#### SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

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

PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE IMPORTS OF CA, LLC dba PREMIER NISSAN OF FREMONT, a California limited liability company; (Additional Parties Attachment form is attached.)

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

KELLY TRAN, an individual, on behalf of herself, and on behalf of all persons similarly situated,

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

ELECTRONIC ALLY FILED Superior Court of California County of Alameda 07/15/2024

had F	inke, Executive Officer / Clerk	of the Cour
By:	<ul> <li>A. Kargbo</li> </ul>	Deputy

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy

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

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

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

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

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	CASE NUMBER: (Número del Caso): 240V083388	
René C. Davidson Courthouse - 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612		
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff withou (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o d Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq. T: (619)599-8292 JCL Law Firm, APC - 5440 Moreho		

Shani O. Zakay, Esq. T: (619)599-8292 Zakay Law Group, APLC - 5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600, San Diego, CA 92121 DATE: 07/45/2024 Obed Side Supply Office (Clerk, by A. Karnhn

NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served

by personal delivery on (date):

07/15/2024 Chad Finke, Executive Officer / Clerk of the Court AMKorgbo (Fecha) (Secretario) (For proof of service of this summons, use Proof of Service of Summons (form POS-010).)

(Para prueba de entrega de esta citatión use el formulario Proof of Service of Summons, (POS-010)).

[SEAL]	
COURT OF CULTURE OF ALLUMN	

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

A. Kargbo

. Deputy

(Adjunto)

	SUM- 00 A
SHORT TITLE:	CASE NUMBER:
Kelly Tran v. Premier Automotive Imports of CA et al.	
INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE	
→ This form may be used as an attachment to any summons if space does not permit the	
If this attachment is used, insert the following statement in the plaintiff or defendant be	on the summons: "Additional Parties
Attachment form is attached."	
Laddoa are (CUrrr	<b>V</b> .
Laddoa are (CUrrr	):
Plaintiff X Defendant Cross-Complainant Cross-Defer	ndant
PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE OF BUENA PARK, LLC, dba PREMIER CHEVROLET	'OF BUENA PARK, a California
limited liability company; PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE OF MV, LLC, db	•
MORENO VALLEY, a California limited liability company; PREMI	
LLC, dba PREMIER HYUNDAI OF SEASIDE and PREMIER CHEVROLET OF	SEASIDE, a California
limited liability company; PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE C OF CARLSBAD,	
OF CARLSBAD, a California limited liability company; PREMIER	
LLC, dba PREMIER CADILLAC BUICK GMC OF CARLSBAD, a Californi	
PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE K OF CARLSBAD, LLC, dba PREMIER KIA OF CARLSBAD	
liability company; PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE CJDR OF BUENA PARK, LI	
JEEP RAM OF BUENA PARK, a California limited liability compa	
OF CALIFORNIA, LLC, a California limited liability company;	The state of the s
a California limited liability company; PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE C	F PLACENTIA, LĹC, a

California limited liability company; PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE OF STEVENS CREEK, LLC, a California limited liability company; PREMIER NISSAN OF SAN JOSE, LLC, a California limited liability company; PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE OF CA, LLC, dba TOYOTA OF POWAY, a

California limited liability company; PREMIER SUBARU OF FREMONT, LLC, a California limited liability company; and PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE OF WEST COVINA, LLC, a California limited liability company; and DOES 1-50, Inclusive,

Page 2 of 2



#### **ELECTRONICALLY FILED** JCL LAW FIRM, APC Superior Court of California, 1 Jean-Claude Lapuyade (State Bar #248676) County of Alameda Sydney Castillo-Johnson (State Bar #343881) Perssia Razma (State Bar #351398) 07/15/2024 at 01:01:46 PM 5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600 3 By: Abdul Kargbo, San Diego, CA 92121 Deputy Clerk 4 Telephone: (619) 599-8292 Facsimile: (619) 599-8291 5 ilapuvade@icl-lawfirm.com scastillo@jcl-lawfirm.com 6 prazma@icl-lawfirm.com 7 ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC 8 Shani O. Zakay (State Bar #277924) 5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600 San Diego, CA 92121 Telephone: (619)255-9047 10 Facsimile: (858) 404-9203 shani@zakavlaw.com 11 12 Attorneys for PLAINTIFF 13 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 14 IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA 15 KELLY TRAN, an individual, on behalf of Case No: 2400083388 16 herself, and on behalf of all persons similarly situated, **CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR:** 17 Plaintiff. 1) UNFAIR COMPETITION IN VIOLATION 18 OF CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE §17200 et v. 19 seq; PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE IMPORTS OF CA, 2) FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES IN 20 LLC, dba **PREMIER** NISSAN OF VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 1194, 1197 & 1197.1; FREMONT, a California limited liability 21 company; PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE OF 3) FAILURE TO PAY OVERTIME WAGES 22 BUENA PARK, LLC, dba PREMIER IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§ CHEVROLET OF BUENA PARK, a California 510, et sea; 23 4) FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED liability company; **PREMIER** limited AUTOMOTIVE OF MV, LLC, dba PREMIER MEAL PERIODS IN VIOLATION OF 24 AUTOMOTIVE OF MORENO VALLEY, a CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 226.7 & 512 AND California limited liability company; PREMIER THE APPLICABLE IWC WAGE ORDER; 25 AUTOMOTIVE OF SEASIDE, LLC, dba 5) FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED PREMIER HYUNDAI OF SEASIDE and REST PERIODS IN VIOLATION OF CAL. 26 LAB. CODE §§ 226.7 & 512 AND THE PREMIER CHEVROLET OF SEASIDE, a 27 California limited liability company; APPLICABLE IWC WAGE ORDER; **AUTOMOTIVE PREMIER** C OF 28 CARLSBAD, LLC, **PREMIER** dba

1	CHEVROLET OF CARLSBAD, a California
•	limited liability company; PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE BCG OF CARLSBAD, LLC,
2	dba PREMIER CADILLAC BUICK GMC OF
3	CARLSBAD, a California limited liability
4	company; PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE K OF CARLSBAD, LLC, dba PREMIER KIA OF
Т.	CARLSBAD, a California limited liability
5	company; PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE CJDR
6	OF BUENA PARK, LLC, dba PREMIER
U	CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP RAM OF BUENA
7	PARK, a California limited liability company;
8	PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE HCDJ OF CALIFORNIA, LLC, a California limited
	liability company; PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE
9	OF NEWARK, a California limited liability
10	company; PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE OF
	PLACENTIA, LLC, a California limited
11	liability company; PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE
12	OF STEVENS CREEK, LLC, a California limited liability company; PREMIER NISSAN
	OF SAN JOSE, LLC, a California limited
13	liability company; PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE
14	OF CA, LLC, dba TOYOTA OF POWAY, a
	California limited liability company;
15	PREMIER SUBARU OF FREMONT, LLC, a
16	California limited liability company; PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE OF WEST COVINA, LLC, a
	California limited liability company; and DOES
17	1-50, Inclusive,
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	Defendants.
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21	PLAINTIFF KELLY TRAN ("PLAINTII
7)1	I .

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

#### **DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL**

PLAINTIFF KELLY TRAN ("PLAINTIFF"), an individual, on behalf of herself and all other similarly situated current and former employees, alleges on information and belief, except for her own acts and knowledge which are based on personal knowledge, the following:

#### **PRELIMINARY ALLEGATIONS**

1. Defendant PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE IMPORTS OF CA, LLC ("Defendant Premier Automotive") is a California limited liability company that at all relevant times mentioned herein conducted and continues to conduct substantial and regular business throughout California.

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- 2. Defendant PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE OF BUENA PARK, LLC, dba PREMIER CHEVROLET OF BUENA PARK ("Defendant Buena Park") is a California limited liability company that at all relevant times mentioned herein conducted and continues to conduct substantial and regular business throughout California.
- 3. Defendant PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE OF MV, LLC, dba PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE OF MORENO VALLEY ("Defendant Moreno Valley") is a California limited liability company that at all relevant times mentioned herein conducted and continues to conduct substantial and regular business throughout California.
- 4. Defendant PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE OF SEASIDE, LLC, dba PREMIER HYUNDAI OF SEASIDE, and PREMIER CHEVROLET OF SEASIDE ("Defendant Seaside") is a California limited liability company that at all relevant times mentioned herein conducted and continues to conduct substantial and regular business throughout California.
- 5. Defendant PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE C OF CARLSBAD, LLC, dba PREMIER CHEVROLET OF CARLSBAD ("Defendant Carlsbad Chevy") is a California limited liability company that at all relevant times mentioned herein conducted and continues to conduct substantial and regular business throughout California.
- 6. Defendant PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE BCG OF CARLSBAD, LLC, dba PREMIER CADILLAC BUICK GMC OF CARLSBAD ("Defendant BCG") is a California limited liability company that at all relevant times mentioned herein conducted and continues to conduct substantial and regular business throughout California.
- 7. Defendant PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE K OF CARLSBAD, LLC, dba PREMIER KIA OF CARLSBAD ("Defendant Premier Kia of Carlsbad") is a California limited liability company that at all relevant times mentioned herein conducted and continues to conduct substantial and regular business throughout California.
- 8. Defendant PREMIER AUTOMOTIVE CJDR OF BUENA PARK, LLC, dba PREMIER CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP RAM OF BUENA PARK ("Defendant Premier CJDR") is a California limited liability company that at all relevant times mentioned herein conducted and continues to conduct substantial and regular business throughout California.

documents issued to PLAINTIFF and by the company PLAINTIFF performed work for respectively and are therefore jointly responsible as employers for the conduct alleged herein as "DEFENDANTS" and/or "DEFENDANT."

- 18. DEFENDANTS operates car dealerships in California, including in the county of Alameda, where PLAINTIFF worked.
- 19. PLAINTIFF was employed by DEFENDANTS in California from May 2024 to June 2024 as a non-exempt employee, paid on an hourly basis, non-discretionary bonuses, and entitled to the legally required meal and rest periods and payment of minimum and overtime wages due for all time worked.
- 20. PLAINTIFF brings this Class Action on behalf of herself and a California class, defined as all persons who are or previously were employed by Defendants Premier Automotive, Buena Park, Moreno Valley, Seaside, Carlsbad Chevy, BCG, Premier of Carlsbad, CJDR, HCDJ, Newark, Placentia, Stevens Creek, San Jose, Poway, Fremont, and West Covina in California and classified as non-exempt, exempt, piece-rate based, and/or commission-based employees (the "CALIFORNIA CLASS") at any time during the period beginning four (4) years prior to the filing of this Complaint and ending on the date as determined by the Court (the "CLASS PERIOD"). The amount in controversy for the aggregate claim of the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members is under five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00).
- 21. PLAINTIFF brings this Class Action on behalf of herself and a CALIFORNIA CLASS in order to fully compensate the CALIFORNIA CLASS for their losses incurred during the 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

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DEFENDANTS' past and current unlawful conduct, and all other appropriate legal and equitable relief.

- 22. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, subsidiary, partnership, associate or otherwise of DEFENDANTS DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are presently unknown to PLAINTIFFS who therefore sues these DEFENDANTS by such fictitious names pursuant to Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 474. PLAINTIFFS will seek leave to amend this Complaint to allege the true names and capacities of Does 1 through 50, inclusive, when they are ascertained. PLAINTIFFS 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.
- 23. 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.
- 24. DEFENDANTS were PLAINTIFF's employers or persons acting on behalf of the PLAINTIFF's employer, within the meaning of California Labor Code § 558, who violated or caused to be violated, a section of Part 2, Chapter 1 of the California Labor Code or any provision regulating hours and days of work in any order of the Industrial Welfare Commission and, as such, are subject to civil penalties for each underpaid employee, as set forth in Labor Code § 558, at all relevant times.
- 25. DEFENDANTS were PLAINTIFF's employers or persons acting on behalf of PLAINTIFF's employer either individually or as an officer, agent, or employee of another person, within the meaning of California Labor Code § 1197.1, who paid or caused to be paid to any

employee a wage less than the minimum fixed by California state law, and as such, are subject to civil penalties for each underpaid employee.

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

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 28. This Court has jurisdiction over this Action pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure, Section 410.10 and California Business & Professions Code, Section 17203. This action is brought as a Class Action on behalf of PLAINTIFF and similarly situated employees of DEFENDANT pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382.
- 29. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure, Sections 395 and 395.5, because DEFENDANTS operate in locations across California, employ the CALIFORNIA CLASS across California, including in this County, and committed the wrongful conduct herein alleged in this County against the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

#### THE CONDUCT

30. In violation of the applicable sections of the California Labor Code and the requirements of the Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") Wage Order, DEFENDANTS as a matter of company policy, practice, and procedure, intentionally, knowingly, and systematically failed to provide legally compliant meal and rest periods, failed to accurately compensate PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for missed meal and rest periods, failed to pay PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all time worked, failed compensate PLAINTIFF for off-the-clock work, failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS overtime at the correct regular rate of pay,

failed to compensate PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS meal and rest premiums at the regular rate of pay, failed to pay PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members redeemed sick pay at the regular rate of pay, failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for business expenses, and failed to issue to PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with accurate itemized wage statements showing, among other things, all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay periods and the corresponding amount of time worked at each hourly rate. DEFENDANTS' uniform policies and practices are intended to purposefully avoid the accurate and full payment for all time worked as required by California law which allows DEFENDANTS to illegally profit and gain an unfair advantage over competitors who comply with the law. To the extent equitable tolling operates to toll claims by the CALIFORNIA CLASS against DEFENDANTS, the CLASS PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.

#### A. Meal Period Violations

31. 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. 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 DEFENDANTS' control. Specifically, DEFENDANTS required PLAINTIFF to work while clocked out 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 compensation by regularly working without their time being accurately recorded and without compensation at the applicable minimum wage and overtime rates. DEFENDANTS' uniform policy and practice not to pay PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all time worked is evidenced by DEFENDANTS' business records.

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	32. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, as a result of their rigorous work
	schedules and DEFENDANTS' inadequate staffing practices, PLAINTIFF and other
	CALIFORNIA CLASS Members are 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 are required to perform work as ordered by DEFENDANTS for
	more than five (5) hours during some shifts without receiving a meal break. Further,
	DEFENDANTS failed to provide PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with a
	second off-duty meal period for some workdays in which these employees are required by
	DEFENDANTS to work ten (10) hours of work. The nature of the work performed by
	PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members does not qualify for the 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 and on call. Further, DEFENDANTS from time to time required
	PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to maintain cordless communication
	devices in order to receive and respond to work-related communications during what was
	supposed to be their off-duty meal breaks. DEFENDANTS' failure to provide PLAINTIFF and
	the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with legally required meal breaks is evidenced by
	DEFENDANTS' business records. As a result of their rigorous work schedules and
	DEFENDANTS' inadequate staffing, PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA
	CLASS therefore forfeit meal breaks without additional compensation and in accordance with
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#### B. Rest Period Violations

DEFENDANTS' strict corporate policy and practice.

33. From time to time during the 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 as a result of their rigorous work requirements and DEFENDANTS' inadequate staffing. Further, for the same reasons, 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. When they were provided with rest breaks, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were, from time to time, required to on duty and/or on call. Further, DEFENDANTS from time to time required PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to maintain cordless communication devices in order to receive and respond to work-related communications during what was supposed to be their off-duty rest breaks. 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 and DEFENDANTS' inadequate staffing, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were from time to time denied their proper rest periods by DEFENDANT and DEFENDANTS' managers.

#### C. <u>Unreimbursed Business Expenses</u>

- 34. 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."
- 35. In the course of their employment, DEFENDANTS required PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to incur personal expenses for the use of their personal cell phones and computers s as a result of and in furtherance of their job duties. Specifically, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required to use their personal cell phones and computers in order to perform work related tasks. However, DEFENDANTS

unlawfully failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for the use of their personal cell phones and computers. As a result, in the course of their employment with DEFENDANTS, the PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members incurred unreimbursed business expenses that included, but were not limited to, costs related to the use of their personal cell phones and computers, all on behalf of and for the benefit of DEFENDANT.

#### D. Wage Statement Violations

- 36. California Labor Code Section 226 required an employer to furnish its employees and accurate itemized wage 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.
- 37. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, when PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members missed meal and rest breaks, or were paid inaccurately for missed meal and rest period premiums, or were not paid for all hours worked, DEFENDANTS also failed to provide PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with complete and accurate wage statements which failed to show, among other things, all deductions, the total hours worked and all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding amount of time worked at each hourly rate, correct rates of pay for penalty payments or missed meal and rest periods.
- 38. In addition to the foregoing, DEFENDANTS, from time to time, failed to provide PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with wage statements that comply with Cal. Lab. Code § 226(a)(1)-(9).
- 39. As a result, DEFENDANTS issued PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with wage statements that violate Cal. Lab. Code § 226. Further,

payroll error due to clerical or inadvertent mistake.

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

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continues to fail to accurately pay PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS

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for all hours worked. During the CLASS PERIOD, from time-to-time DEFENDANTS required 41. PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to perform pre-shift or post-shift

During the CLASS PERIOD, from time-to-time DEFENDANTS failed and

DEFENDANTS' violations are knowing and intentional, were not isolated due to an unintentional

work, including but not limited to, performing security sweeps of DEFENDANTS' property. This resulted in PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to have to work while

off-the-clock.

- 42. DEFENDANTS directed and directly benefited from the undercompensated offthe-clock work performed by PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.
- 43. DEFENDANTS controlled the work schedules, duties, and protocols, applications, assignments, and employment conditions of PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.
- 44. DEFENDANTS were able to track the amount of time PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS spent working; however, DEFENDANTS failed to document, track, or pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS all wages earned and owed for all the work they performed.
- 45. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were nonexempt employees, subject to the requirements of the California Labor Code.
- 46. DEFENDANTS' policies and practices deprived PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members of all minimum regular, overtime, and double time wages owed for the off-the-clock work activities. Because PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS typically worked over forty (40) hours in a workweek, and more than eight (8) hours per day, DEFENDANTS' policies and practices also deprived them of overtime pay.

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47. DEFENDANTS knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS off-the-clock work was compensable under the law. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS forfeited wages due to them for all hours worked at DEFENDANTS' direction, control, and benefit for the time spent working while off-the-clock, including but not limited to, performing security sweeps of DEFENDANTS' property. 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.

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

- 48. 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 were compensated at an hourly rate plus commissions and/or non-discretionary incentive pay that was tied to specific elements of an employee's performance and/or commissions.
- 49. DEFENDANTS' non-discretionary commission and bonus program provided the CALIFORNIA CLASS, including PLAINTIFF, with commissions and/or bonus compensation when the employees met the various performance goals set by DEFENDANT. However, when calculating the regular rate of pay, in those pay periods where PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS worked overtime and earned non-discretionary bonus and/or commission wages, DEFENDANT failed to accurately include the non-discretionary bonus compensation and/or commission wages as part of the employees' "regular rate of pay."
- 50. Management and supervisors described the bonus and commissions programs and commission compensation program to potential and new employees as part of the compensation package for new and used car salespersons including PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA As a matter of law, the incentive and commission compensation received by CLASS. PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS members must be included and correctly calculated into the "regular rate of pay" for purposes of overtime and double time compensation, meal and rest period premium payments, and sick pay. DEFENDANT's failure to do so has

resulted in DEFENDANT's systematic underpayment of overtime and double time compensation, meal and rest period premium payments, and sick pay to PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS members. 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 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.

51. In violation of the applicable sections of the California Labor Code and the requirements of the Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") Wage Order, DEFENDANTS as a matter of company policy, practice and procedure, intentionally 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 compensation, meal and rest period premium payments, and sick pay. This uniform policy and practice of DEFENDANTS is intended to purposefully avoid the payment of the correct overtime and double time compensation, meal and rest period premium payments, and sick pay as required by California law which allowed DEFENDANTS 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 DEFENDANTS, the CLASS PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.

#### G. Commission and Piece-Rate Violations

52. From time-to-time during the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid in part on a commission and/or piece-rate basis. In those instances where PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid in part on a commission and/or 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 those instances where PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid in part on a commission and/or piece-rate basis, DEFENDANT failed to

53. Further, from time-to-time during the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS improperly misclassified PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members who were paid on a draw versus commission basis as exempt from overtime compensation. During the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS included advanced draws in order to meet the salary-basis test for the overtime exemption. However, DEFENDANTS cannot rely on advanced draws in order to meet the salary-basis test for such an exemption. (See *Semprini v. Wedbush* (2020) 57 Cal.App.5th 252-254.) As a result, PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members who were paid on a draw versus commission basis forfeited overtime wages by DEFENDANTS' failure to accurately classify them as non-exempt from overtime compensation.

#### H. Unlawful Deductions

54. 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.

#### I. <u>Timekeeping Manipulation</u>

55. 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. 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

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hours worked, applicable overtime compensation, applicable sick pay, missed meal breaks and missed rest breaks.

- 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.
- 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 DEFENDANTS' 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.
- 58. 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.

#### J. Unlawful Rounding Practices

59. 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.

60. 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.

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

- 61. 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, meal period premium wages, and rest period premium wages within permissible time period.
- 62. Pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 201, "If an employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately." Pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 202, if an employee 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." PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were, from time to time, not timely provided the wages earned and unpaid at the time of their discharge and/or at the time of quitting, in violation of Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201 and 202.
- 63. As such, PLAINTIFF demands up to thirty days of pay as penalty for not timely paying all wages due at time of termination for all CALIFORNIA CLASS Members whose employment ended during the CLASS PERIOD.

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#### L. Sick Pay Violations

- 64. Cal. Labor Code Section 246 (a)(1) mandates that "An employee who, on or after July 1, 2015, works in California for the same employer for 30 or more days within a year from the commencement of employment is entitled to paid sick days as specified in this section." Further, Cal. Labor Code Sections 246(b)-(d) provide for the sick day accrual requirements. From time to time, DEFENDANT failed to have a policy or practice in place that provided PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with sick days and/or paid sick leave.
- 65. California Labor Code Section 246(i) requires an employer to furnish its employees with written wage statements setting forth the amount of paid sick leave available. From time to time, DEFENDANT violated Cal. Lab. Code § 246 by failing to furnish PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with wage statements setting forth the amount of paid sick leave available.
- 66. Specifically, as to PLAINTIFF, PLAINTIFF was from time to time unable to take off duty meal and rest breaks and was not fully relieved of duty for her rest and meal periods. PLAINTIFF was required to perform work as ordered by DEFENDANTS for more than five (5) hours during a shift without receiving an off-duty meal break. Further, DEFENDANTS failed to provide PLAINTIFF with a second off-duty meal period each workday in which she was required by DEFENDANTS to work ten (10) hours of work. When DEFENDANTS provided PLAINTIFF with a rest break, they required PLAINTIFF to remain on-duty and on-call for the rest break. DEFENDANTS policy caused PLAINTIFF to remain on-call and on-duty during what was supposed to be her off-duty meal periods. PLAINTIFF therefore forfeited meal and rest breaks without additional compensation and in accordance with DEFENDANTS' strict corporate policy and practice. Moreover, DEFENDANTS also provided PLAINTIFF with paystubs that failed to comply with Cal. Lab. Code § 226. Further, DEFENDANTS also failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF for required business expenses related to the personal expenses incurred for the use of her personal cell phone and for the purchase of work uniforms, on behalf of and in furtherance of her employment with DEFENDANTS. To date, DEFENDANTS have not fully paid PLAINTIFF the minimum, overtime and double time compensation still owed to

her or any penalty wages owed to her under Cal. Lab. Code § 203. The amount in controversy for PLAINTIFF individually does not exceed the sum or value of \$75,000.

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### **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

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- 67. PLAINTIFF brings this Class Action on behalf of herself, and a California class defined as all persons who are or previously were employed by Defendants Premier Automotive, Buena Park, Moreno Valley, Seaside, Carlsbad Chevy, BCG, Premier of Carlsbad, CJDR, HCDJ, Newark, Placentia, Stevens Creek, San Jose, Poway, Fremont, and West Covina in California and classified as non-exempt, exempt, piece-rate based, and/or commission-based employees (the "CALIFORNIA CLASS") at any time during the period beginning four (4) years prior to the filing of this Complaint and ending on the date as determined by the Court (the "CLASS PERIOD").
- 68. PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members have uniformly been deprived of wages and penalties from unpaid wages earned and due, including but not limited to unpaid minimum wages, unpaid overtime compensation, unpaid meal and rest period premiums, illegal meal and rest period policies, failed to reimburse for business expenses, failed compensate for off-the-clock work, failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements, failure to maintain required records, and interest, statutory and civil penalties, attorney's fees, costs, and expenses.
- 69. The members of the class are so numerous that joinder of all class members is impractical.
- 70. Common questions of law and fact regarding DEFENDANTS' conduct, including but not limited to, off-the-clock work, unpaid meal and rest period premiums, failure to accurately calculate the regular rate of pay for overtime compensation, failure to accurately calculate the regular rate of compensation for missed meal and rest period premiums, failing to provide legally compliant meal and rest periods, failure to reimburse for business expenses, failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements accurate, and failure to ensure they are paid at least minimum wage and overtime, exist as to all members of the class and predominate over any questions affecting solely any individual members of the class. Among the questions of law and fact common to the class are:

- 73. PLAINTIFF will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.
- 74. PLAINTIFF retained able class counsel with extensive experience in class action litigation.
- 75. Further, PLAINTIFF's interests are coincident with, and not antagonistic to, the interest of the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.
- 76. There is a strong community of interest among PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to, inter alia, ensure that the combined assets of DEFENDANTS are sufficient to adequately compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the injuries sustained.
- 77. The questions of law and fact common to the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, including legal and factual issues relating to liability and damages.
- 78. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy because joinder of all class members in impractical. Moreover, since the damages suffered by individual members of the class may be relatively small, the expense and burden of individual litigation makes it practically impossible for the members of the class individually to redress the wrongs done to them. Without class certification and determination of declaratory, injunctive, statutory, and other legal questions within the class format, prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS will create the risk of:
  - a. Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS which would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the parties opposing the CALIFORNIA CLASS; and/or,
  - b. Adjudication with respect to individual members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS which would as a practical matter be dispositive of the interests of the other members not party to the adjudication or substantially impair or impeded their ability to protect their interests.

1	79. Class treatment provides manageable judicial treatment calculated to bring an
2	efficient and rapid conclusion to all litigation of all wage and hour related claims arising out of
3	the conduct of DEFENDANTS.
4	FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION
5	Unlawful Business Practices
6	(Cal. Bus. And Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq.)
7	(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all Defendants)
8	80. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and
9	incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this
10	Complaint.
11	81. DEFENDANTS are "persons" as that term is defined under Cal. Bus. And Prof.
12	Code § 17021.
13	82. California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq. (the "UCL") defines
14	unfair competition as any unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business act or practice. Section 17203
15	authorizes injunctive, declaratory, and/or other equitable relief with respect to unfair competition
16	as follows:
17	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
18	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
19	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
20	unfair competition. (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203).
21	83. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANTS have engaged and continue to
22	engage in a business practice which violates California law, including but not limited to, the
23	applicable Wage Order(s), the California Code of Regulations and the California Labor Code
24	including Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, and
25	2802, for which this Court should issue declaratory and other equitable relief pursuant to Cal.
26	Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203 as may be necessary to prevent and remedy the conduct held to
27	constitute unfair competition, including restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.
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- 84. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANTS' practices were unlawful and unfair in that these practices violated public policy, were immoral, unethical, oppressive unscrupulous or substantially injurious to employees, and were without valid justification or utility for which this Court should issue equitable and injunctive relief pursuant to Section 17203 of the California Business & Professions Code, including restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.
- 85. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANTS' practices were deceptive and fraudulent in that DEFENDANTS' 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, failed to pay minimum and overtime wages owed, and failed to reimburse all necessary business expenses incurred, due to a systematic business practice that cannot be justified, pursuant to the applicable Cal. Lab. Code, and Industrial Welfare Commission requirements in violation of Cal. Bus. Code §§ 17200, et seq., and for which this Court should issue injunctive and equitable relief, pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203, including restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.
- 86. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANTS' practices were also unlawful, unfair, and deceptive in that DEFENDANTS' employment practices caused PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to be underpaid during their employment with DEFENDANTS.
- 87. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANTS' practices were also unfair and deceptive in that DEFENDANTS' uniform policies, practices and procedures failed to provide mandatory meal and/or rest breaks to PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members as required by Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 and 512.
- 88. Therefore, PLAINTIFF demands on behalf of herself and on behalf of each 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.

- 89. PLAINTIFF further demands on behalf of herself 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.
- 90. By and through the unlawful and unfair business practices described herein, DEFENDANTS have 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 DEFENDANTS so as to allow DEFENDANTS to unfairly compete against competitors who comply with the law.
- 91. 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.
- 92. 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 DEFENDANTS have acquired, or of which PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS have been deprived, by means of the above described unlawful and unfair business practices, including earned but unpaid wages for all time worked.
- 93. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are further entitled to, and do, seek a declaration that the described business practices are unlawful, unfair, and deceptive, and that injunctive relief should be issued restraining DEFENDANTS from engaging in any unlawful and unfair business practices in the future.

PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS have no plain, speedy and/or adequate remedy at law that will end the unlawful and unfair business practices of DEFENDANT. Further, the practices herein alleged presently continue to occur unabated. As a result of the unlawful and unfair business practices described herein, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS have suffered and will continue to suffer irreparable legal

implementing a uniform policy and practice that denies accurate compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in regard to minimum wage pay.

- 101. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, DEFENDANTS inaccurately calculated the correct time worked and consequently underpaid the actual time worked by PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS. DEFENDANTS 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.
- 102. As a direct result of DEFENDANTS' unlawful wage practices as alleged herein, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS did not receive the correct minimum wage compensation for their time worked for DEFENDANTS.
- 103. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid less for time worked that they were entitled to, constituting a failure to pay all earned wages.
- 104. By virtue of DEFENDANTS' unlawful failure to accurately pay all earned compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the true time they worked, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA 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.
- 105. DEFENDANTS knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were under-compensated for their time worked. DEFENDANTS 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 DEFENDANTS perpetrated this systematic scheme by refusing to pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS the correct minimum wages for their time worked.
- 106. In performing the acts and practices herein alleged in violation of California labor laws, and refusing to compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all time worked

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and provide them with the requisite compensation, DEFENDANTS acted and continues to act intentionally, oppressively, and maliciously toward PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA 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.

107. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS therefore request recovery of all unpaid wages, according to proof, interest, statutory costs, as well as the assessment of any statutory penalties against DEFENDANTS, 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 CLASS Members who have terminated their employment, DEFENDANTS' 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 CLASS Members. DEFENDANTS' conduct as alleged herein was willful, intentional and not in good faith. Further, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members are entitled to seek and recover statutory costs.

#### THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

### **Failure To Pay Overtime Compensation**

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

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

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

109. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS bring a claim for DEFENDANTS' willful and intentional violations of the California Labor Code and the Industrial Welfare Commission requirements for DEFENDANTS' failure to pay these employees

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for all overtime worked, including, 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.

- 110. Pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 204, other applicable laws and regulations, and public policy, an employer must timely pay its employees for all hours worked.
- 111. Cal. Lab. Code § 510 provides that employees in California shall not be employed more than eight (8) hours per workday and/or more than forty (40) hours per workweek unless they receive additional compensation beyond their regular wages in amounts specified by law.
- 112. Cal. Lab. Code § 1194 establishes an employee's right to recover unpaid wages, including minimum and overtime compensation and interest thereon, together with the costs of suit. Cal. Lab. Code § 1198 further states that the employment of an employee for longer hours than those fixed by the Industrial Welfare Commission is unlawful.
- 113. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required by DEFENDANTS to work for DEFENDANTS and were not paid for all the time they worked, including overtime work.
- 114. DEFENDANTS' uniform pattern of unlawful wage and hour practices manifested, without limitation, applicable to the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a whole, as a result of implementing a uniform policy and practice that failed to accurately record overtime worked by PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members and denied accurate compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA 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.
- 115. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, DEFENDANTS inaccurately recorded overtime worked and consequently underpaid the overtime worked by PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members. DEFENDANTS 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.

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

117. 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 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS. Further, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are 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 herself and the CALIFORNIA CLASS based on DEFENDANTS' violations of non-negotiable, non-waivable rights provided by the State of California.

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

119. DEFENDANTS failed to accurately pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA 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 CLASS were regularly required to work, and did in fact work overtime, and did in fact work overtime as to which DEFENDANTS failed to accurately record and pay as evidenced by DEFENDANTS' business records and witnessed by employees.

120. By virtue of DEFENDANTS' unlawful failure to accurately pay all earned compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the true amount of overtime they worked, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA 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.

121. DEFENDANTS knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were undercompensated for their time worked.

DEFENDANTS systematically elected, either through intentional malfeasance or gross nonfeasance, to not pay them for their labor as a matter of uniform company policy, practice and procedure, and DEFENDANTS perpetrated this systematic scheme by refusing to pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS the correct overtime wages for their overtime worked.

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

123. Therefore, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS request recovery of overtime wages, according to proof, interest, statutory costs, as well as the assessment of any statutory penalties against DEFENDANTS, in a sum as provided by the California Labor Code and/or other applicable statutes. To the extent overtime compensation is determined to be owed to the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members who have terminated their employment, DEFENDANTS' 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. DEFENDANTS' conduct as alleged herein was willful, intentional, and not in good faith. Further, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members are entitled to seek and recover statutory costs.

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#### FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

#### Failure To Provide Required Meal Periods

(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 & 512)

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

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

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

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

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

#### **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### Failure To Provide Required Rest Periods

(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 & 512)

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

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

129. From time to time, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were 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, a first and second rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of between six (6) and eight (8) hours, and a first, second and third rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of ten (10) hours or more. 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 periodically denied their proper rest periods by DEFENDANTS and DEFENDANTS' managers. In addition, DEFENDANTS failed to compensate PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for their rest periods as required by the applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. As a result, DEFENDANTS' failure to provide PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with all the legally required paid rest periods is evidenced by DEFENDANTS' business records.

130. DEFENDANTS further violated California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and the applicable IWC Wage Order by failing to compensate PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members who were not provided a rest period, in accordance with the applicable Wage Order,

1	one additional hour of compensation at each employee's regular rate of pay for each workday that
2	rest period was not provided.
3	131. As a proximate result of the aforementioned violations, PLAINTIFF and
4	CALIFORNIA CLASS Members have been damaged in an amount according to proof at trial,
5	and seek all wages earned and due, interest, penalties, expenses and costs of suit.
6	SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION
7	Failure To Provide Accurate Itemized Statements
8	(Cal. Lab. Code § 226)
9	(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all Defendants)
10	132. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and
11	incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this
12	Complaint.
13	133. Cal. Labor Code § 226 provides that an employer must furnish employees with an
14	"accurate itemized" statement in writing showing:
15	a. Gross wages earned,
16	b. (2) total hours worked by the employee, except for any employee whose
17	compensation is solely based on a salary and who is exempt from payment of
18	overtime under subdivision (a) of Section 515 or any applicable order of the
19	Industrial Welfare Commission,
20	c. the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee
21	is paid on a piece-rate basis,
22	d. all deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee
23	may be aggregated and shown as one item,
24	e. net wages earned,
25	f. the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid,
26	g. the name of the employee and his or her social security number, except that by
27	January 1, 2008, only the last four digits of his or her social security number of an
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employee identification number other than social security number may be shown on the itemized statement,

- h. the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and
- i. all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.
- 134. When DEFENDANTS did not accurately record PLAINTIFF'S and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members' missed meal and rest breaks, or were paid inaccurate missed meal and rest break premiums, or were not paid for all hours worked, DEFENDANTS violated Cal. Lab. Code § 226 in that DEFENDANTS failed to provide PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with complete and accurate wage statements which failed to show, among other things, all deductions, the accurate gross wages earned, net wages earned, the total hours worked and all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding amount of time worked at each hourly rate, and correct rates of pay for penalty payments or missed meal and rest periods.
- 135. In addition to the foregoing, DEFENDANTS failed to provide itemized wage statements to PLAINTIFF and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS that complied with the requirements of California Labor Code Section 226(a)(1)-(9).
- \$ 226, causing injury and damages to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS. These damages include, but are not limited to, costs expended calculating the correct wages for all missed meal and rest breaks and the amount of employment taxes which were not properly paid to state and federal tax authorities. These damages are difficult to estimate. Therefore, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS may elect to recover liquidated damages of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the initial pay period in which the violation occurred, and one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each violation in a subsequent pay period pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 226, in an amount according to proof at the time of trial (but in no event more than four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) for PLAINTIFF and each respective member of the CALIFORNIA CLASS herein).

1	SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION
2	Failure To Pay Wages When Due
3	(Cal. Lab. Code § 203)
4	(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all Defendants)
5	137. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and
6	incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this
7	Complaint.
8	138. Cal. Lab. Code § 200 provides that:
9	As used in this article:
10	(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,
11	task, piece, Commission basis, or other method of calculation.  (e) "Labor" includes labor, work, or service whether rendered or performed under
12	contract, subcontract, partnership, station plan, or other agreement if the to be
13	paid for is performed personally by the person demanding payment.  139. Cal. Lab. Code § 201 provides, in relevant part, that "If an employer discharges
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15	an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable
16	immediately."
17	140. Cal. Lab. Code § 202 provides, in relevant part, that:
18	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
19	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
20	72-hour notice shall be entitled to receive payment by mail if she or she so requests and
21	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
22	quitting.
23	141. There was no definite term in PLAINTIFFS' or any CALIFORNIA CLASS
24	Members' employment contract.
25	142. Cal. Lab. Code § 203 provides:
26	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
27	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
28	continue for more than 30 days.

DEFENDANTS. DEFENDANTS' uniform policy, practice and procedure was to not reimburse

PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members for expenses resulting from the use of their personal cell phones and computers within the course and scope of their employment for DEFENDANTS. These expenses were necessary to complete their principal job duties. DEFENDANTS are estopped by DEFENDANTS' conduct to assert any waiver of this expectation. Although these expenses were necessary expenses incurred by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members, DEFENDANTS failed to indemnify and reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members for these expenses as an employer is required to do under the laws and regulations of California.

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

#### 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 DEFENDANTS from engaging in similar unlawful conduct as set forth herein;
  - c. An order requiring DEFENDANTS to pay all overtime wages and all sums unlawfully withheld from compensation due to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS; and
  - d. Restitutionary disgorgement of DEFENDANTS' ill-gotten gains into a fluid fund for restitution of the sums incidental to DEFENDANTS' violations due to PLAINTIFF and to the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.
- 2. On behalf of the CALIFORNIA CLASS:
  - a. That the Court certify the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth

Causes of Action asserted by the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a class action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382;

- b. Compensatory damages, according to proof at trial, including compensatory damages for overtime compensation due to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, during the applicable CLASS PERIOD plus interest thereon at the statutory rate;
- c. Meal and rest period compensation pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7, 512 and the applicable IWC Wage Order;
- d. The greater of all actual damages or fifty dollars (\$50) for the initial pay period in which a violation occurs and one hundred dollars (\$100) per each member of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for each violation in a subsequent pay period, not exceeding an aggregate penalty of four thousand dollars (\$4,000), and an award of costs for violation of Cal. Lab. Code § 226
- e. The wages of all terminated employees from the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or until an action therefore is commenced, in accordance with Cal. Lab. Code § 203.
- f. The amount of the expenses PLAINTIFF and each member of the CALIFORNIA CLASS incurred in the course of their job duties, plus interest, and costs of suit.

#### 3. On all claims:

- a. An award of interest, including prejudgment interest at the legal rate;
- b. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable; and

1	c. An award of penalties, attorneys' fees, and costs of suit, as allowable under the law					
2		including, but	t not limited to,	pursua	nt to Labor Code § 218.5, § 22	26, § 246 and/or
3		§ 1194.				
4	DATED:	July 15, 2024			JCL LAW FIRM, APC	
5				By:_	403	
6				• _	Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq. Attorney for PLAINTIFF	
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# **DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL** PLAINTIFFS demands a jury trial on issues triable to a jury. DATED: July 15, 2024 **JCL LAW FIRM, APC** By:\_ Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq. Attorney for PLAINTIFF