANTS' conduct was willful.
- 55. DEFENDANTS violated the rights of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS under California law by:
  - a. Violating Cal. Lab. Code §§ 510, et seq., by failing to correctly pay the PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB- CLASS all wages due for overtime worked, for which DEFENDANTS are liable pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 1194;
  - b. Violating Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194, 1197 & 1197.1 et seq., by failing to accurately pay PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS the correct minimum wage pay for which DEFENDANTS are liable pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194 and 1197;
  - c. Violating Cal. Lab. Code § 226, by failing to provide PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS with an accurate itemized statement in writing showing the corresponding correct amount of wages earned by the employee;
  - d. Violating Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 and 512, by failing to provide PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with all legally required off-duty, uninterrupted thirty (30) minute meal breaks and the legally required rest breaks, and to separately compensate PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for rest breaks;

- e. Violating Cal. Lab. Code §201, 202 and/or 203, which provides that when an employee is discharged or quits from employment, the employer must pay the employee all wages due without abatement, by failing to tender full payment and/or restitution of wages owed or in the manner required by California law to the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS who have terminated their employment.
- 56. This Class Action meets the statutory prerequisites for the maintenance of a Class Action as set forth in Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382, in that:
  - a. The persons who comprise the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS are so numerous that the joinder of all CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members is impracticable and the disposition of their claims as a class will benefit the parties and the Court;
  - Nearly all factual, legal, statutory, declaratory and injunctive relief issues that are raised in this Complaint are common to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS and will apply uniformly to every member of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS;
  - c. The claims of the representative PLAINTIFF are typical of the claims of each member of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS. PLAINTIFF, like all the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, was a non-exempt employee paid on a piece-rate basis who was subjected to the DEFENDANTS' practice and policy which failed to pay the correct amount of wages due to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS. PLAINTIFF sustained economic injury as a result of DEFENDANTS' employment practices. PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS were and are similarly or identically harmed by the same unlawful, deceptive, unfair, and pervasive pattern of misconduct engaged in by DEFENDANTS; and
  - d. The representative PLAINTIFF will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interest of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, and has retained counsel

who are competent and experienced in Class Action litigation. There are no material conflicts between the claims of the representative PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS that would make class certification inappropriate. Counsel for the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS will vigorously assert the claims of all CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members.

- 57. In addition to meeting the statutory prerequisites to a Class Action, this action is properly maintained as a Class Action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382, in that:
  - a. 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 LABOR SUB-CLASS will create the risk of:
    - Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members
      of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS which would establish
      incompatible standards of conduct for the parties opposing the
      CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS; or
    - ii. Adjudication with respect to individual members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS which would as a practical matter be dispositive of interests of the other members not party to the adjudication or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests.
  - b. The parties opposing the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, making appropriate class-wide relief with respect to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as a whole in that DEFENDANTS uniformly fail to pay all wages due. Including the correct wages for all time worked by the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as required by law;
  - c. Common questions of law and fact predominate as to the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, with respect to the practices and violations

of California Law as listed above, and predominate over any question affecting only individual CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members, and a Class Action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy, including consideration of:

- i. The interests of the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS in individually controlling the prosecution or defense of separate actions in that the substantial expense of individual actions will be avoided to recover the relatively small amount of economic losses sustained by the individual CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members when compared to the substantial expense and burden of individual prosecution of this litigation;
- ii. Class certification will obviate the need for unduly duplicative litigation that would create the risk of:
  - Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, which would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the DEFENDANT; and/or,
  - Adjudications with respect to individual members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS would as a practical matter be dispositive of the interests of the other members not parties to the adjudication or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests;
- iii. In the context of wage litigation because a substantial number of individual CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members will avoid asserting their legal rights out of fear of retaliation by DEFENDANT, which may adversely affect an individual's job with DEFENDANT or with a subsequent employer, the Class Action is the only means to assert their claims through a representative; and,

- iv. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this litigation because class treatment will obviate the need for unduly and unnecessary duplicative litigation that is likely to result in the absence of certification of this action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382.
- 58. This Court should permit this action to be maintained as a Class Action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382 because:
  - a. The questions of law and fact common to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS predominate over any question affecting only individual CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members;
  - b. A Class Action is superior to any other available method for the fair and efficient adjudication of the claims of the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS because in the context of employment litigation a substantial number of individual CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members will avoid asserting their rights individually out of fear of retaliation or adverse impact on their employment;
  - c. The members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS are so numerous that it is impractical to bring all members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS before the Court;
  - d. PLAINTIFF, and the other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members, will not be able to obtain effective and economic legal redress unless the action is maintained as a Class Action;
  - e. There is a community of interest in obtaining appropriate legal and equitable relief for the acts of unfair competition, statutory violations and other improprieties, and in obtaining adequate compensation for the damages and injuries which DEFENDANT's actions have inflicted upon the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUBCLASS;

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Any person who engages, has engaged, or proposes to engage in unfair competition 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 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).

- 62. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT has engaged and continues to engage in a business practice which violates California law, including but not limited to, the applicable Wage Order(s), the California Code of Regulations and the California Labor Code including Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 226, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 558, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, and 2802, for which this Court should issue declaratory and other equitable relief pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203 as may be necessary to prevent and remedy the conduct held to constitute unfair competition, including restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.
- 63. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were unlawful and unfair in that these practices violated public policy, were immoral, unethical, oppressive unscrupulous or substantially injurious to employees, and were without valid justification or utility for which this Court should issue equitable and injunctive relief pursuant to Section 17203 of the California Business & Professions Code, including restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.
- 64. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were deceptive and fraudulent in that DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice failed to provide the legally mandated meal and rest periods and the required amount of compensation for missed meal and rest periods and, 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 issue injunctive and equitable relief, pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203, including restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.
- 65. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were also unlawful, unfair and deceptive in that DEFENDANT's employment practices caused PLAINTIFF and the

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other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to be underpaid during their employment with DEFENDANT.

- 66. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were also unfair and deceptive in that DEFENDANT's uniform policies, practices and procedures failed to provide legally required meal and/or rest breaks to PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members as required by Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 and 512.
- Therefore, PLAINTIFF demands on behalf of himself and on behalf of each 67. CALIFORNIA CLASS member, one (1) hour of pay for each workday in which an off-duty meal period was not timely provided for each five (5) hours of work, and/or one (1) hour of pay for each workday in which a second off-duty meal period was not timely provided for each ten (10) hours of work.
- 68. PLAINTIFF further demands on behalf of themselves and on behalf of each CALIFORNIA CLASS member, one (1) hour of pay for each workday in which a rest period was not timely provided as required by law.
- 69. By and through the unlawful and unfair business practices described herein, DEFENDANT has obtained valuable property, money and services from PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, including earned wages for all time worked, and has deprived them of valuable rights and benefits guaranteed by law and contract, all to the detriment of these employees and to the benefit of DEFENDANT so as to allow DEFENDANT to unfairly compete against competitors who comply with the law.
- 70. All the acts described herein as violations of, among other things, the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, the California Code of Regulations, and the California Labor Code, were unlawful and in violation of public policy, were immoral, unethical, oppressive and unscrupulous, were deceptive, and thereby constitute unlawful, unfair and deceptive business practices in violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq.
- 71. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are entitled to, and do, seek such relief as may be necessary to restore to them the money and property which DEFENDANT has acquired, or of which PLAINTIFF and the other members of the

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- 77. Cal. Lab. Code § 1197 provides the minimum wage for employees fixed by the commission is the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a lesser wage than the minimum so fixed is unlawful.
- 78. Cal. Lab. Code § 1194 establishes an employee's right to recover unpaid wages, including minimum wage compensation and interest thereon, together with the costs of suit.
- 79. DEFENDANT maintained a uniform wage practice of paying PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS without regard to the correct amount of time they worked, and instead paying PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS on a piece-rate per-visit basis. As set forth herein, DEFENDANT'S uniform policy and practice was to unlawfully and intentionally deny timely payment of wages due to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS.
- 80. DEFENDANT'S uniform pattern of unlawful wage and hour practices manifested, without limitation, applicable to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as a whole, as a result of implementing a uniform policy and practice that denied accurate compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS in regards to minimum wage pay.
- 81. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, DEFENDANT inaccurately calculated the amount of time worked and consequently underpaid the actual time worked by PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS. DEFENDANT acted in an illegal attempt to avoid the payment of all earned wages, and other benefits in violation of the California Labor Code, the Industrial Welfare Commission requirements and other applicable laws and regulations.
- 82. As a direct result of DEFENDANT'S unlawful wage practices as alleged herein, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS did not receive the minimum wage compensation for all their time worked for DEFENDANT.
- 83. During the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS were paid less for time worked than they were entitled to, constituting a failure to pay all earned wages.

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

- 85. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS are under-compensated for their time worked. DEFENDANT systematically elected, either through intentional malfeasance or gross nonfeasance, to not pay employees for their labor as a matter of uniform corporate policy, practice and procedure, and DEFENDANT perpetrated this systematic scheme by refusing to pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS the correct minimum wages for their time worked.
- 86. In performing the acts and practices herein alleged in violation of California labor laws, and refusing to compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS for all time worked and provide them with the requisite compensation, DEFENDANT acted and continues to act intentionally, oppressively, and maliciously toward PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS with a conscious and utter disregard for their legal rights, or the consequences to them, and with the despicable intent of depriving them of their property and legal rights, and otherwise causing them injury in order to increase company profits at the expense of these employees.
- 87. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS therefore request recovery of all unpaid wages, according to proof, interest, statutory costs, as well as the assessment of any statutory penalties against DEFENDANT, in a sum as provided by the California Labor Code and/or other applicable statutes. To the extent minimum wage compensation is determined to be owed to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members who have terminated their employment, DEFENDANT'S conduct also violates Labor Code §§ 201 and/or 202, and therefore these individuals are also be entitled to waiting time penalties under Cal. Lab. Code § 203, which penalties are sought herein on behalf of these CALIFORNIA

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- 93. During the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members were required by DEFENDANT to work for DEFENDANT and were not paid for all the time they worked, including overtime work.
- 94. DEFENDANT's uniform pattern of unlawful wage and hour practices manifested, without limitation, applicable to the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as a whole, as a result of implementing a uniform policy and practice that failed to accurately record time worked, including overtime worked by PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members and denied accurate compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS for overtime worked, including, the overtime work performed in excess of eight (8) hours in a workday, and/or twelve (12) hours in a workday, and/or forty (40) hours in any workweek.
- 95. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, DEFENDANT inaccurately recorded overtime worked and consequently underpaid the overtime worked by PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR-SUB CLASS Members. DEFENDANT acted in an illegal attempt to avoid the payment of all earned wages, and other benefits in violation of the California Labor Code, the Industrial Welfare Commission requirements and other applicable laws and regulations.
- 96. As a direct result of DEFENDANT's unlawful wage practices as alleged herein, the PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS did not receive full compensation for overtime worked.
- 97. Cal. Lab. Code § 515 sets out various categories of employees who are exempt from the overtime requirements of the law. None of these exemptions are applicable to the PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS. Further, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS were not subject to a valid collective bargaining agreement that would preclude the causes of action contained herein this Complaint. Rather, PLAINTIFF brings this Action on behalf of himself and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS based on DEFENDANT's violations of non-negotiable, non-waivable rights provided by the State of California.

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

- 99. DEFENDANT failed to accurately pay the PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS overtime wages for the time they worked which was in excess of the maximum hours permissible by law as required by Cal. Lab. Code §§ 510, 1194 & 1198, even though PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS were required to work, and did in fact work, overtime as to which DEFENDANT failed to accurately record and pay as evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records and witnessed by employees.
- 100. By virtue of DEFENDANT'S unlawful failure to accurately pay all earned compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS for all overtime worked by these employees, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS have suffered and will continue to suffer an economic injury in amounts which are presently unknown to them and which will be ascertained according to proof at trial.
- 101. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS were under compensated for all overtime worked. DEFENDANT systematically elected, either through intentional malfeasance or gross nonfeasance, to not pay employees for their labor as a matter of uniform company policy, practice and procedure, and DEFENDANT perpetrated this systematic scheme by refusing to pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS for overtime worked.
- 102. In performing the acts and practices herein alleged in violation of California labor laws, and refusing to compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS for all overtime worked and provide them with the requisite overtime compensation, DEFENDANT acted and continues to act intentionally, oppressively, and maliciously toward PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS with a conscious and utter

SUB-CLASS Members as required by the applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. The nature of

the work performed by PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS MEMBERS did

not prevent these employees from being relieved of all of their duties for the legally required off-

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1	duty meal periods. As a result of their rigorous work schedules, PLAINTIFF and other	
2	CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members were often not fully relieved of duty by	
3	DEFENDANT for their meal periods. Additionally, DEFENDANT's failure to provide	
4	PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members with legally required meal	
5	breaks prior to their fifth (5th) hour of work is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records.	
6	Further, DEFENDANT failed to provide PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with	
7	a second off-duty meal period in some workdays in which these employees were required b	
8	DEFENDANT to work ten (10) hours of work. As a result, PLAINTIFF and other members of	
9	the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS forfeited meal breaks without additional compensation	
10	and in accordance with DEFENDANT's strict corporate policy and practice.	
11	106. DEFENDANT further violated California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and the applicable	
12	IWC Wage Order by failing to compensate PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-	
13	CLASS Members who were not provided a meal period, in accordance with the applicable Wage	
14	Order, one additional hour of compensation at each employee's regular rate of pay for each	
15	workday that a meal period was not provided.	
16	107. As a proximate result of the aforementioned violations, PLAINTIFF and	
17	CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members have been damaged in an amount according to	
18	proof at trial, and seek all wages earned and due, interest, penalties, expenses and costs of suit.	
19	FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION	
20	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED REST PERIODS	
21	(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 & 512)	
22	(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS and against all	
23	Defendants)	
24	108. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS,	
25	reallege and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of	
26	this Complaint.	
27	109. From time to time, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS	
28	Members were required to work in excess of four (4) hours without being provided ten (10) minute	

1	rest periods. Further, these employees were denied their first rest periods of at least ten (10)
2	minutes for some shifts worked of at least two (2) to four (4) hours, a first and second rest period
3	of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of between six (6) and eight (8) hours, and a
4	first, second and third rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of ten (10)
5	hours or more. PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members were also
6	not provided with one hour wages in lieu thereof. As a result of their rigorous work schedules,
7	PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members were periodically denied
8	their proper rest periods by DEFENDANT and DEFENDANT's managers. In addition, because
9	of DEFENDANT's pay plan for PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS
10	Members (being paid a flat rate only), DEFENDANT failed to compensate PLAINTIFF and
11	CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB- CLASS Members for their rest periods as required by the
12	applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. DEFENDANT did not have a policy or practice which
13	paid for off-duty rest periods to PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS
14	Members when they were paid piece rate pay only. As a result, DEFENDANT's failure to provide
15	PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members with all the legally required
16	paid rest periods is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records.
17	110. DEFENDANT further violated California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and the applicable
18	IWC Wage Order by failing to compensate PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-
19	CLASS Members who were not provided a rest period, in accordance with the applicable Wage
20	Order, one additional hour of compensation at each employee's regular rate of pay for each
21	workday that rest period was not provided.
22	111. As a proximate result of the aforementioned violations, PLAINTIFF and

111. As a proximate result of the aforementioned violations, PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-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)

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1	DEFENDANT failed to provide an accurate wage statement in writing that properly and	
2	accurately itemizes all wages, and missed meal and rest periods and reporting time wages owed	
3	to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS and thereby	
4	also failed to set forth the correct wages earned by the employees. Aside from the violations listed	
5	above in this paragraph, DEFENDANT failed to issue to PLAINTIFF an itemized wage statement	
6	that lists all the requirements under California Labor Code 226 et seq.	
7	115. DEFENDANT knowingly and intentionally failed to comply with Cal. Lab. Code	
8	§ 226, causing injury and damages to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA	
9	LABOR SUB-CLASS. These damages include, but are not limited to, costs expended calculating	
10	the correct wages for all missed meal and rest breaks and the amount of employment taxes which	
11	were not properly paid to state and federal tax authorities. These damages are difficult to estimate.	
12	Therefore, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS may	
13	elect to recover liquidated damages of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the initial pay period in which the	
14	violation occurred, and one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each violation in a subsequent pay	
15	period pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 226, in an amount according to proof at the time of trial (but	
16	in no event more than four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) for PLAINTIFF and each respective	
17	member of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS herein).	
18	SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION	
19	FAILURE TO PAY WAGES WHEN DUE	
20	(Cal. Lab. Code § 203)	
21	(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS and against all	
22	Defendants)	
23	116. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS,	
24	reallege and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of	
25	this Complaint.	
26	117. Cal. Lab. Code § 200 provides that:	
27	As used in this article:	
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- (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.
- 118. Cal. Lab. Code § 201 provides, in relevant part, that "If an employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately."
  - 119. Cal. Lab. Code § 202 provides, in relevant part, that:

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

- 120. There was no definite term in PLAINTIFF's or any CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members' employment contract.
  - 121. Cal. Lab. Code § 203 provides:

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

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

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ed by them and the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-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.

### **NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

# **RETALIATION - Cal. Lab. Code §§ 98.6, 1102.5 and 6310** (Alleged by PLAINTIFF and against all DEFENDANTS)

- 128. PLAINTIFF realleges and incorporates by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 129. At all relevant times, California Labor Code section 98.6 was in effect and was binding on DEFENDANT. This statute prohibits DEFENDANT from retaliating against any employee, including PLAINTIFF, for raising complaints of illegality and/or belief that the employee may disclose illegality regarding Labor Code violations.
- At all relevant times, California Labor Code section 1102.5 was in effect and was 130. binding on DEFENDANT. This statute prohibits DEFENDANT from retaliating against any

employee, including PLAINTIFF, for raising complaints of illegality and/or belief that the employee may disclose illegality.

- 131. PLAINTIFF raised complaints of illegality while he worked for DEFENDANT, and DEFENDANT retaliated against him by taking adverse employment actions including decreasing PLAINTIFF'S piece-rate rates and misplacing his voucher forms, which have directly decreased PLAINTIFF'S compensation for work performed for DEFENDANT.
- 132. As a proximate result of DEFENDANT's willful, knowing, and intentional violation(s) of Labor Code sections 98.6, 1102.5, PLAINTIFF has suffered and continues to suffer humiliation, emotional distress, and mental and physical pain and anguish, all to his damage in a sum according to proof.
- 133. As a result of DEFENDANT's adverse employment actions against PLAINTIFF, PLAINTIFF has suffered general and special damages in sums according to proof.
- 134. DEFENDANT's misconduct was committed intentionally, in a malicious, oppressive manner, and fraudulent manner, entitling PLAINTIFF to punitive damages against DEFENDANT.

### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF prays for a judgment against each Defendant, jointly and severally, as follows:

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

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

- a. That the Court certify the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Causes of Action asserted by the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as a class action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382;
- b. Compensatory damages, according to proof at trial, including compensatory damages for minimum wages, overtime compensation, unreimbursed expenses, and separately owed rest periods, due to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, during the applicable CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS PERIOD plus interest thereon at the statutory rate;
- c. Meal and rest period compensation pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7, 512 and the applicable IWC Wage Order;
- d. The greater of all actual damages or fifty dollars (\$50) for the initial pay period in which a violation occurs and one hundred dollars (\$100) per each member of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS for each violation in a subsequent pay period, not exceeding an aggregate penalty of four thousand dollars (\$4,000), and an award of costs for violation of Cal. Lab. Code § 226
- e. The wages of all terminated employees from the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS as a penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or until an action therefore is commenced, in accordance with Cal. Lab. Code § 203.

#### 3. On PLAINTIFF'S individual claims:

- a. For all special damages which were sustained as a result of DEFENDANT's
  conduct, including but not limited to, back pay, front pay, lost compensation and job
  benefits that PLAINTIFF would have received but for the practices of
  DEFENDANT;
- For all exemplary damages, according to proof, which were sustained as a result of DEFENDANT's conduct.
- c. An award of interest, including prejudgment interest at the legal rate;
- d. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable; and

1		e. An award of penalties, attorneys' fees and costs of suit, as allowable under the law.		
2	4. On all claims:			
3	a. An award of interest, including prejudgment interest at the legal rate;			
4		b. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable; and		
5		c. An award of penalties, attorneys' fees and costs of suit, as allowable under the law.		
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7	DATED:	December 8, 2022		
8		ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC		
9		D		
10		By:		
11	Shani O. Zakay Attorney for PLAINTIFF			
12				
13		DEMAND FOD A HIDV TDIAI		
14	<u>DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL</u>			
15	PL	AINTIFF demands a jury trial on issues triable to a jury.		
16	DATED:	December 8, 2022		
17		ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC		
18				
19		By:		
20		Shani O. Zakay		
21	Attorney for PLAINTIFF			
22				
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SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY
Complete items 1, 2, and 3.	A. Signature
<ul> <li>Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.</li> </ul>	X ☐ Agent ☐ Addresse
Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.	B. Received by (Printed Name) C. Date of Delivery
1. Article Addressed to: Pacific Production Plumbing	D. Is delivery address different from item 1?
co CT Corporation system	DEC 13 2022
Registered Agent 330 N. Brand Blvd. Ste. 700	12/8/21/VOIGH BANGES2-39
Glendale, CA 91203 9590 9402 7738 2152 1898 03	3. Service Type  ☐ Adult Signature ☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery ☐ Certified Mail® ☐ Collect on Delivery ☐ Collect on Delivery ☐ Signature Confirmation ☐ Signature Confirmation ☐ Signature Confirmation
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7022 2410 0000 2184 011 PS Form 3811, July 2020 PSN 7530-02-000-9053	Domestic Return Receipt

1	
SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY
Complete items 1, 2, and 3.	A. Signature
Print your name and address on the reverse	☐ Agent
so that we can return the card to you.	X Addressee
Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece,	B. Received by (Printed Name) C. Date of Delivery
or on the front if space permits.	The state of the s
1. Article Addressed to:	D. Is delivery address different from item 1?  Yes
Pacific Production Blumbing	If YES, enter delivery address below:   No
c/o CT corporation Systems	DEC 1 4 2022
Pacific Production Blumbing c/o CT corporation Systems 28 Liberty Street	CB
New York, NY 10005	12/8/22 Weathermon 002-397
9590 9402 7738 2152 1897 97	3. Service Type ☐ Priority Mail Express® ☐ Registered Mail™ ☐ Registered Mail® ☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery ☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery ☐ Signature Confirmation ☐ Signature ☐
2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)	Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery Restricted Delivery
2055 S470 0000 S784 O705	Mall Restricted Delivery 300)
PS Form 3811, July 2020 PSN 7530-02-000-9053	Domestic Return Receipt