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Superior Court of California,
County of Alameda

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**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**

EDWARD COSICO and MATTHEW
MARTELL, individually, and on behalf of all
others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

STANLEY BLACK & DECKER, INC., a
Connecticut corporation, STANLEY
CONVERGENT SECURITY SOLUTIONS,
INC., a Delaware corporation; and DOES 1
through 10, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: **21CV002218**

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT:

1. Failure to Pay Minimum and Straight Time Wages (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 204, 1194, 1194.2, and 1197);
2. Failure to Pay Overtime Wages (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194 and 1198);
3. Failure to Provide Meal Periods (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7, 512);
4. Failure to Authorize and Permit Rest Periods (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7);
5. Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Wage Statements (Cal. Lab. Code § 226);
6. Failure to Indemnify Necessary Business Expenses (Cal. Lab. Code § 2802); and
7. Unfair Business Practices (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*).

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

1 Plaintiffs Edward Cosico and Matthew Martell (“Plaintiffs”), based upon facts that either
2 have evidentiary support or are likely to have evidentiary support after a reasonable opportunity
3 for further investigation and discovery, allege as follows:

4 **INTRODUCTION & PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

5 1. Plaintiffs bring this action against Defendants Stanley Black & Decker, Inc.,
6 Stanley Convergent Security Solutions, Inc., and Does 1 through 10 (hereinafter collectively
7 referred to as “Defendants”) for California Labor Code violations and unfair business practices
8 stemming from Defendants’ failure to pay for all hours worked (minimum, straight time, and
9 overtime wages), failure to provide meal periods, failure to authorize and permit rest periods, and
10 failure to furnish accurate wage statements, and failure to reimburse employees for all necessary
11 business expenses.

12 2. Plaintiffs bring the First through Seventh Causes of Action individually and as a
13 class action on behalf of themselves and certain current and former employees of Defendants
14 (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Class” or “Class Members,” and defined more fully
15 below). The Class consists of Plaintiffs and all other persons who have been employed by any
16 Defendant in California as an hourly-paid or non-exempt employee during the statute of
17 limitations period applicable to the claims pleaded here.

18 3. Defendants own/owned and operate/operated an industry, business, and
19 establishment within the State of California, including Alameda County. As such, and based
20 upon all the facts and circumstances incident to Defendants’ business in California, Defendants
21 are subject to the California Labor Code, Wage Orders issued by the Industrial Welfare
22 Commission (“IWC”), and the California Business & Professions Code.

23 4. Despite these requirements, throughout the statutory period, Defendants
24 maintained a systematic, company-wide policy and practice of:

- 25 (a) Failing to pay employees for all hours worked, including all minimum,
26 straight time, and overtime wages in compliance with the California Labor
27 Code and IWC Wage Orders;
28 (b) Failing to provide employees with timely and duty-free meal periods in

1 compliance with the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders, failing
2 to maintain accurate records of all meal periods taken or missed, and
3 failing to pay an additional hour's pay for each workday a meal period
4 violation occurred;

5 (c) Failing to authorize and permit employees to take timely and duty-free rest
6 periods in compliance with the California Labor Code and IWC Wage
7 Orders, and failing to pay an additional hour's pay for each workday a rest
8 period violation occurred;

9 (d) Willfully failing to pay employees all minimum, straight time, overtime,
10 meal period premium, and rest period premium wages due within the time
11 period specified by California law when employment terminates;

12 (e) Failing to provide employees with accurate, itemized wage statements
13 containing all the information required by the California Labor Code and
14 IWC Wage Orders; and,

15 (f) Failing to reimburse employees for all expenses or losses incurred by the
16 employees in direct consequence of the discharge or their duties or
17 obedience to the directions of their employer.

18 5. On information and belief, Defendants, and each of them were on actual and
19 constructive notice of the improprieties alleged herein and intentionally refused to rectify their
20 unlawful policies. Defendants' violations, as alleged above, during all relevant times herein were
21 willful and deliberate.

22 6. At all relevant times, Defendants were and are legally responsible for all of the
23 unlawful conduct, policies, practices, acts and omissions as described in each and all of the
24 foregoing paragraphs as the employer of Plaintiffs and the Class. Further, Defendants are
25 responsible for each of the unlawful acts or omissions complained of herein under the doctrine of
26 "respondeat superior."

27 ///

28 ///

THE PARTIES

A. Plaintiffs

7. Plaintiff Edward Cosico is a resident of Santa Clara County, California who worked for Defendants in Alameda County, California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from approximately March 2019 to the present.

8. Plaintiff Matthew Martell is a resident of Alameda County, California who worked for Defendants in Alameda County, California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from approximately December 2019 to the present.

9. Plaintiffs reserve the right to seek leave to amend this complaint to add new Plaintiffs, if necessary, in order to establish suitable representative(s) pursuant to *La Sala v. American Savings and Loan Association* (1971) 5 Cal.3d 864, 872, and other applicable law.

B. Defendants

10. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based upon that information and belief alleges, that Defendants Stanley Black & Decker, Inc. and Stanley Convergent Security Solutions, Inc. are, and at all times herein mentioned, was:

- (a) A Corporation qualified to do business and actually conducting business in numerous counties throughout the State of California, including in Alameda County; and,
- (b) The former employer of Plaintiffs, and the current and/or former employer of the putative Class because Defendants Stanley Black & Decker, Inc. and Stanley Convergent Security Solutions, Inc. suffered and permitted Plaintiffs and the Class to work, and/or controlled their wages, hours, or working conditions.

11. Plaintiffs do not know the true names or capacities of the persons or entities sued herein as Does 1-10, inclusive, and therefore sue said Defendants by such fictitious names. Each of the Doe Defendants was in some manner legally responsible for the damages suffered by Plaintiffs and the Class as alleged herein. Plaintiffs will amend this complaint to set forth the true names and capacities of these Defendants when they have been ascertained, together with

appropriate charging allegations, as may be necessary.

12. At all times mentioned herein, the Defendants named as Does 1-10, inclusive, and each of them, were residents of, doing business in, availed themselves of the jurisdiction of, and/or injured a significant number of the Plaintiffs and the Class in the State of California.

13. Plaintiffs are informed and believes and thereon allege that at all relevant times each Defendant, directly or indirectly, or through agents or other persons, employed Plaintiffs and the other employees described in the class definitions below, and exercised control over their wages, hours, and working conditions. Plaintiffs are informed and believes and thereon alleges that, at all relevant times, each Defendant was the principal, agent, partner, joint venturer, officer, director, controlling shareholder, subsidiary, affiliate, parent corporation, successor in interest and/or predecessor in interest of some or all of the other Defendants, and was engaged with some or all of the other Defendants in a joint enterprise for profit, and bore such other relationships to some or all of the other Defendants so as to be liable for their conduct with respect to the matters alleged below. Plaintiffs are informed and believes and thereon alleges that each Defendant acted pursuant to and within the scope of the relationships alleged above, that each Defendant knew or should have known about, and authorized, ratified, adopted, approved, controlled, aided and abetted the conduct of all other Defendants.

ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CAUSES OF ACTION

14. Plaintiff Edward Cosico is a resident of Santa Clara County, California who worked for Defendants in Alameda County, California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from approximately March 2019 to the present. During Plaintiff's employment for Defendants, Defendants paid Plaintiff an hourly wage and classified him as non-exempt from overtime. Defendants typically scheduled Plaintiff to work at least five days in a workweek and at least eight hours per day, but Plaintiff also worked more than eight hours in a workday and more than forty (40) hours in a workweek.

15. Plaintiff Matthew Martell is a resident of Alameda County, California who worked for Defendants in Alameda County, California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from approximately December 2019 to the present. During Plaintiff's employment for Defendants,

Defendants paid Plaintiff an hourly wage and classified him as non-exempt from overtime. Defendants typically scheduled Plaintiff to work at least five days in a workweek and at least eight hours per day, but Plaintiff also worked more than eight hours in a workday and more than forty (40) hours in a workweek.

16. Throughout Plaintiffs' employment, Defendants have failed to pay for all hours worked (including minimum, straight time, and overtime wages), failed to provide Plaintiffs with legally compliant meal periods, failed to authorize and permit Plaintiffs to take rest periods, failed to furnish accurate wage statements to Plaintiffs, and failed to indemnify Plaintiffs for expenditures. As discussed below, Plaintiffs' experience working for Defendants is typical and illustrative.

17. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants maintained a policy and practice of not paying Plaintiffs and the Class for all hours worked, including minimum, straight time, and overtime wages. Defendants required Plaintiffs and the Class to work "off-the-clock" and continued to work before and/or after they had clocked in and out for the workday uncompensated. Some of this unpaid work should have been paid at the overtime rate. In failing to pay for all hours worked, Defendants also failed to maintain accurate records of the hours Plaintiffs and the Class worked.

18. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants wrongfully failed to provide Plaintiffs and the Class with their legally mandated 30-minute, uninterrupted, and duty-free meal period. Defendants regularly required Plaintiffs and the Class to work in excess of five consecutive hours a day without providing a 30-minute, uninterrupted, and duty-free meal period for every five hours of work, or without compensating Plaintiffs and the Class for meal periods that were not provided by the end of the fifth hour of work or tenth hour of work. Instead, Defendants continued to assert control over Plaintiffs and the Class by requiring, pressuring, or encouraging them to perform work tasks which could not be completed without working in lieu of taking mandatory meal periods, or by denying Plaintiffs and the Class permission to take a meal period. Accordingly, Defendants' policy and practice was not to provide meal periods to Plaintiffs and the Class in compliance with California law.

1 19. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants have wrongfully failed to authorize
2 and permit Plaintiffs and the Class to take legally compliant rest periods. Defendants regularly
3 required Plaintiffs and the Class to work in excess of four consecutive hours a day without
4 Defendants authorizing and permitting them to take a 10-minute, uninterrupted, duty-free rest
5 period for every four hours of work (or major fraction of four hours), or without compensating
6 Plaintiffs and the Class for rest periods that were not authorized or permitted. Instead,
7 Defendants continued to assert control over Plaintiffs and the Class by requiring, pressuring, or
8 encouraging them to perform work tasks which could not be completed without working in lieu
9 of taking mandatory rest periods, or by denying Plaintiffs and the Class permission to take a rest
10 period. Accordingly, Defendants' policy and practice was to not authorize and permit Plaintiffs
11 and the Class to take rest periods in compliance with California law.

12 20. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants failed to furnish Plaintiffs and the
13 Class with accurate, itemized wage statements showing all applicable hourly rates, and all gross
14 and net wages earned (including correct hours worked, correct wages for meal periods that were
15 not provided in accordance with California law, and correct wages for rest periods that were not
16 authorized and permitted to take in accordance with California law). As a result of these
17 violations of California Labor Code § 226(a), the Plaintiffs and the Class suffered injury because,
18 among other things:

- 19 (a) the violations led them to believe that they were not entitled to be paid
20 minimum, straight time, overtime, meal period premium, and rest period
21 premium wages, even though they were entitled;
- 22 (b) the violations led them to believe that they had been paid all minimum,
23 straight time, overtime, meal period premium, and rest period premium
24 wages, even though they had not been;
- 25 (c) the violations led them to believe they were not entitled to be paid
26 minimum, straight time, overtime, meal period premium, and rest period
27 premium wages at the correct California rate even though they were
28 entitled;

- (d) the violations led them to believe they had been paid minimum, straight time, overtime, meal period premium, and rest period premium wages at the correct California rate even though they had not been;
- (e) the violations hindered them from determining the amounts of minimum, straight time, overtime, meal period premium, and rest period premium wages owed to them;
- (f) in connection with their employment before and during this action, and in connection with prosecuting this action, the violations caused them to have to perform mathematical computations to determine the amounts of wages owed to them, computations they would not have to make if the wage statements contained the required accurate information;
- (g) by understating the wages truly due to them, the violations caused them to lose entitlement and/or accrual of the full amount of Social Security, disability, unemployment, and other governmental benefits;
- (h) the wage statements inaccurately understated the wages, hours, and wage rates to which Plaintiffs and the Class were entitled, and Plaintiffs and the Class were paid less than the wages and wage rates to which they were entitled.

Thus, Plaintiffs and the Class are owed the amounts provided for in California Labor Code § 226(e) and injunctive relief under California Labor Code § 226(h).

21. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants have wrongfully required Plaintiffs and the Class to pay expenses that they incurred in direct discharge of their duties for Defendants. Plaintiffs and the Class regularly paid out-of-pocket for necessary businesses expenses, such as mileage, gas, and use of personal cell phones, without reimbursement from Defendants.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

22. Plaintiffs bring certain claims individually, as well as on behalf of each and all other persons similarly situated, and thus, seeks class certification under California Code of Civil

1 Procedure § 382.

2 23. All claims alleged herein arise under California law for which Plaintiffs seeks
3 relief authorized by California law.

4 24. The proposed Class consists of and is defined as:

5 All persons who worked for any Defendant in California as an hourly-paid or
6 non-exempt employee at any time during the period beginning four years and
7 178 days before the filing of the initial complaint in this action and ending when
notice to the Class is sent.¹

8 25. At all material times, Plaintiffs were a member of the Class.

9 26. Plaintiffs undertakes this concerted activity to improve the wages and working
10 conditions of all Class Members.

11 27. There is a well-defined community of interest in the litigation and the Class is
12 readily ascertainable:

- 13 (a) Numerosity: The members of the Class (and each subclass, if any) are so
14 numerous that joinder of all members would be unfeasible and impractical.
15 The membership of the entire Class is unknown to Plaintiffs at this time;
16 however, the Class is estimated to be greater than forty (40) individuals
17 and the identity of such membership is readily ascertainable by inspection
18 of Defendants' records.
- 19 (b) Typicality: Plaintiffs are qualified to, and will, fairly and adequately
20 protect the interests of each Class Member with whom there is a shared,
21 well-defined community of interest, and Plaintiffs' claims (or defenses, if
22 any) are typical of all Class Members' claims as demonstrated herein.
- 23 (c) Adequacy: Plaintiffs are qualified to, and will, fairly and adequately
24 protect the interests of each Class Member with whom there is a shared,
25 well-defined community of interest and typicality of claims, as
26 demonstrated herein. Plaintiffs have no conflicts with or interests

27 ¹ In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Judicial Council of California adopted Emergency Rule 9(a)
28 (California Rules of Court), whereby "statutes of limitations and repose for civil causes of action that exceed
180 days are tolled from April 6, 2020 to October 1, 2020."

antagonistic to any Class Member. Plaintiffs' attorneys, the proposed class counsel, are versed in the rules governing class action discovery, certification, and settlement. Plaintiffs have incurred, and throughout the duration 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.

(d) Superiority: A Class Action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy, including consideration of:

- 1) The interests of the members of the Class in individually controlling the prosecution or defense of separate actions;
- 2) The extent and nature of any litigation concerning the controversy already commenced by or against members of the Class;
- 3) The desirability or undesirability of concentrating the litigation of the claims in the particular forum; and,
- 4) The difficulties likely to be encountered in the management of a class action.

(e) Public Policy Considerations: The public policy of the State of California is to resolve the California Labor Code claims of many employees through a class action. Indeed, current employees are often afraid to assert their rights out of fear of direct or indirect retaliation. Former employees are also fearful of bringing actions because they believe their former employers might damage their future endeavors through negative references and/or other means. Class actions provide the class members who are not named in the complaint with a type of anonymity that allows for the vindication of their rights at the same time as their privacy is protected.

28. There are common questions of law and fact as to the Class (and each subclass, if

any) that predominate over questions affecting only individual members, including without limitation, whether, as alleged herein, Defendants have:

- (a) Failed to pay Class Members for all hours worked, including minimum, straight time, and overtime wages;
- (b) Failed to provide meal periods and pay all meal period premium wages to Class Members;
- (c) Failed to authorize and permit rest periods and pay rest period premium wages to Class Members;
- (d) Failed to provide Class Members with accurate wage statements;
- (e) Failed to indemnify Class Members for expenditures; and,
- (f) Violated California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200 *et. seq.* as a result of their illegal conduct as described above.

29. This Court should permit this action to be maintained as a class action pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 because:

- (a) The questions of law and fact common to the Class predominate over any question affecting only individual members;
- (b) A class action is superior to any other available method for the fair and efficient adjudication of the claims of the members of the Class;
- (c) The members of the Class are so numerous that it is impractical to bring all members of the class before the Court;
- (d) Plaintiffs, and the other members of the Class, will not be able to obtain effective and economic legal redress unless the action is maintained as a class action;
- (e) There is a community of interest in obtaining appropriate legal and equitable relief for the statutory violations, and in obtaining adequate compensation for the damages and injuries for which Defendants are responsible in an amount sufficient to adequately compensate the members of the Class for the injuries sustained;

(f) Without class certification, the prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the class would create a risk of:

- 1) Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of the Class which would establish incompatible standards of conduct for Defendants; and/or,
- 2) Adjudications with respect to the individual members which would, as a practical matter, be dispositive of the interests of other members not parties to the adjudications, or would substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests, including but not limited to the potential for exhausting the funds available from those parties who are, or may be, responsible Defendants; and,

(g) Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby making final injunctive relief appropriate with respect to the class as a whole.

30. Plaintiffs contemplate the eventual issuance of notice to the proposed members of the Class that would set forth the subject and nature of the instant action. The Defendants' own business records may be utilized for assistance in the preparation and issuance of the contemplated notices. To the extent that any further notices may be required, Plaintiffs contemplate the use of additional techniques and forms commonly used in class actions, such as published notice, e-mail notice, website notice, first-class mail, or combinations thereof, or by other methods suitable to the Class and deemed necessary and/or appropriate by the Court.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(By All Plaintiffs Against All Defendants for Failure to Pay Minimum and Straight Time Wages for All Hours Worked)

31. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein paragraphs 1 through 21 in this Complaint.

32. "Hours worked" is the 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

1 not required to do so.

2 33. At all relevant times herein mentioned, Defendants knowingly failed to pay to
3 Plaintiffs and the Class compensation for all hours they worked. By their failure to pay
4 compensation for each hour worked as alleged above, Defendants willfully violated the
5 provisions of California Labor Code § 1194, and any additional applicable Wage Orders, which
6 require such compensation to non-exempt employees.

7 34. Accordingly, Plaintiffs and the Class are entitled to recover minimum and straight
8 time wages for all non-overtime hours worked for Defendants.

9 35. By and through the conduct described above, Plaintiffs and the Class have been
10 deprived of their rights to be paid wages earned by virtue of their employment with Defendants.

11 36. By virtue of the Defendants' unlawful failure to pay additional compensation to
12 Plaintiffs and the Class for their non-overtime hours worked without pay, Plaintiffs and the Class
13 suffered, and will continue to suffer, damages in amounts which are presently unknown to
14 Plaintiffs and the Class and which will be ascertained according to proof at trial.

15 37. By failing to keep adequate time records required by California Labor Code §
16 1174(d), Defendants have made it difficult to calculate the full extent of minimum wage
17 compensation due to Plaintiffs and the Class.

18 38. Pursuant to California Labor Code § 1194.2, Plaintiffs and the Class are entitled to
19 recover liquidated damages (double damages) for Defendants' failure to pay minimum wages.

20 39. California Labor Code § 204 requires employers to provide employees with all
21 wages due and payable twice a month. Throughout the statute of limitations period applicable to
22 this cause of action, Plaintiffs and the Class were entitled to be paid twice a month at rates
23 required by law, including minimum and straight time wages. However, during all such times,
24 Defendants systematically failed and refused to pay Plaintiffs and the Class all such wages due
25 and failed to pay those wages twice a month.

26 40. Plaintiffs and the Class are also entitled to seek recovery of all unpaid minimum
27 and straight time wages, interest, and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to California
28 Labor Code §§ 218.5, 218.6, and 1194(a).

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(By All Plaintiffs Against All Defendants for Failure to Pay Overtime Wages)

41. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein paragraphs 1 through 21 in this Complaint.

42. California Labor Code § 510 provides that employees in California shall not be employed more than eight hours in any workday or forty (40) hours in a workweek unless they receive additional compensation beyond their regular wages in amounts specified by law. Additionally, any work in excess of twelve (12) hours in a workday or eight hours on the seventh consecutive workday shall be compensated at a rate of twice the regular rate for an employee.

43. California Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1198 provide that employees in California shall not be employed more than eight hours in any workday unless they receive additional compensation beyond their regular wages in amounts specified by law. Additionally, California Labor Code § 1198 states that the employment of an employee for longer hours than those fixed by the Industrial Welfare Commission is unlawful.

44. At all times relevant hereto, Plaintiffs and the Class have worked more than eight hours in a workday, as employees of Defendants.

45. At all times relevant hereto, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and the Class overtime compensation for the hours they have worked in excess of the maximum hours permissible by law as required by California Labor Code §§ 510 and 1198.

46. By virtue of Defendants' unlawful failure to pay additional premium rate compensation to the Plaintiffs and the Class for their overtime hours worked, Plaintiffs and the Class have suffered, and will continue to suffer, damages in amounts which are presently unknown to them but which exceed the jurisdictional minimum of this Court and which will be ascertained according to proof at trial.

47. By failing to keep adequate time records required by Labor Code § 1174(d), Defendants have made it difficult to calculate the full extent of overtime compensation due to Plaintiffs and the Class.

48. Plaintiffs and the Class also request recovery of overtime compensation according

1 to proof, interest, attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to California Labor Code § 1194(a), as well
2 as the assessment of any statutory penalties against Defendants, in a sum as provided by the
3 California Labor Code and/or other statutes.

4 49. California Labor Code § 204 requires employers to provide employees with all
5 wages due and payable twice a month. The Wage Orders also provide that every employer shall
6 pay to each employee, on the established payday for the period involved, overtime wages for all
7 overtime hours worked in the payroll period. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiffs and the
8 Class with all compensation due, in violation of California Labor Code § 204.

9 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

10 **(By All Plaintiffs Against All Defendants for Failure to Provide Meal Periods)**

11 50. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein
12 paragraphs 1 through 21 in this Complaint.

13 51. Under California law, Defendants have an affirmative obligation to relieve the
14 Plaintiffs and the Class of all duty in order to take their first daily meal periods no later than the
15 start of Plaintiffs and the Class' sixth hour of work in a workday, and to take their second meal
16 periods no later than the start of the eleventh hour of work in the workday. California Labor
17 Code § 512, and Section 11 of the applicable Wage Orders require that an employer provide
18 unpaid meal periods of at least thirty (30) minutes for each five-hour period worked. It is a
19 violation of California Labor Code § 226.7 for an employer to require any employee to work
20 during any meal period mandated under any Wage Order.

21 52. Despite these legal requirements, Defendants regularly, but not always, failed to
22 provide Plaintiffs and the Class with both meal periods as required by California law. By their
23 failure to permit and authorize Plaintiffs and the Class to take all meal periods as alleged above
24 (or due to the fact that Defendants made it impossible or impracticable to take these
25 uninterrupted meal periods), Defendants willfully violated the provisions of California Labor
26 Code § 226.7 and the applicable Wage Orders.

27 53. Under California law, Plaintiffs and the Class are entitled to be paid one hour of
28 additional wages for each workday he or she was not provided with all required meal period(s),

1 plus interest thereon.

2 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

3 **(By All Plaintiffs Against All Defendants for Failure to Authorize and Permit Rest Periods)**

4 54. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein
5 paragraphs 1 through 21 in this Complaint.

6 55. Defendants are required by California law to authorize and permit breaks of ten
7 uninterrupted minutes for each four hours of work or major fraction of four hours (i.e. more than
8 two hours). California Labor Code § 512, the applicable Wage Orders require that the employer
9 permit and authorize all employees to take paid rest periods of ten minutes each for each 4-hour
10 period worked. Thus, for example, if an employee's work time is six hours and ten minutes, the
11 employee is entitled to two rest breaks. Each failure to authorize rest breaks as so required is
12 itself a violation of California's rest break laws. It is a violation of California Labor Code §
13 226.7 for an employer to require any employee to work during any rest period mandated under
14 any Wage Order.

15 56. Despite these legal requirements, Defendants failed to authorize Plaintiffs and the
16 Class to take rest breaks, regardless of whether employees worked more than four hours in a
17 workday. By their failure to permit and authorize Plaintiffs and the Class to take rest periods as
18 alleged above (or due to the fact that Defendants made it impossible or impracticable to take
19 these uninterrupted rest periods), Defendants willfully violated the provisions of California Labor
20 Code § 226.7 and the applicable Wage Orders.

21 57. Under California law, Plaintiffs and the Class are entitled to be paid one hour of
22 premium wages rate for each workday he or she was not provided with all required rest break(s),
23 plus interest thereon.

24 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

25 **(By All Plaintiffs Against All Defendants for Failure to Provide and Maintain Accurate and**
26 **Compliant Wage Records)**

27 58. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein
28 paragraphs 1 through 21 in this Complaint.

59. At all material times set forth herein, California Labor Code § 226(a) provides that every employer shall furnish each of his or her employees an accurate itemized wage statement in writing showing nine pieces of information, including: (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the employee, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions, 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 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 (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.

60. Defendants have intentionally and willfully failed to provide employees with complete and accurate wage statements. The deficiencies include, among other things, the failure to correctly identify the gross wages earned by Plaintiffs and the Class, the failure to list the true “total hours worked by the employee,” the failure to list the true net wages earned, and the failure to list all the applicable pay rates in effect during pay periods.

61. As a result of Defendants’ violation of California Labor Code § 226(a), Plaintiffs and the Class have suffered injury and damage to their statutorily protected rights.

62. Specifically, Plaintiffs and the members of the Class have been injured by Defendants’ intentional violation of California Labor Code § 226(a) because they were denied both their legal right to receive, and their protected interest in receiving, accurate, itemized wage statements under California Labor Code § 226(a).

63. Calculation of the true wage entitlement for Plaintiffs and the Class is difficult and time consuming. As a result of this unlawful burden, Plaintiffs and the Class were also injured as a result of having to bring this action to attempt to obtain correct wage information following Defendants’ refusal to comply with many of the mandates of California’s Labor Code and related laws and regulations.

64. Plaintiffs and the Class are entitled to recover from Defendants the greater of their

1 actual damages caused by Defendants' failure to comply with California Labor Code § 226(a), or
2 an aggregate penalty not exceeding four thousand dollars (\$4,000) per employee.

3 65. Plaintiffs and the Class are also entitled to injunctive relief, as well as an award of
4 attorney's fees and costs to ensure compliance with this section, pursuant to California Labor
5 Code § 226(h).

6 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

7 **(By All Plaintiffs Against All Defendants for Failure to Indemnify Employees for**
8 **Expenditures)**

9 66. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein
10 paragraphs 1 through 21 of this Complaint.

11 67. As set forth above, Plaintiffs and the Class were required to incur substantial
12 necessary expenditures and losses in direct consequence of the discharge of their duties or of
13 their obedience to directions of Defendants.

14 68. Defendants violated California Labor Code § 2802, by failing to pay and
15 indemnify Plaintiffs and the Class for necessary expenditures and losses incurred in direct
16 consequence of the discharge of their duties or of their obedience to directions of Defendants.

17 69. As a result, Plaintiffs and the Class were damaged at least in the amounts of the
18 expenses they paid, or which were deducted by Defendants from their wages.

19 70. Plaintiffs and the Class are entitled to reasonable attorney's fees, expenses, and
20 costs of suit pursuant to California Labor Code § 2802(c) and interest pursuant to California
21 Labor Code § 2802(b).

22 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

23 **(By All Plaintiffs Against All Defendants for Violation of California Business & Professions**
24 **Code §§ 17200, et seq.)**

25 71. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein
26 paragraphs 1 through 21 in this Complaint.

27 72. Defendants, and each of them, are "persons" as defined under California Business
28 & Professions Code § 17201.

73. Defendants' conduct, as alleged herein, has been, and continues to be, unfair, unlawful, and harmful to Plaintiffs, other Class members, and to the general public. Plaintiffs seeks to enforce important rights affecting the public interest within the meaning of Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5.

74. Defendants' activities, as alleged herein, are violations of California law, and constitute unlawful business acts and practices in violation of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

75. A violation of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* may be predicated on the violation of any state or federal law. All of the acts described herein as violations of, among other things, the California Labor Code, are unlawful and in violation of public policy; and in addition are immoral, unethical, oppressive, fraudulent and unscrupulous, and thereby constitute unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices in violation of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

Failure to Pay Minimum and Straight Time Wages

76. Defendants' failure to pay minimum and straight time wages, and other benefits in violation of the California Labor Code constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

Failure to Pay Overtime Wages

77. Defendants' failure to pay overtime compensation and other benefits in violation of California Labor Code §§ 510, 1194, and 1198 constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

Failure to Provide Meal Periods

78. Defendants' failure to provide meal periods in accordance with California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512, and the IWC Wage Orders, as alleged above, constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

Failure to Authorize and Permit Rest Periods

79. Defendants' failure to authorize and permit rest periods in accordance with California Labor Code § 226.7 and the IWC Wage Orders, as alleged above, constitutes unlawful

1 and/or unfair activity prohibited by Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

2 **Failure to Indemnify Business Expenses**

3 80. Defendants' failure to reimburse expenses incurred in accordance with California
4 Labor Code § 2802, as alleged above, constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by
5 California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200 *et seq.*

6 81. By and through their unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices
7 described herein, the Defendants, have obtained valuable property, money and services from
8 Plaintiffs, and all persons similarly situated, and have deprived Plaintiffs, and all persons
9 similarly situated, of valuable rights and benefits guaranteed by law, all to their detriment.

10 82. Plaintiffs and the Class Members suffered monetary injury as a direct result of
11 Defendants' wrongful conduct.

12 83. Plaintiffs, individually, and on behalf of members of the putative Class, are
13 entitled to, and does, seek such relief as may be necessary to disgorge money and/or property
14 which the Defendants have wrongfully acquired, or of which Plaintiffs and the Class have been
15 deprived, by means of the above-described unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices.
16 Plaintiffs and the Class are not obligated to establish individual knowledge of the wrongful
17 practices of Defendants in order to recover restitution.

18 84. Plaintiffs, individually, and on behalf of members of the putative class, are further
19 entitled to and does seek a declaration that the above-described business practices are unfair,
20 unlawful and/or fraudulent, and injunctive relief restraining the Defendants, and each of them,
21 from engaging in any of the above-described unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business
22 practices in the future.

23 85. Plaintiffs, individually, and on behalf of members of the putative class, have no
24 plain, speedy, and/or adequate remedy at law to redress the injuries which the Class Members
25 suffered as a consequence of the Defendants' unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business
26 practices. As a result of the unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices described
27 above, Plaintiffs, individually, and on behalf of members of the putative Class, have suffered and
28 will continue to suffer irreparable harm unless the Defendants, and each of them, are restrained

1 from continuing to engage in said unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices.

2 86. Plaintiffs also allege that if Defendants are not enjoined from the conduct set forth
3 herein above, they will continue to avoid paying the appropriate taxes, insurance and other
4 withholdings.

5 87. Pursuant to California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, Plaintiffs
6 and putative Class Members are entitled to restitution of the wages withheld and retained by
7 Defendants during a period that commences four years prior to the filing of this complaint; a
8 permanent injunction requiring Defendants to pay all outstanding wages due to Plaintiffs and
9 Class Members; an award of attorneys' fees pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure §
10 1021.5 and other applicable laws; and an award of costs.

11 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

12 Plaintiffs, individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated only with respect to
13 the class claims, pray for relief and judgment against Defendants, jointly and severally, as
14 follows:

15 **Class Certification**

16 1. That this action be certified as a class action with respect to the First, Second,
17 Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Causes of Action;

18 2. That Plaintiffs be appointed as the representatives of the Class; and,

19 3. That counsel for Plaintiffs be appointed as Class Counsel.

20 **As to the First Cause of Action**

21 4. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated California
22 Labor Code §§ 204 and 1194 and applicable IWC Wage Orders by willfully failing to pay all
23 minimum and straight time wages due;

24 5. For unpaid wages as may be appropriate;

25 6. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid compensation commencing from the date
26 such amounts were due;

27 7. For liquidated damages;

28 8. For reasonable attorneys' fees and for costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to

California Labor Code § 1194(a); and,

9. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

As to the Second Cause of Action

10. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated California Labor Code §§ 510 and 1198 and applicable IWC Wage Orders by willfully failing to pay all overtime wages due;

11. For unpaid wages at overtime wage rates as may be appropriate;

12. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid overtime compensation commencing from the date such amounts were due;

13. For reasonable attorneys' fees and for costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to California Labor Code § 1194(a); and,

14. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

As to the Third Cause of Action

15. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512, and the IWC Wage Orders;

16. For unpaid meal period premium wages as may be appropriate;

17. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid compensation commencing from the date such amounts were due;

18. For reasonable attorneys' fees under California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5, and for costs of suit incurred herein; and,

19. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

As to the Fourth Cause of Action

20. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512, and the IWC Wage Orders;

21. For unpaid rest period premium wages as may be appropriate;

22. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid compensation commencing from the date such amounts were due;

23. For reasonable attorneys' fees under California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5,

1 and for costs of suit incurred herein; and,

2 24. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

3 As to the Fifth Cause of Action

4 25. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated the record
5 keeping provisions of California Labor Code § 226(a) and applicable IWC Wage Orders, and
6 willfully failed to provide accurate itemized wage statements thereto;

7 26. For all actual damages, according to proof;

8 27. For statutory penalties pursuant to California Labor Code § 226(e);

9 28. For injunctive relief to ensure compliance with this section, pursuant to California
10 Labor Code § 226(h);

11 29. For reasonable attorneys' fees and for costs of suit incurred herein; and,

12 30. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

13 As to the Sixth Cause of Action

14 31. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated California
15 Labor Code § 2802 by willfully failing to indemnify employees for expenditures;

16 32. For unpaid wages or reimbursed business expenses as may be appropriate;

17 33. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid compensation commencing from the date
18 such amounts were due;

19 34. For reasonable attorneys' fees and for costs of suit incurred herein; and,

20 35. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

21 As to the Seventh Cause of Action

22 36. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated California
23 Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* by failing to pay for all hours worked (minimum,
24 straight time, and overtime wages), failing to provide meal periods, failing to authorize and
25 permit rest periods, and failing to reimburse all businesses expenses or losses;

26 37. For restitution of unpaid wages to Plaintiffs and all Class Members and
27 prejudgment interest from the day such amounts were due and payable;

28 38. For the appointment of a receiver to receive, manage and distribute any and all

1 funds disgorged from Defendants and determined to have been wrongfully acquired by
2 Defendants as a result of violations of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200 *et seq.*;

3 39. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to
4 California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5;

5 40. For injunctive relief to ensure compliance with this section, pursuant to California
6 Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*; and,

7 41. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

8 As to all Causes of Action

9 42. For any additional relief that the Court deems just and proper.

10
11 Respectfully submitted,

12 Dated: October 29, 2021

13 **WILSHIRE LAW FIRM**

14 By: 

15 Justin F. Marquez
Benjamin H. Haber

16 Attorneys for Plaintiffs

17 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

18 Plaintiffs demands a trial by jury as to all causes of action triable by jury.

19 Dated: October 29, 2021

20 **WILSHIRE LAW FIRM**

21 By: 

22 Justin F. Marquez
Benjamin H. Haber

23 Attorneys for Plaintiffs
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27
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