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

(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):

and DOES 1-50, Inclusive,

BRIAN BRADFORD and LISA BRADFORD, individuals, on behalf of themselves, and on behalf of all persons similarly situated,

PRUDENT SECURITY SOLUTIONS, INC., a California corporation.

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.

The name and address of the court is:

(El nombre y dirección de la corte es):

Los Angeles Superior Court - Stanley Mosk Courthouse

1. 2.

111 North Hill Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:

(El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq. SBN:248676 Tel: (619) 599-8292 Fax: (858) 599-8291

NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served

as an individual defendant.

Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq.

JCL Law Firm, APC - 5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600, San Diego, CA 92121
David W. Slayton, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court

CASE NUMBER: 23ST CV 04656

Ř. Lozano \_ , Deputy DATE: Clerk, by 03/02/2023 (Fecha) (Secretario) (Adjunto)

as the person sued under the fictitious name of (specify):

SHMMONS

(For proof of service of this summons, use Proof of Service of Summons (form POS-010).)

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

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OF LOS

3.	on behalf of (specify):	
	under: CCP 416.10 (corporation) CCP 416.20 (defunct corporation) CCP 416.40 (association or partnership)	CCP 416.60 (minor) CCP 416.70 (conservatee) CCP 416.90 (authorized person)
4.	other (specify): by personal delivery on (date):	

Page 1 of 1

Assigned for all purposes to: Spring Street Courthouse, Judicial Officer: Elihu Berle

#### JCL LAW FIRM, APC 1 Jean-Claude Lapuyade (State Bar #248676) Sydney Castillo-Johnson (State Bar #343881) Monnett De La Torre (State Bar # 272884) 5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600 3 San Diego, CA 92121 4 Telephone: (619) 599-8292 Facsimile: (619) 599-8291 5 ilapuyade@jcl-lawfirm.com scastillo@jcl-lawfirm.com 6 mdelatorre@jcl-lawfirm.com 7 ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC 8 Shani O. Zakay (State Bar #277924) 5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600 San Diego, CA 92121 Telephone: (619) 255-9047 10 Facsimile: (858) 404-9203 shani@zakaylaw.com 11 12 Attorneys for PLAINTIFFS 13 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 14 IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 15 BRIAN BRADFORD and LISA BRADFORD, Case No: 238TCV04656 16 individuals, on behalf of themselves, and on behalf of all persons similarly situated, **CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR:** 17 Plaintiffs, 1) UNFAIR COMPETITION IN VIOLATION 18 OF CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE §17200 et v. 19 seq; 2) FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES IN PRUDENT SECURITY SOLUTIONS INC., a 20 California corporation, and DOES 1-50, VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§ Inclusive, 1194, 1197 & 1197.1; 21 3) FAILURE TO PAY OVERTIME WAGES Defendants. IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 22 510, et seg; 23 4) FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED MEAL PERIODS IN VIOLATION OF 24 CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 226.7 & 512 AND THE APPLICABLE IWC WAGE ORDER; 25 5) FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED 26 REST PERIODS IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 226.7 & 512 AND THE 27 APPLICABLE IWC WAGE ORDER; 28

1 2 3 4	6) FAILURE TO REIMBURSE EMPLOYEES FOR REQUIRED EXPENSES IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE § 2802; 7) FAILURE TO PROVIDE WAGES WHEN DUE IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 201, 202 AND 203; 8) FAILURE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE			
5	ITEMIZED STATEMENTS IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE § 226;			
6	9) FAILURE TO PAY VACATION WAGES WHEN DUE;			
7	10) UNLAWFUL DEDUCTIONS; 11) FAILURE TO TIMELY PAY WAGES			
8	DURING EMPLOYMENT IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE § 204;			
9 10	12) UNPAID SICK PAY IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §S 246, et seq.			
11	DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL			
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13	PLAINTIFFS BRIAN BRADFORD and LISA BRADFORD ("PLAINTIFFS"),			
14	individuals, on behalf of themselves and all other similarly situated current and former employees,			
15	allege on information and belief, except for their own acts and knowledge which are based on			
16	personal knowledge, the following:			
17	PRELIMINARY ALLEGATIONS			
18	1. Defendant PRUDENT SECURITY SOLUTIONS INC. ("DEFENDANT" and/or			
19	"DEFENDANTS") is a California corporation that at all relevant times mentioned herein			
20	conducted and continues to conduct substantial and regular business throughout California.			
21	2. DEFENDANT provides security services throughout the state of California,			
22	including the county of Los Angeles, where PLAINTIFFS worked.			
23	3. PLAINTIFF BRIAN BRADFORD ("PLAINTIFF Brian Bradford") was			
24	employed by DEFENDANT in California from March of 2022 to April of 2022 as a non-exempt			
25	employee, paid on an hourly basis, and entitled to the legally required meal and rest periods and			
26	payment of minimum and overtime wages due for all time worked.			
27	4. PLAINTIFF LISA BRADFORD ("PLAINTIFF Lisa Bradford") was employed by			
28	DEFENDANT in California from March of 2022 to April of 2022 as a non-exempt employee,			

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paid in part an hourly basis and non-discretionary bonuses, and entitled to the legally required meal and rest periods and payment of minimum and overtime wages due for all time worked.

- 5. PLAINTIFFS bring this Class Action on behalf of themselves 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).
- 6. PLAINTIFFS bring this Class Action on behalf of themselves 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 PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS. PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS seek an injunction enjoining such conduct by DEFENDANT in the future, relief for the named PLAINTIFFS 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.
- 7. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, subsidiary, partnership, associate or otherwise of DEFENDANTS DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are presently unknown to PLAINTIFFS who therefore sues these DEFENDANTS by such fictitious names pursuant to Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 474. PLAINTIFFS will seek leave to amend this Complaint to allege the true names and capacities of Does 1 through 50, inclusive, when they are ascertained. PLAINTIFFS is informed and believes, and based upon that information and belief alleges, that the DEFENDANTS named in this Complaint, including DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are responsible in some manner for one or more of the events and happenings that proximately caused the injuries and damages hereinafter alleged.

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- 8. The agents, servants and/or employees of the Defendants and each of them acting on behalf of the Defendants acted within the course and scope of his, her or its authority as the agent, servant and/or employee of the Defendants, and personally participated in the conduct alleged herein on behalf of the Defendants with respect to the conduct alleged herein. Consequently, the acts of each Defendant are legally attributable to the other Defendants and all Defendants are jointly and severally liable to PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, for the loss sustained as a proximate result of the conduct of the Defendants' agents, servants and/or employees.
- 9. DEFENDANTS were PLAINTIFFS' employers or persons acting on behalf of the PLAINTIFFS' 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.
- 10. DEFENDANTS were PLAINTIFFS' employers or persons acting on behalf of PLAINTIFFS' 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.
- 11. DEFENDANT's uniform policies and practices alleged herein were unlawful, unfair, and deceptive business practices whereby DEFENDANT retained and continue to retain wages due to PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.
- PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS seek an injunction 12. enjoining such conduct by DEFENDANT in the future, relief for the named PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS who has been economically injured by DEFENDANT's past and current unlawful conduct, and all other appropriate legal and equitable relief.

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13. 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.

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

#### **THE CONDUCT**

15. In violation of the applicable sections of the California Labor Code and the requirements of the Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") Wage Order, DEFENDANT as a matter of company policy, practice, and procedure, intentionally, knowingly, and systematically failed to provide legally compliant meal and rest periods, failed to accurately compensate PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for missed meal and rest periods, failed to pay PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all time worked, failed compensate PLAINTIFFS for off-the-clock work, failed to pay PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS overtime at the correct regular rate of pay, failed to compensate PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS meal rest premiums at the regular rate, failed to reimburse PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for business expenses, and failed to issue to PLAINTIFFS and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with accurate itemized wage statements showing, among other things, all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay 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

#### A. Meal Period Violations

16. Pursuant to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, DEFENDANT was required to pay PLAINTIFFS 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 PLAINTIFFS and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to work without paying them for all the time they were under DEFENDANT's control. Specifically, DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFFS to work while clocked out during what was supposed to be PLAINTIFFS's off-duty meal break. Indeed, there were many days where PLAINTIFFS did not even receive a partial lunch. As a result, the PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members forfeited minimum wage and overtime compensation by regularly working without their time being accurately recorded and without compensation at the applicable minimum wage and overtime rates. DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice not to pay PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all time worked is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records.

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

other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were, from time to time, required to remain on premises, on duty and on call. Further, from time to time, DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to maintain cordless communication devices in order to receive and/or respond to work-related communications during their off-duty meal periods. DEFENDANT's failure to provide PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with legally required meal breaks is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records. PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS therefore forfeit meal breaks without additional compensation and in accordance with DEFENDANT's strict corporate policy and practice.

#### **B.** Rest Period Violations

18. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were also required to work in excess of four (4) hours without being provided ten (10) minute rest periods as a result of their rigorous work requirements and 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 premises, on duty and/or on call. Further, from time to time, DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to maintain cordless communication devices in order to receive and/or respond to work-related communications during their off-duty rest periods. PLAINTIFFS 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, PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were from time to time denied their proper rest periods by DEFENDANT and DEFENDANT's managers.

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

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

20. In the course of their employment, DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to use their personal cellular phones, personal vehicles and personal computers as a result of and in furtherance of their job duties, including but not limited to receiving and/or responding to work-related communications and perform work-related duties. Further, DEFENDANT from time to time also required PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to purchase uniforms and incur personal expenses for the maintenance of said uniforms as a result of and in furtherance of their job duties. Additionally, DEFENDANTS from time to time required PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to incur personal expenses in order to pay for company vehicle expenses including, but not limited to, vehicle rentals, parking tickets and tow fees. However, DEFENDANT unlawfully failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for the use of their personal cellular phones, personal vehicles, personal computers and for personal expenses incurred for the purchase of uniforms, maintenance of uniforms, vehicle rentals, packing tickets and tow fees. As a result, in the course of their employment with DEFENDANT, the PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members incurred unreimbursed business expenses that included, but were not limited to, costs related to the use of their personal cellular

phones, personal vehicles, personal computers and for personal expenses incurred for the purchase of uniforms, maintenance of uniforms, vehicle rentals, packing tickets and tow fees, all on behalf of and for the benefit of DEFENDANT.

#### D. Wage Statement Violations

- 21. California Labor Code Section 226 required an employer to furnish its employees and accurate itemized wage statement in writing showing (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece-rate, (4) all deductions, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee and only the last four digits of the employee's social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.
- 22. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, when PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members missed meal and rest breaks, or were paid inaccurately for missed meal and rest period premiums, or were not paid for all hours worked, DEFENDANT also failed to provide PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with complete and accurate wage statements which failed to show, among other things, all deductions, the 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.
- 23. In addition to the foregoing, DEFENDANT, from time to time, failed to provide PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with wage statements that comply with Cal. Lab. Code § 226.
- 24. As a result, DEFENDANT issued PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with wage statements that violate Cal. Lab. Code § 226. Further, DEFENDANT's violations are knowing and intentional, were not isolated due to an unintentional payroll error due to clerical or inadvertent mistake.

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

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- 25. During the CLASS PERIOD, from time-to-time DEFENDANT failed and continues to fail to accurately pay PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all hours worked.
- 26. During the CLASS PERIOD, from time-to-time DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to perform pre-shift or post-shift work. This resulted in PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to have to work while off-the-clock.
- 27. DEFENDANT directed and directly benefited from the undercompensated off-the-clock work performed by PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.
- 28. DEFENDANT controlled the work schedules, duties, and protocols, applications, assignments, and employment conditions of PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.
- 29. DEFENDANT was able to track the amount of time PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS spent working; however, DEFENDANT failed to document, track, or pay PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS all wages earned and owed for all the work they performed.
- 30. PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were non-exempt employees, subject to the requirements of the California Labor Code.
- 31. DEFENDANT's policies and practices deprived PLAINTIFFS and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members of all minimum regular, overtime, and double time wages owed for the off-the-clock work activities. Because PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS typically worked over forty (40) hours in a workweek, and more than eight (8) hours per day, DEFENDANT's policies and practices also deprived them of overtime pay.
- 32. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS off-the-clock work was compensable under the law.

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33. As a result, PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS forfeited wages due to 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.

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

- 34. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT failed and continues to fail to accurately calculate and pay PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for their overtime and double time hours worked, meal and rest period premiums, and redeemed sick pay. As a result, PLAINTIFFS and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members forfeited wages due to them for working overtime without compensation at the correct overtime and double time rates, meal and rest period premiums, and redeemed sick pay rates. DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice not to pay the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members at the correct rate for all overtime and double time worked, meal and rest period premiums, and sick pay in accordance with applicable law is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records.
- 35. State law provides that employees must be paid overtime at one-and-one-half times their "regular rate of pay." PLAINTIFFS 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.
- 36. The second component of PLAINTIFFS' and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members' compensation was DEFENDANTS' non-discretionary incentive program that paid PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members incentive wages based on their performance for DEFENDANTS. The non-discretionary bonus program provided all employees paid on an hourly basis with bonus compensation when the employees met the various performance goals set by DEFENDANTS.

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- 37. However, from time to time, when calculating the regular rate of pay in those pay periods where PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members worked overtime, double time, paid meal and rest period premium payments, and/or redeemed sick pay, and earned non-discretionary bonuses, DEFENDANTS failed to accurately include the non-discretionary bonus compensation as part of the employee's "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 PLAINTIFFS 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 premium payments, and redeemed sick pay to PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members by DEFENDANTS. Specifically, California Labor Code Section 246 mandates that paid sick time for non-exempt 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. Lab. Code Sections 201, 202, 203, and/or 204.
- 38. 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 PLAINTIFFS 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 redeemed sick pay as required by California law which allowed DEFENDANT to illegally profit and gain an unfair advantage over competitors who complied with the law. To the extent equitable tolling operates to toll claims by the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members against DEFENDANT, the CLASS PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.

#### **G.** Reporting Time Violations

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39. Further, DEFENDANTS from time to time required PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to report to work, but were furnished less than half their scheduled shift's worth of work and were not paid reporting time pay as required by Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8 § 11040, subdivision(A). Specifically, Subdivision 5(A) states, "(A) Each workday an employee is required to report for work and does report, but is not put to work or is furnished less than half said employee's usual or scheduled day's work, the employee shall be paid for half the usual or scheduled day's work, but in no event for less than two (2) hours nor more than four (4) hours, at the employee's regular rate of pay, which shall not be less than the minimum wage." In addition, when DEFENDANTS required PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to engage in additional work, this sometimes resulted in a second reporting for work in a single workday. In such a circumstance of a second reporting for work in a single workday, DEFENDANT failed to pay these employees reporting time pay as required by Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8 § 11040. Subdivision 5(B) states: "If an employee is required to report for work a second time in any one workday and is furnished less than two (2) hours of work on the second reporting, said employee shall be paid for two (2) hours at the employee's regular rate of pay, which shall be not less than the minimum wage." Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8 § 11040, subd. 5(B).

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

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

#### I. Violations for Failure to Pay Vacation Wages

41. Upon PLAINTIFF'S and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members' separation of employment, they had not used all of their vested vacation and thus their unused, vested vacation was required to have been paid at their final rate upon separation of employment. DEFENDANT,

however failed to pay the vested vacation time, and when it did, it paid it at the wrong rate. As a result, DEFENDANT violated Labor Code §227.3

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

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

#### K. Timekeeping Manipulation

- 43. During the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT, from time-to-time, did not have an immutable timekeeping system to accurately record and pay PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the actual time PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS worked each day, including regular time, overtime hours, sick pay, meal and rest breaks. As a result, DEFENDANT was able to and did in fact, unlawfully, and unilaterally alter the time recorded in DEFENDANT'S timekeeping system for PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in order to avoid paying these employees for all hours worked, applicable overtime compensation, applicable sick pay, missed meal breaks and missed rest breaks.
- 44. As a result, PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, from time-to-time, forfeited time worked by working without their time being accurately recorded and without compensation at the applicable pay rates.
- 45. The mutability of the timekeeping system also allowed DEFENDANT to alter employee time records by recording fictitious thirty (30) minute meal breaks in DEFENDANT's timekeeping system so as to create the appearance that PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS clocked out for thirty (30) minute meal break when in fact the employees were not at all times provided an off-duty meal break. This practice is a direct result of DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice of denying employees uninterrupted thirty (30) minute off-duty meal breaks each day or otherwise compensate them for missed meal breaks.
  - 46. As a result, PLAINTIFFS 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 the timekeeping system was inoperable. DEFENDANT'S uniform policy and practice to not pay PLAINTIFFS and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS wages for all hours worked in accordance with applicable law is evidenced by DEFENDANT'S business records.

#### L. Unlawful Rounding Practices

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

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sum or value of \$75,000.

DEFENDANT provided PLAINTIFFS with a rest break, they required PLAINTIFFS to remain on-duty and on-call for the rest break. DEFENDANT policy caused PLAINTIFFS to remain oncall and on-duty during what was supposed to be their off-duty meal periods. PLAINTIFFS therefore forfeited meal and rest breaks without additional compensation and in accordance with DEFENDANT'S strict corporate policy and practice. Moreover, DEFENDANT also provided PLAINTIFFS with paystubs that failed to comply with Cal. Lab. Code § 226. Further, DEFENDANT also failed to reimburse PLAINTIFFS for required business expenses related to, the use of their personal cellular phones, personal vehicles, personal computers and for personal expenses incurred for the purchase of uniforms, maintenance of uniforms, vehicle rentals, packing tickets and tow fees, on behalf of and in furtherance of their employment with DEFENDANT. To date, DEFENDANT has not fully paid PLAINTIFFS the minimum, overtime and double time compensation still owed to them or any penalty wages owed to them under Cal. Lab. Code § 203. The amount in controversy for PLAINTIFFS individually does not exceed the

#### **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

- 50. PLAINTIFFS bring this Class Action on behalf of themselves, 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").
- 51. PLAINTIFFS 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.

since the damages suffered by individual members of the class may be relatively small, the

- 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).
- 66. 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, 210, 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, and 2802, for which this Court should issue declaratory and other equitable relief pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203 as may be necessary to prevent and remedy the conduct held to constitute unfair competition, including restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.
- 67. 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.
- 68. 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, failed to pay minimum and overtime wages owed, and failed to reimburse all necessary business expenses incurred, due to a systematic business practice that cannot be justified, pursuant to the applicable Cal. Lab. Code, and Industrial Welfare Commission requirements in violation of Cal. Bus. Code §§ 17200, et seq., and for which this Court should issue injunctive and equitable relief, pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203, including restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.
- 69. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were also unlawful, unfair, and deceptive in that DEFENDANT's employment practices caused PLAINTIFFS and the

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

- 70. 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 mandatory meal and/or rest breaks to PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members as required by Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 and 512.
- 71. Therefore, PLAINTIFFS demand on behalf of themselves 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.
- 72. PLAINTIFFS further demand on behalf of themselves and on behalf of each CALIFORNIA CLASS member, one (1) hour of pay for each workday in which a rest period was not timely provided as required by law.
- 73. By and through the unlawful and unfair business practices described herein, DEFENDANT has obtained valuable property, money and services from PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, including earned wages for all time worked, and has deprived them of valuable rights and benefits guaranteed by law and contract, all to the detriment of these employees and to the benefit of DEFENDANT so as to allow DEFENDANT to unfairly compete against competitors who comply with the law.
- 74. All the acts described herein as violations of, among other things, the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, the California Code of Regulations, and the California Labor Code, were unlawful and in violation of public policy, were immoral, unethical, oppressive, and unscrupulous, were deceptive, and thereby constitute unlawful, unfair, and deceptive business practices in violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq.
- 75. PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are entitled to, and do, seek such relief as may be necessary to restore to them the money and property which DEFENDANT has acquired, or of which PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the

CALIFORNIA CLASS have been deprived, by means of the above described unlawful and unfair business practices, including earned but unpaid wages for all time worked.

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

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

#### **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### Failure To Pay Minimum Wages

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

#### Alleged by PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against ALL Defendants)

- 77. PLAINTIFFS, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 78. PLAINTIFFS 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 PLAINTIFFS and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.
- 79. 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.

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- 80. 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 less wage than the minimum so fixed in unlawful.
- 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.
- 82. DEFENDANT maintained a uniform wage practice of paying PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS without regard to the correct amount of time they work. As set forth herein, DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice was to unlawfully and intentionally deny timely payment of wages due to PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.
- 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 denies accurate compensation to PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in regard to minimum wage pay.
- 84. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, DEFENDANT inaccurately calculated the correct time worked and consequently underpaid the actual time worked by PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS. DEFENDANTS acted in an illegal attempt to avoid the payment of all earned wages, and other benefits in violation of the California Labor Code, the Industrial Welfare Commission requirements and other applicable laws and regulations.
- 85. As a direct result of DEFENDANT's unlawful wage practices as alleged herein, PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS did not receive the correct minimum wage compensation for their time worked for DEFENDANT.
- 86. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid less for time worked that they were entitled to, constituting a failure to pay all earned wages.
- 87. By virtue of DEFENDANT's unlawful failure to accurately pay all earned compensation to PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the true

time they worked, PLAINTIFFS 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.

- 88. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were 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 company policy, practice and procedure, and DEFENDANT perpetrated this systematic scheme by refusing to pay PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS the correct minimum wages for their time worked.
- 89. 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 PLAINTIFFS 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.
- 90. PLAINTIFFS 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

without limitation, applicable to the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a whole, as a result of

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97. DEFENDANT's uniform pattern of unlawful wage and hour practices manifested,

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As a direct result of DEFENDANT's unlawful wage practices as alleged herein, PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS did not receive the correct

100. 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 PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS. Further, PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are not subject to a valid collective bargaining agreement that would preclude the causes of action contained herein this Complaint. Rather, PLAINTIFFS bring this Action on behalf of themselves and the CALIFORNIA CLASS based on DEFENDANT's violations of non-negotiable, non-waivable rights provided by the State of California.

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

102. DEFENDANT failed to accurately pay PLAINTIFFS 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

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

103. By virtue of DEFENDANT's unlawful failure to accurately pay all earned compensation to PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the true amount of overtime they worked, PLAINTIFFS 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.

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

105. 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 PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with a conscious of and utter disregard for their legal rights, or the consequences to them, and with the despicable intent of depriving them of their property and legal rights, and otherwise causing them injury in order to increase company profits at the expense of these employees.

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

#### **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### Failure To Provide Required Meal Periods

(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 & 512)

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

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

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

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

110. As a proximate result of the aforementioned violations, PLAINTIFFS 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 PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all Defendants)

- 111. PLAINTIFFS, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 112. From time to time, PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required to work in excess of four (4) hours without being provided ten (10) minute rest periods. Further, these employees were denied their first rest periods of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of at least two (2) to four (4) hours, a first and second rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of between six (6) and eight (8) hours, and a first, second and third rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of ten (10) hours or more. PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were also not provided with one-hour wages *in lieu* thereof. As a result of their rigorous work schedules, PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were periodically denied their proper rest periods by DEFENDANT and DEFENDANT's managers. In addition, DEFENDANT failed to compensate PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for their rest periods as required by the applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. As a result, DEFENDANT's failure to provide

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	perform work-related duties. Further, DEFENDANT from time to time also required
	PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to purchase uniforms and incur
	personal expenses for the maintenance of said uniforms as a result of and in furtherance of their
	job duties. Additionally, DEFENDANTS from time to time required PLAINTIFFS and other
	CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to incur personal expenses in order to pay for company vehicle
	expenses including, but not limited to, vehicle rentals, parking tickets and tow fees, all on behalf
	of and for the benefit of DEFENDANT. Specifically, PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA
	CLASS Members were required by DEFENDANTS to purchase a recruiting computer program
	and to use their personal cellular phones, personal vehicles and personal computers to execute
	their essential job duties on behalf of DEFENDANT. DEFENDANT's uniform policy, practice
	and procedure was to not reimburse PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members for
	expenses resulting from purchasing the recruiting computer program, using their personal cellular
	phones and personal laptops, and paying company vehicle expenses for DEFENDANT within the
	course and scope of their employment for DEFENDANT. These expenses were necessary to
	complete their principal job duties. DEFENDANT is estopped by DEFENDANT's conduct to
	assert any waiver of this expectation. Although these expenses were necessary expenses incurred
	by PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members, DEFENDANT failed to indemnify
	and reimburse PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members for these expenses as an
	employer is required to do under the laws and regulations of California.
	118. PLAINTIFFS therefore demand reimbursement for expenditures or losses incurred
	by them and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members in the discharge of their job duties for
	DEFENDANT, or their obedience to the directions of DEFENDANT, with interest at the statutory
	rate and costs under Cal. Lab. Code § 2802.

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#### SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION 1 **Failure To Provide Accurate Itemized Statements** 2 (Cal. Lab. Code § 226) 3 (Alleged by PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all Defendants) 4 119. PLAINTIFFS, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and 5 incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this 6 7 Complaint. 120. Cal. Labor Code § 226 provides that an employer must furnish employees with an 8 "accurate itemized" statement in writing showing: 9 a. Gross wages earned, 10 b. (2) total hours worked by the employee, except for any employee whose 11 compensation is solely based on a salary and who is exempt from payment of 12 overtime under subdivision (a) of Section 515 or any applicable order of the 13 Industrial Welfare Commission, 14 c. the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee 15 is paid on a piece-rate basis, 16 d. all deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee 17 may be aggregated and shown as one item, 18 e. net wages earned, 19 the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid, 20 g. the name of the employee and his or her social security number, except that by 21 January 1, 2008, only the last four digits of his or her social security number of an 22 employee identification number other than social security number may be shown 23 on the itemized statement, 24 h. the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and 25 all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding 26 number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee. 27 28

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

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

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

1	EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION			
2	Failure To Pay Wages When Due			
3	(Cal. Lab. Code § 203)			
4	(Alleged by PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all Defendants)			
5	124. PLAINTIFFS, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and			
6	incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this			
7	Complaint.			
8	125. Cal. Lab. Code § 200 provides that:			
9	As used in this article:			
10	(d) "Wages" includes all amounts for labor performed by employees of every description, whether the amount is fixed or ascertained by the standard of time,			
11	task, piece, Commission basis, or other method of calculation.  (e) "Labor" includes labor, work, or service whether rendered or performed under			
12	contract, subcontract, partnership, station plan, or other agreement if the to be paid for is performed personally by the person demanding payment.			
13	126. Cal. Lab. Code § 201 provides, in relevant part, that "If an employer discharges			
14	an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable			
15	immediately."			
16	127. Cal. Lab. Code § 202 provides, in relevant part, that:			
17 18	If an employee not having a written contract for a definite period quits his or her employment, his or her wages shall become due and payable not later than 72 hours			
19	thereafter, unless the employee has given 72 hours previous notice of his or her intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting.			
20	Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an employee who quits without providing a 72-hour notice shall be entitled to receive payment by mail if he or she so requests and			
21	designates a mailing address. The date of the mailing shall constitute the date of payment for purposes of the requirement to provide payment within 72 hours of the notice of			
22	quitting.			
23	128. There was no definite term in PLAINTIFFS' or any CALIFORNIA CLASS			
24	Members' employment contract.			
25	129. Cal. Lab. Code § 203 provides:  If an employer willfully fails to pay, without abatement or reduction, in accordance with			
26	Sections 201, 201.5, 202, and 205.5, any wages of an employee who is discharged or who quits, the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date thereof at			
the same rate until paid or until an action therefor is commenced; but the way				
28	continue for more than 30 days.			

- 130. The employment of PLAINTIFFS and many CALIFORNIA CLASS Members terminated, and DEFENDANT has not tendered payment of wages to these employees who missed meal and rest breaks, as required by law.
- 131. Therefore, as provided by Cal Lab. Code § 203, on behalf of themselves and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS whose employment has, PLAINTIFFS demand up to thirty (30) days of pay as penalty for not paying all wages due at time of termination for all employees who terminated employment during the CLASS PERIOD and demand an accounting and payment of all wages due, plus interest and statutory costs as allowed by law.

#### **NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### For Failure to Pay Vacation Wages

[Cal. Lab. Code § 227.3]

#### (By PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS MEMBERS Against all DEFENDANTS)

- 132. PLAINTIFFS, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 133. At all relevant times, California Labor Code §227.3 provides for the following: Unless otherwise Unless otherwise provided by a collective-bargaining agreement, whenever a contract of employment or employer policy provides for paid vacations, and an employee is terminated without having taken off his vested vacation time, all vested vacation shall be paid to him as wages at his final rate in accordance with such contract of employment or employer policy respecting eligibility or time served; provided, however, that an employment contract or employer policy shall not provide for forfeiture of vested vacation time upon termination. The Labor Commissioner or a designated representative, in the resolution of any dispute with regard to vested vacation time, shall apply the principles of equity and fairness.
- 134. At all times relevant, including at times throughout the four-year period preceding the filing of the original complaint, PLAINTIFFS, and upon information and belief, and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were subject to an employer policy and/or contract of employment that provided for paid vacations not otherwise provided by a collective-bargaining agreement. Upon PLAINTIFFS' and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members' separation of employment, they had not used all of their vested vacation and thus their unused, vested vacation was required to have been paid at their final rate upon separation of employment. As a result of the miscalculation, Defendants violated Labor Code §227.3.

135. PLAINTIFFS seek, on their behalf and on behalf of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, all damages and remedies available under California Labor Code §227.3, including payment of the vacation wages at the final rate.

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

## Unlawful Deductions from PLAINTIFFS and CLASS MEMBERS Paychecks [Cal. Labor Code §§ 221 and 223]

#### (By PLAINTIFFS and the CLASS MEMBERS Against all DEFENDANTS)

- 136. PLAINTIFFS incorporate herein by specific reference, as though fully set forth, the allegations in the preceding paragraphs.
- 137. During the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT regularly and consistently maintained corporate policies and procedures designed to reduce labor costs by reducing or minimizing the amount of compensation paid to its employees, especially overtime compensation.
- 138. DEFENDANT made deductions from PLAINTIFFS and the other CLASS MEMBERS' paychecks earned by PLAINTIFFS and the other CLASS MEMBERS' during various pay periods.
- 139. Labor Code § 221 provides it is unlawful for any employer to collect or receive from an employee any part of wages theretofore paid by employer to employee.
- 140. Labor Code § 223 provides that where any statute or contract requires an employer to maintain the designated wage scale, it shall be unlawful to secretly pay a lower wage while purporting to pay the wage designated by statute or by contract. Labor Code section 225 further provides that the violation of any provision of Labor Code §§ 221 and 223 is a misdemeanor.
- 141. As a result of the conduct alleged above, DEFENDANTS unlawfully collected or received from PLAINTIFFS and the other CLASS MEMBERS' part of the wages paid to their employees.
- 142. Wherefore, PLAINTIFFS and the other CLASS MEMBERS demand the return of all wages unlawfully deducted from the paychecks, including interest thereon, penalties, reasonable attorneys' fees, and costs of suit pursuant to Labor Code §§ 225.5 and 1194.

#### **ELEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

## For Failure to Timely Pay Wages When Due During Employment

(Violation of California Labor Code § 204)

- (By PLAINTIFFS and the CLASS MEMBERS Against all DEFENDANTS)
- 143. PLAINTIFFS incorporate herein by specific reference, as though fully set forth, the allegations in the preceding paragraphs.
- 144. At all times herein set forth, California Labor Code section 204 provides that all wages earned by any person in any employment between the 1st and 15th days, inclusive, of any calendar month, other than those wages due upon termination of an employee, are due and payable between the 16th and the 26th day of the month during which the labor was performed.
- 145. At all times herein set forth, California Labor Code section 204 provides that all wages earned by any person in any employment between the 16th and the last day, inclusive, of any calendar month, other than those wages due upon termination of an employee, are due and payable between the 1st and the 10th day of the following month.
- 146. At all times herein set forth, California Labor Code section 204 provides that all wages earned for labor in excess of the normal work period shall be paid no later than the payday for the next regular payroll period.
- 147. At all times herein set forth, California Labor Code section 204 provides that all payment of wages for weekly, biweekly, or semimonthly payroll are due not more than seven calendar days following the close of the payroll period.
- 148. During the relevant time period, DEFENDANTS intentionally and willfully failed to pay PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS members all wages due to them, within any time period permissible under California Labor Code section 204.
- 149. PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS members are entitled to recover all remedies available for violations of California Labor Code section 204.

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#### TWELFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

#### **UNPAID SICK PAY**

(Cal. Lab. Code § 246, et seq.)

#### (Alleged by PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS and against all DEFENDANT)

- 150. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA LABOR SUB-CLASS, reallege and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 151. Cal. Labor Code Section 246 (a)(1) mandates that "An employee who, on or after July 1, 2015, works in California for the same employer for 30 or more days within a year from the commencement of employment is entitled to paid sick days as specified in this section."
  - 152. Further, Cal. Labor Code Sections 246 (b)-(d) provide:
  - (b)(1) An employee shall accrue paid sick days at the rate of not less than one hour per every 30 hours worked, beginning at the commencement of employment or the operative date of this article, whichever is later, subject to the use and accrual limitations set forth in this section.
    - (2) An employee who is exempt from overtime requirements as an administrative, executive, or professional employee under a wage order of the Industrial Welfare Commission is deemed to work 40 hours per workweek for the purposes of this section, unless the employee's normal workweek is less than 40 hours, in which case the employee shall accrue paid sick days based upon that normal workweek.
    - (3) An employer may use a different accrual method, other than providing one hour per every 30 hours worked, provided that the accrual is on a regular basis so that an employee has no less than 24 hours of accrued sick leave or paid time off by the 120th calendar day of employment or each calendar year, or in each 12-month period.
    - (4) An employer may satisfy the accrual requirements of this section by providing not less than 24 hours or three days of paid sick leave that is available to the employee to use by the completion of the employee's 120th calendar day of employment.
  - (c) An employee shall be entitled to use accrued paid sick days beginning on the 90th day of employment, after which day the employee may use paid sick days as they are accrued.
  - (d) Accrued paid sick days shall carry over to the following year of employment. However, an employer may limit an employee's use of accrued paid sick days to 24 hours or three days in each year of employment, calendar year, or 12-month period. This section shall be satisfied and no accrual or carryover is required if the

full amount of leave is received at the beginning of each year of employment, calendar year, or 12-month period. The term "full amount of leave" means three days or 24 hours.

- 153. From time to time, DEFENDANT failed to have a policy or practice that provided PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with paid sick days and/or sick pay.
- 154. Cal. Labor Code Sections 246(I)(1) mandates that "[p]aid sick time for nonexempt employees shall be calculated in the same manner as the regular rate of pay for the workweek in which the employee uses paid sick time, whether or not the employee actually works overtime in that workweek."
- 155. From time-to-time, during the PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were compensated at an hourly rate plus either non-discretionary incentive pay. As a matter of law, the incentive compensation and/or piece-rate compensation received by PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS must be included in the "regular rate of pay."
- 156. From time-to-time during the CLASS PERIOD, in those pay periods where PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS earned hourly compensation and either non-discretionary incentive compensation, and took paid sick time, DEFENDANT failed to properly calculate the regular rate of pay for purposes of compensating paid sick time by omitting non-discretionary incentive pay from the regular rate of pay.
- 157. DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice of omitting non-discretionary incentive pay and/or piece-rate pay from the regular rate of pay for purposes of paying paid sick pay, resulted in the underpayment of sick pay wages to PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS. PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS therefore request recovery of all unpaid wages, including sick pay 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 overtime compensation is determined to be owed to other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS 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 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS. DEFENDANT'S conduct as alleged herein was willful, intentional and not in good faith. Further, PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are entitled to seek and recover statutory costs.

#### 158. Cal. Lab. Code § 246(i) provides that:

An employer shall provide an employee with written notice that sets forth the amount of paid sick leave available, or paid time off leave an employer provides in lieu of sick leave, for use on either the employee's itemized wage statement described in Section 226 or in a separate writing provided on the designated pay date with the employee's payment of wages. If an employer provides unlimited paid sick leave or unlimited paid time off to an employee, the employer may satisfy this section by indicating on the notice or the employee's itemized wage statement "unlimited."

159. From time to time, DEFENDANT failed to furnish PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with written wage statements setting forth the amount of paid sick leave available to them, as required under Cal. Lab. Code §§ 246, *et seq.* As a result, PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are entitled to seek and recover statutory costs.

#### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFFS pray for a judgment against each Defendant, jointly and severally, as follows:

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

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

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

1	3.	On all claims:	
2		a. An award of interest, including prejudgment interest at the legal rate;	
3		b. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable; and	
4		c. An award of penalties, attorneys' fees, and costs of suit, as allowable under the law,	
5		including, but not limited to, pursua	ant to Labor Code § 218.5, § 226, and/or § 1194.
6			
7	DATED:	March 2, 2023	
8			JCL LAW FIRM, APC
9		By:	Jean-Claude Lapuya le
10			Attorney for PLAINTIFFS
11	DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL		
12	PI	LAINTIFFS demand a jury trial on issue	s triable to a jury.
13	DATED:	March 2, 2023	JCL LAW FIRM, APC
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15		By:	40
16			Jean-Claude Lapuvade Attorney for PLAINTIFFS
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