#### SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):

OLLI SALUMERIA AMERICANA, LLC; and Does 1 through 50, Inclusive,

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

VIOLENA PEREZ MARTINEZ, an individual, on behalf of herself, and on behalf of all other aggrieved employees,

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

#### ELECTRONICALLY FILED

Superior Court of California, County of San Diego

05/05/2022 at 01:30:32 PM

Clerk of the Superior Court By Marfil Estrada, 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 California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol/) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales.

<i>-</i> , ,	p/espanol/) o poniéndose en contacto ( p/espanol/)	•	,	
The name and address of the (El nombre y dirección de la co			CASE NUMBER: 37-2022-00017063-CU	LOECTI
San Diego Superior Cou		[(	(Número del Caso): 37-2022-000 17003-C (	5-015-011
330 W Broadway	Turouse	_		
San Diego, CA 92101				
The name, address, and telepl ( <i>El nombre, la dirección y el no</i> Jean-Claude Lapuyade, E	hone number of plaintiff's attorney, or úmero de teléfono del abogado del de Esq. SBN: 248676 Tel: 140 Morehouse Drive, Suite 36	emandante, o del deman (619) 599-8292 Fax	dante que no tiene abogado, es): x: (619) 599-8291	:
JCL Law Film, AFC - 34	40 Molenouse Drive, Suite 30	, ,		
DATE: 05/06/2022 (Fecha)		Clerk, by // (Secretario)	M. Estrada M. Estrada	, Deputy (Adjunto)
	mmons, use Proof of Service of Sum		00.040))	
(Para prueba de entrega de es	sta citatión use el formulario Proof of	• •	OS-010)).	
[SEAL]	NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERV  1. as an individual defendar			
of Court of Con	2. as the person sued under		pecify):	
SA-	3. on behalf of (specify):			
		funct corporation)	CCP 416.60 (minor) CCP 416.70 (conservated	,
Ola Diet	CCP 416.40 (ass	sociation or partnership)	CCP 416.90 (authorized p	person)
of San	other (specify):			

4. \_\_\_\_ by personal delivery on *(date)*:

1 2 3 4 5	JCL LAW FIRM, APC Jean-Claude Lapuyade (State Bar #248676) Eduardo Garcia (State Bar #290572) 5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600 San Diego, CA 92121 Telephone: (619) 599-8292 Facsimile: (619) 599-8291 jlapuyade@jcl-lawfirm.com egarcia@jcl-lawfirm.com	ELECTRONICALLY FILED Superior Court of California, County of San Diego  05/05/2022 at 01:30:32 PM Clerk of the Superior Court By Marfil Estrada, Deputy Clerk			
6 7	ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC Shani O. Zakay (State Bar #277924) Jackland K. Hom (State Bar #327243)				
8	Julieann Alvarado (State Bar #334727)				
9	5440 Morehouse Dr., Ste 3600 San Diego, CA 92121				
10	Telephone: (619)255-9047 Facsimile: (858) 404-9203				
11	shani@zakaylaw.com				
12	jackland@zakaylaw.com julieann@zakaylaw.com				
13	Attorneys for Plaintiff VIOLENA PEREZ MART	TINEZ.			
14					
15	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA				
13					
	IN AND FOR THE COU				
16	VIOLENA PEREZ MARTINEZ, an	UNTY OF SAN DIEGO  Case No.: 37-2022-00017063-CU-0E-CTL			
		37-2022-00017063-CH-OF-CTI			
16 17	VIOLENA PEREZ MARTINEZ, an individual, on behalf of herself, and on behalf	Case No.: 37-2022-00017063-CU-0E-CTL  REPRESENTATIVE ACTION COMPLAINT FOR:  1. VIOLATIONS OF THE PRIVATE			
16 17 18	VIOLENA PEREZ MARTINEZ, an individual, on behalf of herself, and on behalf of all other aggrieved employees,	Case No.: 37-2022-00017063-CU-0E-CTL  REPRESENTATIVE ACTION  COMPLAINT FOR:			
16 17 18 19 20 21	VIOLENA PEREZ MARTINEZ, an individual, on behalf of herself, and on behalf of all other aggrieved employees,  Plaintiff,  vs.  OLLI SALUMERIA AMERICANA, LLC; and	Case No.: 37-2022-00017063-CU-0E-CTL  REPRESENTATIVE ACTION COMPLAINT FOR:  1. VIOLATIONS OF THE PRIVATE ATTORNEY GENERAL ACT AT LABOR CODE SECTIONS 2698, et			
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	VIOLENA PEREZ MARTINEZ, an individual, on behalf of herself, and on behalf of all other aggrieved employees,  Plaintiff,  vs.  OLLI SALUMERIA AMERICANA, LLC; and Does 1 through 50, Inclusive,	Case No.:    37-2022-00017063-CU-0E-CTL     REPRESENTATIVE ACTION     COMPLAINT FOR:   1. VIOLATIONS OF THE PRIVATE     ATTORNEY GENERAL ACT AT     LABOR CODE SECTIONS 2698, et     seq.			
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	VIOLENA PEREZ MARTINEZ, an individual, on behalf of herself, and on behalf of all other aggrieved employees,  Plaintiff,  vs.  OLLI SALUMERIA AMERICANA, LLC; and	Case No.:    37-2022-00017063-CU-0E-CTL     REPRESENTATIVE ACTION     COMPLAINT FOR:   1. VIOLATIONS OF THE PRIVATE     ATTORNEY GENERAL ACT AT     LABOR CODE SECTIONS 2698, et     seq.			
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	VIOLENA PEREZ MARTINEZ, an individual, on behalf of herself, and on behalf of all other aggrieved employees,  Plaintiff,  vs.  OLLI SALUMERIA AMERICANA, LLC; and Does 1 through 50, Inclusive,	Case No.:    37-2022-00017063-CU-0E-CTL     REPRESENTATIVE ACTION     COMPLAINT FOR:   1. VIOLATIONS OF THE PRIVATE     ATTORNEY GENERAL ACT AT     LABOR CODE SECTIONS 2698, et     seq.			
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	VIOLENA PEREZ MARTINEZ, an individual, on behalf of herself, and on behalf of all other aggrieved employees,  Plaintiff,  vs.  OLLI SALUMERIA AMERICANA, LLC; and Does 1 through 50, Inclusive,	Case No.:    37-2022-00017063-CU-0E-CTL     REPRESENTATIVE ACTION     COMPLAINT FOR:   1. VIOLATIONS OF THE PRIVATE     ATTORNEY GENERAL ACT AT     LABOR CODE SECTIONS 2698, et     seq.			
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26	VIOLENA PEREZ MARTINEZ, an individual, on behalf of herself, and on behalf of all other aggrieved employees,  Plaintiff,  vs.  OLLI SALUMERIA AMERICANA, LLC; and Does 1 through 50, Inclusive,	Case No.:    37-2022-00017063-CU-0E-CTL     REPRESENTATIVE ACTION     COMPLAINT FOR:   1. VIOLATIONS OF THE PRIVATE     ATTORNEY GENERAL ACT AT     LABOR CODE SECTIONS 2698, et     seq.			
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	VIOLENA PEREZ MARTINEZ, an individual, on behalf of herself, and on behalf of all other aggrieved employees,  Plaintiff,  vs.  OLLI SALUMERIA AMERICANA, LLC; and Does 1 through 50, Inclusive,	Case No.: 37-2022-00017063-CU-0E-CTL  REPRESENTATIVE ACTION COMPLAINT FOR:  1. VIOLATIONS OF THE PRIVATE ATTORNEY GENERAL ACT AT LABOR CODE SECTIONS 2698, et seq.			

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff VIOLENA PEREZ MARTINEZ ("PLAINTIFF") on behalf of the people of the State of California and as "aggrieved employees" acting as a private attorney general under the Labor Code Private Attorney General Action of 2004, § 2699, et seq. ("PAGA") only, alleges on information and belief, except for her own acts and knowledge which are based on personal knowledge, the following:

#### **INTRODUCTION**

- 1. PLAINTIFF brings this action against OLLI SALUMERIA AMERICANA, LLC ("DEFENDANT") seeking only to recover <u>PAGA civil penalties</u> for herself, and on behalf of all current and former aggrieved employees that worked for DEFENDANT. PLAINTIFF does <u>not seek to recover anything other than penalties as permitted by California Labor Code § 2699</u>. To the extent that statutory violations are mentioned for wage violations, PLAINTIFF does not seek underlying general and/or special damages for those violations in this action, but simply the civil penalties permitted by California Labor Code § 2699. Notwithstanding, PLAINTIFF is not abandoning her right to pursue her individual claims for, *inter alia*, DEFENDANT's alleged wage violations, and/or general or special damages arising from those violations, and she fully intends to, at a future date, pursue claims for those individual claims and damages.
- California has enacted the PAGA to permit an individual to bring an action on behalf of herself and on behalf of others for PAGA penalties *only*, which is the precise and sole nature of this action.
- 3. Accordingly, PLAINTIFF seeks to obtain all applicable relief for DEFENDANT's violations under PAGA and solely for the relief as permitted by PAGA that is, penalties and any other relief the Court deems proper pursuant to the PAGA. Nothing in this complaint should be construed as attempting to obtain any relief that would not be available in a PAGA-only action.

#### THE PARTIES

Defendant OLLI SALUMERIA AMERICANA, LLC ("DEFENDANT") is a
 Virginia limited liability company that at all relevant times mentioned herein conducted and

continues to conduct substantial business in the State of California, county of San Diego, and operates a business that sells, develops, and commercializes packaged foods.

- 5. 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 is informed and believes, and based upon that information and belief alleges, that the Defendant named in this Complaint, including DOES 1 through 50, inclusive (hereinafter collectively "DEFENDANTS"), are responsible in some manner for one or more of the events and happenings that proximately caused the injuries and damages hereinafter alleged.
- 6. 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 of the DEFENDANTS are legally attributable to the other and all DEFENDANTS are jointly and severally liable to PLAINTIFF and those similarly situated, for the loss sustained as a proximate result of the conduct of the DEFENDANTS' agents, servants and/or employees.
- 7. DEFENDANTS were PLAINTIFF's employers or persons acting on behalf of 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.
- 8. 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.

- 9. PLAINTIFF was employed by DEFENDANTS in California from July of 2019 to December of 2021 and at all times was classified by DEFENDANTS as a non-exempt employee, paid on an hourly basis, and entitled to the legally required meal and rest periods and payment of minimum and overtime wages due for all time worked.
- 10. PLAINTIFF, and such persons that may be added from time to time who satisfy the requirements and exhaust the administrative procedures under the Private Attorney General Act, bring this Representative Action on behalf of the State of California with respect to herself and all individuals who are or previously were employed by DEFENDANTS as non-exempt employees in California (the "AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES") during the time period of March 1, 2021 until the present (the "PAGA PERIOD").
- 11. PLAINTIFF, on behalf of herself and all AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES presently or formerly employed by DEFENDANTS during the PAGA PERIOD, brings this representative action pursuant to Labor Code § 2699, et seq. seeking penalties for DEFENDANTS' violation of California 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, 1198.5, 1199, 2802, & 2804 and the applicable Wage Order. Based upon the foregoing, PLAINTIFF and all AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES are aggrieved employees within the meaning of Labor Code § 2699, et seq.

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 12. This Court has jurisdiction over this Action pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure, Section 410.10.
- 13. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure, Sections 395 and 395.5, because DEFENDANTS (i) currently maintains and at all relevant times maintained offices and facilities in this County and/or conducts substantial business in this County,

9 10

11

12 13

14

15 16

17

18

19

20 21

22

23

24

25

26

27 28 the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES.

and (ii) committed the wrongful conduct herein alleged in this County against PLAINTIFF and

#### THE CONDUCT

14. 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 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for missed meal and rest periods, failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for all time worked, failed compensate PLAINTIFF for off-the-clock work, failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES overtime at the correct regular rate of pay, failed to compensate PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES meal rest premiums at the regular rate, failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for business expenses, and failed to issue to PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES 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 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES against DEFENDANTS, the PAGA PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.

#### A. **Meal Period Violations**

15. Pursuant to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, DEFENDANTS were required to pay PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES 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 PAGA PERIOD, DEFENDANTS required PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES to work without paying them for all the time they were under DEFENDANTS' control. Specifically, as a

9

1213

15

14

1617

18

19

2021

22

23

24

25

26

2728

result of PLAINTIFF's demanding work requirements and DEFENDANTS' understaffing, DEFENDANTS from time-to-time 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 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES 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. DEFENDANTS' uniform policy and practice not to pay PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for all time worked is evidenced by DEFENDANTS' business records.

16. From time-to-time during the PAGA PERIOD, as a result of their rigorous work requirements and DEFENDANTS' inadequate staffing practices, PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES 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 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were required from time to time to perform work as ordered by DEFENDANTS for more than five (5) hours during some shifts without receiving a meal break. Further, DEFENDANTS from time to time failed to provide PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES with a second off-duty meal period for some workdays in which these employees were required by DEFENDANTS to work ten (10) hours of work from time to time. The nature of the work performed by PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES does not qualify for limited and narrowly construed "on-duty" meal period exception. When they were provided with meal periods, PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were, from time to time, required to remain on duty and on call. PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES therefore forfeited meal breaks without additional compensation and in accordance with DEFENDANTS' strict corporate policy and practice.

#### B. Rest Period Violations

17. From time-to-time during the PAGA PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were also required from time to time to work in excess of four (4) hours without being provided ten (10) minute rest periods as a result of their rigorous work

13

16 17

19

20

18

21 22

23 24

25 26

27

28

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 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were, from time to time, required to remain on duty and/or on call. PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES 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 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were from time to time denied their proper rest periods by DEFENDANTS and DEFENDANTS' managers.

#### C. **Wage Statement Violations**

- 18. 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.
- 19. From time to time during the PAGA PERIOD, when PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES missed meal and rest breaks, or were paid inaccurate missed meal and rest period premiums, or were not paid for all hours worked, DEFENDANTS also failed to provide PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES with complete and accurate wage statements which failed to show, among other things, 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. Further, from time to time, DEFENDANTS included Sick Pay, Holiday and Vacation hours into the

computation of total hours worked for purposes of Cal. Lab. Code § 226(a)(2), notwithstanding the fact that Sick Pay, Holiday and Vacation hours are not considered hours worked. DEFENDANTS' inclusion of Sick Pay, Holiday and Vacation hours into the total hours worked in itemized wage statements issued to PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES violates Cal. Lab. Code § 226(a)(2).

- 20. DEFENDANTS, from time to time, failed to provide PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES with wage statements that comply with Cal. Lab. Code § 226. Specifically, DEFENDANTS failed to include the correct total number of hours worked on the wage statements.
- 21. As a result, DEFENDANTS issued PLAINTIFF and the other members of the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES with wage statements that violate Cal. Lab. Code § 226. Further, DEFENDANTS' violations are knowing and intentional, were not isolated or due to an unintentional payroll error due to clerical or inadvertent mistake.

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

- 22. During the PAGA PERIOD, from time-to-time DEFENDANTS failed and continues to fail to accurately pay PLAINTIFF and the other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for all hours worked.
- 23. During the PAGA PERIOD, from time-to-time DEFENDANTS required PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES to perform pre-shift and post-shift work, which included spending time under DEFENDANTS' control for which she was not compensated. This resulted in PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES to have to work while off-the-clock.
- 24. During the PAGA PERIOD, from time-to-time DEFENDANTS required PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES to remain available for work-related communications while off-the-clock.
- 25. DEFENDANTS directed and directly benefited from the uncompensated off-theclock work performed by PLAINTIFF and the other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES.

- 26. DEFENDANTS controlled the work schedules, duties, protocols, applications, assignments, and employment conditions of PLAINTIFF and the other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES.
- 27. DEFENDANTS were able to track the amount of time PLAINTIFF and the other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES spent working; however, DEFENDANTS failed to document, track, or pay PLAINTIFF and the other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES all wages earned and owed for all the work they performed.
- 28. PLAINTIFF and the other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were non-exempt employees, subject to the requirements of the California Labor Code.
- 29. DEFENDANTS' policies and practices deprived PLAINTIFF and the other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES of all minimum, regular, overtime, and double time wages owed for the off-the-clock work activities. Because PLAINTIFF and the other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES typically worked over 40 hours in a workweek, and more than eight (8) hours per day, DEFENDANTS' policies and practices also deprived them of overtime pay.
- 30. DEFENDANTS knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES' off-the-clock work was compensable under the law.
- 31. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES forfeited wages due them for all hours worked at DEFENDANTS' direction, control and benefit for the time spent working while off-the-clock. DEFENDANTS' uniform policy and practice to not pay PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES wages for all hours worked in accordance with applicable law is evidenced by DEFENDANTS' business records.

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

32. From time-to-time during the PAGA PERIOD, DEFENDANTS failed and continue to fail to accurately calculate and pay PLAINTIFF and the other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for their overtime and double time hours worked, meal and rest period premiums, and sick pay. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES forfeited wages due them for working overtime without compensation at the correct overtime and double time rates, meal and

rest period premiums, and sick pay rates. DEFENDANTS' uniform policy and practice to not pay the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES the correct rate for all overtime and double time worked, meal and rest period premiums, and sick pay in accordance with applicable law is evidenced by DEFENDANTS' business records.

- 33. State law provides that employees must be paid overtime at one-and-one-half times their "regular rate of pay." PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were compensated at an hourly rate plus incentive pay that was tied to specific elements of an employee's performance.
- 34. The second component of PLAINTIFF's and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES' compensation was DEFENDANTS' non-discretionary incentive program that paid PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES incentive wages based on their performance for DEFENDANTS. The non-discretionary bonus program provided all employees paid on an hourly basis with bonus compensation when the employees met the various performance goals set by DEFENDANTS.
- 35. However, from-time-to-time, when calculating the regular rate of pay, in those pay periods where PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES worked overtime, double time, paid meal and rest period premium payments, and/or paid sick pay, and earned non-discretionary bonus, DEFENDANTS failed to accurately include the non-discretionary bonus compensation as part of the employees' "regular rate of pay" and/or calculated all hours worked rather than just all non-overtime hours worked. Management and supervisors described the 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 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES 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 sick pay to PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES 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.

36. 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 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES 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 DEFENDANTS 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 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 AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES against DEFENDANTS, the PAGA PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.

#### F. <u>Unlawful Rounding Violations</u>

91. During the PAGA PERIOD, DEFENDANTS did not have in place an immutable timekeeping system to accurately record and pay PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES 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 PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES 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 PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES in order to avoid paying these employees for all their time worked, including the applicable overtime compensation for overtime worked. As a result, PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES, 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.

## 

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

#### **G.** Failure to Provide Personnel Files

- 93. Subsequent to PLAINTIFF'S termination, on December 8, 2021 and January 13, 2022, PLAINTIFF caused written requests via certified mail to be delivered to DEFENDANTS for PLAINTIFF'S personnel and employment records, including but not limited to (1) payroll records; (2) employment contracts; (3) itemized pay stubs; and (4) PLAINTIFF'S complete employment file.
- 94. DEFENDANTS failed to provide and/or make available to PLAINTIFF her personnel records, payroll records, employment contracts, and entire employment file within (30) days of all her requests stated above. In fact, as of the date of filing of this complaint, DEFENDANTS have still failed to pay PLAINTIFF the statutory penalty in the amount of \$750. DEFENDANTS violated Cal. Lab. Code Section 1198.5 by failing to respond and provide PLAINTIFF with her employment file. Section 1198.5 states that employees (and former employees) have the right to inspect personnel records maintained by the employer "related to the employee's performance or to any grievance concerning the employee." Employers must allow inspection or copying within thirty (30) days of the request. PLAINTIFF requested her employment file via certified mail and DEFENDANTS failed to respond. As a result, PLAINTIFF is now entitled to and requests injunctive relief to obtain compliance with Cal. Lab. Code Section 1198.5, a statutory penalty, and an award of attorneys' fees and costs for bringing this action.

3 4

## 6

5

7 8

9

11

1213

1415

16

17

1819

20

21

2223

24

25

26

27

#### 28

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

95. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 204, PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES were entitled to timely payment of wages during their employment. PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES, 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.

#### I. <u>Unlawful Deductions</u>

- 96. DEFENDANTS, from time-to-time unlawfully deducted wages from PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES' pay without explanations and without authorization to do so or notice to PLAINTIFF and the AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES. As a result, DEFENDANTS violated Labor Code § 221.
- 97. 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 a paystub that failed to comply with Cal. Lab. Code § 226. Further, failed to provide and/or make available to PLAINTIFF her personnel records, payroll records, employment contracts, and entire employment file within (30) days of all her requests on December 8, 2021 and January 13, 2022. 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.

#### **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### VIOLATION OF THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT

[Cal. Lab. Code §§ 2698 et seq.]

#### (Alleged by PLAINTIFF against all Defendants)

- 37. PLAINTIFF realleges and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 43. PAGA is a mechanism by which the State of California itself can enforce state labor laws through the employee suing under the PAGA who does so as the proxy or agent of the state's labor law enforcement agencies. An action to recover civil penalties under PAGA is fundamentally a law enforcement action designed to protect the public and not to benefit private parties. The purpose of the PAGA is not to recover damages or restitution, but to create a means of "deputizing" citizens as private attorneys general to enforce the Labor Code. In enacting PAGA, the California Legislature specified that "it was ... in the public interest to allow aggrieved employees, acting as private attorneys general to recover civil penalties for Labor Code violations ..." (Stats. 2003, ch. 906, § 1). Accordingly, PAGA claims cannot be subject to arbitration.
- 44. PLAINTIFF, and such persons that may be added from time to time who satisfy the requirements and exhaust the administrative procedures under the Private Attorney General Act, bring this Representative Action on behalf of the State of California with respect to herself and all individuals who are or previously were employed by DEFENDANTS as non-exempt employees in California during the time period of March 1, 2021 until the present (the "AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES").
- 45. On March 1, 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.

- 46. The policies, acts and practices heretofore described were and are an unlawful business act or practice because Defendant (a) failed to pay PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES minimum wages and overtime wages, (b) failed to provide PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES legally required meal and rest breaks, (c) failed to pay PLAINTIFF and other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES at the correct regular rate of pay, (d) failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for all time worked, and (e) failed to provide accurate itemized wage statements, all in violation of the applicable Labor Code sections listed in Labor Code §2699.5, including but not limited to Labor Code §8 201, 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, 1198.5, 1199, 2802, & 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 Attorney General Act of 2004 as the representative of the State of California for the illegal conduct perpetrated on PLAINTIFF and the other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES.
- 47. Some or all of the conduct and violations alleged herein occurred during the PAGA PERIOD. To the extent that any of the conduct and violations alleged herein did not affect PLAINTIFF during the PAGA PERIOD, PLAINTIFF seeks penalties for those violations that affected other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES. (*Carrington v. Starbucks Corp.* (2018) 30 Cal.App.5th 504, 519; See also *Huff v. Securitas Security Services USA, Inc.* (2018) 23 Cal. App. 5th 745, 751 ["PAGA allows an "aggrieved employee"—a person affected by at least one Labor Code violation committed by an employer—to pursue penalties for all the Labor Code violations committed by that employer."], Emphasis added, reh'g denied (June 13, 2018).)

### PRAYER FOR RELIEF WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF prays for judgment against each DEFENDANTS, jointly and severally, as follows: 1. On behalf of the State of California and with respect to all AGGRIEVED **EMPLOYEES:** a. Recovery of civil penalties as prescribed by the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004; and b. An award of penalties, attorneys' fees and costs of suit, as allowable under the law. Dated: May 5, 2022 JCL LAW FIRM, APC Attorney for PLAINTIFF **DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL** PLAINTIFF demands a jury trial on issues triable to a jury. DATED: May 5, 2022 JCL LAW FIRM, APC Attorney for PLAINTIFF

# **EXHIBIT 1**



Client #46601 March 1, 2022

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

#### OLLI SALUMERIA AMERICANA, LLC

c/o RONDALL POWERS
1301 Rocky Point Drive
Oceanside, CA 92056
Sent via Certified Mail and Return Receipt No. 7021 2720 0000 9972 5917

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 VIOLENA PEREZ MARTINEZ ("Plaintiff"), and other aggrieved employees in a proposed lawsuit against Defendant OLLI SALUMERIA AMERICANA, LLC ("Defendant"). Plaintiff was employed by Defendant in California from July of 2019 to December of 2021 as a non-exempt employee, paid on an hourly basis, and entitled to payment of all wages and the legally required meal and rest breaks and payment of minimum and overtime wages due for all time worked. 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 her, 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 and exempt 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 are on notice that Plaintiff continues her 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

	ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC	
1	Shani O. Zakay (State Bar #277924)	
2	Jackland K. Hom (State Bar #327243) Julieann Alvarado (State Bar #334727)	
3	5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600	
	San Diego, CA 92121	
4	Telephone: (619) 255-9047 Facsimile: (858) 404-9203	
5	shani@zakaylaw.com	
6	jackland@zakaylaw.com	
7	JCL LAW FIRM, APC	
7	Jean-Claude Lapuyade (State Bar #248676)	
8	Eduardo Garcia (State Bar #290572)	
9	5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600 San Diego, CA 92121	
10	Telephone: (619) 599-8292	
	Facsimile: (619) 599-8291	
11	<u>jlapuyade@jcl-lawfirm.com</u> <u>egarcia@jcl-lawfirm.com</u>	
12	<u>egarcia@jer-iawinini.com</u>	
13	Attorneys for Plaintiff VIOLENA PEREZ MART	TINEZ
	SUPERIOR COURT OF THI	E STATE OF CALIFORNIA
14	Ser Exion Cocki of Till	
15	IN AND FOR THE COU	UNTY OF SAN DIEGO
16	VIOLENA PEREZ MARTINEZ, an individual,	
17	on behalf of herself and on behalf of all persons	Case No:
	similarly situated,	<b>CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR:</b>
18	Plaintiff,	1) UNFAIR COMPETITION IN VIOLATION
19	V.	OF CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE §17200 e
20		seq; 2) FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES IN
	OLLI SALUMERIA AMERICANA, LLC, a Virginia Limited Liability Company; and	VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 1194, 1197 & 1197.1;
21	DOES 1-50, Inclusive,	3) FAILURE TO PAY OVERTIME WAGES
22	D.C. I	IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 510 et seq;
23	Defendants.	4) FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED MEAL PERIODS IN VIOLATION OF
		CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 226.7 & 512 ANI
24		THE APPLICABLE IWC WAGE ORDER;  5) FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED
25		REST PERIODS IN VIOLATION OF CAL LAB. CODE §§ 226.7 & 512 AND THE
26		APPLICABLE IWC WAGE ORDER;
27		6) FAILURE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE ITEMIZED STATEMENTS IN
		VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE § 226;
28		7) FAILURE TO PROVIDE WAGES WHEN DUE IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB

CALIFORNIA CLASS, for the loss sustained as a proximate result of the conduct of the Defendant's agents, servants and/or employees.

- 4. DEFENDANTS were PLAINTIFF's employers or persons acting on behalf of 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.
- 5. 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.
- 6. PLAINTIFF was employed by DEFENDANT in California from July of 2019 to December of 2021 and at all times was classified by DEFENDANT as a non-exempt employee, paid on an hourly basis, and entitled to the legally required meal and rest periods and payment of minimum and overtime wages due for all time worked.
- 7. PLAINTIFF brings this Class Action on behalf of herself and a California class, defined as all persons who are or previously were employed by DEFENDANT in California and classified as non-exempt 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).
- 8. 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 DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice which failed to lawfully compensate these employees. DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice alleged herein was an unlawful, unfair and deceptive business practice whereby DEFENDANT retained and continues 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 DEFENDANT in the future, relief for the named PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS who have been economically injured by DEFENDANT's past and current unlawful conduct, and all other appropriate legal and equitable relief.

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

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 11. 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.
- 12. 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 DEFENDANT and DEFENDANT (i) currently maintains 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 CONDUCT

13. In violation of the applicable sections of the California Labor Code and the requirements of the Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") Wage Order, DEFENDANT as a matter of company policy, practice and procedure, intentionally, knowingly and systematically failed to provide legally compliant meal and rest periods, failed to accurately compensate PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for missed meal and rest

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

#### A. Meal Period Violations

14. 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 from time to time 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

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all time worked is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records.

15. 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 offduty 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. 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 and on call. 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 Period Violations

From time-to-time during the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and other 16. CALIFORNIA CLASS members were also required from time to time 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 DEFENDANT's 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 remain on duty and/or

# on call. 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 DEFENDANT's inadequate staffing, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were from time to time denied their proper rest periods by DEFENDANT and DEFENDANT's managers.

#### C. Wage Statement Violations

- 17. 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.
- 18. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, when PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members missed meal and rest breaks, or were paid inaccurate missed meal and rest period premiums, or were not paid for all hours worked, DEFENDANT also failed to provide PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with complete and accurate wage statements which failed to show, among other things, 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. Further, from time to time, DEFENDANTS included Sick Pay, Holiday and Vacation hours into the computation of total hours worked for purposes of Cal. Lab. Code § 226(a)(2), notwithstanding the fact that Sick Pay, Holiday and Vacation hours are not considered hours worked. DEFENDANTS' inclusion of Sick Pay, Holiday and Vacation hours into the total hours worked in itemized wage statements issued to PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members violates Cal. Lab. Code § 226(a)(2).
- 19. DEFENDANT, from time to time, failed to provide PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with wage statements that comply with Cal. Lab. Code § 226.

DEFENDANT's policies and practices deprived PLAINTIFF and the other

members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS of all minimum, regular, overtime, and double time wages

exempt employees, subject to the requirements of the California Labor Code.

26

27

27.

owed for the off-the-clock work activities. Because PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS typically worked over 40 hours in a workweek, and more than eight (8) hours per day, DEFENDANT's policies and practices also deprived them of overtime pay.

- 28. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS off-the-clock work was compensable under the law.
- 29. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS forfeited wages due them for all hours worked at DEFENDANT's direction, control and benefit for the time spent working while off-the-clock. DEFENDANT's 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 DEFENDANT's business records.

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

- 30. From time-to-time during the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT failed and continue 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 sick pay. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS members forfeited wages due them for working overtime without compensation at the correct overtime and double time rates, meal and rest period premiums, and sick pay rates. DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice to not pay the CALIFORNIA CLASS members the correct rate for all overtime and double time worked, meal and rest period premiums, and sick pay in accordance with applicable law is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records.
- 31. 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.
- 32. The second component of PLAINTIFF's and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members' compensation was DEFENDANT's non-discretionary incentive program that paid PLAINTIFF and other CLASS MEMBERS incentive wages based on their performance for

13 14

15 16

17

18

19

20 21

22

23 24

25

26

27

28

DEFENDANT. 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 DEFENDANT.

- 33. 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 paid sick pay, and earned nondiscretionary bonus, DEFENDANT 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 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.
- 34. 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.

#### F. Unlawful Rounding Violations

- 35. During the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS did not have in place an immutable timekeeping system to accurately record and pay PLAINTIFF 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 PLAINTIFF 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 PLAINTIFF 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, PLAINTIFF 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.
- 36. Further, the mutability of DEFENDANTS' timekeeping system and unlawful rounding policy and practice resulted in PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members' time being inaccurately recorded. As a result, from time to time, DEFENDANTS' unlawful rounding policy and practice caused PLAINTIFF 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. Additionally, DEFENDANTS' unlawful rounding policy and practice caused PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to perform work as ordered by DEFENDANTS for more than ten (10) hours during a shift without receiving a second off-duty meal break.

27 //

 $^{8}\parallel_{//}$ 

#### G. Failure to Provide Personnel Files

- 37. Subsequent to PLAINTIFF'S termination, on December 8, 2021 and January 13, 2022, PLAINTIFF caused written requests via certified mail to be delivered to DEFENDANTS for PLAINTIFF'S personnel and employment records, including but not limited to (1) payroll records; (2) employment contracts; (3) itemized pay stubs; and (4) PLAINTIFF'S complete employment file.
- 38. DEFENDANTS failed to provide and/or make available to PLAINTIFF her personnel records, payroll records, employment contracts, and entire employment file within (30) days of all her requests stated above. In fact, as of the date of filing of this complaint, DEFENDANTS have still failed to pay PLAINTIFF the statutory penalty in the amount of \$750. DEFENDANTS violated Cal. Lab. Code Section 1198.5 by failing to respond and provide PLAINTIFF with her employment file. Section 1198.5 states that employees (and former employees) have the right to inspect personnel records maintained by the employer "related to the employee's performance or to any grievance concerning the employee." Employers must allow inspection or copying within thirty (30) days of the request. PLAINTIFF requested her employment file via certified mail and DEFENDANTS failed to respond. As a result, PLAINTIFF is now entitled to and requests injunctive relief to obtain compliance with Cal. Lab. Code Section 1198.5, a statutory penalty, and an award of attorneys' fees and costs for bringing this action.

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

39. Cal. Lab. Code § 204(d) provides, the requirements of this section shall be deemed satisfied by the payment of wages for weekly, biweekly, or semimonthly payroll if the wages are paid not more than seven calendar days following the close of the payroll period. Cal. Lab. Code § 210 provides:

[I]n addition to, and entirely independent and apart from, any other penalty provided in this article, every person who fails to pay the wages of each employee as provided in Sections. . . .204. . .shall be subject to a civil penalty as follows: (1) For any initial violation, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each failure to pay each employee; (2) For each subsequent violation, or any willful or intentional violation, two hundred dollars (\$200) for each failure to pay each employee, plus 25 percent of the amount unlawfully withheld.

40. DEFENDANT from time to time failed to pay PLAINTIFF and members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS Members within seven (7) days of the close of the payroll period in accordance with Cal. Lab. Code § 204(d).

#### I. Unlawful Deductions

1

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

- 41. 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.
- 42. 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 DEFENDANT 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 a paystub that failed to comply with Cal. Lab. Code § 226. Further, failed to provide and/or make available to PLAINTIFF her personnel records, payroll records, employment contracts, and entire employment file within (30) days of all her requests on December 8, 2021 and January 13, 2022. 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.

#### J. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 43. PLAINTIFF brings the First through Seventh Causes of Action as a class action pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 on behalf of all of DEFENDANT's current and former non-exempt California employees ("CALIFORNIA CLASS") during the period beginning four years prior to the filing of the Complaint and ending on a date determined by the Court ("CLASS PERIOD").
- 44. 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.
- 45. The members of the class are so numerous that joinder of all class members is impractical.
- 46. Common questions of law and fact regarding DEFENDANT's conduct, including but not limited to, the 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, failed 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:
  - a. Whether DEFENDANT maintained legally compliant meal period policies and practices;
  - b. Whether DEFENDANT maintained legally compliant rest period policies and practices;
  - c. Whether DEFENDANT failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS
     Members accurate premium payments for missed meal and rest periods;

- 52. 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 DEFENDANT are sufficient to adequately compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the injuries sustained.
- 53. 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.
- 54. 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.
- 55. Class treatment provides manageable judicial treatment calculated to bring an efficient and rapid conclusion to all litigation of all wage and hour related claims arising out of the conduct of DEFENDANT.

#### **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

**Unlawful Business Practices** 

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

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

- 56. 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.
- 57. DEFENDANT is a "person" as that term is defined under Cal. Bus. And Prof. Code § 17021.
- 58. California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq. (the "UCL") defines unfair competition as any unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business act or practice. Section 17203 authorizes injunctive, declaratory, and/or other equitable relief with respect to unfair competition as follows:

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).

- 59. 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, 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.
- 60. 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.

- 61. 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.
- 62. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were also unlawful, unfair and deceptive in that DEFENDANT's employment practices caused PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to be underpaid during their employment with DEFENDANT.
- 63. 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.
- 64. 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.
- 65. 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.
- 66. 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

- 71. 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.
- 72. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS bring a claim for DEFENDANT'S willful and intentional violations of the California Labor Code and the Industrial Welfare Commission requirements for DEFENDANT'S failure to accurately calculate and pay minimum wages to PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.
- 73. 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.
- 74. 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.
- 75. 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.
- 76. DEFENDANT maintained a uniform wage practice of paying PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS without regard to the correct amount of time they worked. 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 CLASS.
- 77. DEFENDANT'S 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 denied accurate compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in regards to minimum wage pay.
- 78. 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 CLASS. DEFENDANT acted in an illegal attempt to avoid the payment of all earned wages, and other benefits in violation of

10

11 12

13

14 15

16

17

18

19 20

21

22 23

24

25

26

27

the California Labor Code, the Industrial Welfare Commission requirements and other applicable laws and regulations.

- 79. As a direct result of DEFENDANT's 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 DEFENDANT.
- 80. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid less for time worked than they were entitled to, constituting a failure to pay all earned wages.
- 81. By virtue of DEFENDANT's 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.
- 82. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA 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 CLASS the correct minimum wages for their time worked.
- 83. 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, DEFENDANT 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.

1	
2	r
3	a
4	(
5	С
6	t
7	2
8	(
9	N
10	f
11	r
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	i
18	i
19	
20	f
21	I
22	f
23	a
24	
25	p
26	
7	e e

84. 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 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 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 CLASS Members. DEFENDANT's 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 §§ 510, 1194 and 1198)

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

- 85. 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.
- 86. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS bring a claim for DEFENDANT's willful and intentional violations of the California Labor Code and the Industrial Welfare Commission requirements for DEFENDANT's failure to pay these employees 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.
- 87. 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.
- 88. Cal. Lab. Code § 510 further provides that employees in California shall not be employed more than eight (8) hours per workday and more than forty (40) hours per workweek

- Cal. Lab. Code § 1194 establishes an employee's right to recover unpaid wages, including minimum wage 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
- 6

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

26

- During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required by DEFENDANT to work for DEFENDANT and were not paid for all the time
- DEFENDANT's 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.
- 92. 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 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.
- 93. As a direct result of DEFENDANT's unlawful wage practices as alleged herein, the PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS did not receive full compensation for overtime worked.
- 94. 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 CLASS. Further, PLAINTIFF and the

- 95. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS have been paid less for overtime worked that they are entitled to, constituting a failure to pay all earned wages.
- 96. DEFENDANT failed to accurately pay the 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 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.
- 97. By virtue of DEFENDANT's unlawful failure to accurately pay all earned compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all overtime worked by these employees, 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.
- 98. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA 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 CLASS for overtime worked.
- 99. 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 overtime worked and provide them with the requisite overtime compensation, DEFENDANT acted and

1	continues to act intentionally, oppressively, and maliciously toward PLAINTIFF and the other
2	members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with a conscious and utter disregard for their legal rights,
3	or the consequences to them, and with the despicable intent of depriving them of their property
4	and legal rights, and otherwise causing them injury in order to increase company profits at the
5	expense of these employees.
6	100. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS therefore
7	request recovery of all unpaid wages, including overtime wages, according to proof, interest,
8	statutory costs, as well as the assessment of any statutory penalties against DEFENDANT, in a
9	sum as provided by the California Labor Code and/or other applicable statutes. To the extent
10	minimum and/or overtime compensation is determined to be owed to the CALIFORNIA CLASS
11	Members who have terminated their employment, DEFENDANT's conduct also violates Labor
12	Code §§ 201 and/or 202, and therefore these employees would also be entitled to waiting time
13	penalties under Cal. Lab. Code § 203, which penalties are sought herein on behalf of these
14	CALIFORNIA CLASS Members. DEFENDANT's conduct as alleged herein was willful,
15	intentional, and not in good faith. Further, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
16	Members are entitled to seek and recover statutory costs.
17	///
18	///
19	
20	FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION
21	Failure To Provide Required Meal Periods
22	(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 & 512)
23	(Alleged By PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all Defendants)
24	101. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and
25	incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this
26	Complaint.
27	102. During the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT failed to provide all the legally
28	required off-duty meal breaks to PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members as
	required off-duty filear ofcars to FLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS MEMbers as

1	required by the applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. The nature of the work performed by
2	PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members did not prevent these employees from being
3	relieved of all of their duties for the legally required off-duty meal periods. As a result of their
4	rigorous work schedules, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were often no
5	fully relieved of duty by DEFENDANT for their meal periods. Additionally, DEFENDANT's
6	failure to provide PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with legally required
7	meal breaks prior to their fifth (5th) hour of work is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business
8	records. Further, DEFENDANT failed to provide PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS
9	Members with a second off-duty meal period in some workdays in which these employees were
10	required by DEFENDANT to work ten (10) hours of work. As a result, PLAINTIFF and other
11	members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS forfeited meal breaks without additional compensation
12	and in accordance with DEFENDANT's strict corporate policy and practice.
13	103. DEFENDANT further violated California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and the applicable
14	IWC Wage Order by failing to compensate PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
15	who were not provided a meal period, in accordance with the applicable Wage Order, one
16	additional hour of compensation at each employee's regular rate of pay for each workday that a

meal period was not provided.

104. 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)

105. 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.

wage statements which failed to show, among other things, the total hours worked and all

applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding amount of time

27

114. 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.

27

1	employees who terminated employment during the CLASS PERIOD and demand an accounting
2	and payment of all wages due, plus interest and statutory costs as allowed by law.
3	EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION
4	FOR FAILURE TO PROVIDE PERSONNEL FILES
5	[Cal. Lab. Code § 1198.5]
6	(By PLAINTIFF Against All DEFENDANTS)
7	122. PLAINTIFF realleges and incorporates by this reference, as though fully set forth
8	herein, the prior paragraphs of this Complaint.
9	123. Subsequent to PLAINTIFF'S termination, on December 8, 2021 and January 13,
10	2022, PLAINTIFF caused written requests via certified mail to be delivered to DEFENDANTS
11	for PLAINTIFF'S personnel and employment records, including but not limited to (1) payroll
12	records; (2) employment contracts; (3) itemized pay stubs; and (4) PLAINTIFF'S complete
13	employment file.
14	124. DEFENDANTS failed to provide and/or make available to PLAINTIFF her
15	personnel records, payroll records, employment contracts, and entire employment file within (30)
16	days of all her requests stated above. In fact, as of the date of filing of this complaint,
17	DEFENDANTS have still failed to pay PLAINTIFF the statutory penalty in the amount of \$750.
18	125. DEFENDANTS violated Cal. Lab. Code Section 1198.5 by failing to respond and
19	provide PLAINTIFF with her employment file. Section 1198.5 states that employees (and former
20	employees) have the right to inspect personnel records maintained by the employer "related to the
21	employee's performance or to any grievance concerning the employee." Employers must allow
22	inspection or copying within thirty (30) days of the request. PLAINTIFF requested her
23	employment file via certified mail and DEFENDANTS failed to respond. As a result, PLAINTIFF
24	is now entitled to and requests injunctive relief to obtain compliance with Cal. Lab. Code Section
25	1198.5, a statutory penalty, and an award of attorneys' fees and costs for bringing this action.
26	PRAYER FOR RELIEF
27	WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF prays for a judgment against each Defendant, jointly and
28	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 PLAINTIFF 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.

#### 2. On behalf of the CALIFORNIA CLASS:

- a. That the Court certify the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh 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 minimum wage and 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

1		therefore is commenced, in accordance with Cal. Lab. Code § 203.
2	3.	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.
6	DATED:	March 1, 2022
7		ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC
8		
9		By:
10		
11		Shani O. Zakay Attorney for PLAINTIFF
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		
26		
27		
28		

# **DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL** PLAINTIFF demands a jury trial on issues triable to a jury. DATED: March 1, 2022 ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC Shani O. Zakay Attorney for PLAINTIFF

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY	
Complete items 1, 2, and 3.  Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.  Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.  Article Addressed to:  OIN SAIUMCHA AMCHUNA, LLCCO RONGAN POWETS  1301 FOCKY POINT DT.  OCCUNSIDE, CA 92056		
O(ENTISTICE) CIT STEEDS	\( \lambda	120042 1401042
9590 9402 6815 1074 9834 15	□ Adult Signature □ Registered Mail™ □ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery □ Registered Mail Restricted □ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery □ Signature Confirmation™ □ Collect on Delivery □ Signature Confirmation	
2. Article Number (Transfer from service lahel) 7021 2720 0000 9972 5917	Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery Restricted Delivery Mail Mail Restricted Delivery (over \$500)	

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

Domestic Return Receipt