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Attorneys for Plaintiff: Terry T. Snipes, Sr., an individual

### SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN

TERRY T. SNIPES, SR., an individual, residing in San Joaquin County, California,

Plaintiff.

VS.

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DOLLAR TREE DISTRIBUTION, INC., A Virginia Corporation; and Does 1 through 50, inclusive.

Defendants.

BARAAA. KRONLUND IN DEPARTMENT 42

39-2015-00323476-CU-OE-STK Case No.

PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES FOR:

### CLASS ACTION PURSUANT TO CAL, CODE OF CIV. PROC. § 382

- (1) Failure To Pay Minimum Wages In Violation Of Labor Code §§ 1197, 1194 & 1194.2:
- (2) Failure To Pay Overtime In Violation Of Labor Code § 510;
- (3) Failure To Provide All Mandated Meal Periods Or Additional Wages In Lieu Thereof;
- (4) Failure To Provide All Mandated Rest Periods Or Additional Wages In Lieu Thereof;
- (5) Failure To Provide Recovery Periods;
- (6) Failure To Issue Accurate Wage Statements In Violation Of Labor Code § 226;
- (7) Failure To Timely Pay Wages Due At Termination In Violation Of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, & 203;
- (8) Unfair Competition (Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200)

### COLLECTIVE CLASS ACTION PURSUANT TO 29 U.S.C. § 216(b)

(9) Failure to Pay Overtime Wages (29

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**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED** 

Plaintiff TERRY T. SNIPES, SR. ("PLAINTIFF") alleges against Defendant DOLLAR TREE DISTRIBUTION, INC., a Virginia Corporation, and Does 1 through 50, inclusive (collectively "DEFENDANTS") as follows:

### **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

### A. THE PARTIES

- 1. PLAINTIFF is an individual who, at all times relevant herein, was residing in San Joaquin County, California and is an employee of DEFENDANTS.
- 2. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendant DOLLAR TREE DISTRIBUTION, INC., a Virginia Corporation, is now, and at all times relevant to this Complaint, was a corporation with employees in San Joaquin County, California and throughout the United States.
- 3. PLAINTIFF is unaware of the true names and/or capacities, whether individual, partnership, limited partnership, corporate, or otherwise, of the Defendants sued herein as DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, and each of them, and therefore sues such Defendants by such fictitious names pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 474. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon allege, that each of the Defendants sued herein, including DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, is and was proximately the cause of or contributed to cause the damages hereinafter alleged, or in some other manner is responsible in whole or in part for the damages which have been, are being, and will be suffered by PLAINTIFF as alleged herein. When the true names and/or capacities of the Defendants are ascertained, PLAINTIFF will seek leave to amend this Complaint to insert the same herein with appropriate charging allegations.
- 4. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes and thereon alleges that DEFENDANTS and each of the DOE Defendants, were acting at all relevant times herein, as the agent, ostensible agent, joint-venturer, joint-employer, servant, employee, co-conspirator and/or associate of each of the other Defendants, and were at all times acting within the course and scope of said agency,

servitude, employment, joint-venture, association, and/or conspiracy and with the permission and consent of the other Defendants.

- 5. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the above DEFENDANTS and/or each of its managing agents and supervisors aided, abetted, condoned, permitted, approved, authorized, and/or ratified the unlawful acts described herein.
- 6. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that, at all times relevant to this Complaint, the various acts and representations of DEFENDANTS, including each of the DOE Defendants, and each agent or representative of DEFENDANTS, were the result of, and in furtherance of, an agreement whereby the DEFENDANTS and each agent or representative of the DEFENDANTS knowingly conspired to engage in the acts described herein, including, but not limited to, DEFENDANTS' violation of the California Labor Code and the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. § 201, et seq.) ("FLSA").
- 7. PLAINTIFF brings Causes of Action ONE through EIGHT on behalf of Himself and all other similarly situated current and former California employees of DEFENDANTS as a class action pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 382. PLAINTIFF seeks to represent a class and/or subclasses composed of and defined as follows:

### California Class 1

All current and former non-exempt employees of DEFENDANTS who performed work for DEFENDANTS in California at any time within four (4) years preceding the filing of this action.

### Subclass A ("First Meal Period Sub-Class")

All current and former non-exempt employees of DEFENDANTS who performed work for DEFENDANTS in California and who worked more than five (5) hours in a work day at any time within four (4) years preceding the filing of this action.

### Subclass B ("Second Meal Period Sub-Class")

All current and former non-exempt employees of DEFENDANTS who performed work for DEFENDANTS in California and who worked more

than ten (10) hours in a work day at any time within four (4) years preceding the filing of this action.

### Subclass C ("Rest Period Sub-Class")

All current and former non-exempt employees of DEFENDANTS who performed work for DEFENDANTS in California and who worked three and one-half (3 1/2) or more hours in a work day at any time within four (4) years preceding the filing of this action.

### Subclass D ("Minimum Wage Sub-Class")

All current and former non-exempt employees of DEFENDANTS in California who performed work for DEFENDANTS in California and who were required to work for DEFENDANTS, or whom DEFENDANTS permitted or suffered to work, during their meal periods, or at times otherwise off-the-clock, without compensation at any time within four (4) years preceding the filing of this action.

### Subclass E ("Overtime Wage Sub-Class")

All current and former non-exempt employees of DEFENDANTS in California who were required to work overtime hours for DEFENDANTS, or whom DEFENDANTS permitted or suffered to work overtime hours, without overtime compensation as required by Labor Code section 510 and Wage Order 7 and/or any other applicable wage order at any time within four (4) years preceding the filing of this action.

### Subclass F ("Waiting Time Penalty Sub-Class")

All former non-exempt employees of DEFENDANTS in California within four (4) years preceding the filing of this action.

### Subclass G ("Recovery Period Sub-Class")

All current and former non-exempt employees of DEFENDANTS who performed work for DEFENDANTS in California and who worked

outdoors at any time within four (4) years preceding the filing of this action.

### California Class 2

All current and former employees of DEFENDANTS in California who received a wage statement that did not comply with the provisions of Labor Code section 226(a).

- 8. These individuals shall hereinafter be referred to collectively as the "California Class Members."
- 9. PLAINTIFF seeks to have the NINTH Cause of Action certified to proceed as a collective action pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) on behalf of all persons who give their consent in writing to become party-plaintiffs, which consents will be filed with the Court, and who were employed as non-exempt employees of DEFENDANTS as follows:
  - (a) All current and former non-exempt employees of DEFENDANTS within the United States who were entitled to receive overtime compensation at the rate of 1.5 times the regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours in any workweek and who also received a bonus at any time within three (3) years of the filing of this action. This collective shall be referred to as the "FLSA Class."
- 10. The individuals within the scope of paragraphs 8 and 10 shall hereinafter be referred to collectively as "Class Members."
- 11. PLAINTIFF reserves the right under California Rules of Court Rule 3.765(b) to amend or modify the class description with greater specificity or further division into subclasses or limitation to particular issues.

### B. THE ACTION

- 12. This action is brought, in part, to remedy the following:
  - (a) DEFENDANTS' failure to pay PLAINTIFF and the Class Members the minimum, regular, overtime and double time in accordance with Federal and California law;

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- (b) DEFENDANTS' failure to provide PLAINTIFF and the Class Members with a reasonable opportunity to take a net thirty-minute, duty-free meal period for each workday during which such employees worked more than five hours, or a second meal period for each workday during which such employees worked more than ten hours, as mandated by California law, or to pay such employees one (1) hour of additional wages at the employees' regular rate of compensation for each workday for which the duty-free meal period was and/or is not provided, as required by California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512 and Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order 7 and/or any other applicable Wage Order;
- (c) DEFENDANTS' failure to provide PLAINTIFF and the Class Members with a reasonable opportunity to take a paid net ten-minute, duty-free rest period per four hours worked or major fraction thereof, as mandated by California law, or to pay such employees one (1) hour of additional wages at the employees' regular rate of compensation for each workday for which the duty-free rest period was and/or is not provided, as required by Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order 7 and/or any other applicable Wage Order;
- (d) DEFENDANTS' failure to provide PLAINTIFF and the Class Members with a reasonable opportunity to take a recovery period pursuant to Title 8 California Code of Regulations section 3395;
- (e) DEFENDANTS' failure to issue accurate, itemized wage statements to PLAINTIFF and the Class Members in accordance with California law;
- (f) DEFENDANTS' failure to pay Class Members all wages due and owing upon the termination of employment with DEFENDANTS;
- (g) DEFENDANTS' engagement in unfair business practices against PLAINTIFF and the Class Members.

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17. The potential members of the class as defined are so numerous that joinder of all members of the class is impracticable. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges

13. Venue is proper in this county because, among other reasons, certain of the violations of the California Labor Code were committed in San Joaquin County and DEFENDANTS' conduct business in San Joaquin County and the majority of the events and conduct complained of herein occurred in San Joaquin County. The unlawful acts alleged have a direct effect on PLAINTIFF and other Class Members. PLAINTIFF and the Class Members will continue to suffer the same harm as PLAINTIFF as a result of DEFENDANTS' wrongful conduct unless the relief requested herein is granted.

14. Venue also proper under 29 U.S.C. 216(b), which provides, in pertinent part, that "[a]n action to recover the liability prescribed in either of the preceding sentences may be maintained against any employer ... in any Federal or State court of competent jurisdiction by any one or more employees for and in behalf of himself or themselves and other employees similarly situated."

15. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that during the four-year period preceding the filing of this class action, no other class action has been filed asserting the same or similar factual allegations against DEFENDANTS on behalf of the same or similar Class Members. PLAINTIFF has conducted a review of wage and hour class actions filed against DEFENDANTS; none of those class actions assert claims under California law or claims under 29 U.S.C. section 207 on the basis of failing to include non-discretionary bonus payments in calculating the regular rate of pay.

### D. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

16. Causes of Action One through Eight have been brought and properly may be maintained as a class action under the provisions of section 382 of the California Code of Civil Procedure because: a) there is a well-defined community of interest in the litigation; and b) the proposed class is easily ascertainable.

### **Numerosity**

that, at all times mentioned herein, PLAINTIFF and the Class Members are or have been affected by DEFENDANTS and DOES 1-50's unlawful practices as alleged herein.

18. Accounting for employee turnover during the relevant period covered by this action necessarily and substantially increases the number of employees covered by this action. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that DEFENDANTS and DOES 1-50's employment records would provide information as to the actual number and location of all Class Members. Joinder of all members of the proposed class is not practicable.

### **Commonality**

- 19. There are questions of law and fact common to the class predominating over any questions affecting only individual Class Members. These common questions of law and fact include, without limitation:
  - a. Whether DEFENDANTS violated the California Labor Code and Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders by failing to pay minimum wage, regular, overtime, and double time wages to PLAINTIFF and the Class Members;
  - b. Whether DEFENDANTS violated Federal law by failing to pay overtime wages to PLAINTIFF and the Class Members;
  - c. Whether DEFENDANTS violated California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512 and Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order 7 and/or any other applicable Wage Order by failing to provide PLAINTIFF and the Class Members with a thirty-minute, duty-free meal period for each workday during which such employees worked more than five hours, or a second meal period for each workday during which such employees worked more than ten hours, or by paying such employees one (1) hour of additional wages at the employees' regular rate of compensation;
  - d. Whether DEFENDANTS violated Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order 7 and/or any other applicable Wage Order by failing to permit PLAINTIFF and the Class Members to take a paid net ten-minute, duty-free rest period per four hours worked or major fraction thereof or to pay such employees one (1) hour of

- additional wages at the employees' regular rate of compensation for each workday for which a rest period was and/or is not provided;
- e. Whether DEFENDANTS violated California Labor Code section 226.7 and Title
   8 California Code of Regulations section 3395 by failing to allow outdoor employees to take a recovery period;
- f. Whether DEFENDANTS violated California Labor Code section 226 by failing to issue accurate, itemized wage statements to PLAINTIFF and the Class Members;
- g. Whether DEFENDANTS violated California Labor Code sections 201, 202 and 203 by failing to pay all wages due and owing at the time that any Class Member's employment with DEFENDANTS and/or DOES 1-50 ended, whether voluntarily or involuntarily;
- h. Whether DEFENDANTS violated California Business and Professions Code section 17200 *et seq.* and engaged in unlawful, unfair, and deceptive business practices by violating California Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 226, 226.7, 510, 512, 1194, 1194.2 and Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order 7 and/or any other applicable Wage Order and failing to: (1) pay minimum, regular, overtime, and double time to the Class Members; (2) permit the Class Members to take a net thirty-minute, duty-free second meal period when they worked more than 10 hours in a workday and/or pay such employees additional wages as required by California law; (3) permit the Class Members to take a paid net tenminute, duty-free such employees additional wages as required by California law; (4) issue mandated, rest period per four hours worked or major fraction thereof and/or pay accurate, itemized wage statements; and (5) pay all owed wages at the time that any Class Member's employment with DEFENDANTS ended, whether voluntarily or involuntarily; and
- i. Whether PLAINTIFF and the Class Members are entitled to equitable relief pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section 17200 *et seq*.

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### **Typicality**

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20. The claims of the named PLAINTIFF are typical of the claims of the class. PLAINTIFF and all members of the class sustained injuries and damages arising out of, and caused by, DEFENDANTS and DOES 1-50's common course of conduct in violation of California laws, regulations, and statutes as alleged herein.

### Adequacy of Representation

21. PLAINTIFF will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the members of the class. Counsel who represents PLAINTIFF is competent and experienced in litigating wage and hour class actions and California Business and Professions Code section 17200 et seq. cases.

### Superiority of Class Action

- 22. A class action is superior to other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. Individual joinder of all Class Members is not practicable, and questions of law and fact common to the class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members of the Class. Each member of the Class has been damaged and is entitled to recovery as a result of DEFENDANTS and DOES 1-50's unlawful policies and practices alleged in this Complaint.
- 23. Class action treatment will allow those similarly situated persons to litigate their claims in the manner that is most efficient and economical for the parties and the judicial system. PLAINTIFF is unaware of any difficulties likely to be encountered in the management of this action that would preclude its maintenance as a class action.

### BACKGROUND ALLEGATIONS

- 24. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that PLAINTIFF, at all relevant time herein, was a non-exempt employee of DEFENDANTS.
- 25. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that DEFENDANTS were, at all relevant times herein, engaged in the business of distributing merchandise for sale at Dollar Tree retail stores nationwide.

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- 26. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that at all times mentioned herein, DEFENDANTS had statutory obligations to pay PLAINTIFF and all other similarly situated Class Members minimum, regular, overtime, and double time wages according to the FLSA and California law.
- 27. PLAINTIFF is further informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that at all times mentioned herein, DEFENDANTS had statutory obligations to provide PLAINTIFF and all other similarly situated Class Members a net thirty-minute, duty-free meal period during any workday during which such employee worked more than five hours, and a second meal period during any workday during which such employees worked more than ten hours and/or pay such employees additional wages.
- 28. PLAINTIFF is further informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that at all times mentioned herein, DEFENDANTS had statutory obligations to permit PLAINTIFF and all other similarly situated Class Members to take a paid net ten-minute, duty-free rest period per four hours worked or major fraction thereof and/or pay such employees additional wages.
- 29. PLAINTIFF is further informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that at all times mentioned herein, DEFENDANTS had statutory and/or regulatory obligations to allow PLAINTIFF and all other similarly situated Class Members to take a recovery period to prevent heat illness.
- 30. PLAINTIFF is further informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that at all times mentioned herein, DEFENDANTS had statutory obligations to issue to PLAINTIFF and all other similarly situated Class Members wage statements compliant with Labor Code section 226.
- 31. PLAINTIFF is further informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that at all times mentioned herein, DEFENDANTS had statutory obligations to pay Class Members all wages earned upon termination of employment.
- 32. However, PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that DEFENDANTS improperly, and in violation of the FLSA and California law, failed to pay minimum, regular, overtime and double time wages by, among other things, failing to compensate PLAINTIFF and other similarly situated Class Members for all hours worked and

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failing to properly calculate the regular rate of pay by excluding non-discretionary bonus amounts in the regular rate calculation.

- 33. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that DEFENDANTS improperly, and in violation of California law, failed to provide a net thirty-minute, duty-free meal period for employees who worked more than five hours in a workday, failed to provide a second net thirty-minute, duty-free meal period for employees who worked more than ten hours in a workday, and/or failed to pay such employees one (1) hour of additional wages at the employees' regular rate of compensation for each workday for which a meal period was not provided by, among other things, establishing and carrying out policies through its managing agents and supervisors that violated California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512 and Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order 7 and/or any other applicable Wage Order that requires DEFENDANTS to provide meal periods to PLAINTIFF and other similarly situated Class Members.
- 34. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that DEFENDANTS improperly, and in violation of California law, failed to authorize and permit a paid net tenminute, duty-free rest period for employees per four hours worked or major fraction thereof and/or failed to pay such employees one (1) hour of additional wages at the employees' regular rate of compensation for each workday for which a rest break was not provided by, among other things, establishing and carrying out policies through its managing agents and supervisors that violated California Labor Code section 226.7 and Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order 7 and/or any other applicable Wage Order that requires DEFENDANTS to provide rest breaks to PLAINTIFF and other similarly situated Class Members.
- 35. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that DEFENDANTS improperly, and in violation of California law, failed to allow outdoor employees to take recovery periods by, among other things, establishing and carrying out policies through its managing agents and supervisors that violated California Labor Code section 226.7 and Title 8 California Code of Regulations section 3395, which requires DEFENDANTS to allow PLAINTIFF and other similarly situated Class Members to take recovery breaks.

- 36. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that DEFENDANTS improperly, and in violation of California law, failed to issue accurate wage statements to PLAINTIFF and other similarly situated Class Members by, among other things, failing to account for all hours worked and wages earned, including failing to include payments of non-discretionary bonus amounts in the regular rate of pay calculation.
- 37. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that DEFENDANTS improperly, and in violation of California law, failed to pay Class Members all wages earned upon termination of employment by, among other things, failing to pay wages for all hours worked and failing to include payments of non-discretionary bonus amounts in the regular rate of pay calculation.
- 38. As a result of the actions of DEFENDANTS, PLAINTIFF and other similarly situated Class Members suffered damages, including lost pay, wages, and interest.
- 39. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Class Members did not secret or absent themselves from DEFENDANTS nor did they refuse to accept the earned but unpaid wages from DEFENDANTS. Accordingly, DEFENDANTS are liable for waiting time penalties for the unpaid wages pursuant to Labor Code sections 201, 202, and 203 and section 20 of the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Order.

### **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

# FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES IN VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE §§ 1197, 1194, & 1194.2

# (PLAINTIFF, Individually and on Behalf of the Class Members, Against DEFENDANTS and DOES 1 through 50)

- 40. The allegations of paragraphs 1 through 39, inclusive, are re-alleged and incorporated herein by this reference.
- 41. DEFENDANTS failed to pay PLAINTIFF and Class Members minimum wages for all hours worked.

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42. California Labor Code section 1197 provides that "[t]he minimum wage for employees fixed by the commission is the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and payment of less than the minimum so fixed is unlawful."

- 43. The applicable minimum wage fixed by the commission for employees, such as Plaintiff and Class Members is found in section 4(A) of Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order No. 7 and/or any other applicable Wage Order.
- 44. The minimum wage provisions of the California Labor Code are enforceable by private action pursuant to California Labor Code section 1194(a), which states:

Notwithstanding any agreement to work for a lesser wage, any employee receiving less than the legal minimum wage or the legal overtime compensation applicable to the employee is entitled to recover in a civil action the unpaid balance of the full amount of this minimum wage or overtime compensation, including interest thereon, reasonable attorney's fees, and costs of suit.

- 45. As described in California Labor Code sections 1185 and 1194.2, any such action incorporates the applicable Wage Order of the Industrial Welfare Commission.
  - 46. California Labor Code section 1194.2 also provides for the following remedies:

In any action under . . . Section 1194 to recover wages because of the payment of a wage less than the minimum wage fixed by an order of the commission, an employee shall be entitled to recover liquidated damages in an amount equal to the wages unlawfully unpaid and interest thereon.

- 47. As such, PLAINTIFF, individually and on behalf of Class Members, may bring this action for minimum wages and overtime, interest, costs of suit, and attorneys' fees pursuant to California Labor Code section 1194(a).
- 48. Wherefore, PLAINTIFF and the Class Members are entitled to recover liquidated damages in an amount equal to the minimum wages unlawfully unpaid, and interest thereon, pursuant to California Labor Code section 1194.2 and reasonable attorneys' fees, costs of suit, and penalties pursuant to section 1197.1.

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### **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

# FAILURE TO PAY OVERTIME IN VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE § 510 (PLAINTIFF, Individually and on Behalf of the Class Members, Against DEFENDANTS and DOES 1 through 50)

- 49. The allegations of paragraphs 1 through 48, inclusive, are re-alleged and incorporated herein by this reference.
  - 50. California Labor Code section 510, subsection (a) provides, in pertinent part, as follows:

Eight hours of labor constitutes a day's work. Any work in excess of eight hours in one workday and any work in excess of 40 hours in any one workweek and the first eight hours worked on the seventh day of work in any one workweek shall be compensated at the rate of no less than one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for an employee. Any work in excess of 12 hours in one day shall be compensated at the rate of no less than twice the regular rate of pay for an employee. In addition, any work in excess of eight hours on any seventh day of a workweek shall be compensated at the rate of no less than twice the regular rate of pay of an employee . . . .

51. Section 3 of Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order Number 7 and/or any other applicable Wage Order, provides, in pertinent part, as follows:

The following overtime provisions are applicable to employees 18 years of age or over and to employees 16 or 17 years of age who are not required by law to attend school and are not otherwise prohibited by law from engaging in the subject work. employees shall not be employed more than eight (8) hours in any workday or more than 40 in a workweek unless the employee receives one and one half (1 ½) times such employee's regular rate of pay for all hours worked over 40 hours in the workweek. Eight (8) hours of labor constitutes a day's work. Employment beyond eight (8) hours in any workday or more than six (6) days in any workweek is permissible provided the employee is compensated for such overtime at not less than: (a) One and one-half (1½) times the employee's regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours up to and including twelve (12) hours in any workday, and for the first eight (8) hours worked on the seventh (7th) consecutive day of work in a workweek; and (b) Double the

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employee's regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of 12 hours in any workday and for all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours on the seventh (7th) consecutive day of work in a workweek. (c) The overtime rate of compensation required to be paid to a nonexempt full-time salaried employee shall be computed by using the employee's regular hourly salary as one fortieth (1/40) of the employee's weekly salary. *See* Cal. Admin. Code tit. 8, §11070(3)(A)(1).

- 52. During all times mentioned herein, DEFENDANTS required, allowed, suffered, and/or permitted PLAINTIFF and Class Members to work in excess of eight hours in one workday or 40 hours per week without being compensated at the applicable overtime rate of pay in accordance with the provisions of California Labor Code section 510 and Section 3 of the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order 7 and/or any other applicable Wage Order.
- 53. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that PLAINTIFF and Class Members were paid non-discretionary bonuses from time to time through their employment with DEFENDANTS and these amounts were not included in the regular rate of pay used to calculate overtime compensation.
- 54. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that PLAINTIFF and Class Members were required, allowed, suffered, and/or permitted to work through their meal periods, and therefore were subsequently not paid for all overtime or double time worked, at least a portion of which time was compensable to PLAINTIFF and Class Members at one-and-one-half or two times of PLAINTIFF and Class Members' regular rate of pay.
- 55. During all relevant periods, California overtime laws applied to DEFENDANTS and provided that any work performed by an employee in excess of 40 hours per workweek or eight (8) hours per workday be compensated at one-and-one-half times or two times the employee's regular rate of pay. DEFENDANTS did not compensate PLAINTIFF and Class Members for all hours worked in excess of 40 hours per workweek or eight (8) hours per workday and/or did not compensate said employees at the applicable overtime rate of pay. Thus, PLAINTIFF and Class Members are entitled to recover their unpaid overtime compensation and penalties arising therefrom.

56. In addition, PLAINTIFF, on behalf of himself and the Class Members, has incurred, and will continue to incur, attorneys' fees and costs. PLAINTIFF, on behalf of himself and the Class Members, are presently unaware of the precise amount of these fees and costs and pray for leave of this Court to amend the Complaint when the amounts are fully known. Pursuant to California Labor Code sections 1194, PLAINTIFF and Class Members are entitled to recover attorneys' fees, expenses, and costs according to proof.

### THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

### **VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE §§ 226.7 AND 512**

### (MEAL PERIODS)

## (PLAINTIFF, Individually and on Behalf of the Class Members, Against DEFENDANTS and DOES 1 through 50)

- 57. The allegations of paragraphs 1 through 56, inclusive, are re-alleged and incorporated herein by this reference.
- 58. California Labor Code section 512, subsection (a), provides, in pertinent part, as follows:
  - (a) An employer may not employ an employee for a work period of more than five hours per day without providing the employee with a meal period of not less than 30 minutes, except that if the total work period per day of the employee is not more than six hours. The meal period may be waived by mutual consent of both the employer and employee. An employer may not employ an employee for a work period of more than 10 hours per day without providing the employee with a second meal period of not less than 30 minutes, An employer may not employ an employee for a work period of more than 10 hours per day without providing the employee with a second meal period of not less than 30 minutes, except that if the total hours worked is no more than 12 hours, the second meal period may be waived by mutual consent of the employer and the employee only if the first meal period was not waived.
  - 59. Similarly, section 11 of Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order 7 provides, in pertinent part, as follows:
    - (A) No employer shall employ any person for a work period of more than five (5) hours without a meal period of not less than 30 minutes, except that when a work period of not more than six (6)

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hours will complete the day's work the meal period may be waived by mutual consent of the employer and the employee...

- 60. California Labor Code section 226.7 provides, in pertinent part, as follows:
  - An employer shall not require an employee to work during any meal or rest or recovery period mandated pursuant to an applicable statute, or applicable regulation, standard, or order of the Industrial Welfare Commission, the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board, or the Division of Occupational Safety and Health.
  - (c) If an employer fails to provide an employee a meal or rest or recovery period in accordance with an with a state law, including, but not limited to, an applicable statute or applicable regulation, standard, or order of the Industrial Welfare Commission, the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board, or the Division of Occupational Safety and Health, the employer shall pay the employee one additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that the meal or rest or recovery period is not provided.
- PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that he and Class 61. Members systematically worked periods of more than 5 hours in a workday without being provided a mandated thirty-minute, duty-free meal period and worked over 10 hours in a workday without being provided a second meal period while in the employ of DEFENDANTS. Specifically, PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon allege, that, at all times mentioned herein, DEFENDANTS maintained company policies that did not provide its employees the opportunity to take meal periods during any given workday, including workdays during which employees worked more than five hours, or a second meal period for employees who worked more than ten hours. PLAINTIFF is further informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that DEFENDANTS did not pay PLAINTIFF or any of the other affected Class Members an additional one (1)-hour's wage at the regular rate of pay for each meal period that was not provided as stated above.
- 62. Accordingly, DEFENDANTS violated California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512 and section 11 of Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order 7 and/or any other applicable Wage Order by failing to provide a meal period for days on which non-exempt employees work(ed) in excess of five hours, failing to permit a second meal period for days on which non-

exempt employees work(ed) in excess of ten hours, and failing to pay one hour of additional wages in lieu of each meal period not provided. DEFENDANTS are liable for one hour of additional wages at each of the affected Class Members' regular rate of compensation for each workday for which a meal period was not lawfully provided.

63. As a result of the unlawful acts of DEFENDANTS, PLAINTIFF and Class Members have been deprived of additional wages in amounts to be proven at trial and are entitled to recover such amounts, plus interest and penalties thereon, attorneys' fees, and costs of suit in addition to any other relief requested below.

### FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

# VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE §§ 226.7 AND INDUSTRIAL WELFARE COMMISSION WAGE ORDER NO. 7

### (REST PERIODS)

## (PLAINTIFF, Individually and on Behalf of the Class Members, Against DEFENDANTS and DOES 1 through 50)

- 64. The allegations of paragraphs 1 through 63, inclusive, are re-alleged and incorporated herein by this reference.
- 65. Section 12 of Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order 7 provides, in pertinent part, as follows:
  - (A) Every employer shall authorize and permit all employees to take rest periods, which insofar as practicable shall be in the middle of each work period. The authorized rest period time shall be based on the total hours worked daily at the rate of ten (10) minutes net rest time per four (4) hours or major fraction thereof....Authorized rest period time shall be counted as hours worked for which there shall be no deduction from wages.
  - (B) If an employer fails to provide an employee a rest period in accordance with the applicable provisions of this order, the employer shall pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that the rest period is not provided.
  - 66. California Labor Code section 226.7 provides, in pertinent part, as follows:
    - (b) An employer shall not require an employee to work during any meal or rest or recovery period mandated pursuant to an

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applicable statute, or applicable regulation, standard, or order of the Industrial Welfare Commission, the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board, or the Division of Occupational Safety and Health.

- If an employer fails to provide an employee a meal or rest (c) or recovery period in accordance with an with a state law, including, but not limited to, an applicable statute or applicable regulation, standard, or order of the Industrial Welfare Commission, the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board, or the Division of Occupational Safety and Health, the employer shall pay the employee one additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that the meal or rest or recovery period is not provided.
- 67. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that he and Class Members systematically worked periods of more than 3 ½ hours in a workday without being 12 provided a mandated paid ten-minute, duty-free compensated rest period while in the employ of 13 DEFENDANTS for every four hours worked or major fraction thereof. PLAINTIFF is informed 14 and believes, and thereon alleges, that, at all times mentioned herein, DEFENDANTS 15 maintained company policies that did not permit its employees to take a compensated rest period for every four hours worked or major fraction thereof during any given workday including workdays during which their employees worked more than 3 ½ hours. PLAINTIFF is informed 18 and believes, and thereon alleges, that he and Class Members were not provided with rest periods 19 while in the employ of DEFENDANTS. PLAINTIFF is further informed and believes, and 20 thereon alleges, that DEFENDANTS never paid PLAINTIFF or any of the other affected Class Members an additional one (1)-hour's wage for each rest period that was not provided as stated above.
  - 68. Accordingly, DEFENDANTS violated California Labor Code section 226.7 and section 12 of Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order 7 and/or any other applicable Wage Order by failing to provide their employees who worked more than 3 ½ hours in a workday with a rest period every four hours or major fraction thereof as required by California law and failing to pay one hour of additional wages in lieu of each rest period not provided. DEFENDANTS are

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- (c) If an employer fails to provide an employee a meal or rest or recovery period in accordance with an with a state law, including, but not limited to, an applicable statute or applicable regulation, standard, or order of the Industrial Welfare Commission, the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board, or the Division of Occupational Safety and Health, the employer shall pay the employee one additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that the meal or rest or recovery period is not provided.
- 73. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that he and Class Members from time to time worked in an outdoor place of employment and were therefore entitled to take recovery periods as provided by California law. PLAINTIFF is further informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that DEFENDANTS failed to allow PLAINTIFF and the Class Members to take recovery periods as required by California law and never paid PLAINTIFF or any of the other affected Class Members an additional one (1)-hour's wage for each recovery period that was not provided as stated above.
- 74. Accordingly, DEFENDANTS violated California Labor Code section 226.7 and section 3395 of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations by failing to allow their outdoor employees the opportunity to take a recovery period to prevent heat illness. DEFENDANTS are liable for one hour of additional wages at each of the affected Class Members' regular rate of compensation for each workday for which a rest or recovery period was not lawfully provided.
- 75. As a result of the unlawful acts of DEFENDANTS, PLAINTIFF and Class Members have been deprived of additional wages in amounts to be proven at trial and are entitled to recover such amounts, plus interest and penalties thereon, attorneys' fees, and costs of suit, in addition to any other relief requested below.

### **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

### FAILURE TO FURNISH ITEMIZED STATEMENTS OF WAGES

## (PLAINTIFF, Individually and on Behalf of the Class Members, Against DEFENDANTS and DOES 1 through 50)

76. The allegations of paragraphs 1 through 75, inclusive, are re-alleged and incorporated herein by this reference.

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- 77. DEFENDANTS are required to maintain accurate records of, among other things, gross wages, total hours worked, all deductions, net wages earned, and all applicable hourly rates and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate for each pay period for PLAINTIFF and each of the Class Members.
- 78. DEFENDANTS were required to furnish such records to PLAINTIFF and Class Members semi-monthly or at the time of payment of wages and to properly itemize the paycheck as required by the California Labor Code, Industrial Welfare Commission Order, and the California Code of Regulations, including, but not limited to, California Labor Code section 226.
- 79. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that DEFENDANTS failed to accurately maintain and furnish records of the wages earned by PLAINTIFF and Class Members.
- 80. As a direct and proximate result of DEFENDANTS' failure to issue accurate, itemized wages statements to PLAINTIFF and Class Members, PLAINTIFF and Class Members suffered damage.
- 81. PLAINTIFF and Class Members are, therefore, entitled to penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 226 along with interest on those penalties and attorneys' fees, as required by Labor Code section 226, in addition to the relief requested below.

### SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

## FAILURE TO TIMELY PAY WAGES DUE AT TERMINATION IN VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE §§ 201, 202, & 203

## (PLAINTIFF, On Behalf of the Class Members, Against DEFENDANTS and DOES 1 through 50)

- 82. The allegations of paragraphs 1 through 81, inclusive, are re-alleged and incorporated herein by this reference.
- 83. California Labor Code section 201 provides, in pertinent part: "If an employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately . . ." Cal. Lab. Code § 201.
  - 84. California Labor Code section 202 provides, in pertinent part, as follows:

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

If an employee not having a written contract for a definite period quits his or her employment, his or her wages shall become due

85. California Labor Code section 203 provides, in pertinent part, as follows:

If an employer willfully fails to pay, without abatement or reduction, in accordance with Sections 201, 201.5, 202, and 205.5, any wages of an employee who is discharged or quit, the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or until an action therefore is commenced; but the wages shall not continue for more than 30 days. An employee who secretes or absents himself or herself to avoid payment to him or her, or who refuses to receive the payment when fully tendered to him or her, including any penalty then accrued under this section, is not entitled to any benefit under this section for the time during which he or she so avoids payment. Suit may be filed for these penalties at any time before the expiration of the statue of limitations on an action for the wages from which the penalties arises.

86. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that Class Members were terminated or have voluntarily left DEFENDANTS' employ, and PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that they have not received compensation for all wages earned, including, but not limited to, minimum wages, regular, overtime, and double time wages, owed in accordance with the provisions of California Labor Code sections 201, 202, and 203.

- 87. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that this failure by DEFENDANTS to pay was willful and intentional.
- 88. In addition, PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that since Class Members' termination from employment with DEFENDANTS, DEFENDANTS continually, failed to pay the minimum wage compensation that is due and owing, thereby

entitling the Class Members to waiting time penalties for the unpaid wages owed pursuant to California Labor Code sections 201, 202, and 203.

- 89. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Class Members did not secret or absent themselves from DEFENDANTS nor did they refuse to accept the earned and unpaid wages from DEFENDANTS. Accordingly, DEFENDANTS are liable for waiting time penalties for the unpaid wages pursuant to California Labor Code sections 201, 202, and 203.
- 90. In addition, PLAINTIFF, on behalf of the Class Members, has incurred, and will continue to incur, legal expenses, including attorneys' fees and costs. PLAINTIFF, on behalf of the Class Members, is presently unaware of the precise amount of these fees and expenses and prays for leave of this Court to amend the Complaint when the amounts are fully known. PLAINTIFF and Class Members are entitled to recover attorneys' fees, expenses, and costs according to proof.

### **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

### VIOLATION OF UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW

### (BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE §17200, ET SEQ.)

## (PLAINTIFF, Individually and on Behalf of the Class Members, Against DEFENDANTS and DOES 1 through 50)

- 91. The allegations of paragraphs 1 through 90, inclusive, are re-alleged and incorporated herein by this reference.
- 92. DEFENDANTS have engaged and continues to engage in unfair business practices in California by practicing, employing, and utilizing the employment policy of failing to pay PLAINTIFF and Class Members employment compensation as required by the California law cited herein above and by violating applicable provisions of the California Labor Code, including, but not limited to, California Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 226, 226.7, 510, 512, 1174, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 2810.5, certain provisions of the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order 7 and/or any other applicable Wage Order, and certain provisions of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations, as alleged herein. DEFENDANTS' utilization of such illegal

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and unfair business practices constitutes unfair competition and provides DEFENDANTS' with an unfair advantage over DEFENDANTS' competitors.

- 93. PLAINTIFF seeks on his own behalf, on behalf of those similarly situated, and on behalf of the general public full restitution and disgorgement of all employment compensation wrongfully withheld, as necessary and according to proof, to restore any and all monies withheld, acquired, and/or converted by the DEFENDANTS by means of the unfair and unlawful practices complained of herein. The restitution and disgorgement requested includes all wages earned and unpaid, including interest thereon. The acts complained of herein occurred, at least in part, within the last four (4) years preceding the filing of the Complaint in this action and continue to the present.
- 94. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that at all times herein mentioned DEFENDANTS has engaged in unlawful and unfair business practices as proscribed by California Business and Professions Code 17200 *et seq.* by depriving PLAINTIFF and Class Members of the minimum working conditions and standards due to them under the California Labor Code, Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, and Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations, as identified herein.
- 95. California Business and Professions Code 17200 *et seq.* prohibits acts of unfair competition, which mean and include any unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business act or practice. Under California law, wages unlawfully withheld from an employee constitutes an unfair business act, entitling PLAINTIFF and Class Members to a restitution remedy authorized by California Business and Professions Code section 17203. PLAINTIFF and Class Members and the general public are, therefore, entitled to the relief requested below.
- 96. In addition, PLAINTIFF has incurred, on behalf of himself, and on behalf of the Class Members, and will continue to incur, legal expenses and attorneys' fees. PLAINTIFF, on behalf of himself, and on behalf of the Class Members, is presently unaware of the precise amount of these fees and expenses and prays for leave of this Court to amend the Complaint when the amounts are fully known. Pursuant to California Labor Code sections 1194 and

California Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5, PLAINTIFF and Class Members are entitled to recover attorneys' fees, expenses, and costs according to proof.

### NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION

## FAILURE TO PAY OVERTIME IN VIOLATION OF 29 U.S.C. § 207

## (PLAINTIFF, Individually and on Behalf of the FLSA Class, Against DEFENDANTS and DOES 1 through 50)

- 97. 102. The allegations of paragraphs 1 through 96, inclusive, are re-alleged and incorporated herein by this reference.
  - 98. 29 U.S.C. section 207(a)(1) provides, in pertinent part:

Except as otherwise provided in this section, no employer shall employ any of his employees who in any workweek is engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, or is employed in an enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, for a workweek longer than forty hours unless such employee receives compensation for his employment in excess of the hours above specified at a rate not less than one and one-half times the regular rate at which he is employed.

- 99. PLAINTIFF alleges, on information and belief, the he and the other FLSA Class Members are and/or were engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, or in an enterprise engaged in commerce for purposes of 29 U.S.C. section 207(a)(1), such that they were entitled to overtime pay for a workweek longer than forty hours at a rate not less than one and one-half times the regular rate at which they are/were employed.
- 100. Specifically, DEFENDANTS failed to properly calculate the regular rate of pay of PLAINTIFF and other FLSA Class Members by failing to include all items of remuneration in the calculation of their regular rate of pay, including but not limited to non-discretionary bonuses, and therefore failed to pay PLAINTIFF and other FLSA Class Members with all overtime wages to which they were entitled under 29 U.S.C. section 207(a)(1).
- 101. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes and thereon alleges that DEFENDANT intentionally, willfully, and improperly failed to pay overtime wages to FLSA Class Members in violation of the FLSA.

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1	PLAINTIFF, on behalf of himself and all similarly situated Class Members, hereby
2	demands trial by jury of Causes of Action One through Nine to the extent authorized by law.
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4	Dated: April 1, 2015 SUTTON HAGUE LAW CORPORATION, P.C. A California Professional Corporation
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8	By: JARED HAGUE
9	Attorneys for Plaintiff TERRY T. SNIPES, SR.
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