ADVOCATES FOR WORKER RIGHTS LLP MARCO A. PALAU (Bar No. 242340) **ELECTRONICALLY** marco@advocatesforworkers.com JOSEPH D. SUTTON (Bar No. 269951) FILED ids@advocatesforworkers.com Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco 3 ERIC S. TRABUCCO (Bar No. 295473) est@advocatesforworkers.com 12/13/2019 212 9th Street, Suite 314 **Clerk of the Court BY: KALENE APOLONIO** Oakland, California 94607 **Deputy Clerk** Telephone: (510) 269-4200 Facsimile: (408) 657-4684 7 Attorneys for Plaintiff JACLYN EPTER 8 THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 9 FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO 10 Case No. CGC-19-579955 11 FIRST AMENDED CLASS ACTION JACLYN EPTER, on behalf of herself and all **COMPLAINT FOR:** other persons similarly situated, 12 1. Failure to Pay Wages for All Hours Worked, 13 Plaintiff. Labor Code sections 200, et seq., 221, 223, 14 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198 & Wage Order: VS. 2. Failure to Pay Overtime Wages, Labor Code 15 DOWNTOWN STREETS, INC., and DOES 1sections 510, 1194, 1198, Wage Order; 10, inclusive, 16 3. Failure to Provide Meal Periods, or Premium Wages in Lieu Thereof, Labor 17 Defendants. Code sections 226.7, 512, Wage Order; 18 4. Failure to Provide Rest Breaks, or Premium Wages in Lieu Thereof, Labor Code 19 section 226.7, Wage Order; 20 5. Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Wage Statements, Labor Code section 226; 21 6. Failure to Timely Pay Final Wages at 22 Termination, Labor Code sections 201-203; 7. Violation of California's Unfair Competition 23 Law, Business & Professions Code 24 sections 17200, et seq. 8. Penalties Pursuant to Private Attorneys 25 General Act, Labor Code section 2698 et 26 seq. 27 DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL 28 First Amended Class Action Complaint; Demand for Jury Trial

Plaintiff Jaclyn Epter ("Plaintiff"), for herself and on behalf of other persons similarly situated, complains and alleges upon personal knowledge and information and belief as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

- 1. Plaintiff brings this class action pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 382 against Downtown Streets, Inc. ("Downtown Streets") and DOES 1-10 (collectively "Defendants"), on behalf of herself and all other similarly situated non-exempt employees of Downtown Streets who worked within the State of California as Employment Specialists and Case Managers (collectively referred to as the "Class" or "Class Members") during the period four (4) years prior to the filing of the initial complaint in this action through the date of this action's final disposition (hereinafter "Class Period"). Plaintiff brings this class action to recover unpaid wages, interest, statutory penalties and civil penalties based on Defendants' violations of California law. Plaintiff makes the allegations herein on personal knowledge and on information and belief.
- 2. During the Class Period, Defendants systematically violated the employment rights of Plaintiff and the Class by engaging in widespread wage theft. Specifically, Defendants violated California law by misclassifying Plaintiff and, on information and belief, Class Members as exempt and failed to provide Plaintiff and, on information and belief, Class Members with the protections of California's Labor Code and the applicable IWC Wage Order. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants established, maintained and enforced unlawful compensation and payroll practices and policies including, but not limited to, the following: failing to compensate Plaintiff and the Class for all hours worked at the applicable minimum, overtime, and/or double-time wage rates; failing to provide timely, complete and off-duty meal periods, or otherwise pay premium wages in lieu thereof; failing to provide complete rest breaks, or otherwise pay premium wages in lieu thereof; failing to pay all wages owed upon termination of the employment relationship; and failing to furnish timely each pay period accurate itemized statements separately stating, among other things, total hours worked, gross and net wages earned at all applicable hourly rates, and all premium wages earned.
- 3. Defendants' acts and omissions, which violate the Labor Code, constitute predicate unlawful and unfair business practices in violation of California's Unfair Competition Law

("UCL"), Business & Professions Code sections 17200, et seq. Defendants' violations of the California Labor Code are unlawful acts which have afforded Defendants an unfair competitive advantage. Plaintiff and the class she seeks to represent are therefore entitled to all remedies provided under the UCL, including restitutionary, injunctive, declaratory and/or other equitable relief. Plaintiff also seeks reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to, inter alia, Labor Code sections 218.5, 226(e) & (h), 1194(a), 1198.5(l), 2802(c) and Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5

- 4. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, Plaintiff has given written notice to the employer and the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) of the alleged Labor Code and Wage Order violations, and the facts and theories supporting those violations. Plaintiff has fulfilled the administrative prerequisites of Labor Code § 2699.3 and is statutorily authorized to act on behalf of the State of California to enforce the state's labor and employment laws and collect civil penalties on behalf of the state and current or former employees, including themselves. Plaintiff hereby asserts a Private Attorneys General Act claim seeking civil penalties for Defendants' violations of the Labor Code and Wage Orders as described herein. Plaintiff therefore seeks to hold Defendants and other persons who violated or caused violations of the Labor Code and Wage Orders liable for civil penalties owed to the State of California and current and former aggrieved employees (the "PAGA Workforce").
- 5. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants' conduct has been willful and in reckless disregard of the rights of their workers. Defendants have been on notice of the alleged illegalities but have deliberately continued to exploit workers by enforcing and maintaining the illegal practices described herein. This action is brought not only to recover rightfully earned wages but also to enforce the state's laws, restore ill-gotten gains and deter Defendants from their illegal conduct. Plaintiff therefore seeks all remedies available to herself and to the Class.

II. PARTIES

6. Plaintiff Jaclyn Epter is an individual who currently resides in San Francisco, California in San Francisco County. Plaintiff began working for Defendants as an Employment Specialist in approximately August 2013. Plaintiff's employment with Defendants ended on or

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about April 30, 2019. Plaintiff is an aggrieved employee within the meaning of Labor Code section 2699 who has suffered injury in fact and lost money or property as a result of the conduct described in this complaint.

- 7. Defendant Downtown Streets, Inc. is a California corporation and a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit whose entity address is listed with the California Secretary of State as 1671 the Alameda, Suite 306, San Jose, California 95126. Its Agent for Service of Process is listed as Eileen Richardson at the same address as the entity address: 1671 the Alameda, Suite 306, San Jose, California 95126. Downtown Streets controls and directs the work activities of Plaintiff; setting schedules of work, requiring adherence to its practices and policies, categorizing its employees as exempt or non-exempt; and setting rates of compensation, and establishing and controlling all working conditions. At all times relevant to this action, Downtown Streets owned, controlled, and/or operated a business or establishment that employed persons within the meaning of California's Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") Wage Order 4, operated as an employer or joint employer of Plaintiff and the PAGA Workforce in this case and committed the acts complained of herein California and in this County.
- 8. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associates, or otherwise, of Defendants sued as DOES ONE through TEN, inclusive, are currently unknown to Plaintiff, who therefore sues such Defendants by fictitious names as permitted under law, including Code of Civil Procedure section 474. Plaintiff is informed and believes that each DOE Defendant is legally responsible in some manner for the unlawful acts referred to herein. Plaintiff will seek leave of court to amend this Complaint to reflect the true names and capacities of the Defendants designated as DOES when such identities become known.

III. **JURISDICTION & VENUE**

- 9. This Court has jurisdiction over plaintiff's claims under the California Labor Code and the Unfair Competition Law, California Business & Professions Code section 17200, et seq.
- 10. Venue is proper in San Francisco County under California Code of Civil Procedure section 395(a) because Plaintiff and members of the PAGA Workforce have been harmed by Defendants' violation of the Labor Code and Wage Order in San Francisco County. At all relevant

times, Defendant Downtown Streets has conducted business in San Francisco County and engaged employees to work within the County.

IV. GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

- 11. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants maintained unlawful employment, labor and compensation policies and practices that affected Plaintiff and, on information and belief, Class Members.
- 12. Downtown Streets is a California corporation, in operation since 2005, providing support to homeless and low-income individuals trying to secure housing and employment in Palo Alto, San Jose, Sunnyvale, San Rafael, Novato, Hayward, San Francisco, Santa Cruz, Sacramento, West Sacramento, Oakland, Berkeley, and Modesto.
- 13. Defendant Downtown Streets employed Plaintiff as an Employment Specialist from approximately August 2013 to April 30, 2019.
- 14. During her employment with Downtown Streets, Ms. Epter was paid on a salary basis, which only accounted for her working 40 hours per week. Plaintiff's most recent salary was \$56,000 per year. During this time, Plaintiff regularly worked more than eight (8) hours per day and more than forty (40) hours per week. Nevertheless, at all times relevant to this action, Defendants did not pay Ms. Epter and, on information and belief, Class Members, any compensation in addition to her salary if she worked more than eight (8) hours per day or forty (40) hours per week.
- 15. While the duties of Plaintiff and, on information and belief, Class Members, varied, at all times relevant to this action Plaintiff's duties included, but were not limited to, the following: meeting with clients, working on case plans, monthly check-ins with clients, attending outreach events in the community, and helping with fundraisers as needed. To accomplish these tasks, Plaintiff received extensive supervision, to the point of micromanagement.
- 16. At times relevant to this action, Plaintiff and, on information and belief, Class Members were misclassified, non-exempt employees covered under one or more IWC Wage Orders, including 4-2001, and Labor Code sections 510, 515, and/or other applicable wage orders, regulations and statutes, and were not subject to an exemption for executive, administrative,

professional employees, or any other exemption because the salary paid by Defendants was under the required threshold for such salary exemptions; thus, being non-exempt employees imposed an obligation on the part of the Defendants to pay Plaintiff and, on information and belief, members of the PAGA Workforce, lawful compensation for all hours worked.

- 17. Defendants compensated Plaintiff and, on information and belief, Class Members, by paying a fixed "salary" regardless of the number of hours worked. Moreover, Defendants failed to maintain an accurate record of the start and end of work periods, meal periods or rest periods. Plaintiff alleges that she was specifically instructed by Downtown Streets leadership that she should only ever write down eight (8) hours per day on her time sheet regardless of how many hours she worked.
- 18. Defendant Downtown Streets had the authority to hire and terminate Plaintiff and, on information and belief, Class Members; to set work rules and conditions governing their employment; and to supervise their daily employment activities.
 - 19. Defendants directly hired and paid wages and benefits to Plaintiff.
- 20. On information and belief, Defendants engaged in a uniform policy and systematic scheme of wage abuse against Plaintiff and, on information and belief, Class Members. This scheme involved, inter alia, failing to pay Plaintiff and, on information and belief, Class Members, for all hours worked, including overtime hours, and denying and/or discouraging, or otherwise failing to provide meal periods and rest breaks without compensation of premium wages in lieu thereof, in violation of California law.
- 21. Defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiff and, on information and belief, Class Members, were entitled to receive wages for all hours worked, including overtime compensation, and that they were not receiving them.
- 22. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff and, on information and belief, Class Members, with the required meal periods and rest breaks during the relevant time period as required under the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders. Defendants actively discouraged Plaintiff and, on information and belief, Class Members from taking their lawful meal and rest breaks.

- 23. On information and belief, Defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiff and Class Member were entitled to receive all meal periods and rest breaks, or payment of one additional hour of pay at the regular rate of pay when a meal period or rest breaks was not provided. However, Plaintiff and, on information and belief, Class Members did not receive all meal periods and rest breaks, or payment of one additional hour of pay at the regular rate of pay as a premium wage when a meal period or rest break that was denied, not provided, or otherwise missed. Thus, Plaintiff and, on information and belief, Class Members are entitled to premium wages for every meal period and rest break that they were denied or that Defendants failed to provide.
- 24. On information and belief, Defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiff and Class Members were entitled to receive all wages owed to her during her employment. Plaintiff and, on information and belief, Class Members did not receive payment of all wages, including minimum and overtime wages and meal period and rest break premiums within any time permissible under California Labor Code section 204.
- 25. Defendants knowingly and intentionally failed to provide Plaintiff and, on information and belief, Class Members with accurate itemized wage statements that complied with the requirements of Labor Code section 226(a). On information and belief, Defendants knew or should have known that Defendants had to keep complete and accurate payroll records for Plaintiff and Class Members in accordance with California law, but, in fact, did not keep complete and accurate payroll records.
- 26. On information and belief, Defendants knew or should have known that they had a duty to compensate Plaintiff and Class Members pursuant to California law, and that Defendants had the financial ability to pay such compensation, but willfully, knowingly, and intentionally failed to do so, and falsely represented to Plaintiff and, on information and belief, Class Members that they were properly paid all wages, in order to increase Defendants' profits.
- 27. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants failed to pay overtime wages to Plaintiff and, on information and belief, Class Members for all hours worked in the amount required by law. Plaintiff and, on information and belief, Class Members were required to work more than eight (8) hours per day and/or forty (40) hours per week without overtime compensation

in the amount required by law.

- 28. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants failed to keep complete or accurate payroll records for Plaintiff and, on information and belief, Class Members. Specifically, wage statements provided to Plaintiff and, on information and belief, Class Members by Defendants were inaccurate as a result of the above practices, in that they inaccurately state the gross and net wages earned, all applicable rates of pay and corresponding hours, and total hours.
- 29. The factual predicates and violations above serve as predicates for liability under PAGA.

V. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

30. Plaintiff brings this action individually and as a class action under Code of Civil Procedure section 382 on behalf of the following class:

All non-exempt employees of Downtown Streets Teams who worked as Employment Specialists and Case Managers within the State of California during the period four (4) years prior to the filing of the initial complaint in this action through the date of this action's final disposition.

- 31. Reservations of Rights: Pursuant to Rule of Court 3.765(b), Plaintiff reserves the right to amend or modify the class definitions with greater specificity, by further division into subclasses, and/or by limitation to particular issues.
- 32. <u>Numerosity</u>: The Proposed Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that during the relevant time period, Defendants employed at least thirty (30) individuals as Employment Specialists and Case Managers who satisfy the definition of the proposed Class. Class Members are geographically dispersed throughout the state. The Class Members are so numerous that joinder of all Class Members is impracticable. The individuals and the identity of such membership is readily ascertainable by inspection of Defendants' records.
- 33. <u>Typicality</u>: Plaintiff's claims are typical of all other Class Members as demonstrated herein. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the other Class Members with whom Plaintiff has a well-defined community of interest.
 - 34. Adequacy: Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of each Class

Member, with whom they have a well-defined community of interest and typicality of claims, as demonstrated herein. Plaintiff has no interest that is antagonistic to the other Class Members. Plaintiff's attorneys, the proposed class counsel, are versed in the rules governing class action discovery, certification, and settlement. Plaintiff has incurred, and during the pendency of this action will continue to incur, costs and attorneys' fees, that have been, are, and will be necessarily expended for the prosecution of this action for the substantial benefit of each class member. Plaintiff has retained competent counsel experienced in wage and hour class action litigation.

- 35. <u>Predominant Common Questions</u>: Common questions of law and fact exist to all members of the Proposed Class and predominate over any questions solely affecting individual members of the Proposed Class.
 - 36. Common questions of fact and law predominate, including the following:
 - a. Whether Defendants suffered, permitted, and/or required Plaintiff and the Class to work off-the-clock before and after regularly scheduled shifts or on the weekends outside of their typical hours, and failed to compensate them at the statutory and/or agreed-upon wage rates, in violation of the Labor Code and IWC Wage Order 4;
 - b. Whether Defendants suffered, permitted, and/or required Plaintiff and the Class to work in excess of eight (8) hours per day and/or over forty (40) hours per week and/or the first eight (8) hours on the seventh (7th) consecutive workday in a workweek, and failed to pay the legally required overtime compensation, in violation of the Labor Code and IWC Wage Order 4;
 - c. Whether Defendants suffered, permitted, and/or required Plaintiff and the Class to work in excess of twelve (12) hours per day and/or in excess of eight (8) hours on the seventh (7th) consecutive workday in a workweek, and failed to pay the legally required double-time compensation, in violation of the Labor Code and IWC Wage Order 4;
 - d. Whether the burden of proof will shift to Defendants for failing to maintain accurate records of the start and end of work periods, meal periods, total daily hours worked, and wages earned, in violation of IWC Wage Order 4, Labor Code sections 226 and 1174, and California law;

- e. Whether Defendants, as a matter of policy or practice, failed to relieve Plaintiff and the Class of all duty for a first net thirty (30) minute meal period before the end of the fifth (5th) hour of shifts, in violation of the Labor Code, IWC Wage Order 4, and California law;
- f. Whether Defendants, as a matter of policy or practice, failed to relieve Plaintiff and the Class of all duty for a second net thirty (30) minute meal period before the end of the tenth (10th) hour of shifts, in violation of the Labor Code, IWC Wage Order 4, and California law;
- g. Whether Defendants suffered, permitted, and/or required Plaintiff and the Class to work during meal periods in violation of the Labor Code, IWC Wage Order 4, and California law;
- h. Whether Defendants, as a matter of policy or practice, failed to authorize and permit Plaintiff and the Class to take net ten (10) minute rest breaks for each four (4) hour work period, or major portion thereof, in violation of the Labor Code, IWC Wage Order 4, and California law;
- i. Whether Defendants, as a matter of policy or practice, failed to make good faith efforts to provide Plaintiff and the Class with rest breaks during the middle of each four
 (4) hour work period, in violation of the Labor Code, IWC Wage Order 4, and California law;
- j. Whether Defendants, as a matter of policy or practice, failed to pay Plaintiff and the Class premium wages for all unlawfully provided meal periods and rest breaks, in violation of the Labor Code, IWC Wage Order 4, and California law;
- k. Whether Defendants knowingly and intentionally failed to provide Plaintiff and the Class itemized wage statements that accurately reflect all gross and net wages earned, total hours worked, and all deductions made, in violation of the Labor Code, IWC Wage Order 4, and California law;
- Whether Plaintiff and the Class are deemed to have suffered injury within the meaning of Labor Code section 226 for the wage statement violations described herein;

- m. Whether Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to an injunction ensuring compliance with Labor Code section 226;
- n. Whether Defendants' conduct as described herein was willful or reckless;
- o. Whether Defendants engaged in unlawful and/or unfair business practices in violation of Business & Professions Code sections 17200 *et seq.* ("UCL");
- p. Whether Defendants are liable to Plaintiff and the Class pursuant to the UCL for restitution of unpaid or underpaid statutory and/or agreed upon regular, minimum, overtime, and/or double-time wages;
- q. Whether Defendants are liable to Plaintiff and the Class pursuant to the UCL for restitution of premium wages for unlawfully failing to provide meal periods and rest breaks;
- r. Whether Defendants should be enjoined from maintaining and enforcing the
 practices and policies that are alleged to have violated the Labor Code, IWC Wage Order
 4, and California law;
- s. The appropriate amount of damages, restitution, and/or penalties earned, due, and/or owing to Plaintiff and the Class resulting from Defendants' violation of the Labor Code, IWC Wage Order 4, and California law; and
- t. Whether Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to compensatory damages pursuant to the Labor Code.
- 37. Superiority: A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy, particularly in the context of wage and hour litigation where individual plaintiffs lack the financial resources to vigorously prosecute separate lawsuits against corporate defendants. A class action is superior to other available means for fair and efficient adjudication of class members' claims and offers significant benefits to the parties and the court. A class action will allow a number of similarly situated persons to simultaneously and efficiently prosecute their common claims in a single forum without the unnecessary duplication of effort and expense that numerous individual actions would entail. The individual monetary amounts due to many class members may not be large enough on their own for individual class

members to obtain legal representation and relief. Moreover, a class action will serve important public interests by enabling the non-waivable statutory rights of class members to be effectively asserted, and fundamental public policies to be vindicated, in one proceeding. A class action will also provide a means for vindicating the rights of workers who currently provide courier services to Defendants and are less likely to come forward to assert their rights based on fears of reprisal. Finally, a class action will prevent the potential for inconsistent or contradictory judgments inherent in individual litigation and address the problems inherent in random and fragmentary enforcement.

38. Plaintiff intends to send notice to all members of the Class to the extent required by Labor Code section 382. The names and addresses of the Class are available from Defendants.

VI. CAUSES OF ACTION

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Failure to Pay for All Hours Worked

(Violation of Labor Code section 204, 204b, 221 223, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198 & Wage Order 4)
(Plaintiff and Others Similarly Situated Against Defendants)

- 39. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporate the above allegations above as if fully stated herein.
- 40. At all relevant times, Defendants have been subject to Labor Code and Wage Order provisions requiring compensation for all "hours worked" at the legal minimum rates established state-wide and locally. Defendants violated the Wage Order and Labor Code sections 204, 204b, 221, 223, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, and 1198 by failing to compensate Plaintiff and Class Members for all hours worked.
- 41. The IWC Wage Orders define hours worked as all "time during which an employee is subject to the control of an employer and includes all the time the employee is suffered or permitted to work, whether or not required to do so." Further, the Wage Orders and California law require compensation for small fractions of time or de minimis time.
- 42. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff and Class Members were entitled to compensation at rates that were not less than the legal minimum wage, pursuant to the Local

Ordinance, Wage Orders and Labor Code sections 1194 and 1197. Defendants violated these provisions by failing to compensate Plaintiff, and, on information and belief, Class Members for all hours worked.

- 43. Defendants' conduct also violates Labor Code sections 204, 204b, 221, and 223. Defendants have secretly paid Plaintiff and, on information and belief Class Members, less than the rates designated by statute or contract while purporting to pay the designated rates and have violated Labor Code sections 204 and 204b by failing to pay all wages owed weekly or semimonthly.
- 44. Pursuant to Labor Code section 1194.2, because Plaintiff seeks to recover wages in this action resulting from Defendants' payment of a wage less than the minimum wage fixed by an order of the commission or by statute, she is entitled to recover liquidated damages in an amount equal to the wages unlawfully unpaid and interest thereon. Plaintiff seeks liquidated damages on behalf of the Class she seeks to represent.
- 45. Pursuant to Labor Code section 558.1, any employer or other person (i.e., owner, officer, director or managing agent) acting on behalf of an employer who violates or causes a violation of Labor Code section 1194 or of any provision regulating minimum wages or hours and days of work in any order of the Industrial Welfare Commission (IWC), may be held liable as the employer.
- 46. The violations described herein, including, but not limited to, the violations of California Labor Code sections 204b, 223, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, and IWC Wage Order 4, serve as predicate violations under PAGA. Plaintiff has complied with the administrative procedures set forth in California Labor Code § 2699.3 to bring a claim for civil penalties under PAGA and as such seeks civil penalties on behalf of the State of California, the PAGA Workforce and herself. PAGA penalties are sought against all Defendants pursuant to Labor Code §§ 200, 204b, 210, 223, 510, 511, 558, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2699(f) and 2698 et seq.
- 47. As such, Plaintiff seeks unpaid wages, interest thereon, awards of reasonable costs and attorneys' fees, as well as liquidated damages in amounts subject to proof for herself and on

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Failure to Pay Overtime Wages

(Violation of Labor Code sections 510, 1194, 1198, Wage Order 4)
(Plaintiff and Others Similarly Situated Against All Defendants)

- 48. Plaintiff incorporates each of the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint by reference as if fully set forth herein.
- 49. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants have been subject to California Labor Code and Wage Order provisions requiring overtime compensation, including IWC Wage Order 4 and Labor Code sections 510, 1194, and 1198. California law requires overtime compensation at the rate of one and one-half (1½) times the regular rate of pay for hours in excess of eight (8) in a workday and forty (40) hours in a workweek. Similarly, these overtime provisions require overtime pay at the rate of two (2) times the regular rate of pay for hours in excess of twelve (12) in a workday and eight (8) on any seventh (7th) consecutive day of a workweek (*i.e.*, double-time pay).
- 50. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff and, on information and belief, the Class worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a workday and forty (40) hours in a workweek without compensation at the required overtime rates.
- 51. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that, at all relevant times Defendants have failed to pay her and Class Members overtime wages for overtime hours worked.
- 52. Pursuant to Labor Code section 558.1, any employer or other person (i.e., owner, officer, director or managing agent) acting on behalf of an employer who violates or causes a violation of Labor Code section 1194 or of any provision regulating overtime wages or hours and days of work in any order of the Industrial Welfare Commission (IWC), may be held liable as the employer.
- 53. The violations described herein, including but not limited to the violations of Labor Code sections 510, 1194, and 1198 serve as predicate violations under PAGA. Plaintiff has complied with the administrative procedures set forth in Labor Code section 2699.3 to bring a

claim for civil penalties under PAGA and seek penalties for the state and workforce for the violations described herein, including penalties under Labor Code sections 200, 204b, 210, 223, 510, 511, 558, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2699(f) and 2699, et seq. PAGA penalties are sought against all Defendants, including wages as penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 558 and 1197.1

54. Pursuant to Labor Code sections1194(a), Plaintiff seeks to recover earned and unpaid overtime wages, interest thereon, as well as awards of reasonable costs and attorneys' fees, all in amounts subject to proof.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

Failure to Provide Meal Periods, or Premium Wages in Lieu Thereof (Violation of Labor Code sections 226.7, 512, Wage Order 4) (Plaintiff and Others Similarly Situated Against All Defendants)

- 55. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates each of the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 56. Labor Code section 512 and IWC Wage Order 4(11) impose an affirmative obligation on employers to provide employees with an uninterrupted, duty-free, meal period of at least thirty (30) minutes for each work period of five (5) or more hours before the end of the fifth (5th) hour of work. Section 512 further provides that employers must provide employees with a second thirty (30) minute meal period for shifts greater than ten (10) hours.
- 57. Labor Code section 226.7 prohibits any employer from requiring any employee to work during any meal period mandated by an applicable IWC wage order, and states that an employer that fails to provide an employee with a required meal period in compliance with Section 512, and the Wage Orders shall pay that employee one additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation (i.e., a meal period premium) for each work day that the employer does not provide a compliant meal period.
- 58. Labor Code section 1198 makes it unlawful for an employer to employ any person under conditions of employment that violate IWC Wage Order 4.
 - 59. At all times relevant to this action Plaintiff and, on information and belief, Class

Members desired to take meal periods but were prevented from taking meal periods due to Defendants' policies and practices that actively discouraged meal periods. Defendants failed to relieve Plaintiff and, on information and belief, Class Members of all duties for uninterrupted off-duty meal periods of at least one (1) net thirty (30) minute meal period before the end of their fifth (5th) hour of work, two (2) net thirty (30) minute meal periods for shifts greater than ten (10) hours, and failed to pay premium wages in lieu of providing lawful meal periods on such workdays.

- 60. As a result of Defendants' policies and practices, Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to receive premium wage compensation in an amount equal to one hour of additional wages at their respective regular rates of pay for each workday that Defendants failed to provide lawful meal periods pursuant to Labor Code section 226.7.
- 61. Pursuant to Labor Code section 558.1, any employer or other person (i.e., owner, officer, director or managing agent) acting on behalf of an employer who violates or causes a violation of Labor Code section 226.7 or of any provision regulating minimum wages or hours and days of work in any order of the Industrial Welfare Commission (IWC), may be held liable as the employer.
- 62. The violations described herein, including but not limited to the violations of Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512 serve as predicate violations under PAGA. Plaintiff has complied with the administrative procedures set forth in Labor Code section 2699.3 to bring a claim for civil penalties under PAGA and seek penalties for the state and workforce for the violations described herein, including penalties under Labor Code sections 512, 558, 1197.1, 2699(f) and 2698, et seq. PAGA penalties are sought against all Defendants, including for wages as penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 558 and 1197.1.
- 63. As such, Plaintiff seeks premium wages, interest thereon, and an award of reasonable costs in amounts subject to proof.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Failure to Provide Rest Breaks, or Premium Wages in Lieu Thereof

(Violation of Labor Code section 226.7, Wage Order 4)

(Plaintiff and Others Similarly Situated Against All Defendants)

- 64. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates each of the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 65. Labor Code section 226.7 prohibits any employer from requiring any employee to work during any rest break mandated by IWC Wage Order 4.
- 66. IWC Wage Order 4(12) imposes an affirmative obligation on employers to permit and authorize employees to take required rest breaks at a rate of no less than net-ten (10) minutes for each four (4) hour work period, or major fraction thereof, that must be in the middle of each work period insofar as is practicable
- 67. Labor Code section 1198 makes it unlawful for an employer to employ any person under conditions of employment that violate IWC Wage Order 4.
- 68. Labor Code section 226.7 and IWC Wage Order 4(12)(C) require employers to pay non-exempt employees an additional hour of premium wages at the employee's regular rate of compensation on each workday that the employee is not provided with a rest break.
- 69. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants failed to authorize and permit rest periods of at least a net 10 minutes of time completely off duty at a rate of one rest period for shifts greater than three and one-half (3.5) hours up to six hours, two rest breaks for shifts greater than six hours up to 10 hours, and three rest breaks for shifts greater than 10 hours up to 14 hours, and so on. Further, Defendants failed to pay premium wages in lieu of providing lawful rest breaks on such workdays.
- 70. As a result of Defendants' policies and practices, Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to receive premium wage compensation in an amount equal to one hour of additional wages at the applicable minimum or contractual rates of pay for each workday that Defendants failed to provide her with lawful rest breaks pursuant to Labor Code section 226.7.
- 71. Pursuant to Labor Code section 558.1, any employer or other person (i.e., owner, officer, director or managing agent) acting on behalf of an employer who violates or causes a violation of Labor Code section 226.7 or of any provision regulating overtime wages or hours and days of work in any order of the IWC, may be held liable as the employer.
 - 72. The violations described herein, including but not limited to the violations of Labor

Code section 226.7 serve predicates for PAGA liability. Plaintiff has complied with the administrative procedures set forth in Labor Code section 2699.3 to bring a claim for civil penalties under PAGA and seek penalties for the state and workforce for the violations described herein, including penalties under Labor Code sections 512, 558, 1197.1, 2699(f) and 2698, et seq. PAGA penalties are sought against all Defendants, including for wages as penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 558 and 1197.1.

73. As such, Plaintiff seeks premium wages, interest thereon, and an award of reasonable costs in amounts subject to proof.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Wage Statements
(Violation Labor Code section 226, Wage Order 4)
(Plaintiff and Others Similarly Situated Against All Defendants)

- 74. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates each of the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 75. Labor Code section 226(a) provides, in relevant part, that every employer must furnish each employee with an itemized wage statement that accurately shows the following:
 - (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the employee, except as provided in subdivision (j), (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 only the last four digits of his or her social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer and, if the employer is a farm labor contractor, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 1682, the name and address of the legal entity that secured the services of 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....
- 76. On information and belief, at all times relevant to this action, the wage statements provided by Defendants to Plaintiff and the Class have failed to contain accurate information required by Labor Code section 226, including accurate gross and net wages earned, total hours

77. On information and belief, by failing to pay Plaintiff and the Class for all off-the-clock hours worked at minimum, overtime, double-time, and/or contractual wage rates, and premium wages for unlawfully-provided meal periods and/or rest breaks, Defendants have furnished Plaintiff and the Class with itemized wage statements that do not accurately reflect, among other things, gross and net wages earned, the total number of hours worked at each applicable wage rate, and all deductions made.

 78. On information and belief, Defendants' failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements has been knowing and intentional, in that Defendants have, at all relevant times, had the ability to provide accurate itemized wage statements, but have instead knowingly and intentionally provided inaccurate wage statements as a result of not keeping accurate records of all hours worked, and the total amount of minimum, overtime, double-time, contractual, and/or premium wages owed.

79. On information and belief, Plaintiff and Class Members have suffered injuries due to Defendants' failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements in that, among other things, her legal rights to receive accurate itemized wage statements have been violated, she has been misled about the amounts of wages she has earned, she has been prevented from immediately challenging allegedly unlawful pay practices, she has needed or will need to reconstruct time and pay records and perform mathematical computations to determine the amounts of wages she has earned or the applicable rates of pay, and/or have had inaccurate information about her wages and deductions submitted to government agencies.

80. Pursuant to Labor Code section 226(e), Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to recover 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 employee for each violation in a subsequent pay period, not to exceed an aggregate penalty of four thousand dollars (\$4,000), as well as awards of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, all in amounts subject to proof.

81. Pursuant to Labor Code section 558.1, any employer or other person (i.e., owner, officer, director or managing agent) acting on behalf of an employer who violates or causes a

violation of Labor Code section 226 or of any provision regulating overtime wages or hours and days of work in any order of the IWC, may be held liable as the employer.

- 82. Defendants' violation of Labor Code section 226 serves a predicate violation of PAGA, subjecting Defendants to liability for civil penalties owed to the state, the workforce and Plaintiff. Plaintiff has complied with the administrative procedures set forth in Labor Code section 2699.3 to bring a claim for civil penalties under PAGA and seek penalties for the state and workforce for the violations described herein, including penalties under Labor Code sections 226.3, 1174.5, 2699(f) and 2698, et seq.
- 83. As such, Plaintiff seeks statutory wage statement penalties, injunctive relief, and awards of reasonable costs and attorneys' fees in amounts subject to proof.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Waiting Time Penalties
(Violation of Labor Code sections 201-203)
(Plaintiff and Others Similarly Situated Against All Defendants)

- 84. Plaintiff incorporates all of the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 85. Labor Code section 201 provides that all of the earned and unpaid wages of an employee who is discharged become due and payable immediately at the time of discharge.
- 86. Labor Code section 202 provides that all of the earned and unpaid wages of an employee who quits become due and payable at the time of quitting if the employee gives at least 72-hours notice before quitting, or within 72 hours of quitting if the employee gives less than 72-hours notice before quitting.
- 87. Labor Code section 203 provides that the wages of a terminated employee will continue as a penalty for up to thirty calendar days if the employer willfully fails to timely pay any earned and unpaid wages to the employee in the times set forth in Labor Code sections 201–202.
- 88. On information and belief, by failing to pay Plaintiff and Class Members all wages owed, premium wages for unlawful rest and meal period violations, and/or overtime wages, Defendants failed to timely pay Plaintiff and Class Members all earned and unpaid wages in

violation of Labor Code section 201 and 202.

- 89. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that, by failing to pay her and Class Members earned premium wages, minimum wages, and/or overtime wages, Defendants have failed to timely pay them all earned and unpaid wages in violation of Labor Code §§ 201 or 202.
- 90. Plaintiff is informed, believes and thereon alleges that, at all relevant times, Defendants' failure to pay her and Class Members earned and unpaid wages in violation of Labor Code §§ 201–202 has been willful in that Defendants had the ability to fully comply with the requirements set forth in those statutes, but deliberately chose to maintain policies and practices with respect to payroll that are incompatible with those requirements.
- 91. Pursuant to Labor Code section 558.1, any employer or other person (i.e., owner, officer, director or managing agent) acting on behalf of an employer who violates or causes a violation of Labor Code sections 201 and/or 202 or of any provision regulating overtime wages or hours and days of work in any order of the IWC, may be held liable as the employer.
- 92. The failure to timely pay all wages owed to Plaintiff and Class Members upon separation from employment under Sections 201 and 202 of the Labor Code serves as a predicate for PAGA penalties. Plaintiff has complied with the administrative procedures set forth in Labor Code section 2699.3 to bring a claim for civil penalties under PAGA and seek penalties for the state, the workforce and themselves for the violations described herein, including penalties under Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 256, 1197.1 and 2698, et seq.
- 93. Pursuant to Labor Code § 203, Plaintiff seeks up to thirty days of wages as waiting time penalties in amounts subject to proof.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

California Unfair Competition Law
(Violation of Bus. & Prof. Code section 17200 et seq.)
(Plaintiff and Others Similarly Situated Against All Defendants)

- 94. Plaintiff incorporates all of the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
 - 95. Business and Professions Code § 17200 defines "unfair competition" to include any

- 96. As set forth above, Plaintiff and Class Members have lost money or property in the form of earned regular rate and overtime wages and/or premium wages as a result of Defendants' unlawful failure to pay her those wages, and related failures to maintain accurate records, in violation of the requirements of the Labor Code and the Wage Order.
- 97. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that, at all relevant times and as set forth above, Defendants have either acquired, or may have acquired, money or property in the form of regular rate and overtime wages and/or premium wages from Plaintiff by means of unfair competition as a result of Defendants' unlawful failures to pay them those wages, and related failures to maintain accurate records, in violation of the requirements of the Labor Code and the Wage Order.
- 98. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code § 17203, Plaintiff seeks restitution of all moneys and property, including, but not limited to, earned regular rate, overtime, and premium wages that Defendants either acquired, and/or may have acquired, from Plaintiff and Class Members by means of unfair competition in amounts subject to proof at trial.
- 99. Plaintiff and Class Members are also entitled to attorneys' fees and costs for promoting the interests of the members of the general public, in causing the Defendants to cease their unfair business practices.

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION

California Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA")
(Violation of Labor Code section 2698 et seq.)

(Plaintiff for Herself, The PAGA Workforce and the State Against Defendants)

- 100. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates each of the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 101. Plaintiff is an aggrieved employee as defined in California Labor Code section 2699(a). She brings this PAGA cause of action on behalf the State of California with respect to the labor law violations that she and all other current or former Employment Specialists and Case Managers experienced during the relevant time-period, as alleged in this complaint.

- 102. As described in this complaint, Defendants violated the California Labor Code by failing to compensate for all hours worked, failing to pay at the statutory or required rates, failing to pay overtime wages, failing to comply with the rest and meal period requirements or pay additional wages in lieu thereof, failing to provide accurate itemized wage statements, failing to maintain accurate time and payroll records, and maintaining the policies and practices described in this complaint. As a consequence, Defendants have violated the rights of Plaintiff and, on information and belief, the rights of other current or former employees who worked for Defendants as non-exempt employees and are defined herein as the PAGA Workforce.
- 103. PAGA permits an individual to recover civil penalties on behalf of herself and other current or former employees for violations of the Labor Code. Cal. Labor Code section 2699(a).
- 104. Defendants are liable for PAGA penalties for the Wage Order and Labor Code violations described in this complaint. Plaintiff alleges that Defendants violated: sections 201-203, 256 and 1197.1 subjecting Defendants to liability for waiting time penalties based on willful (section 203) failure to pay all wages owed timely upon separation from employment; sections 200, 204, 204b, and 210 by failing to pay all wages owed weekly, semi-monthly or when due; sections 221, 223 for secretly paying less than the statutory or contractual rate; sections 226, 226.3 and 2699(f) for providing inaccurate wage statements; sections 226.7, 512, 558 and the Wage Orders for failing to comply with meal period and rest break requirements and failing to pay premiums in lieu of rest breaks and meal periods; sections 510, 511, 558, 1198 and PAGA for failing to pay overtime; sections 1174 and 1174.5 for failing to maintain required payroll records; and sections 1194, 1194.2, 1197 and 1197.1 for failure to pay minimum wage or paying less than the applicable state or local law. In addition, Defendants violated provisions of the California Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, including provisions governing payment for all hours worked, minimum wage, overtime, rest and meal breaks, and accurate record-keeping.
- 105. California Labor Code section 1174(d) requires employers to keep "payroll records showing the hours worked daily by and the wages paid to" all employees. Section 1174 requires employers to keep such records for at least three years.
 - 106. The applicable Wage Orders require employers to keep accurate time records

and 1198;

2.

compensation owed under Labor Code section 218.6;

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For pre-judgment interest of ten percent (10%) on the unpaid wages and overtime

1	Order described in this complaint, including but not limited to penalties under Labor Code
2	sections 200, 201-203, 204, 204b, 210, 221, 223, 226, 226.3, 510, 511, 512, 558, 1174, 1174.5,
3	1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2699(f) and 2698 et seq;
4	17. For interest to the extent permitted by law;
5	18. For costs and expenses of this action; and
6	19. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.
7	
8	Dated: December 13, 2019
9	ADVOCATES FOR WORKER RIGHTS LLP
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11	Missoph J. Sutter
12	Marco A. Palau Joseph D. Sutton
13	Eric S. Trabucco Attorneys for Plaintiff
14	Audineys for Flamum
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