Electronically Filed by Superior Court of California, County of Orange, 03/30/2023 10:08:23 PM. 30-2023-01316346-CU-OE-CXC - ROA # 4 - DAVID H. YAMASAKI, Clerk of the Court By A. Thau, Deputy Clerk. **SUMMONS** (CITACION JUDICIAL) **NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:** (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): DWWH, INC. dba WEIR CANYON HONDA, a California corporation: and DOES 1-50, Inclusive, YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): ALEJANDRO ESTRADA URENO, an individual, on behalf of himself and on behalf of all persons similarly situated, 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: CASE NUMBER: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): 30-2023-01316346-CU-OE-CXC Orange Superior Court - Civil Complex Center 751 West Santa Ana Blvd. Judge William Claster Santa Ana, CA 92701 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): Shani O. Zakay, Esq. SBN:277924 Tel: (619) 255-9047 Fax: (858) 404-9203 Shani O. Zakay, Esq. Zakay Law Group, APLC - 5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600, San Diego, CA 92121 A. THAU DATE: 03/30/2023 DAVID H. YAMASAKI, Clerk, by -Deputy (Fecha) Clerk of the Court (Secretario) (Adjunto)

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

(Para prueba de entrega de esta d



| i citatión use el fo | <i>rmulario</i> Proof of Service of Summo | ns, <i>(POS-010</i> | 9)).                   |         |
|----------------------|---|---------------------|------------------------|---------|
| NOTICE TO THE        | E PERSON SERVED: You are serve            | ed :                |                        |         |
| 1. as an ir          | ndividual defendant.                      |                     |                        |         |
| 2. as the p          | person sued under the fictitious nam      | e of (specify):     |                        |         |
| 3. on beha           | alf of (specify):                         |                     |                        |         |
| under:               | CCP 416.10 (corporation)                  |                     | CCP 416.60 (minor)     |         |
|                      | CCP 416.20 (defunct corporation)          |                     | CCP 416.70 (conservate | e)      |
|                      | CCP 416.40 (association or partne         | rship)              | CCP 416.90 (authorized | person) |

by personal delivery on *(date)*: Page 1 of 1

other (specify):

Electronically Filed by Superior Court of California, County of Orange, 03/30/2023 10:08:23 PM. 30-2023-01316346-CU-OE-CXC - ROA # 2 - DAVID H. YAMASAKI, Clerk of the Court By A. Thau, Deputy Clerk.

| 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>6 | VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE § 226; 7) FAILURE TO PROVIDE WAGES WHEN DUE IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 201, 202 AND 203; 8) FAILURE TO REIMBURSE EMPLOYEES FOR REQUIRED EXPENSES IN VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA LABOR CODE §2802 9) VIOLATION OF THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT [LABOR CODE §§ 2698 ET SEQ |  |  |  |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 7<br>8                     | DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL  |  |  |  |
| 9                          | Plaintiff ALEJANDRO ESTRADA URENO ("PLAINTIFF"), an individual, on behalf o  |  |  |  |
| 10                         | himself and all other similarly situated current and former employees, alleges on information and  |  |  |  |
| 11                         | belief, except for his own acts and knowledge which are based on personal knowledge, the   |  |  |  |
| 12                         | following:   |  |  |  |
| 13                         | THE PARTIES  |  |  |  |
| 14                         | 1. Defendant DWWH, INC. dba WEIR CANYON HONDA ("DEFENDANT" or  |  |  |  |
| 15                         | "DEFENDANT") is a California corporation that at all relevant times mentioned herein conducted   |  |  |  |
| 16                         | and continues to conduct substantial and regular business in the state of California.  |  |  |  |
| 17                         | 2. DEFENDANTS owns and operate car dealerships in California, including in the   |  |  |  |
| 18                         | county of Orange where PLAINTIFF worked.   |  |  |  |
| 19                         | 3. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, subsidiary,   |  |  |  |
| 20                         | partnership, associate or otherwise of defendants DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are presently  |  |  |  |
| 21                         | unknown to PLAINTIFF who therefore sues these Defendants by such fictitious names pursuant   |  |  |  |
| 22                         | to Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 474. PLAINTIFF will seek leave to amend this Complaint to allege the   |  |  |  |
| 23                         | true names and capacities of Does 1 through 50, inclusive, when they are ascertained.  |  |  |  |
| 24                         | PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and based upon that information and belief alleges, that   |  |  |  |
| 25                         | the Defendants named in this Complaint, including DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, (hereinafter   |  |  |  |
| 26                         | collectively "DEFENDANTS" and/or "DEFENDANT") are responsible in some manner for one   |  |  |  |
| 27                         | or more of the events and happenings that proximately caused the injuries and damages  |  |  |  |
| 28                         | hereinafter alleged.   |  |  |  |
| -                          | I .  |  |  |  |

- 4. The agents, servants, and/or employees of the Defendants and each of them acting on behalf of the DEFENDANTS acted within the course and scope of his, her or its authority as the agent, servant and/or employee of the Defendants, and personally participated in the conduct alleged herein on behalf of the Defendants with respect to the conduct alleged herein. Consequently, the acts of each Defendant are legally attributable to the other Defendants and all Defendants are jointly and severally liable to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, for the loss sustained as a proximate result of the conduct of the Defendants' agents, servants and/or employees.
- 5. 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.
- 6. 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.
- 7. PLAINTIFF has been employed by DEFENDANTS in California since July of 2022, paid in part an hourly wage, commission-based compensation, non-discretionary bonuses, and entitled to minimum wages, overtime pay and legally compliant meal and rest periods.
- 8. PLAINTIFF brings this Class Action on behalf of himself and a California class, defined as all current and former non-exempt, exempt, piece-rate based, and/or commission-based employees employed by DEFENDANTS in California ("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

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- 9. PLAINTIFF brings this Class Action on behalf of himself and a CALIFORNIA CLASS in order to fully compensate the CALIFORNIA CLASS for their losses incurred during the 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.
- 10. DEFENDANTS' uniform policies and practices alleged herein were unlawful, unfair and deceptive business practices whereby DEFENDANTS retained and continues to retain wages due PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.
- 11. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS seek an injunction enjoining such conduct by DEFENDANTS in the future, relief for the named PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS who have been economically injured by DEFENDANTS' past and current unlawful conduct, and all other appropriate legal and equitable relief.

# **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 12. This 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.
- 13. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure, Sections 395 and 395.5, because PLAINTIFF worked in this County for DEFENDANTS and

DEFENDANTS (i) currently maintain and at all relevant times maintained offices and facilities in this County and/or conduct substantial business in this County, and (ii) committed the wrongful conduct herein alleged in this County against members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

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#### **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 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 compensate PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS overtime, sick pay, and meal rest premiums at the correct 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. DEFENDANTS' uniform policies and practices are intended to purposefully avoid the accurate and full payment for all time worked as required by California law which allows DEFENDANTS to illegally profit and gain an unfair advantage over competitors who comply with the law. To the extent equitable tolling operates to toll claims by the CALIFORNIA CLASS against DEFENDANTS, the CLASS PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.

#### A. Meal and Rest Period Violations

15. Pursuant to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders and the California Labor Codes, an employer shall not employ an employee for a work period of more than five (5) hours per day without providing the employee with a meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes, except that if the total work period per day of the employee is no more than six (6) hours, the meal period may be waived by mutual consent of both the employer and employee. An

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employer shall not employ an employee for a work period of more than ten (10) hours per day without providing the employee with a second meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes, except that if the total hours worked is no more than twelve (12) hours, the second meal period may be waived by mutual consent of the employer and the employee only if the first meal period was not waived. If an employer fails to provide an employee with a mandated meal period, the employer shall pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that the meal period is not provided.

- 16. From time-to-time during the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, as a result of understaffing and their rigorous work schedule, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS members were from time to time unable to take thirty (30) minute off duty meal breaks and were not fully relieved of duty for meal periods. PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were from time to time 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, DEFENDANT from time-to-time failed to provide PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS members with a second off-duty meal period from time to time in which these employees were required by DEFENDANT to work ten (10) hours of work from time to time. Further, from time to time, DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to maintain cordless communication devices on them during what was supposed to be their off-duty meal break in order to receive and respond to work-related communications. PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members therefore forfeited meal breaks without additional compensation and in accordance with DEFENDANT's strict corporate policy and practice.
- 17. Further, 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 suffered or permitted to work. DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS members to work without paying them for all the time they were under the DEFENDANT's control. Specifically, DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFF to work while clocked out during what was supposed to be PLAINTIFF's off duty meal break due

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- 18. Pursuant to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders and the California Labor Codes, an employer shall authorize ad permit all employees to take a rest periods, which so far as practical shall be in the middle of each work period. Generally, an employer must provide ten (10) minutes of paid rest for every four hours or major fraction thereof. If an employer fails to provide an employee a rest period, the employer shall pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of pay for each workday that the rest period is not provided.
- 19. Additionally, during the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS members were from time-to-time required to work in excess of four (4) hours without being provided duty-free, uninterrupted, ten (10) minute rest period. 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, 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 from time to time. Further, from time to time, DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to maintain cordless communication devices on them during what was supposed to be their off-duty rest break in order to receive and respond to work-related communications. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were from time to time required to remain on the premises, on-duty and on-call during their rest periods. PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were also not provided with one-hour wages in lieu thereof.

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

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State law provides that employees must be paid overtime at one-and-one-half times their "regular rate of pay." PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS were compensated at an hourly rate plus a piece-rate, and/or non-discretionary incentive pay that was tied to specific elements of an employee's performance and/or commissions.

- 21. DEFENDANTS' non-discretionary commission and bonus program provided the CALIFORNIA CLASS, including PLAINTIFF, with commissions and/or bonus compensation when the employees met the various performance goals set by DEFENDANT. However, when calculating the regular rate of pay, in those pay periods where PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS worked overtime and earned non-discretionary bonus and/or commission wages, DEFENDANT failed to accurately include the non-discretionary bonus compensation and/or commission wages as part of the employees' "regular rate of pay.".
- 22. Management and supervisors described the bonus and commissions programs and commission compensation program to potential and new employees as part of the compensation package for new and used car salespersons including PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS. As a matter of law, the incentive and commission compensation received by PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS members must be included and correctly calculated into the "regular rate of pay" for purposes of overtime and double time compensation, meal and rest period premium payments, and sick pay. DEFENDANT's failure to do so has resulted in DEFENDANT's systematic underpayment of overtime and double time compensation, meal and rest period premium payments, and sick pay to PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS members. Specifically, California Labor Code Section 246 mandates that paid sick time for non-employees shall be calculated in the same manner as the regular rate of pay for the workweek in which the employee uses paid sick time, whether or not the employee actually works overtime in that workweek. DEFENDANTS' conduct, as articulated herein, by failing to include the incentive compensation as part of the "regular rate of pay" for purposes of sick pay

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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.

23. In violation of the applicable sections of the California Labor Code and the requirements of the Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") Wage Order, DEFENDANTS as a matter of company policy, practice and procedure, intentionally and knowingly failed to compensate PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS at the correct rate of pay for all overtime and double time compensation, meal and rest period premium payments, and sick pay. This uniform policy and practice of DEFENDANTS is intended to purposefully avoid the payment of the correct overtime and double time compensation, meal and rest period premium payments, and sick pay as required by California law which allowed DEFENDANTS to illegally profit and gain an unfair advantage over competitors who complied with the law. To the extent equitable tolling operates to toll claims by the CALIFORNIA CLASS members against DEFENDANTS, the CLASS PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.

# C. Commission and Piece-Rate Violations

- 24. From time-to-time during the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid in part on a commission and/or piece-rate basis. In those instances where PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid in part on a commission and/or piece-rate basis, PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were entitled to be separately compensated for all non-productive time at an hourly rate that is no less than the applicable minimum wage. Notwithstanding, in those instances where PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid in part on a commission and/or piece-rate basis, DEFENDANT failed to separately compensate PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all non-productive time, including but not limited to, paid rest periods, at an hourly rate that is no less than the applicable minimum wage. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS forfeited minimum wages and overtime wages by DEFENDANT'S failure to separately compensate their nonproductive time at an hourly rate that is no less than the applicable minimum wage.
- 25. Further, from time-to-time during the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS improperly misclassified PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members who were paid

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

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

- 26. Pursuant to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, DEFENDANTS were required to pay PLAINTIFF and the 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, DEFENDANTS required PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to work without paying them for all the time they were under DEFENDANTS' control.
- 27. As a result, the PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members forfeited minimum wage and overtime compensation by regularly working without their time being accurately recorded and without compensation at the applicable minimum wage and overtime rates. DEFENDANTS failed to pay PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS necessary wages for attending for performing work at DEFENDANTS' direction, request, and benefit, while off-the clock. DEFENDANTS' uniform policy and practice not to pay PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all time worked is evidenced by DEFENDANTS' business records.
- 28. DEFENDANTS directed and directly benefited from the uncompensated off-the-clock work performed by PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.
- 29. DEFENDANTS controlled the work schedules, duties, protocols, applications, assignments, and employment conditions of PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

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- 30. DEFENDANTS were able to track the amount of time PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS spent working; however, DEFENDANTS failed to document, track, or pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS all wages earned and owed for all the work they performed, including pre-shift, post shift and during meal period off-the-clock work.
- 31. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were non-exempt employees, subject to the requirements of the California Labor Code.
- 32. DEFENDANTS' policies and practices deprived PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS of all minimum, regular, overtime, and double time wages owed for the off-the-clock work activities. Because PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS typically worked over 40 hours in a workweek, and more than eight (8) hours per day, DEFENDANTS' policies and practices also deprived them of overtime pay.
- 33. DEFENDANTS knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS off-the-clock work was compensable under the law.
- 34. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS forfeited wages due them for all hours worked at DEFENDANTS' direction, control and benefit for the time spent working while off-the-clock. DEFENDANTS' uniform policy and practice to not pay PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS wages for all hours worked in accordance with applicable law is evidenced by DEFENDANTS' business records.

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

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

of his or her duties, or of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer, even though unlawful, unless the employee, at the time of obeying the directions, believed them to be unlawful."

36. In the course of their employment, DEFENDANTS required PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to use their personal cell phones and personal vehicles as a result of and in furtherance of their job duties as employees for DEFENDANT. But for the use of their own personal cell phones and personal vehicles, PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members could not complete their essential job duties, including but not limited to, sending and receiving work-related communications from DEFENDANTS and DEFENDANTS' clients and using personal vehicles to deliver paperwork to DEFENDANT and DEFENDANTS' clients. However, DEFENDANTS unlawfully failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for their use of their personal cell phones and personal vehicles. As a result, in the course of their employment with DEFENDANTS, the PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members incurred unreimbursed business expenses, but were not limited to, costs related to the use of their personal cellular phones and personal vehicles, all on behalf of and for the benefit of DEFENDANTS.

#### F. Wage Statement Violations

37. California Labor Code Sections 226 and 226.2 require 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, (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; (10) the total hours of compensable rest and recovery periods, the rate of compensation, and the gross wages paid for those periods during the pay period, and (11) the total hours of other

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nonproductive time, the rate of compensation, and the gross wages paid for that time during the pay period.

- 38. From time-to-time during the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT furnished PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS written wage statements that failed to accurately show (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece-rate, (4) net wages earned, (5) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee; (6) the total hours of compensable rest and recovery periods, the rate of compensation, and the gross wages paid for those periods during the pay period, and (7) the total hours of other nonproductive time, the rate of compensation, and the gross wages paid for that time during the pay period.
- 39. In addition to the violations described above, DEFENDANTS, from time to time, failed to provide PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with wage statements that comply with Cal. Lab. Code § 226.
- 40. As a result, DEFENDANTS issued PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS with wage statements that violate Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226 and 226.2. Further, DEFENDANTS' violations are knowing and intentional, were not isolated or due to an unintentional payroll error due to clerical or inadvertent mistake.

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

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

#### H. Unlawful Deductions

42. DEFENDANTS, from time-to-time unlawfully deducted wages from PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members' pay without explanations and without authorization to do

43. Specifically as to PLAINTIFF, DEFENDANT failed to provide all the legally required off-duty meal breaks to him and paid rest periods to him as required by the applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. DEFENDANT failed to compensate PLAINTIFF for his missed meal and rest breaks. The nature of the work performed by PLAINTIFF did not prevent him from being relieved of all of his duties for the legally required off-duty meal periods. Further, DEFENDANT failed to provide PLAINTIFF with a second off-duty meal period each workday in which PLAINTIFF was required by DEFENDANT to work ten (10) hours of work. As a result, DEFENDANT'S failure to provide PLAINTIFFS with the legally required second off-duty meal period is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records. From time to time, and as a result of DEFENDANT not accurately recording all missed meal and rest periods, and failing to pay minimum wages due for all time worked and separate compensation for rest breaks, the wage statements issued to PLAINTIFF by DEFENDANT violated California law, and in particular, Labor Code Section 226(a). Further, DEFENDANT failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF for all required business expenses including for the use of his personal cell phone. DEFENDANT has yet to pay PLAINTIFF all of his wages due to him and all premiums due to him for missed meal and rest breaks and DEFENDANT has failed to pay any penalty wages owed to him under California Labor Code Section 203. The amount in controversy for PLAINTIFF individually does not exceed \$75,000.

#### THE CALIFORNIA CLASS

44. PLAINTIFF brings the First Cause of Action for Unfair, Unlawful and Deceptive Business Practices pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq. (the "UCL") as a Class Action, pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382, on behalf of all current and former non-exempt, exempt, exempt, piece-rate based, and/or commission-based employees employed by DEFENDANT in California ("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

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Court (the "CLASS PERIOD"). The amount in controversy for the aggregate claim of CALIFORNIA CLASS Members is under five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00).

- 45. To the extent equitable tolling operates to toll claims by the CALIFORNIA CLASS against DEFENDANT, the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.
- 46. 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, and illegal meal and rest period policies. Defendant further failed to reimburse for business expenses, failed to compensate for off-the-clock work, failed to provide accurate itemized wage statements, and failed to maintain required records, and interest, statutory and civil penalties, attorney's fees, costs, and expenses.
- 47. The members of the class are so numerous that joinder of all class members is impractical.
- 48. Common questions of law and fact regarding DEFENDANTS' conduct, including but not limited to, the off-the-clock work, unpaid mean 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:
  - i. Whether DEFENDANTS maintained legally compliant meal period policies and practices;
  - ii. Whether DEFENDANTS maintained legally compliant rest period policies and practices;
  - Whether DEFENDANTS failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA
     CLASS Members accurate premium payments for missed meal and rest periods;

- 54. There is a strong community of interest among PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to, inter alia, ensure that the combined assets of DEFENDANTS are sufficient to adequately compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the injuries sustained.
- 55. 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.
- 56. 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:
  - Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS which would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the parties opposing the CALIFORNIA CLASS; and/or,
  - ii. Adjudication with respect to individual members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS which would as a practical matter be dispositive of the interests of the other members not party to the adjudication or substantially impair or impeded their ability to protect their interests.
- 57. Class treatment provides manageable judicial treatment calculated to bring an efficient and rapid conclusion to all litigation of all wage and hour related claims arising out of the conduct of DEFENDANTS.

#### 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)

- 58. 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.
- 59. DEFENDANT is a "person" as that term is defined under Cal. Bus. and Prof. Code § 17021.
- 60. 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.

- 61. 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 Industrial Wage Order(s), the California Code of Regulations and the California Labor Code including Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 206.5, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 558, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198 & 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.
- 62. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were unlawful and unfair in that these practices violate public policy, were immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous or

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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.

- 63. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were deceptive and fraudulent in that DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice failed to pay all minimum and overtime wages due, failed to provide the legally mandated meal and rest periods, failed to pay the required amount of compensation for missed meal and rest periods, and failed to reimburse 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.
- 64. 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.
- 65. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were also unlawful, unfair and deceptive in that DEFENDANT's uniform policies, practices and procedures failed to provide all legally required meal and rest breaks to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS as required by Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 and 512.
- 66. Therefore, PLAINTIFF demands on behalf of himself 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.
- 67. PLAINTIFF further demands on behalf of himself and each member of the CALIFORNIA CLASS one (1) hour of pay for each workday in which a rest period was not given and a premium was not timely provided as required by law.

- 68. By and through the unlawful and unfair business practices described herein, DEFENDANT has obtained valuable property, money and services from PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, including earned wages for all time worked, and has deprived them of valuable rights and benefits guaranteed by law and contract, all to the detriment of these employees and to the benefit of DEFENDANT so as to allow DEFENDANT to unfairly compete against competitors who comply with the law.
- 69. 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.
- 70. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were entitled to, and do, seek such relief as may be necessary to restore to them the money and property which DEFENDANT has acquired, or of which PLAINTIFF and the other members of the 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.
- 71. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are further entitled to, and do, seek a declaration that the described business practices are unlawful, unfair and deceptive, and that injunctive relief should be issued restraining DEFENDANT from engaging in any unlawful and unfair business practices in the future.
- 72. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS have no plain, speedy and/or adequate remedy at law that will end the unlawful and unfair business practices of DEFENDANT. Further, the practices herein alleged presently continue to occur unabated. As a result of the unlawful and unfair business practices described herein, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS have suffered and will continue to suffer irreparable legal and economic harm unless DEFENDANT is restrained from continuing to engage in these unlawful and unfair business practices.

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#### SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

# Failure To Pay Minimum Wages

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

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

- 73. 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.
- 74. 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.
- 75. 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.
- 76. 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.
- 77. 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.
- 78. As set forth above, during the CLASS PERIOD, 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.
- 79. 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 regarding minimum wage pay.
  - 80. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, DEFENDANT

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

- 81. 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.
- 82. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid less for time worked that they were entitled to, constituting a failure to pay all earned wages.
- 83. By virtue of DEFENDANT's unlawful failure to accurately pay all earned compensation to the 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.
- 84. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF 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 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS the correct minimum wages for their time worked.
- 85. 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

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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.

86. 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)

- 87. 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.
- 88. 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 DEFENDANTS' failure to properly compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all overtime worked, including, work performed in excess of eight (8) hours in a workday and/or forty (40) hours in any workweek during the CLASS PERIOD.
  - 89. 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.

- 90. Cal. Lab. Code § 510 further provides that employees in California shall not be employed more than eight (8) hours per workday and/or more than forty (40) hours per workweek unless they receive additional compensation beyond their regular wages in amount specified by law.
- 91. Cal. Lab. Code § 1194 establishes an employee's right to recover unpaid wages, including overtime compensation and interest thereon, together with the costs of suit. Cal. Lab. Code § 1198 further states that the employment of an employee for longer hours than those fixed by the Industrial Welfare Commission is unlawful.
- 92. During the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required by DEFENDANT to work for DEFENDANT and were not paid for all the time they worked, including overtime work.
- 93. 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 the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, and denied accurate compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for overtime worked, including, the work performed in excess of eight (8) hours in a workday and/or forty (40) hours in any workweek.
- 94. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, 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.
- 95. 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 full compensation for all overtime worked.
- 96. Cal. Lab. Code § 515 sets out various categories of employees who are exempt from the overtime requirements of the law. None of these exemptions are applicable to PLAINTIFF

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

- 97. 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.
- 98. DEFENDANT failed to accurately pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS overtime wages for the time they worked which was in excess of the maximum hours permissible by law as required by Cal. Lab. Code §§ 510, 1194 & 1198, even though PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were required to work, and did in fact work, overtime as to which DEFENDANT failed to accurately record and pay using the applicable overtime rate as evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records and witnessed by employees.
- 99. 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.
- 100. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are under compensated for their 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 the applicable overtime rate.
- 101. 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 overtime compensation, DEFENDANT acted and continue 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.

102. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS therefore request recovery of all unpaid wages, including 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 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.

# **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

# Failure To Provide Required Meal Periods

(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 & 512)

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

- 103. 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.
- 104. During the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT failed to provide all the legally required off-duty meal breaks to PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS as required by the applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. The nature of the work performed by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS did not prevent these employees from being relieved of all of their

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,

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second and third rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of ten (10) hours or more. PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were also not provided with one-hour wages in lieu thereof. As a result of their rigorous work schedules, PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were periodically denied their proper rest periods by DEFENDANT and DEFENDANT's managers.

- 109. DEFENDANT further violated California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and the applicable IWC Wage Order by failing to compensate PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS who were not provided a rest period, in accordance with the applicable Wage Order, one additional hour of compensation at each employee's regular rate of pay for each workday that rest period was not provided.
- 110. As a proximate result of the aforementioned violations, PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS have been damaged in an amount according to proof at trial, and seek all wages earned and due, interest, penalties, expenses and costs of suit.

# **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### **Failure To Provide Accurate Itemized Statements**

(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226)

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

- 111. 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.
- 1. Cal. Labor Code § 226 provides that an employer must furnish employees with an "accurate itemized" statement in writing showing: (1) Gross wages earned; (2) Total hours worked by the employee, except for any employee whose compensation is solely based on a salary and who is exempt from payment of overtime under subdivision (a) of Section 515 or any applicable order of the Industrial Welfare Commission; (3) The number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis; (4) All deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item; (5) Net wages earned; (6) The inclusive dates of the period for which the

employee is paid,; (7) The name of the employee and his or her social security number, except that by January 1, 2008, only the last four digits of his or her social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security number may be shown on the itemized statement; (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.

- 2. During the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS also failed to provide PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with complete and accurate wage statements which failed to accurately show, among other things, (1) Gross wages earned; (2) Total hours worked by the employee, (3) The number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis; (4) All deductions; (5) Net wages earned; and (6) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate.
- 3. Further, during the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS also failed to provide PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with complete and accurate wage statements in compliance with Cal. Labor Code Section 226.2, which failed to accurately show, among other things: (1) the total hours of compensable rest and recovery periods; and (2) the total hours of other nonproductive time, the rate of compensation for the nonproductive time and the gross wages paid for the nonproductive time during the applicable pay period.
- 4. PLAINTIFFS and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were injured by DEFENDANTS' violations in that they could not promptly and easily determine from the wage statement alone, the amount of gross or net wages paid, the total hours worked, the number pf piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece-rate, all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate to the employee during the applicable pay period.
- 5. DEFENDANTS violations of Cal. Labor Code § 226 and 226.2 were knowing and intentional in that DEFENDANTS willfully intended to issue wage statements that were out of compliance with § 226 and 226.2.

112. DEFENDANTS knowingly and intentionally failed to comply with Cal. Labor Code § 226 and 226.2, causing injury and damages to the PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS. These damages include, but are not limited to, costs expended calculating the correct rates for the overtime worked and the amount of employment taxes which were not properly paid to state and federal tax authorities. These damages are difficult to estimate. Therefore, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS may elect to recover liquidated damages of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the initial pay period in which the violation occurred, and one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each violation in a subsequent pay period pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 226, and all other damages and penalties available pursuant to Labor Code § 226.2(a)(6), all in an amount according to proof at the time of trial (but in no event more than four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) for PLAINTIFF and each respective member of the CALIFORNIA CLASS herein).

# **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

# Failure To Pay Wages When Due

(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 203)

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

- 113. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and incorporate by reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this Complaint.
  - 114. Cal. Lab. Code § 200 provides, in relevant part, that:

As used in this article:(a) "Wages" includes all amounts for labor performed by employees of every description, whether the amount is fixed or ascertained by the standard of time, task, piece, Commission basis, or other method of calculation. (b) "Labor" includes labor, work, or service whether rendered or performed under contract, subcontract, partnership, station plan, or other agreement if the labor to be paid for is performed personally by the person demanding payment.

115. Cal. Lab. Code § 201 provides, in relevant part, "that If an employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable

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immediately."

116. Cal. Lab. Code § 202 provides, in relevant part, that:

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

- 117. There was no definite term in PLAINTIFF's or any CALIFORNIA CLASS Members' employment contract.
  - If an employer willfully fails to pay, without abatement or reduction, in accordance with Sections 201, 201.5, 202, and 205.5, any wages of an employee who is discharged or who quits, the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or until an action therefor is commenced; but the wages shall not continue for more than 30 days.
- 119. The employment of PLAINTIFF and many CALIFORNIA CLASS Members terminated and DEFENDANT has not tendered payment of all wages owed as required by law.
- 120. Therefore, as provided by Cal Lab. Code § 203, on behalf of himself and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS whose employment has terminated and who have unpaid minimum and/or overtime wages and/or missed meal and rest breaks without being paid the

legally required penalties by DEFENDANT, PLAINTIFF demands up to thirty days of pay as penalty for not timely paying all wages due at time of termination for all employees who terminated employment during the CLASS PERIOD plus interest and statutory costs as allowed by law.

#### **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

# Failure To Reimburse Employees For Required Expenses

(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 2802)

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

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

122. Cal. Lab. Code § 2802 provides, in relevant part, 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.
- 123. From time-to-time during the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS violated Cal. Lab. Code § 2802, by failing to indemnify and reimburse PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for required expenses incurred in the discharge of their job duties for DEFENDANTS' benefit. DEFENDANTS failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for expenses which included, but were not limited to, costs related to using their personal cellular phones and personal vehicles all on behalf of and for the benefit of DEFENDANTS. Specifically, PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were required by DEFENDANTS to use their personal cell phones and personal vehicles to execute their essential job duties on behalf of DEFENDANTS. DEFENDANTS' uniform policy, practice and procedure was to not reimburse PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS

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

124. PLAINTIFF therefore demands reimbursement on behalf of the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for expenditures or losses incurred in the discharge their job duties and on behalf of DEFENDANTS, or his/her obedience to the directions of DEFENDANT, with interest at the statutory rate and costs under Cal. Lab. Code § 2802.

#### NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION

#### VIOLATION OF THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT

(Cal. Lab. Code §§2698 et seq.)

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

- 125. PLAINTIFF realleges and incorporates by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 126. 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.

127. PLAINTIFF, and such persons that may be added from time to time who satisfy the requirements and exhaust the administrative procedures under the Private Attorney General Act, bring this Representative Action on behalf of the State of California with respect to himself and all employees who worked for Defendant in California during the time period of January 20, 2022 until the present (the "AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES").

128. On January 20, 2023, 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.

business act or practice because DEFENDANTS (a) failed to pay AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES minimum wages and overtime wages, (b) failed to provide AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES legally required meal and rest breaks, (c) failed to pay AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES at the correct regular rate of pay, (d) failed to pay AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for all time worked, and (e) failed to timely pay wages, all in violation of the applicable Labor Code sections listed in Labor Code §2699.5, including but not limited to Labor Code §§ 201, 201.3, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 221, 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.

///

#### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

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

- 1. On behalf of the CALIFORNIA CLASS:
  - a. That the Court certify the First Cause of Action asserted by the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a class action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382;
  - b. An order temporarily, preliminarily and permanently enjoining and restraining DEFENDANT from engaging in similar unlawful conduct as set forth herein;
  - c. An order requiring DEFENDANT to pay all overtime wages and all sums unlawfully withheld from compensation due to 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, Seventh and Eighth Causes of Action asserted by the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a class action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382;
  - b. Compensatory damages, according to proof at trial, including compensatory damages for overtime compensation and separately owed rest periods, 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

| 1  |        | violation of Cal. Lab. Code § 226  |
|----|--------|--|
| 2  |        | e. The wages of all terminated employees from the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a                  |
| 3  |        | penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or until an action         |
| 4  |        | therefore is commenced, in accordance with Cal. Lab. Code § 203.                         |
| 5  | 3.     | On behalf of the State of California and with respect to all AGGRIEVED                   |
| 6  |        | EMPLOYEYES: Recovery of civil penalties as prescribe by the Labor Code Private           |
| 7  |        | Attorneys General Act of 2004;   |
| 8  | 4.     | On all claims:   |
| 9  |        | a. An award of interest, including prejudgment interest at the legal rate;               |
| 10 |        | b. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable; and              |
| 11 |        | c. An award of penalties, attorneys' fees and costs of suit, as allowable under the law. |
| 12 |        |  |
| 13 | DATED: | March 30, 2023   |
| 14 |        | ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC  |
| 15 |        | By:Shani O. Zakay  |
| 16 |        | Attorney for PLAINTIFF   |
| 17 |        |  |
| 18 |        | <u>DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL</u>   |
| 19 | PI     | AINTIFF demands a jury trial on issues triable to a jury.                                |
| 20 | DATED: | March 30, 2023   |
| 21 |        | ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC  |
| 22 |        | By:  |
| 23 |        | Shani O. Zakay<br>Attorney for PLAINTIFF   |
| 24 |        | Actionicy for TEATHATTI  |
| 25 |        |  |
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| 27 |        |  |
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# **EXHIBIT 1**



5440 Morehouse Drive Suite 3600 San Diego, CA 92121 619-599-8292 Fax 619-599-8291 Toll-Free 1-888-498-6999

January 20, 2023

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

DWWH, INC. dba WEIR CANYON HONDA c/o Glenn M Quintos 37 Kentworth Irvine, CA 92602 Sent via Certified Mail and Return Receipt No. 7022 2410 0003 0424 4825

Re: Notice of Violations of California Labor Code Sections 201, 201.3, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 221, 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 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 ALEJANDRO ESTRADA URENO ("Plaintiff") and other aggrieved employees in a proposed lawsuit against Defendant DWWH, INC. dba WEIR CANYON HONDA ("Defendant"). Plaintiff has been employed by Defendant in California since July of 2022 as a non-exempt employee, paid in part by commission-based compensation, 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. Plaintiff further contends that Defendant failed to advise Plaintiff and the other aggrieved employees of their right to take separately and hourly paid dutyfree ten (10) minute rest periods when working on a commission and/or commission draw basis and failed to separately compensate Plaintiff and the other aggrieved employees for the nonproductive time, including for their rest periods. See Vaquero v. Stoneledge Furniture, LLC (2017) 9 Cal. App. 5th 98, 110. Further, Defendant improperly misclassified aggrieved employees who were paid on a draw versus commission basis as exempt from overtime compensation. Defendant included advanced draws in order to meet the salary-basis test for the overtime exemption. However, Defendant cannot rely on advanced draws in order to meet the salary-basis test for such an exemption. See Semprini v. Wedbush (2020) 57 Cal.App.5th 252-254.

As a consequence, Plaintiff contends that Defendant failed to fully compensate him and other similarly situated and aggrieved employees, for all earned wages and failed to provide California-compliant meal and rest breaks and accurate wage statements. Accordingly, Plaintiff

contends that Defendant's conduct violated Labor Code sections §§ 201, 201.3, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 221, 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 applicable wage orders, and is therefore actionable pursuant to section 2698 *et seq*.

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

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

To the extent that entities and/or individuals are named and charged with violations of the Labor Code—making them liable on an individual basis as permitted by numerous Labor Code Sections including, but not limited to 558, 558.1, and 1197.1—Plaintiff reserves any and all rights to add, substitute, or change the name of employer entities and/or individuals responsible for the violations at issue.

Any further amendments and changes to this notice shall relate back to the date of this notice. Consequently, Defendant is on notice that Plaintiff continues his investigation, with the full intent to amend and/or change this notice, to add any undiscovered violations of any of the provisions of the California Labor Code—to the extent that are applicable to this case—and to change and/or add the identities of any entities and/or individuals responsible for the violations contained herein.

This notice is provided to enable Plaintiff to proceed with the Complaint against Defendant as authorized by California Labor Code section 2695, *et seq*. The lawsuit consists of other aggrieved employees. As counsel, our intention is to vigorously prosecute the claims as alleged in the Complaint, and to procure civil penalties as provided by the Private Attorney General Act 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.

Very truly yours, JCL LAW FIRM, APC

Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq.

| 1        | ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC   |   |
|----------|---|---|
|          | Shani O. Zakay (State Bar #277924)<br>Jackland K. Hom (State Bar #327243)               |   |
| 2        | Julieann Alvarado (State Bar #334727)   |   |
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| 8        | JCL LAW FIRM, APC   |   |
| 0        | Jean-Claude Lapuyade (State Bar #248676)<br>Sydney Castillo-Johnson (State Bar #343881) |   |
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| 10       | 5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600  |   |
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|          | scastillo@jcl-lawfirm.com   |   |
| 13       | mdelatorre@jcl-lawfirm.com  |   |
| 14       | 0. 71 : .100  |   |
| 15       | Attorneys for Plaintiff   |   |
| 15       | SUPERIOR COURT OF TH  | E STATE OF CALIFORNIA   |
| 16       |   |   |
| 17       | IN AND FOR THE CO   | OUNTY OF ORANGE   |
|          |   |   |
| 18       | ALEJANDRO ESTRADA URENO, an   | Case No:  |
| 19       | individual, on behalf of himself and on behalf of all persons similarly situated,       | CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR:                                       |
| 20       | Plaintiff,  | CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR.                                       |
| 20       | v.  | 1) UNFAIR COMPETITION IN VIOLATION                                |
| 21       |   | OF CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE §17200 et                               |
| 22       | DWWH, INC. dba WEIR CANYON HONDA, a California corporation; and DOES 1-50,              | seq;  |
| <i>_</i> | Inclusive,  | 2) FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§ |
| 23       | Defendants.   | 1194, 1197 & 1197.1;  |
| 24       |   | 3) FAILURE TO PAY OVERTIME WAGES                                  |
|          |   | IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§                                 |
| 25       |   | 510 et seq; 4) FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED                        |
| 26       |   | MEAL PERIODS IN VIOLATION OF                                      |
| 77       |   | CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 226.7 & 512 AND                                 |
| 27       |   | THE APPLICABLE IWC WAGE ORDER;                                    |
| 28       |   | 5) FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED                                    |
|          | п   | REST PERIODS IN VIOLATION OF                                      |

| 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>6<br>7 | CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 226.7 & 512 AND THE APPLICABLE IWC WAGE ORDER;  6) FAILURE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE ITEMIZED STATEMENTS IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE § 226;  7) FAILURE TO PROVIDE WAGES WHEN DUE IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §\$ 201, 202 AND 203;  8) FAILURE TO REIMBURSE EMPLOYEES FOR REQUIRED EXPENSES IN VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA LABOR CODE §2802. |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 8                               | DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL   |
| 9                               | Plaintiff ALEJANDRO ESTRADA URENO ("PLAINTIFF"), an individual, on behalf of  |
| 10                              | himself and all other similarly situated current and former employees, alleges on information and   |
| 11                              | belief, except for his own acts and knowledge which are based on personal knowledge, the  |
| 12                              | following:  |
| 13                              | THE PARTIES   |
| 14                              | 1. Defendant DWWH, INC. dba WEIR CANYON HONDA ("DEFENDANT" or   |
| 15                              | "DEFENDANT") is a California corporation that at all relevant times mentioned herein conducted  |
| 16                              | and continues to conduct substantial and regular business in the state of California.   |
| 17                              | 2. DEFENDANTS owns and operate car dealerships in California, including in the  |
| 18                              | county of Orange where PLAINTIFF worked.  |
| 19                              | 3. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, subsidiary,  |
| 20                              | partnership, associate or otherwise of defendants DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are presently   |
| 21                              | unknown to PLAINTIFF who therefore sues these Defendants by such fictitious names pursuant  |
| 22                              | to Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 474. PLAINTIFF will seek leave to amend this Complaint to allege the  |
| 23                              | true names and capacities of Does 1 through 50, inclusive, when they are ascertained.   |
| 24                              | PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and based upon that information and belief alleges, that  |
| 25                              | the Defendants named in this Complaint, including DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, (hereinafter  |
| 26                              | collectively "DEFENDANTS" and/or "DEFENDANT") are responsible in some manner for one  |
| 27                              | or more of the events and happenings that proximately caused the injuries and damages   |
| 28                              | hereinafter alleged.  |

- 4. The agents, servants, and/or employees of the Defendants and each of them acting on behalf of the DEFENDANTS acted within the course and scope of his, her or its authority as the agent, servant and/or employee of the Defendants, and personally participated in the conduct alleged herein on behalf of the Defendants with respect to the conduct alleged herein. Consequently, the acts of each Defendant are legally attributable to the other Defendants and all Defendants are jointly and severally liable to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, for the loss sustained as a proximate result of the conduct of the Defendants' agents, servants and/or employees.
- 5. 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.
- 6. 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.
- 7. PLAINTIFF has been employed by DEFENDANTS in California since July of 2022, paid in part an hourly wage, commission-based compensation, non-discretionary bonuses, and entitled to minimum wages, overtime pay and legally compliant meal and rest periods.
- 8. PLAINTIFF brings this Class Action on behalf of himself and a California class, defined as all current and former non-exempt, exempt, piece-rate based, and/or commission-based employees employed by DEFENDANTS in California ("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

(\$5,000,000.00).9. PLAINTIFF brings this Class Action on behalf of himself and a CALIFORNIA

aggregate claim of the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members is under five million dollars

- 9. PLAINTIFF brings this Class Action on behalf of himself and a CALIFORNIA CLASS in order to fully compensate the CALIFORNIA CLASS for their losses incurred during the 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.
- 10. DEFENDANTS' uniform policies and practices alleged herein were unlawful, unfair and deceptive business practices whereby DEFENDANTS retained and continues to retain wages due PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.
- 11. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS seek an injunction enjoining such conduct by DEFENDANTS in the future, relief for the named PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS who have been economically injured by DEFENDANTS' past and current unlawful conduct, and all other appropriate legal and equitable relief.

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 12. This 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.
- 13. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure, Sections 395 and 395.5, because PLAINTIFF worked in this County for DEFENDANTS and

DEFENDANTS (i) currently maintain and at all relevant times maintained offices and facilities in this County and/or conduct substantial business in this County, and (ii) committed the wrongful conduct herein alleged in this County against members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

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#### 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 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 compensate PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS overtime, sick pay, and meal rest premiums at the correct 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. DEFENDANTS' uniform policies and practices are intended to purposefully avoid the accurate and full payment for all time worked as required by California law which allows DEFENDANTS to illegally profit and gain an unfair advantage over competitors who comply with the law. To the extent equitable tolling operates to toll claims by the CALIFORNIA CLASS against DEFENDANTS, the CLASS PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.

#### A. Meal and Rest Period Violations

15. Pursuant to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders and the California Labor Codes, an employer shall not employ an employee for a work period of more than five (5) hours per day without providing the employee with a meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes, except that if the total work period per day of the employee is no more than six (6) hours, the meal period may be waived by mutual consent of both the employer and employee. An

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- 16. From time-to-time during the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, as a result of understaffing and their rigorous work schedule, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS members were from time to time unable to take thirty (30) minute off duty meal breaks and were not fully relieved of duty for meal periods. PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were from time to time 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, DEFENDANT from time-to-time failed to provide PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS members with a second off-duty meal period from time to time in which these employees were required by DEFENDANT to work ten (10) hours of work from time to time. Further, from time to time, DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to maintain cordless communication devices on them during what was supposed to be their off-duty meal break in order to receive and respond to work-related communications. PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members therefore forfeited meal breaks without additional compensation and in accordance with DEFENDANT's strict corporate policy and practice.
- 17. Further, 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 suffered or permitted to work. DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS members to work without paying them for all the time they were under the DEFENDANT's control. Specifically, DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFF to work while clocked out during what was supposed to be PLAINTIFF's off duty meal break due

- 18. Pursuant to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders and the California Labor Codes, an employer shall authorize ad permit all employees to take a rest periods, which so far as practical shall be in the middle of each work period. Generally, an employer must provide ten (10) minutes of paid rest for every four hours or major fraction thereof. If an employer fails to provide an employee a rest period, the employer shall pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of pay for each workday that the rest period is not provided.
- 19. Additionally, during the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS members were from time-to-time required to work in excess of four (4) hours without being provided duty-free, uninterrupted, ten (10) minute rest period. 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, 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 from time to time. Further, from time to time, DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to maintain cordless communication devices on them during what was supposed to be their off-duty rest break in order to receive and respond to work-related communications. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were from time to time required to remain on the premises, on-duty and on-call during their rest periods. PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were also not provided with one-hour wages in lieu thereof.

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

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20. State law provides that employees must be paid overtime at one-and-one-half times their "regular rate of pay." PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS were compensated at an hourly rate plus a piece-rate, and/or non-discretionary incentive pay that was tied to specific elements of an employee's performance and/or commissions.

- 21. DEFENDANTS' non-discretionary commission and bonus program provided the CALIFORNIA CLASS, including PLAINTIFF, with commissions and/or bonus compensation when the employees met the various performance goals set by DEFENDANT. However, when calculating the regular rate of pay, in those pay periods where PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS worked overtime and earned non-discretionary bonus and/or commission wages, DEFENDANT failed to accurately include the non-discretionary bonus compensation and/or commission wages as part of the employees' "regular rate of pay."
- 22. Management and supervisors described the bonus and commissions programs and commission compensation program to potential and new employees as part of the compensation package for new and used car salespersons including PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS. As a matter of law, the incentive and commission compensation received by PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS members must be included and correctly calculated into the "regular rate of pay" for purposes of overtime and double time compensation, meal and rest period premium payments, and sick pay. DEFENDANT's failure to do so has resulted in DEFENDANT's systematic underpayment of overtime and double time compensation, meal and rest period premium payments, and sick pay to PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS members. Specifically, California Labor Code Section 246 mandates that paid sick time for non-employees shall be calculated in the same manner as the regular rate of pay for the workweek in which the employee uses paid sick time, whether or not the employee actually works overtime in that workweek. DEFENDANTS' conduct, as articulated herein, by failing to include the incentive compensation as part of the "regular rate of pay" for purposes of sick pay

compensation was in violation of Cal. Lab. Code § 246 the underpayment of which is recoverable under Cal. Labor Code Sections 201, 202, 203 and/or 204.

23. In violation of the applicable sections of the California Labor Code and the requirements of the Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") Wage Order, DEFENDANTS as a matter of company policy, practice and procedure, intentionally and knowingly failed to compensate PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS at the correct rate of pay for all overtime and double time compensation, meal and rest period premium payments, and sick pay. This uniform policy and practice of DEFENDANTS is intended to purposefully avoid the payment of the correct overtime and double time compensation, meal and rest period premium payments, and sick pay as required by California law which allowed DEFENDANTS to illegally profit and gain an unfair advantage over competitors who complied with the law. To the extent equitable tolling operates to toll claims by the CALIFORNIA CLASS members against DEFENDANTS, the CLASS PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.

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

- 24. From time-to-time during the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid in part on a commission and/or piece-rate basis. In those instances where PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid in part on a commission and/or piece-rate basis, PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were entitled to be separately compensated for all non-productive time at an hourly rate that is no less than the applicable minimum wage. Notwithstanding, in those instances where PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid in part on a commission and/or piece-rate basis, DEFENDANT failed to separately compensate PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all non-productive time, including but not limited to, paid rest periods, at an hourly rate that is no less than the applicable minimum wage. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS forfeited minimum wages and overtime wages by DEFENDANT'S failure to separately compensate their non-productive time at an hourly rate that is no less than the applicable minimum wage.
- 25. Further, from time-to-time during the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS improperly misclassified PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members who were paid

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

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

- 26. Pursuant to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, DEFENDANTS were required to pay PLAINTIFF and the 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, DEFENDANTS required PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to work without paying them for all the time they were under DEFENDANTS' control.
- 27. As a result, the PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members forfeited minimum wage and overtime compensation by regularly working without their time being accurately recorded and without compensation at the applicable minimum wage and overtime rates. DEFENDANTS failed to pay PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS necessary wages for attending for performing work at DEFENDANTS' direction, request, and benefit, while off-the clock. DEFENDANTS' uniform policy and practice not to pay PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all time worked is evidenced by DEFENDANTS' business records.
- 28. DEFENDANTS directed and directly benefited from the uncompensated off-the-clock work performed by PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.
- 29. DEFENDANTS controlled the work schedules, duties, protocols, applications, assignments, and employment conditions of PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

- 30. DEFENDANTS were able to track the amount of time PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS spent working; however, DEFENDANTS failed to document, track, or pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS all wages earned and owed for all the work they performed, including pre-shift, post shift and during meal period off-the-clock work.
- 31. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were non-exempt employees, subject to the requirements of the California Labor Code.
- 32. DEFENDANTS' policies and practices deprived PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS of all minimum, regular, overtime, and double time wages owed for the off-the-clock work activities. Because PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS typically worked over 40 hours in a workweek, and more than eight (8) hours per day, DEFENDANTS' policies and practices also deprived them of overtime pay.
- 33. DEFENDANTS knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS off-the-clock work was compensable under the law.
- 34. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS forfeited wages due them for all hours worked at DEFENDANTS' direction, control and benefit for the time spent working while off-the-clock. DEFENDANTS' uniform policy and practice to not pay PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS wages for all hours worked in accordance with applicable law is evidenced by DEFENDANTS' business records.

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

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

of his or her duties, or of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer, even though unlawful, unless the employee, at the time of obeying the directions, believed them to be unlawful."

36. In the course of their employment, DEFENDANTS required PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to use their personal cell phones and personal vehicles as a result of and in furtherance of their job duties as employees for DEFENDANT. But for the use of their own personal cell phones and personal vehicles, PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members could not complete their essential job duties, including but not limited to, sending and receiving work-related communications from DEFENDANTS and DEFENDANTS' clients and using personal vehicles to deliver paperwork to DEFENDANT and DEFENDANTS' clients. However, DEFENDANTS unlawfully failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for their use of their personal cell phones and personal vehicles. As a result, in the course of their employment with DEFENDANTS, the PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members incurred unreimbursed business expenses, but were not limited to, costs related to the use of their personal cellular phones and personal vehicles, all on behalf of and for the benefit of DEFENDANTS.

#### F. Wage Statement Violations

37. California Labor Code Sections 226 and 226.2 require 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, (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; (10) the total hours of compensable rest and recovery periods, the rate of compensation, and the gross wages paid for those periods during the pay period, and (11) the total hours of other

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nonproductive time, the rate of compensation, and the gross wages paid for that time during the pay period.

- 38. From time-to-time during the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT furnished PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS written wage statements that failed to accurately show (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece-rate, (4) net wages earned, (5) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee; (6) the total hours of compensable rest and recovery periods, the rate of compensation, and the gross wages paid for those periods during the pay period, and (7) the total hours of other nonproductive time, the rate of compensation, and the gross wages paid for that time during the pay period.
- 39. In addition to the violations described above, DEFENDANTS, from time to time, failed to provide PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with wage statements that comply with Cal. Lab. Code § 226.
- 40. As a result, DEFENDANTS issued PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS with wage statements that violate Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226 and 226.2. Further, DEFENDANTS' violations are knowing and intentional, were not isolated or due to an unintentional payroll error due to clerical or inadvertent mistake.

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

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

#### H. Unlawful Deductions

42. DEFENDANTS, from time-to-time unlawfully deducted wages from PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members' pay without explanations and without authorization to do

43. Specifically as to PLAINTIFF, DEFENDANT failed to provide all the legally required off-duty meal breaks to him and paid rest periods to him as required by the applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. DEFENDANT failed to compensate PLAINTIFF for his missed meal and rest breaks. The nature of the work performed by PLAINTIFF did not prevent him from being relieved of all of his duties for the legally required off-duty meal periods. Further, DEFENDANT failed to provide PLAINTIFF with a second off-duty meal period each workday in which PLAINTIFF was required by DEFENDANT to work ten (10) hours of work. As a result, DEFENDANT'S failure to provide PLAINTIFFS with the legally required second off-duty meal period is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records. From time to time, and as a result of DEFENDANT not accurately recording all missed meal and rest periods, and failing to pay minimum wages due for all time worked and separate compensation for rest breaks, the wage statements issued to PLAINTIFF by DEFENDANT violated California law, and in particular, Labor Code Section 226(a). Further, DEFENDANT failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF for all required business expenses including for the use of his personal cell phone. DEFENDANT has yet to pay PLAINTIFF all of his wages due to him and all premiums due to him for missed meal and rest breaks and DEFENDANT has failed to pay any penalty wages owed to him under California Labor Code Section 203. The amount in controversy for PLAINTIFF individually does not exceed \$75,000.

#### THE CALIFORNIA CLASS

44. PLAINTIFF brings the First Cause of Action for Unfair, Unlawful and Deceptive Business Practices pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq. (the "UCL") as a Class Action, pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382, on behalf of all current and former non-exempt, exempt, exempt, piece-rate based, and/or commission-based employees employed by DEFENDANT in California ("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

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Court (the "CLASS PERIOD"). The amount in controversy for the aggregate claim of CALIFORNIA CLASS Members is under five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00).

- 45. To the extent equitable tolling operates to toll claims by the CALIFORNIA CLASS against DEFENDANT, the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.
- 46. 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, and illegal meal and rest period policies. Defendant further failed to reimburse for business expenses, failed to compensate for off-the-clock work, failed to provide accurate itemized wage statements, and failed to maintain required records, and interest, statutory and civil penalties, attorney's fees, costs, and expenses.
- 47. The members of the class are so numerous that joinder of all class members is impractical.
- 48. Common questions of law and fact regarding DEFENDANTS' conduct, including but not limited to, the off-the-clock work, unpaid mean 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:
  - i. Whether DEFENDANTS maintained legally compliant meal period policies and practices;
  - ii. Whether DEFENDANTS maintained legally compliant rest period policies and practices;
  - Whether DEFENDANTS failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA
     CLASS Members accurate premium payments for missed meal and rest periods;

- 54. There is a strong community of interest among PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to, inter alia, ensure that the combined assets of DEFENDANTS are sufficient to adequately compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the injuries sustained.
- 55. 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.
- 56. 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:
  - Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS which would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the parties opposing the CALIFORNIA CLASS; and/or,
  - ii. Adjudication with respect to individual members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS which would as a practical matter be dispositive of the interests of the other members not party to the adjudication or substantially impair or impeded their ability to protect their interests.
- 57. Class treatment provides manageable judicial treatment calculated to bring an efficient and rapid conclusion to all litigation of all wage and hour related claims arising out of the conduct of DEFENDANTS.

#### **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)

- 58. 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.
- 59. DEFENDANT is a "person" as that term is defined under Cal. Bus. and Prof. Code § 17021.
- 60. 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.

- 61. 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 Industrial Wage Order(s), the California Code of Regulations and the California Labor Code including Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 206.5, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 558, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198 & 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.
- 62. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were unlawful and unfair in that these practices violate 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.

- 63. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were deceptive and fraudulent in that DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice failed to pay all minimum and overtime wages due, failed to provide the legally mandated meal and rest periods, failed to pay the required amount of compensation for missed meal and rest periods, and failed to reimburse 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.
- 64. 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.
- 65. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were also unlawful, unfair and deceptive in that DEFENDANT's uniform policies, practices and procedures failed to provide all legally required meal and rest breaks to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS as required by Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 and 512.
- 66. Therefore, PLAINTIFF demands on behalf of himself 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.
- 67. PLAINTIFF further demands on behalf of himself and each member of the CALIFORNIA CLASS one (1) hour of pay for each workday in which a rest period was not given and a premium was not timely provided as required by law.

- 68. By and through the unlawful and unfair business practices described herein, DEFENDANT has obtained valuable property, money and services from PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, including earned wages for all time worked, and has deprived them of valuable rights and benefits guaranteed by law and contract, all to the detriment of these employees and to the benefit of DEFENDANT so as to allow DEFENDANT to unfairly compete against competitors who comply with the law.
- 69. 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.
- 70. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were entitled to, and do, seek such relief as may be necessary to restore to them the money and property which DEFENDANT has acquired, or of which PLAINTIFF and the other members of the 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.
- 71. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are further entitled to, and do, seek a declaration that the described business practices are unlawful, unfair and deceptive, and that injunctive relief should be issued restraining DEFENDANT from engaging in any unlawful and unfair business practices in the future.
- 72. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS have no plain, speedy and/or adequate remedy at law that will end the unlawful and unfair business practices of DEFENDANT. Further, the practices herein alleged presently continue to occur unabated. As a result of the unlawful and unfair business practices described herein, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS have suffered and will continue to suffer irreparable legal 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 PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all Defendants)

- 73. 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.
- 74. 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.
- 75. 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.
- 76. 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.
- 77. 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.
- 78. As set forth above, during the CLASS PERIOD, 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.
- 79. 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 regarding minimum wage pay.
  - 80. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, DEFENDANT

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

- 81. 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.
- 82. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid less for time worked that they were entitled to, constituting a failure to pay all earned wages.
- 83. By virtue of DEFENDANT's unlawful failure to accurately pay all earned compensation to the 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.
- 84. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF 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 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS the correct minimum wages for their time worked.
- 85. 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.

86. 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)

- 87. 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.
- 88. 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 DEFENDANTS' failure to properly compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all overtime worked, including, work performed in excess of eight (8) hours in a workday and/or forty (40) hours in any workweek during the CLASS PERIOD.
  - 89. 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.

- 90. Cal. Lab. Code § 510 further provides that employees in California shall not be employed more than eight (8) hours per workday and/or more than forty (40) hours per workweek unless they receive additional compensation beyond their regular wages in amount specified by law.
- 91. Cal. Lab. Code § 1194 establishes an employee's right to recover unpaid wages, including overtime compensation and interest thereon, together with the costs of suit. Cal. Lab. Code § 1198 further states that the employment of an employee for longer hours than those fixed by the Industrial Welfare Commission is unlawful.
- 92. During the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required by DEFENDANT to work for DEFENDANT and were not paid for all the time they worked, including overtime work.
- 93. 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 the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, and denied accurate compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for overtime worked, including, the work performed in excess of eight (8) hours in a workday and/or forty (40) hours in any workweek.
- 94. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, 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.
- 95. 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 full compensation for all overtime worked.
- 96. Cal. Lab. Code § 515 sets out various categories of employees who are exempt from the overtime requirements of the law. None of these exemptions are applicable to PLAINTIFF

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

- 97. 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.
- 98. DEFENDANT failed to accurately pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS overtime wages for the time they worked which was in excess of the maximum hours permissible by law as required by Cal. Lab. Code §§ 510, 1194 & 1198, even though PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were required to work, and did in fact work, overtime as to which DEFENDANT failed to accurately record and pay using the applicable overtime rate as evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records and witnessed by employees.
- 99. 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.
- 100. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are under compensated for their 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 the applicable overtime rate.
- 101. 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 overtime compensation, DEFENDANT acted and continue 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.

102. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS therefore request recovery of all unpaid wages, including 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 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.

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

## Failure To Provide Required Meal Periods

(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 & 512)

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

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103. 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.

104. During the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT failed to provide all the legally required off-duty meal breaks to PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS as required by the applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. The nature of the work performed by PLAINTIFF and

the CALIFORNIA CLASS did not prevent these employees from being relieved of all of their duties for the legally required off-duty meal periods. As a result of their rigorous work schedules, PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were often not fully relieved of duty by DEFENDANT for their meal periods. Additionally, DEFENDANT's failure to provide PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS with legally required meal breaks prior to their fifth (5th) hour of work is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records. As a result, PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS therefore forfeited meal breaks without additional compensation and in accordance with DEFENDANT's strict corporate policy and practice.

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

106. 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)

- 107. 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.
- 108. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were also required to work in excess of four (4) hours without being provided ten (10) minute rest periods. Further, these employees were denied their first rest periods of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of at least two (2) to four (4) hours, a first and second rest period of at

least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of between six (6) and eight (8) hours, and a first, second and third rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of ten (10) hours or more. PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were also not provided with one-hour wages in lieu thereof. As a result of their rigorous work schedules, PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were periodically denied their proper rest periods by DEFENDANT and DEFENDANT's managers.

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

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

#### **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### **Failure To Provide Accurate Itemized Statements**

(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226)

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

- 111. 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.
- 1. Cal. Labor Code § 226 provides that an employer must furnish employees with an "accurate itemized" statement in writing showing: (1) Gross wages earned; (2) Total hours worked by the employee, except for any employee whose compensation is solely based on a salary and who is exempt from payment of overtime under subdivision (a) of Section 515 or any applicable order of the Industrial Welfare Commission; (3) The number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis; (4) All deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee may be aggregated and

shown as one item; (5) Net wages earned; (6) The inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid,; (7) The name of the employee and his or her social security number, except that by January 1, 2008, only the last four digits of his or her social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security number may be shown on the itemized statement; (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.

- 2. During the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS also failed to provide PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with complete and accurate wage statements which failed to accurately show, among other things, (1) Gross wages earned; (2) Total hours worked by the employee, (3) The number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis; (4) All deductions; (5) Net wages earned; and (6) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate.
- 3. Further, during the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS also failed to provide PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with complete and accurate wage statements in compliance with Cal. Labor Code Section 226.2, which failed to accurately show, among other things: (1) the total hours of compensable rest and recovery periods; and (2) the total hours of other nonproductive time, the rate of compensation for the nonproductive time and the gross wages paid for the nonproductive time during the applicable pay period.
- 4. PLAINTIFFS and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were injured by DEFENDANTS' violations in that they could not promptly and easily determine from the wage statement alone, the amount of gross or net wages paid, the total hours worked, the number pf piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece-rate, all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate to the employee during the applicable pay period.
- 5. DEFENDANTS violations of Cal. Labor Code § 226 and 226.2 were knowing and intentional in that DEFENDANTS willfully intended to issue wage statements that were out of

112. DEFENDANTS knowingly and intentionally failed to comply with Cal. Labor Code § 226 and 226.2, causing injury and damages to the PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS. These damages include, but are not limited to, costs expended calculating the correct rates for the overtime worked and the amount of employment taxes which were not properly paid to state and federal tax authorities. These damages are difficult to estimate. Therefore, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS may elect to recover liquidated damages of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the initial pay period in which the violation occurred, and one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each violation in a subsequent pay period pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 226, and all other damages and penalties available pursuant to Labor Code § 226.2(a)(6), all in an amount according to proof at the time of trial (but in no event more than four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) for PLAINTIFF and each respective member of the CALIFORNIA CLASS herein).

#### **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

## Failure To Pay Wages When Due

(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 203)

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

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

114. Cal. Lab. Code § 200 provides, in relevant part, that:

As used in this article:(a) "Wages" includes all amounts for labor performed by employees of every description, whether the amount is fixed or ascertained by the standard of time, task, piece, Commission basis, or other method of calculation. (b) "Labor" includes labor, work, or service whether rendered or performed under contract, subcontract, partnership, station plan, or other agreement if the labor to be paid for is performed personally by the person demanding payment.

115. Cal. Lab. Code § 201 provides, in relevant part, "that If an employer discharges an

employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately."

- 116. Cal. Lab. Code § 202 provides, in relevant part, that:
  - If an employee not having a written contract for a definite period quits his or her employment, his or her wages shall become due and payable not later than 72 hours thereafter, unless the employee has given 72 hours previous notice of his or her intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an employee who quits without providing a 72-hour notice shall be entitled to receive payment by mail if he or she so requests and designates a mailing address. The date of the mailing shall constitute the date of payment for purposes of the requirement to provide payment within 72 hours of the notice of quitting.
- 117. There was no definite term in PLAINTIFF's or any CALIFORNIA CLASS Members' employment contract.
  - If an employer willfully fails to pay, without abatement or reduction, in accordance with Sections 201, 201.5, 202, and 205.5, any wages of an employee who is discharged or who quits, the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or until an action therefor is commenced; but the wages shall not continue for more than 30 days.
- 119. The employment of PLAINTIFF and many CALIFORNIA CLASS Members terminated and DEFENDANT has not tendered payment of all wages owed as required by law.
- 120. Therefore, as provided by Cal Lab. Code § 203, on behalf of himself and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS whose employment has terminated and who have unpaid

minimum and/or overtime wages and/or missed meal and rest breaks without being paid the legally required penalties by DEFENDANT, PLAINTIFF demands up to thirty days of pay as penalty for not timely paying all wages due at time of termination for all employees who terminated employment during the CLASS PERIOD plus interest and statutory costs as allowed by law.

#### **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

# Failure To Reimburse Employees For Required Expenses

(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 2802)

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

- 121. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this Complaint.
  - 122. Cal. Lab. Code § 2802 provides, in relevant part, 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.

123. From time-to-time during the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS violated Cal. Lab. Code § 2802, by failing to indemnify and reimburse PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for required expenses incurred in the discharge of their job duties for DEFENDANTS' benefit. DEFENDANTS failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for expenses which included, but were not limited to, costs related to using their personal cellular phones and personal vehicles all on behalf of and for the benefit of DEFENDANTS. Specifically, PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were required by DEFENDANTS to use their personal cell phones and personal vehicles to execute their essential job duties on behalf of DEFENDANTS. DEFENDANTS' uniform policy, practice

and procedure was to not reimburse PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for expenses resulting from using their personal cellular phones and personal vehicles for DEFENDANTS within the course and scope of their employment for DEFENDANTS. These expenses were necessary to complete their principal job duties. DEFENDANTS are estopped by DEFENDANTS' conduct to assert any waiver of their expectation. Although these expenses were necessary expenses incurred by PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, DEFENDANTS failed to indemnify and reimburse PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for these expenses as an employer is required to do under the laws and regulations of California.

124. PLAINTIFF therefore demands reimbursement on behalf of the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for expenditures or losses incurred in the discharge their job duties and on behalf of DEFENDANTS, or his/her obedience to the directions of DEFENDANT, with interest at the statutory rate and costs under Cal. Lab. Code § 2802.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

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

- 1. On behalf of the CALIFORNIA CLASS:
  - a. That the Court certify the First Cause of Action asserted by the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a class action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382;
  - b. An order temporarily, preliminarily and permanently enjoining and restraining 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:

# **DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL** PLAINTIFF demands a jury trial on issues triable to a jury. DATED: January 20, 2023 ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC By: Shani O. Zakay Attorney for PLAINTIFF

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# ☑ Agent ☐ Priority Mail Express® ☐ Registered Mail™ ☐ Registered Mail Restricte Delivery ☐ Signature Confirmation™ ☐ Signature Confirmation ☐ Restricted Delivery Domestic Return Receipt C. Date of Delivery COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY D. is delivery address different than 472 if YES, enter delivery address below: 30 3. Service Type | Adult Signature | Control S 1/20 Estrada B. Hecsived by (Printee A. Signature DWWH, Inc dba WEIRCANYON HONDA Attach this card to the back of the malipiece, or on the front if space permits. 7022 2410 0003 0424 4825 Print your name and address on the reverse 9590 9402 7575 2098 0772 50 SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION so that we can return the card to you. 2. Article Number (Transfer from service label) ■ Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Irvine, CA 92602 37 Kentuarth 1. Article Addressed to:

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