

**SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)**

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

E-FILED
3/25/2024 11:51 AM
Clerk of Court
Superior Court of CA,
County of Santa Clara
24CV433781
Reviewed By: R. Walker
Envelope: 14804683

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

5G'S AUTOMOTIVE, INC., dba NISSAN OF GILROY, a California corporation; and DOES 1-50 Inclusive,

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

ROBERT RAMIREZ, an individual, on behalf of himself, and on behalf of all persons similarly situated,

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

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

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

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero 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.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is:
(El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Santa Clara Superior Court

Downtown Superior Court - 191 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113

CASE NUMBER:
(Número de Caso):

24CV433781

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

(El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):

Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq. T: (619)599-8292 JCL Law Firm, APC - 5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600, San Diego, CA 92121

DATE: 3/25/2024 11:51 AM Clerk of Court Clerk, by R. Walker, Deputy
(Fecha) (Secretario) (Adjunto)

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

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



NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served

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

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19 Attorneys for PLAINTIFF

20 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

21 **IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**

22 ROBERT RAMIREZ, an individual, on behalf
23 of himself, and on behalf of all persons similarly
24 situated,

25 Plaintiff,

26 v.

27 5G'S AUTOMOTIVE, INC., dba NISSAN OF
28 GILROY, a California corporation; and DOES
1-50, Inclusive,

Defendants.

E-FILED
3/25/2024 11:51 AM
Clerk of Court
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County of Santa Clara
24CV433781
Reviewed By: R. Walker

Case No: **24CV433781**

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR:

- 1) UNFAIR COMPETITION IN VIOLATION OF CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE §17200 *et seq*;
- 2) FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 1194, 1197 & 1197.1;
- 3) FAILURE TO PAY OVERTIME WAGES IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 510, *et seq*;
- 4) FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED MEAL PERIODS IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 226.7 & 512 AND THE APPLICABLE IWC WAGE ORDER;
- 5) FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED REST PERIODS IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 226.7 & 512 AND THE APPLICABLE IWC WAGE ORDER;

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

DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL

PLAINTIFF ROBERT RAMIREZ (“PLAINTIFF”), an individual, on behalf of himself and all other similarly situated current and former employees, allege on information and belief, except for his own acts and knowledge which are based on personal knowledge, the following:

PRELIMINARY ALLEGATIONS

1. Defendant 5G’S AUTOMOTIVE, INC., dba NISSAN OF GILROY (“DEFENDANT”) is a California corporation that at all relevant times mentioned herein conducted and continues to conduct substantial and regular business throughout California.

2. DEFENDANT owns and operates car dealerships in California, including in the county of Santa Clara where PLAINTIFF worked.

3. PLAINTIFF was employed by DEFENDANT in California from March of 2023 to April of 2023 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.

4. 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 DEFENDANT in California (the “CALIFORNIA CLASS”) at any time during the period beginning four (4) years prior to the filing of this Complaint and ending on the date as determined by the Court (the “CLASS PERIOD”). The amount in controversy for the aggregate claim of the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members is under five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00).

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1 5. PLAINTIFF brings this Class Action on behalf of himself and a CALIFORNIA
2 CLASS in order to fully compensate the CALIFORNIA CLASS for their losses incurred during
3 the CLASS PERIOD caused by DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice which failed to
4 lawfully compensate these employees. DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice alleged
5 herein was an unlawful, unfair, and deceptive business practice whereby DEFENDANT retained
6 and continues to retain wages due to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA
7 CLASS. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS seek an injunction
8 enjoining such conduct by DEFENDANT in the future, relief for the named PLAINTIFF and the
9 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS who have been economically injured by
10 DEFENDANT's past and current unlawful conduct, and all other appropriate legal and equitable
11 relief.

12 6. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, subsidiary,
13 partnership, associate or otherwise of DEFENDANTS DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are
14 presently unknown to PLAINTIFF who therefore sues these DEFENDANTS by such fictitious
15 names pursuant to Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 474. PLAINTIFF will seek leave to amend this
16 Complaint to allege the true names and capacities of Does 1 through 50, inclusive, when they are
17 ascertained. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and based upon that information and belief
18 alleges, that the DEFENDANTS named in this Complaint, including DOES 1 through 50,
19 inclusive, are responsible in some manner for one or more of the events and happenings that
20 proximately caused the injuries and damages hereinafter alleged.

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

THE CONDUCT

1
2 14. In violation of the applicable sections of the California Labor Code and the
3 requirements of the Industrial Welfare Commission (“IWC”) Wage Order, DEFENDANT as a
4 matter of company policy, practice, and procedure, intentionally, knowingly, and systematically
5 failed to provide legally compliant meal and rest periods, failed to accurately compensate
6 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for missed meal and rest
7 periods, failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all
8 time worked, failed compensate PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
9 for off-the-clock work, failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA
10 CLASS overtime at the correct regular rate of pay, failed to compensate PLAINTIFF and other
11 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS meal rest premiums at the regular rate, failed to reimburse
12 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for business expenses, and failed to issue
13 to PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with accurate itemized wage
14 statements showing, among other things, all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay
15 periods and the corresponding amount of time worked at each hourly rate. DEFENDANT’s
16 uniform policies and practices are intended to purposefully avoid the accurate and full payment
17 for all time worked as required by California law which allows DEFENDANT to illegally profit
18 and gain an unfair advantage over competitors who comply with the law. To the extent equitable
19 tolling operates to toll claims by the CALIFORNIA CLASS against DEFENDANT, the CLASS
20 PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.

21 **A. Meal Period Violations**

22 15. Pursuant to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, DEFENDANT was
23 required to pay PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all their time worked,
24 meaning the time during which an employee is subject to the control of an employer, including
25 all the time the employee is suffered or permitted to work. From time to time during the CLASS
26 PERIOD, DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to work
27 without paying them for all the time they were under DEFENDANT’s control. Specifically,
28 DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFF to work while clocked out during what was supposed to be

1 PLAINTIFF's off-duty meal break. Indeed, there were many days where PLAINTIFF did not
2 even receive a partial lunch. As a result, the PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
3 Members forfeited minimum wage and overtime compensation by regularly working without their
4 time being accurately recorded and without compensation at the applicable minimum wage and
5 overtime rates. DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice not to pay PLAINTIFF and other
6 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all time worked is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business
7 records.

8 16. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, as a result of their rigorous work
9 schedules and DEFENDANT's inadequate staffing practices, PLAINTIFF and other
10 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members are from time to time unable to take thirty (30) minute off duty
11 meal breaks and were not fully relieved of duty for their meal periods. PLAINTIFF and other
12 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members are required to perform work as ordered by DEFENDANT for
13 more than five (5) hours during some shifts without receiving a meal break. Further,
14 DEFENDANT fails to provide PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with a second
15 off-duty meal period for some workdays in which these employees are required by DEFENDANT
16 to work ten (10) hours of work. The nature of the work performed by PLAINTIFF and other
17 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members does not qualify for the limited and narrowly construed "on-
18 duty" meal period exception. When they were provided with meal periods, PLAINTIFF and other
19 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were, from time to time, required to remain on duty and on call.
20 Further, DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to
21 maintain cordless communication devices on them during meal periods in order to receive and
22 respond to work-related communications. DEFENDANT's failure to provide PLAINTIFF and
23 the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with legally required meal breaks is evidenced by
24 DEFENDANT's business records. PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
25 therefore forfeit meal breaks without additional compensation and in accordance with
26 DEFENDANT's strict corporate policy and practice.

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1 **B. Rest Period Violations**

2 17. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and other
3 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were also required to work in excess of four (4) hours without
4 being provided ten (10) minute rest periods as a result of their rigorous work requirements and
5 DEFENDANT's inadequate staffing. Further, for the same reasons, these employees were denied
6 their first rest periods of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of at least two (2) to four
7 (4) hours from time to time, a first and second rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some
8 shifts worked of between six (6) and eight (8) hours from time to time, and a first, second and
9 third rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of ten (10) hours or more from
10 time to time. When they were provided with rest breaks, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
11 CLASS Members were, from time to time, required to remain on premises, on duty and/or on call.
12 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were also not provided with one-hour
13 wages *in lieu* thereof. As a result of their rigorous work schedules and DEFENDANT's inadequate
14 staffing, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were from time to time denied
15 their proper rest periods by DEFENDANT and DEFENDANT's managers.

16 **C. Unreimbursed Business Expenses**

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

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1 19. In the course of their employment, DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFF and other
2 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to incur personal expenses for the use of their personal cell
3 phones as a result of and in furtherance of their job duties. Specifically, PLAINTIFF and other
4 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required to use their personal cell phones in order to
5 perform work related tasks. However, DEFENDANT unlawfully failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF
6 and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for the use of their personal cell phones. As a result,
7 in the course of their employment with DEFENDANT, the PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
8 CLASS Members incurred unreimbursed business expenses that included, but were not limited
9 to, costs related to the use of their personal cell phones all on behalf of and for the benefit of
10 DEFENDANT.

11 **D. Wage Statement Violations**

12 20. California Labor Code Section 226 required an employer to furnish its employees
13 and accurate itemized wage statement in writing showing (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours
14 worked, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece-rate, (4) all deductions,
15 (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid, (7) the
16 name of the employee and only the last four digits of the employee's social security number or an
17 employee identification number other than a social security number, (8) the name and address of
18 the legal entity that is the employer, and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay
19 period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.

20 21. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, when PLAINTIFF and other
21 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members missed meal and rest breaks, or were paid inaccurately for
22 missed meal and rest period premiums, or were not paid for all hours worked, DEFENDANTS
23 also failed to provide PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with complete and
24 accurate wage statements which failed to show the complete requirements under California Labor
25 Code sections 226(a)(1)-(9), including but not limited to, all deductions, the total hours worked
26 and all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding amount of
27 time worked at each hourly rate, correct rates of pay for penalty payments or missed meal and rest
28 periods.

1 22. In addition to the foregoing, DEFENDANTS, from time to time, failed to provide
2 PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with wage statements that comply with
3 Cal. Lab. Code § 226(a)(1)-(9).

4 23. As a result, DEFENDANT issued PLAINTIFF and other members of the
5 CALIFORNIA CLASS with wage statements that violate Cal. Lab. Code § 226. Further,
6 DEFENDANT’s violations are knowing and intentional, were not isolated due to an unintentional
7 payroll error due to clerical or inadvertent mistake.

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

9 24. During the CLASS PERIOD, from time-to-time DEFENDANT failed and
10 continues to fail to accurately pay PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
11 for all hours worked.

12 25. During the CLASS PERIOD, from time-to-time DEFENDANT required
13 PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to perform pre-shift or post-shift
14 work, including but not limited to, submitting to Covid-19 health screenings. This resulted in
15 PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS having to work while off-the-
16 clock.

17 26. DEFENDANT directed and directly benefited from the undercompensated off-the-
18 clock work performed by PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

19 27. DEFENDANT controlled the work schedules, duties, and protocols, applications,
20 assignments, and employment conditions of PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
21 CALIFORNIA CLASS.

22 28. DEFENDANT was able to track the amount of time PLAINTIFF and the other
23 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS spent working; however, DEFENDANT failed to
24 document, track, or pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS all
25 wages earned and owed for all the work they performed.

26 29. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were non-
27 exempt employees, subject to the requirements of the California Labor Code.

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1 30. DEFENDANT’s policies and practices deprived PLAINTIFF and the other
2 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members of all minimum regular, overtime, and double time wages owed
3 for the off-the-clock work activities. Because PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
4 CALIFORNIA CLASS typically worked over forty (40) hours in a workweek, and more than
5 eight (8) hours per day, DEFENDANT’s policies and practices also deprived them of overtime
6 pay.

7 31. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other
8 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS off-the-clock work was compensable under the law.

9 32. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
10 forfeited wages due to them for all hours worked at DEFENDANT’s direction, control, and
11 benefit for the time spent working while off-the-clock, including but not limited to, time spent
12 submitting to Covid-19 health screenings. DEFENDANT’s uniform policy and practice to not
13 pay PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS wages for all hours worked in
14 accordance with applicable law is evidenced by DEFENDANT’s business records.

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

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

21 34. DEFENDANTS’ non-discretionary commission and bonus program provided the
22 CALIFORNIA CLASS, including PLAINTIFF, with commissions and/or bonus compensation
23 when the employees met the various performance goals set by DEFENDANT. However, when
24 calculating the regular rate of pay, in those pay periods where PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA
25 CLASS worked overtime and earned non-discretionary bonus and/or commission wages,
26 DEFENDANT failed to accurately include the non-discretionary bonus compensation and/or
27 commission wages as part of the employees’ “regular rate of pay.”

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1 35. Management and supervisors described the bonus and commissions programs and
2 commission compensation program to potential and new employees as part of the compensation
3 package for new and used car salespersons including PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA
4 CLASS. As a matter of law, the incentive and commission compensation received by
5 PLAINTIFFS and other CALIFORNIA CLASS members must be included and correctly
6 calculated into the “regular rate of pay” for purposes of overtime and double time compensation,
7 meal and rest period premium payments, and sick pay. DEFENDANT’s failure to do so has
8 resulted in DEFENDANT’s systematic underpayment of overtime and double time compensation,
9 meal and rest period premium payments, and sick pay to PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
10 CLASS members. Specifically, California Labor Code Section 246 mandates that paid sick time
11 for non-employees shall be calculated in the same manner as the regular rate of pay for the
12 workweek in which the employee uses paid sick time, whether or not the employee actually works
13 overtime in that workweek. DEFENDANTS’ conduct, as articulated herein, by failing to include
14 the incentive compensation as part of the “regular rate of pay” for purposes of sick pay
15 compensation was in violation of Cal. Lab. Code § 246 the underpayment of which is recoverable
16 under Cal. Labor Code Sections 201, 202, 203 and/or 204.

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

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1 **G. Commission and Piece-Rate Violations**

2 37. From time-to-time during the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and
3 the CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid in part on a commission and/or piece-rate basis. In those
4 instances where PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid in part on a commission
5 and/or piece-rate basis, PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were entitled to be separately
6 compensated for all non-productive time at an hourly rate that is no less than the applicable
7 minimum wage. Notwithstanding, in those instances where PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA
8 CLASS were paid in part on a commission and/or piece-rate basis, DEFENDANT failed to
9 separately compensate PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all non-productive time,
10 including but not limited to, paid rest periods, at an hourly rate that is no less than the applicable
11 minimum wage. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS forfeited minimum
12 wages and overtime wages by DEFENDANT’S failure to separately compensate their non-
13 productive time at an hourly rate that is no less than the applicable minimum wage.

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

23 **H. Violations for Untimely Payment of Wages**

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

1 40. Pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 201, “If an employer discharges an employee, the
2 wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately.” Pursuant
3 to Cal. Lab. Code § 202, if an employee quits his or her employment, “his or her wages shall
4 become due and payable not later than 72 hours thereafter, unless the employee has given 72
5 hours previous notice of his or her intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his
6 or her wages at the time of quitting.” PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
7 were, from time to time, not timely provided the wages earned and unpaid at the time of their
8 discharge and/or at the time of quitting, in violation of Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201 and 202.

9 41. As such, PLAINTIFF demands up to thirty days of pay as penalty for not timely
10 paying all wages due at time of termination for all CALIFORNIA CLASS Members whose
11 employment ended during the CLASS PERIOD.

12 **I. Unlawful Deductions**

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

17 **J. Timekeeping Manipulation**

18 43. During the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT, from time-to-time, did not have an
19 immutable timekeeping system to accurately record and pay PLAINTIFF and other members of
20 the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the actual time PLAINTIFF and other members of the
21 CALIFORNIA CLASS worked each day, including regular time, overtime hours, sick pay, meal
22 and rest breaks. As a result, DEFENDANT was able to and did in fact, unlawfully, and
23 unilaterally alter the time recorded in DEFENDANT’S timekeeping system for PLAINTIFF and
24 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in order to avoid paying these employees for all
25 hours worked, applicable overtime compensation, applicable sick pay, missed meal breaks and
26 missed rest breaks.

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1 44. As a result, PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, from
2 time-to-time, forfeited time worked by working without their time being accurately recorded and
3 without compensation at the applicable pay rates.

4 45. The mutability of the timekeeping system also allowed DEFENDANT to alter
5 employee time records by recording fictitious thirty (30) minute meal breaks in DEFENDANT's
6 timekeeping system so as to create the appearance that PLAINTIFF and other members of the
7 CALIFORNIA CLASS clocked out for thirty (30) minute meal break when in fact the employees
8 were not at all times provided an off-duty meal break. This practice is a direct result of
9 DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice of denying employees uninterrupted thirty (30)
10 minute off-duty meal breaks each day or otherwise compensating them for missed meal breaks.

11 46. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
12 forfeited wages due to them for all hours worked at DEFENDANT'S direction, control and
13 benefit for the time the timekeeping system was inoperable. DEFENDANT'S uniform policy
14 and practice to not pay PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS wages for
15 all hours worked in accordance with applicable law is evidenced by DEFENDANT'S business
16 records.

17 **K. Unlawful Rounding Practices**

18 47. During the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS did not have in
19 place an immutable timekeeping system to accurately record and pay PLAINTIFF and other
20 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for the actual time these employees worked each day,
21 including overtime hours. Specifically, DEFENDANTS had in place an unlawful rounding
22 policy and practice that resulted in PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members being
23 undercompensated for all of their time worked. As a result, DEFENDANTS were able to and did
24 in fact unlawfully, and unilaterally round the time recorded in DEFENDANTS' timekeeping
25 system for PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in order to avoid paying
26 these employees for all their time worked, including the applicable overtime compensation for
27 overtime worked. As a result, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, from
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1 time to time, forfeited compensation for their time worked by working without their time being
2 accurately recorded and without compensation at the applicable overtime rates.

3 48. Further, the mutability of DEFENDANTS' timekeeping system and unlawful
4 rounding policy and practice resulted in PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members' time
5 being inaccurately recorded. As a result, from time to time, DEFENDANTS' unlawful rounding
6 policy and practice caused PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to perform work
7 as ordered by DEFENDANTS for more than five (5) hours during a shift without receiving an
8 off-duty meal break.

9 **L. Sick Pay Violations**

10 49. Cal. Labor Code Section 246 (a)(1) mandates that "An employee who, on or after
11 July 1, 2015, works in California for the same employer for 30 or more days within a year from the
12 commencement of employment is entitled to paid sick days as specified in this section." Further,
13 Cal. Labor Code Sections 246(b)-(d) provide for the sick day accrual requirements. From time to
14 time, DEFENDANT failed to have a policy or practice in place that provided PLAINTIFF and other
15 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with sick days and/or paid sick leave.

16 50. California Labor Code Section 246(i) requires an employer to furnish its employees
17 with written wage statements setting forth the amount of paid sick leave available. From time to
18 time, DEFENDANT violated Cal. Lab. Code § 246 by failing to furnish PLAINTIFF and other
19 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with wage statements setting forth the amount of paid sick
20 leave available.

21 51. Specifically, as to PLAINTIFF, PLAINTIFF was from time to time unable to take
22 off duty meal and rest breaks and was not fully relieved of duty for his rest and meal periods.
23 PLAINTIFF was required to perform work as ordered by DEFENDANTS for more than five (5)
24 hours during a shift without receiving an off-duty meal break. Further, DEFENDANTS failed to
25 provide PLAINTIFF with a second off-duty meal period each workday in which he was required
26 by DEFENDANTS to work ten (10) hours of work. When DEFENDANTS provided PLAINTIFF
27 with a rest break, they required PLAINTIFF to remain on-duty and on-call for the rest break.
28 DEFENDANTS policy caused PLAINTIFF to remain on-call and on-duty during what was

1 supposed to be his off-duty meal periods. PLAINTIFF therefore forfeited meal and rest breaks
2 without additional compensation and in accordance with DEFENDANTS' strict corporate policy
3 and practice. Moreover, DEFENDANTS also provided PLAINTIFF with paystubs that failed to
4 comply with Cal. Lab. Code § 226. Further, DEFENDANTS also failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF
5 for required business expenses related to the personal expenses incurred for the use of his personal
6 cell phone, on behalf of and in furtherance of his employment with DEFENDANTS. To date,
7 DEFENDANTS have not fully paid PLAINTIFF the minimum, overtime and double time
8 compensation still owed to him or any penalty wages owed to him under Cal. Lab. Code § 203. The
9 amount in controversy for PLAINTIFF individually does not exceed the sum or value of \$75,000.

10 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

11 52. PLAINTIFF bring this Class Action on behalf of himself, and a California class
12 defined as all current and former non-exempt, exempt, piece-rate based, and/or commission-based
13 employees employed by DEFENDANT in California (the "CALIFORNIA CLASS") at any time
14 during the period beginning four (4) years prior to the filing of this Complaint and ending on the
15 date as determined by the Court (the "CLASS PERIOD").

16 53. PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members have uniformly been
17 deprived of wages and penalties from unpaid wages earned and due, including but not limited to
18 unpaid minimum wages, unpaid overtime compensation, unpaid meal and rest period premiums,
19 illegal meal and rest period policies, failed to reimburse for business expenses, failed compensate
20 for off-the-clock work, failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements, failure to maintain
21 required records, and interest, statutory and civil penalties, attorney's fees, costs, and expenses.

22 54. The members of the class are so numerous that joinder of all class members is
23 impractical.

24 55. Common questions of law and fact regarding DEFENDANT's conduct, including
25 but not limited to, off-the-clock work, unpaid meal and rest period premiums, failure to accurately
26 calculate the regular rate of pay for overtime compensation, failure to accurately calculate the
27 regular rate of compensation for missed meal and rest period premiums, failing to provide legally
28 compliant meal and rest periods, failed to reimburse for business expenses, failure to provide

1 accurate itemized wage statements accurate, and failure to ensure they are paid at least minimum
2 wage and overtime, exist as to all members of the class and predominate over any questions
3 affecting solely any individual members of the class. Among the questions of law and fact
4 common to the class are:

- 5 a. Whether DEFENDANT maintained legally compliant meal period policies and
6 practices;
- 7 b. Whether DEFENDANT maintained legally compliant rest period policies and
8 practices;
- 9 c. Whether DEFENDANT failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS
10 Members accurate premium payments for missed meal and rest periods;
- 11 d. Whether DEFENDANT failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS
12 Members accurate overtime wages;
- 13 e. Whether DEFENDANT failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS
14 Members at least minimum wage for all hours worked;
- 15 f. Whether DEFENDANT failed to compensate PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA
16 CLASS Members for required business expenses;
- 17 g. Whether DEFENDANT issued legally compliant wage statements;
- 18 h. Whether DEFENDANT committed an act of unfair competition by systematically
19 failing to record and pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA
20 CLASS for all time worked;
- 21 i. Whether DEFENDANT committed an act of unfair competition by systematically
22 failing to record all meal and rest breaks missed by PLAINTIFF and other
23 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, even though DEFENDANT enjoyed the benefit
24 of this work, required employees to perform this work and permits or suffers to
25 permit this work;
- 26 j. Whether DEFENDANT committed an act of unfair competition in violation of the
27 UCL, by failing to provide the PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
28 CALIFORNIA CLASS with the legally required meal and rest periods.

1 56. PLAINTIFF are members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS and suffered damages as
2 a result of DEFENDANT's conduct and actions alleged herein.

3 57. PLAINTIFF'S claims are typical of the claims of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, and
4 PLAINTIFF have the same interests as the other members of the class.

5 58. PLAINTIFF will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the
6 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

7 59. PLAINTIFF retained able class counsel with extensive experience in class action
8 litigation.

9 60. Further, PLAINTIFF'S interests are coincident with, and not antagonistic to, the
10 interest of the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

11 61. There is a strong community of interest among PLAINTIFF and the members of
12 the CALIFORNIA CLASS to, inter alia, ensure that the combined assets of DEFENDANT are
13 sufficient to adequately compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the injuries
14 sustained.

15 62. The questions of law and fact common to the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
16 predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, including legal and factual
17 issues relating to liability and damages.

18 63. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient
19 adjudication of this controversy because joinder of all class members is impractical. Moreover,
20 since the damages suffered by individual members of the class may be relatively small, the
21 expense and burden of individual litigation makes it practically impossible for the members of the
22 class individually to redress the wrongs done to them. Without class certification and
23 determination of declaratory, injunctive, statutory, and other legal questions within the class
24 format, prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS will
25 create the risk of:

- 26 a. Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of the
27 CALIFORNIA CLASS which would establish incompatible standards of conduct
28 for the parties opposing the CALIFORNIA CLASS; and/or,

1 1198, and 2802, for which this Court should issue declaratory and other equitable relief pursuant
2 to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203 as may be necessary to prevent and remedy the conduct held
3 to constitute unfair competition, including restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.

4 69. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were unlawful and unfair
5 in that these practices violated public policy, were immoral, unethical, oppressive unscrupulous
6 or substantially injurious to employees, and were without valid justification or utility for which
7 this Court should issue equitable and injunctive relief pursuant to Section 17203 of the California
8 Business & Professions Code, including restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.

9 70. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were deceptive and
10 fraudulent in that DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice failed to provide the legally
11 mandated meal and rest periods and the required amount of compensation for missed meal and
12 rest periods, failed to pay minimum and overtime wages owed, and failed to reimburse all
13 necessary business expenses incurred, due to a systematic business practice that cannot be
14 justified, pursuant to the applicable Cal. Lab. Code, and Industrial Welfare Commission
15 requirements in violation of Cal. Bus. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, and for which this Court should
16 issue injunctive and equitable relief, pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203, including
17 restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.

18 71. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were also unlawful,
19 unfair, and deceptive in that DEFENDANT's employment practices caused PLAINTIFF and the
20 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to be underpaid during their employment with
21 DEFENDANT.

22 72. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were also unfair and
23 deceptive in that DEFENDANT's uniform policies, practices and procedures failed to provide
24 mandatory meal and/or rest breaks to PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members as
25 required by Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 and 512.

26 73. Therefore, PLAINTIFF demands on behalf of himself and on behalf of each
27 CALIFORNIA CLASS member, one (1) hour of pay for each workday in which an off-duty meal
28 period was not timely provided for each five (5) hours of work, and/or one (1) hour of pay for

1 each workday in which a second off-duty meal period was not timely provided for each ten (10)
2 hours of work.

3 74. PLAINTIFF further demands on behalf of himself and on behalf of each
4 CALIFORNIA CLASS member, one (1) hour of pay for each workday in which a rest period was
5 not timely provided as required by law.

6 75. By and through the unlawful and unfair business practices described herein,
7 DEFENDANT has obtained valuable property, money and services from PLAINTIFF and the
8 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, including earned wages for all time worked, and
9 has deprived them of valuable rights and benefits guaranteed by law and contract, all to the
10 detriment of these employees and to the benefit of DEFENDANT so as to allow DEFENDANT
11 to unfairly compete against competitors who comply with the law.

12 76. All the acts described herein as violations of, among other things, the Industrial
13 Welfare Commission Wage Orders, the California Code of Regulations, and the California Labor
14 Code, were unlawful and in violation of public policy, were immoral, unethical, oppressive, and
15 unscrupulous, were deceptive, and thereby constitute unlawful, unfair, and deceptive business
16 practices in violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

17 77. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are entitled to,
18 and do, seek such relief as may be necessary to restore to them the money and property which
19 DEFENDANT has acquired, or of which PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
20 CALIFORNIA CLASS have been deprived, by means of the above described unlawful and unfair
21 business practices, including earned but unpaid wages for all time worked.

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

26 79. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS have no plain,
27 speedy and/or adequate remedy at law that will end the unlawful and unfair business practices of
28 DEFENDANT. Further, the practices herein alleged presently continue to occur unabated. As a

1 result of the unlawful and unfair business practices described herein, PLAINTIFF and the other
2 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS have suffered and will continue to suffer irreparable legal
3 and economic harm unless DEFENDANT is restrained from continuing to engage in these
4 unlawful and unfair business practices.

5 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

6 **Failure To Pay Minimum Wages**

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

8 **Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against ALL Defendants)**

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

12 81. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS bring a claim for
13 DEFENDANT's willful and intentional violations of the California Labor Code and the Industrial
14 Welfare Commission requirements for DEFENDANT's failure to accurately calculate and pay
15 minimum wages to PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

16 82. Pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 204, other applicable laws and regulations, and public
17 policy, an employer must timely pay its employees for all hours worked.

18 83. Cal. Lab. Code § 1197 provides the minimum wage for employees fixed by the
19 commission is the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a less wage than
20 the minimum so fixed is unlawful.

21 84. Cal. Lab. Code § 1194 establishes an employee's right to recover unpaid wages,
22 including minimum wage compensation and interest thereon, together with the costs of suit.

23 85. DEFENDANT maintained a uniform wage practice of paying PLAINTIFF and the
24 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS without regard to the correct amount of time they
25 work. As set forth herein, DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice was to unlawfully and
26 intentionally deny timely payment of wages due to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
27 CALIFORNIA CLASS.

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1 86. DEFENDANT’s uniform pattern of unlawful wage and hour practices manifested,
2 without limitation, applicable to the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a whole, as a result of
3 implementing a uniform policy and practice that denies accurate compensation to PLAINTIFF
4 and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in regard to minimum wage pay.

5 87. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, DEFENDANT
6 inaccurately calculated the correct time worked and consequently underpaid the actual time
7 worked by PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS. DEFENDANT acted
8 in an illegal attempt to avoid the payment of all earned wages, and other benefits in violation of
9 the California Labor Code, the Industrial Welfare Commission requirements and other applicable
10 laws and regulations.

11 88. As a direct result of DEFENDANT’s unlawful wage practices as alleged herein,
12 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS did not receive the correct
13 minimum wage compensation for their time worked for DEFENDANT.

14 89. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
15 CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid less for time worked than they were entitled to, constituting a
16 failure to pay all earned wages.

17 90. By virtue of DEFENDANT’s unlawful failure to accurately pay all earned
18 compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the true
19 time they worked, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS have
20 suffered and will continue to suffer an economic injury in amounts which are presently unknown
21 to them, and which will be ascertained according to proof at trial.

22 91. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other
23 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were under-compensated for their time worked.
24 DEFENDANT systematically elected, either through intentional malfeasance or gross
25 nonfeasance, to not pay employees for their labor as a matter of uniform company policy, practice
26 and procedure, and DEFENDANT perpetrated this systematic scheme by refusing to pay
27 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS the correct minimum wages
28 for their time worked.

1 Welfare Commission requirements for DEFENDANT's failure to pay these employees for all
2 overtime worked, including, work performed in excess of eight (8) hours in a workday, and/or
3 twelve (12) hours in a workday, and/or forty (40) hours in any workweek.

4 96. Pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 204, other applicable laws and regulations, and public
5 policy, an employer must timely pay its employees for all hours worked.

6 97. Cal. Lab. Code § 510 provides that employees in California shall not be employed
7 more than eight (8) hours per workday and/or more than forty (40) hours per workweek unless
8 they receive additional compensation beyond their regular wages in amounts specified by law.

9 98. Cal. Lab. Code § 1194 establishes an employee's right to recover unpaid wages,
10 including minimum and overtime compensation and interest thereon, together with the costs of
11 suit. Cal. Lab. Code § 1198 further states that the employment of an employee for longer hours
12 than those fixed by the Industrial Welfare Commission is unlawful.

13 99. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
14 were required by DEFENDANT to work for DEFENDANT and were not paid for all the time
15 they worked, including overtime work.

16 100. DEFENDANT's uniform pattern of unlawful wage and hour practices manifested,
17 without limitation, applicable to the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a whole, as a result of
18 implementing a uniform policy and practice that failed to accurately record overtime worked by
19 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members and denied accurate compensation to
20 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for overtime worked,
21 including, the overtime work performed in excess of eight (8) hours in a workday, and/or twelve
22 (12) hours in a workday, and/or forty (40) hours in any workweek.

23 101. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, DEFENDANT
24 inaccurately recorded overtime worked and consequently underpaid the overtime worked by
25 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members. DEFENDANT acted in an illegal
26 attempt to avoid the payment of all earned wages, and other benefits in violation of the California
27 Labor Code, the Industrial Welfare Commission requirements and other applicable laws and
28 regulations.

1 102. As a direct result of DEFENDANT’s unlawful wage practices as alleged herein,
2 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS did not receive the correct
3 overtime compensation for their time worked for DEFENDANT.

4 103. Cal. Lab. Code § 515 sets out various categories of employees who are exempt
5 from the overtime requirements of the law. None of these exemptions are applicable to
6 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS. Further, PLAINTIFF and the
7 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are not subject to a valid collective bargaining
8 agreement that would preclude the causes of action contained herein this Complaint. Rather,
9 PLAINTIFF bring this Action on behalf of himself, and the CALIFORNIA CLASS, based on
10 DEFENDANT’s violations of non-negotiable, non-waivable rights provided by the State of
11 California.

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

15 105. DEFENDANT failed to accurately pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
16 CALIFORNIA CLASS overtime wages for the time they worked which was in excess of the
17 maximum hours permissible by law as required by Cal. Lab. Code §§ 510, 1194, & 1198, even
18 though PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were regularly required
19 to work, and did in fact work overtime, and did in fact work overtime as to which DEFENDANT
20 failed to accurately record and pay as evidenced by DEFENDANT’s business records and
21 witnessed by employees.

22 106. By virtue of DEFENDANT’s unlawful failure to accurately pay all earned
23 compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the true
24 amount of overtime they worked, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA
25 CLASS have suffered and will continue to suffer an economic injury in amounts which are
26 presently unknown to them, and which will be ascertained according to proof at trial.

27 107. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other
28 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were undercompensated for their time worked.

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

6 108. In performing the acts and practices herein alleged in violation of California labor
7 laws, and refusing to compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all time worked
8 and provide them with the requisite compensation, DEFENDANT acted and continues to act
9 intentionally, oppressively, and maliciously toward PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
10 CALIFORNIA CLASS with a conscious of and utter disregard for their legal rights, or the
11 consequences to them, and with the despicable intent of depriving them of their property and legal
12 rights, and otherwise causing them injury in order to increase company profits at the expense of
13 these employees.

14 109. Therefore, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
15 request recovery of overtime wages, according to proof, interest, statutory costs, as well as the
16 assessment of any statutory penalties against DEFENDANT, in a sum as provided by the
17 California Labor Code and/or other applicable statutes. To the extent overtime compensation is
18 determined to be owed to the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members who have terminated their
19 employment, DEFENDANT'S conduct also violates Labor Code §§ 201 and/or 202, and therefore
20 these individuals are also be entitled to waiting time penalties under Cal. Lab. Code § 203, which
21 penalties are sought herein. DEFENDANT's conduct as alleged herein was willful, intentional,
22 and not in good faith. Further, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members are
23 entitled to seek and recover statutory costs.

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

4 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

5 **Failure To Provide Required Rest Periods**

6 **(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 & 512)**

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

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

11 115. From time to time, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were
12 required to work in excess of four (4) hours without being provided ten (10) minute rest periods.
13 Further, these employees were denied their first rest periods of at least ten (10) minutes for some
14 shifts worked of at least two (2) to four (4) hours, a first and second rest period of at least ten (10)
15 minutes for some shifts worked of between six (6) and eight (8) hours, and a first, second and
16 third rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of ten (10) hours or more.
17 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were also not provided with one-hour
18 wages *in lieu* thereof. As a result of their rigorous work schedules, PLAINTIFF and other
19 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were periodically denied their proper rest periods by
20 DEFENDANT and DEFENDANT’s managers. In addition, DEFENDANT failed to compensate
21 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for their rest periods as required by the
22 applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. As a result, DEFENDANT’s failure to provide
23 PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with all the legally required paid rest
24 periods is evidenced by DEFENDANT’s business records.

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

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

6 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

7 **Failure To Reimburse Employees for Required Expenses**

8 **(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 2802)**

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

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

13 119. Cal. Lab. Code § 2802 provides, in relevant part, that:

14 An employer shall indemnify his or her employee for all necessary expenditures or
15 losses incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of his or her
16 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.

17 120. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT violated Cal. Lab.
18 Code § 2802, by failing to indemnify and reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS
19 members for required expenses incurred in the discharge of their job duties for DEFENDANT's
20 benefit. DEFENDANT failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members
21 for expenses which included, but were not limited to, personal expenses incurred for the use of
22 their personal cell phones, all on behalf of and for the benefit of DEFENDANT. Specifically,
23 DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to use their
24 personal cell phones to execute their essential job duties on behalf of DEFENDANT.
25 DEFENDANT's uniform policy, practice and procedure was to not reimburse PLAINTIFF and
26 the CALIFORNIA CLASS members for expenses resulting from the use of their personal cell
27 phones for DEFENDANT within the course and scope of their employment for DEFENDANT.
28 These expenses were necessary to complete their principal job duties. DEFENDANT is estopped

1 by DEFENDANT’s conduct to assert any waiver of this expectation. Although these expenses
2 were necessary expenses incurred by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members,
3 DEFENDANT failed to indemnify and reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS
4 members for these expenses as an employer is required to do under the laws and regulations of
5 California.

6 121. PLAINTIFF therefore demand reimbursement for expenditures or losses incurred
7 by him and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members in the discharge of their job duties for
8 DEFENDANT, or their obedience to the directions of DEFENDANT, with interest at the statutory
9 rate and costs under Cal. Lab. Code § 2802.

10 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

11 **Failure To Provide Accurate Itemized Statements**

12 **(Cal. Lab. Code § 226)**

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

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

17 123. Cal. Labor Code § 226 provides that an employer must furnish employees with an
18 “accurate itemized” statement in writing showing:

- 19 a. Gross wages earned,
- 20 b. (2) total hours worked by the employee, except for any employee whose
21 compensation is solely based on a salary and who is exempt from payment of
22 overtime under subdivision (a) of Section 515 or any applicable order of the
23 Industrial Welfare Commission,
- 24 c. the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee
25 is paid on a piece-rate basis,
- 26 d. all deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee
27 may be aggregated and shown as one item,
- 28 e. net wages earned,

- 1 f. the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid,
- 2 g. the name of the employee and his or her social security number, except that by
- 3 January 1, 2008, only the last four digits of his or her social security number of an
- 4 employee identification number other than social security number may be shown
- 5 on the itemized statement,
- 6 h. the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and
- 7 i. all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding
- 8 number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.

9 124. When DEFENDANT did not accurately record PLAINTIFF'S and other
10 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members' missed meal and rest breaks, or were paid inaccurately for
11 missed meal and rest period premiums, or were not paid for all hours worked, DEFENDANTS
12 also failed to provide PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with complete and
13 accurate wage statements which failed to show the complete requirements under California Labor
14 Code sections 226(a)(1)-(9), including but not limited to, all deductions, the total hours worked
15 and all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding amount of
16 time worked at each hourly rate, correct rates of pay for penalty payments or missed meal and
17 rest periods.

18 125. In addition to the foregoing, DEFENDANTS failed to provide itemized wage
19 statements to PLAINTIFF and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS that complied with the
20 requirements of California Labor Code Section 226(a)(1)-(9).

21 126. DEFENDANT knowingly and intentionally failed to comply with Cal. Lab. Code
22 § 226, causing injury and damages to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA
23 CLASS. These damages include, but are not limited to, costs expended calculating the correct
24 wages for all missed meal and rest breaks and the amount of employment taxes which were not
25 properly paid to state and federal tax authorities. These damages are difficult to estimate.
26 Therefore, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS may elect to recover
27 liquidated damages of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the initial pay period in which the violation
28 occurred, and one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each violation in a subsequent pay period

1 pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 226, in an amount according to proof at the time of trial (but in no
2 event more than four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) for PLAINTIFF and each respective member
3 of the CALIFORNIA CLASS herein).

4 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

5 **Failure To Pay Wages When Due**

6 **(Cal. Lab. Code § 203)**

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

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

11 128. Cal. Lab. Code § 200 provides that:

12 As used in this article:

- 13 (d) "Wages" includes all amounts for labor performed by employees of every
14 description, whether the amount is fixed or ascertained by the standard of time,
15 task, piece, Commission basis, or other method of calculation.
16 (e) "Labor" includes labor, work, or service whether rendered or performed under
17 contract, subcontract, partnership, station plan, or other agreement if the to be
18 paid for is performed personally by the person demanding payment.

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

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

23 If an employee not having a written contract for a definite period quits his or her
24 employment, his or her wages shall become due and payable not later than 72 hours
25 thereafter, unless the employee has given 72 hours previous notice of his or her intention
26 to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting.
27 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an employee who quits without providing a
28 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.

131. There was no definite term in PLAINTIFF'S or any CALIFORNIA CLASS
Members' employment contract.

132. Cal. Lab. Code § 203 provides:

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

6 133. The employment of PLAINTIFF and many CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
7 terminated, and DEFENDANT has not tendered payment of wages to these employees who
8 missed meal and rest breaks, as required by law.

9 134. Therefore, as provided by Cal Lab. Code § 203, on behalf of himself and the
10 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS whose employment has, PLAINTIFF demand up to thirty
11 (30) days of pay as penalty for not paying all wages due at time of termination for all employees
12 who terminated employment during the CLASS PERIOD and demand an accounting and payment
13 of all wages due, plus interest and statutory costs as allowed by law.

14 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

15 WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF pray for a judgment against each Defendant, jointly and
16 severally, as follows:

17 1. On behalf of the CALIFORNIA CLASS:

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

28 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

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to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382;

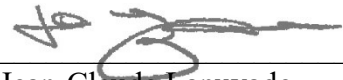
- b. Compensatory damages, according to proof at trial, including compensatory damages for overtime compensation due to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, during the applicable CLASS PERIOD plus interest thereon at the statutory rate;
- c. Meal and rest period compensation pursuant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

3. On all claims:

- a. An award of interest, including prejudgment interest at the legal rate;
- b. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable; and
- c. An award of penalties, attorneys' fees, and costs of suit, as allowable under the law, including, but not limited to, pursuant to Labor Code § 218.5, § 226, and/or § 1194.

DATED: March 25, 2024

JCL LAW FIRM, APC

By: 

Jean-Claude Lapuyade
Attorney for PLAINTIFF


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DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL

PLAINTIFF demands a jury trial on issues triable to a jury.

DATED: March 25, 2024

JCL LAW FIRM, APC

By: 

Jean-Claude Lapuyade
Attorney for PLAINTIFF