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10 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
 11 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
 12 **SAN JOSE DIVISION**

13 JOHN FLEMING, on behalf of himself and
 14 all others similarly situated,

15 Plaintiff,

16 v.

17 MATCO TOOLS CORPORATION, a
 18 Delaware corporation; NMTC, Inc. d/b/a
 19 MATCO TOOLS, a Delaware corporation;
 20 FORTIVE CORPORATION, a Delaware
 21 corporation; and DOES 1-20, inclusive,

22 Defendants.

Case No.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT:

- (1) Failure to Provide Reimbursement for Business Expenses
- (2) Failure to Pay California Overtime Compensation
- (3) Failure to Authorize and Provide Meal and Rest Periods
- (4) Related Labor Code Violations
- (5) UCL Violations

REPRESENTATIVE ACTION COMPLAINT FOR:

- (6) Civil Penalties Under Labor Code Private Attorney General Act

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

1 employees under California law.

2 6. By misclassifying Plaintiff and similarly situated Distributors as independent
3 contractors, Defendants have sought to avoid various duties and obligations owed to employees
4 under California's Labor Code and Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") wage orders,
5 including: the duty to indemnify employees for all expenses and losses necessarily incurred in
6 connection with their employment (Cal. Labor Code §2802; IWC Wage Order No. 7, §§ 8-9); the
7 duty to pay overtime compensation for hours worked in excess of eight hours in a day or forty
8 hours a week (Cal. Labor Code §§510, 1194; IWC Wage Order No. 7, § 3); the duty to provide
9 off-duty meal periods (Cal. Labor Code §§ 512, 226.7; IWC Wage Order No. 7, § 11); the duty
10 to authorize and permit paid rest periods (Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.7, 1194; IWC Wage Order No.
11 7, § 12); the duty to furnish accurate wage statements (Cal. Labor Code § 226 and IWC Wage
12 Order No. 7, § 7); the duty to pay an employees all wages owed upon termination (Cal. Labor
13 Code §§ 201-203); and unlawful collection and receipt of earned wages (Cal. Labor Code §§
14 221, 400-410; IWC Wage Order &, §§ 8-9).

15 7. Plaintiff challenges Defendants' policy of willfully and unlawfully misclassifying
16 their Distributors as "independent contractors" and thereby refusing to indemnify them for
17 employment-related expenses and losses, failing to pay them overtime compensation, wrongfully
18 collecting compensation from wages, coercing them to purchase necessary services and items,
19 failing to provide off-duty meal periods, failing to authorize and permit paid rest periods, and
20 failing to document actual hours worked on pay statements as required by California law.

21 8. The above-stated claims are brought pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of
22 Civil Procedure on behalf of a Class of Matco service and sales employees classified as
23 Distributors (referred to collectively as "Class Members" and "Distributors") employed at
24 Defendants' business during the period commencing four years prior to the filing of this action
25 (the "Class Period").

26 **THE PARTIES**

27 **A. Plaintiff**

28 9. Plaintiff John M. Fleming resides in Santa Cruz County in California. He

1 worked as a Distributor for Matco from July of 2012 through December of 2018. Plaintiff
2 Fleming entered into Matco's form Distributor Agreement, under which he served as a
3 Matco Distributor. Throughout his tenure as a Matco Distributor, Plaintiff Fleming has
4 worked a Matco sales and distribution route in Salinas Valley, California. Plaintiff Fleming
5 drove a Matco truck to carry out his duties for Defendants. In order to meet Matco's
6 demands for product sales, Plaintiff Fleming routinely worked from approximately 6:30 or
7 7:00 a.m. and returned home at around 6:30 or 7:00 p.m., five days a week (Monday to
8 Friday). About once month Plaintiff spent an additional 10 hours taking inventory on and
9 organizing his truck according to Matco's expectations. In late 2016, Plaintiff's route
10 decreased in size, and he began working from about 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 or 5:00 p.m., five days
11 a week. And in the last year on his route, Plaintiff worked from approximately 6:30 a.m. to
12 4:30 or 5:00 p.m., four days a week.

13 **B. Defendants**

14 10. Defendant Matco Tools Corporation is a Delaware corporation with its principal
15 place of business in Ohio.

16 11. Defendant Fortive Corporation is a Delaware corporation with its principal place
17 of business in Washington.

18 12. Defendant NMTC, Inc., d/b/a Matco Tools was a Delaware corporation with its
19 principal place of business in Ohio. NMTC, Inc., d/b/a Matco Tools was the predecessor to
20 Matco Tools Corporation. Upon information and belief, NMTC, Inc, d/b/a Matco Tools was the
21 entity that entered into Plaintiff and Class Members' Distributor Agreements until NMTC, Inc.,
22 d/b/a Matco Tools merged with Matco Tools Corporation and changed its name to Matco Tools
23 Corporation in June of 2016.

24 13. Matco Tools Corporation is a wholly owned subsidiary of Fortive Corporation,
25 which was spun-off from Matco's parent in 2016. Upon information and belief, Fortive
26 Corporation guarantees Matco Tools Corporation's obligations under the Distributor Agreement.

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28 //

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. Distributors Perform Work Within Matco’s Usual Course of Business And Are Not Engaged In An Independent Trade, Occupation, or Business.

14. Defendants manufacture and distribute tools, tool boxes, service equipment, and other goods that Matco offers in its sole discretion throughout the United States, including in California.

15. Defendants rely on Distributors to carry out Matco’s business by making weekly sales and service calls to existing and prospective Matco customers through mobile distributorship stores. Matco requires that Distributors work full-time (Matco Distributor Agreement (“DA”), ¶ 3.1), and caused Plaintiff and Class Members to work more than eight hours in a day and/or forty hours in a week.

16. Despite being labeled as “independent contractors,” Distributors are not permitted to have “any interest in any business which is the same or similar to a Matco mobile tool distributorship business” DA ¶ 11.9.1.

17. Distributors may “only sell Products and other merchandise approved by Matco” and are prohibited from “sell[ing] any products, tools, equipment or other merchandise which are competitive with” Matco’s Products. DA ¶ 3.2. Distributors are further prohibited from selling “any product not approved in advance by Matco.” *Id.*

18. Meanwhile, Matco retains the right to sell to the same customers that Distributors sell to through commercial sales representatives, mail, internet, and telephone orders, and through Matco affiliates. DA ¶ 1.4.

19. Matco has “established a Website for the entire system, and has offered Distributor a web page (or subpage) on Matco’s website.” DA ¶ 3.14. Before Distributors establish a website that “refers to the Distributorship, Marks, Matco, and/or the Business System,” they must obtain Matco’s prior written approval and submit a sample of the Website format and information to Matco. *Id.*

B. Defendants Require Distributors To Sign Standard Distributor Agreements That Give Defendants All Necessary Control Over The Manner And Means By Which Distributors Perform Their Work.

20. As a condition of performing work for Defendants, Plaintiff and Class Members

1 are required to sign a Matco “Distributorship Agreement.”

2 21. These Distributor Agreements require Plaintiff and Class Members to work in
3 accordance with Matco’s Business System and other standards and specifications, including
4 requirements for regular weekly customer sales calls, minimum inventory and sales levels,
5 communications and computer software usage and other operating requirements.

6 22. Under these Distributor Agreements, Plaintiff and Class Members are not free
7 from the control and direction of Matco in connection with the performance of their work, either
8 under the contract or in fact.

9 23. Defendants’ Distributor Agreements and related policy documents dictate in
10 exhaustive and minute detail how Plaintiff and Class Members should perform their work. For
11 example:

- 12 a. Upon entering into a Distributor Agreement, Distributors are provided with a
13 List of Calls. Distributors can only offer Matco products to those customers
14 and potential customers listed on their List of Calls. DA ¶¶ 1.2, 3.2.
- 15 b. Matco requires that Distributors personally operate the Mobile Store and
16 conduct daily operations of the Distributorship, unless Matco approves in
17 writing in advance the operator of the Mobile Store. DA ¶¶ 1.6, 3.12.
- 18 c. Matco details Distributor inventory levels, requiring that Distributors
19 “maintain a minimum inventory of Products equal to or in excess of the New
20 Distributor Starter Inventory.” DA ¶¶ 3.3. Matco also requires Distributors to
21 maintain weekly purchase/sales at 80% of national or district averages,
22 whichever is lower. *Id.*
- 23 d. Matco requires that Distributors make personal sales calls every week to each
24 of the stops, shops or locations on the Distributor’s List of Calls. It further
25 requires Distributors to attend at least 80% of the district sales meetings that
26 Matco schedules in or for Distributor’s district each year. DA ¶ 3.4.
- 27 e. Distributors must “comply with all of Matco’s standards and specifications for
28 computer hardware, software, and communications” and “use all of the

1 features of the Matco software,” which includes order entry, inventory,
2 accounts receivable and reporting features. DA ¶ 3.7. Distributors are further
3 required to complete all transactions “in strict compliance” with Matco’s
4 standards, specifications, and procedures. DA ¶ 3.16.

- 5 f. Before Distributors begin working, Matco retains the right to require
6 Distributors to successfully complete its classroom “Matco Business Systems
7 Training (MBST) Program.” DA ¶ 3.8. MBST training can include instruction
8 on basic business procedures, purchasing, selling and marketing techniques,
9 customer relations, basic computer operations, “and other business and
10 marketing topics selected by Matco.” Matco estimates that this training takes a
11 minimum of seventy hours. DA ¶ 4.1. If a Distributor has more than one
12 Matco Distributorship, the MBST must be “successfully completed by the
13 Operator who will operate the Distributorship.” DA ¶ 3.8. Matco further
14 retains the right to require Distributors to participate in “field training”
15 whereby a regional trainer or district manager assists and advises the
16 Distributor on how to perform his or her work for approximately eighty hours
17 over a six-week period. DA ¶ 4.2. Matco also retains the right to require
18 Distributors to attend “additional training and certification” after their MBST
19 training. *Id.*
- 20 g. Matco also retains the right to require Distributors to “submit to, and undergo
21 periodic or random drug and/or alcohol testing at a facility, clinic, hospital or
22 laboratory specified by Matco.” DA ¶ 3.15.
- 23 h. Matco requires Distributors to “operate the Distributorship in conformity with
24 the operating procedures and policies established in the Matco Confidential
25 Operating Manual (the “Manual”), or otherwise in writing.” DA ¶ 3.10.
- 26 i. Matco sets the prices at which Distributors “buy” Matco tools to sell to
27 Matco’s customers and retains the right to add, delete, and make changes to
28 the Products that it offers distributors without notice or liability to the

1 distributors. DA ¶ 6.1. Matco’s compensation system does not pay
2 Distributors time and a half or double time for days when they work more
3 than eight hours in a day or weeks when they work more than 40 hours in a
4 week.

5 j. Matco requires Distributors to comply with all discount programs, incentive
6 programs, coupon programs, or other product sales or marketing programs
7 that the company institutes. DA ¶ 6.2.

8 k. Matco monitors Distributors’ sales through inspection and review of
9 Distributors’ financial records. Matco requires that Distributors maintain their
10 “books, records and accounts” in “the form designated by Matco.” DA ¶ 5.2.
11 Matco further requires the Distributor to “submit to Matco, on a weekly basis,
12 such business reports as Matco may designate in writing.” *Id.*

13 **C. Defendants Dictate Distributors’ Appearance And Equipment.**

14 24. Matco requires that Distributors “purchase or lease a Mobile Store of the type and
15 from a dealer or supplier approved by Matco;” “use the name MATCO TOOLS, the approved
16 logo and all colors and graphics commonly associated with the Matco Business System on the
17 Mobile Store in accordance with Matco’s specifications;” “keep the interior and exterior of the
18 Mobile Store in a clean condition;” and “keep the Mobile Store in good mechanical condition.”
19 DA ¶ 3.6.

20 25. Distributors are prohibited from using the Mobile Store for work other than their
21 work for Matco. DA ¶ 3.6. Distributors must also permit Matco to inspect Distributor’s Mobile
22 Store “at any time during normal business hours” and must “immediately, upon written notice
23 from Matco, take the steps necessary to correct any deficiencies in the Distributor’s business
24 operations.” DA ¶ 3.13.

25 26. Matco further dictates Distributors’ appearance by requiring that they “wear
26 Matco-approved uniforms,” “maintain a professional appearance,” and “be clean and well-
27 groomed while making calls on Potential Customers.” DA ¶ 3.6.
28

D. Defendants Require Distributors To Pay Significant Expenses As A Result Of Their Work.

27. Defendants also require Class Members to make substantial payments in exchange for the ability to work for Defendants.

28. For example, Matco requires Distributors to pay approximately \$50,000 or more for the minimum tool and product inventory, \$799-\$899 for the initial software license fee, \$100-\$145 for the credit card processing software, \$195 for the webpage set-up fee, and \$99 for the document processing fee. Defendants require Distributors to continue purchasing and maintaining a tool inventory according to their requirements.

29. Matco also requires that Distributors purchase various forms of insurance, including comprehensive general liability insurance, vehicle liability insurance, and inland marine insurance. DA ¶ 5.3.

30. Matco requires that Distributors “purchase or lease a new (not previously owned or refurbished) computer system that complies with the specification established by Matco (and that Matco may update periodically).” DA ¶ 3.7. Matco also requires Distributors to sign its Matco Distributor Business System Software License, Maintenance and Support Agreement (Exhibit O)(“Software Agreement”), which is incorporated into the Distributor Agreement by reference. *Id.* Distributors must use “all of the features of the Matco software” in operating the Distributorship, including order entry, inventory, accounts receivable and reporting features. DA ¶ 3.7. The Software Agreement specifies that Distributors are to purchase a new laptop computer with a full 3-year warranty that meets “the exact current MDBS specifications without exception.” DA, Exhibit O, ¶ 4. The Software Agreement has a term of one year and is renewed and extended for successive one-year periods if the Distributor continues to pay the annual Systems and Maintenance and Support Charges and complies with the Agreement’s terms. Plaintiff entered into this agreement with Matco and extended the agreement every year through 2018 by complying with the agreement’s terms and paying the Systems and Support Charges, which amounted to approximately \$400-\$500 every year. If Plaintiff and Class Members did not annually renew the Software Agreement through paying the annual fee, or ceased using the Matco software in their work, they were subject to termination under the provisions of the

1 Distributor Agreement. DA ¶¶ 3.7, 11.3.

2 31. As described above, Plaintiffs and Class Members have incurred necessary,
3 employment-related expense, including the costs of providing the Matco-approved vehicle for
4 the Mobile Store, fuel, vehicle maintenance, uniforms, software, hardware, internet services,
5 insurance, and tools.

6 **E. The Distributor Agreement Vests Matco With The Right To Terminate Distributors**
7 **For Virtually Any Reason.**

8 32. Matco retains the right to terminate its relationship with Distributors at any time
9 for virtually any reason in Matco’s own business judgment, and as a practical matter constitutes
10 an agreement for at-will employment. For example, Matco may discharge Distributors for:

- 11 a. Violating any material term, provision, obligation, representation, or warranty
12 contained in the distributor agreement, or any other agreement entered into
13 with Matco. DA ¶ 11.3. This includes failing to make personal sales calls to
14 each stop, shop, or location on the List of Calls at least weekly and if failing to
15 attend at least 80% of the district sales meetings in any 12-month period. DA ¶
16 3.4;
- 17 b. Offering to sell any products to customers at locations not identified on the
18 distributors’ List of Calls without Matco’s express written authorization. DA ¶
19 11.5;
- 20 c. Failing to submit or undergo a drug and/or alcohol test if required by Matco, or
21 failing a drug and/or alcohol test required by Matco. DA ¶ 11.5;
- 22 d. Attempting to transfer the Distributorship without Matco’s consent. DA ¶ 11.3;
- 23 e. Failing to make any payment due to Matco. DA ¶ 11.3;
- 24 f. Refusing to perform a physical inventory or refusing to allow Matco to audit
25 the Distributors’ books and records. DA ¶ 11.3;
- 26 g. If Matco determines that the Distributor has conducted themselves in a way
27 that “materially impairs the goodwill associated with Matco, the Business
28 System, or the Marks.” DA ¶ 11.5.

- i. Whether Defendants have retained sufficient rights to control Class Members' work so as to render the Class Members employees under California law;
- ii. Whether Distributors are free from Defendants' control and direction in connection with the performance of their work, both under Defendants' contract and in fact;
- iii. Whether Distributors perform work that is outside the usual course of Defendants' business;
- iv. Whether Distributors are customarily engaged in an independently established trade, occupation, or business;
- v. Whether Class Members have incurred employment-related expenses and losses in carrying out their duties for Defendants;
- vi. Whether Defendants have failed to indemnify Class Members for their necessary employment-related expenses and losses in violation of California Labor Code § 2802 and IWC Wage Order No. 7;
- vii. Whether Defendants' collection and deduction of fees and requiring a cash bond violated California Labor Code §§ 221, 400-410 and IWC Wage Order No. 7;
- viii. Whether Defendants have unlawfully charged Class Members fees arising from their employment with Defendants in violation of California Labor Code § 226.8(a)(2);
- ix. Whether Defendants have knowingly and intentionally failed to provide Class Members with accurate and itemized wage statements pursuant to California Labor Code § 226 and IWC Wage Order No. 7;
- x. Whether Defendants have violated California Labor Code § 1174 and IWC Wage Order No. 7 by failing to maintain documentation of the actual hours that Class Members worked each day;

- 1 xi. Whether Defendants knew or should have known that Class Members
2 regularly worked over 40 hours per week and/or eight hours per day;
- 3 xii. Whether Defendants failed to pay Class Members overtime wages for
4 time worked in excess of 40 hours per week or eight hours per day;
- 5 xiii. Whether Defendants failed to provide Class Members with adequate
6 off-duty meal periods and compensation for missed meal periods in
7 violation of California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512 and IWC Wage
8 Order No. 7;
- 9 xiv. Whether Defendants have failed to provide Class Members with
10 adequate rest periods, separately compensated Class Members for rest
11 periods, and compensated Class Members for missed rest periods in
12 violation of California Labor Code §§ 226.7, 1194 and IWC Wage
13 Order No. 7;
- 14 xv. Whether Defendants had a policy or practice of not paying meal and
15 rest period premiums when meal and rest periods were not provided;
- 16 xvi. Whether Defendants have violated California Labor Code §§ 201-203
17 by failing, upon termination, to timely pay Class Members wages that
18 were due for overtime and missed meal periods;
- 19 xvii. Whether Defendants' misclassification of Class Members was willful
20 and in violation of California Labor Code § 226.8;
- 21 xviii. Whether Defendants' failures to: (a) indemnify and reimburse Class
22 Members for necessary employment-related expenses; (b) pay Class
23 Members for all hours worked; (c) pay Class Members overtime
24 compensation; (d) provide Class Members with adequate off-duty
25 meal periods and meal period compensation; (e) provide Class
26 Members with rest periods, separately compensated Class Members
27 for rest periods, and provided compensation for missed rest periods; (f)
28 provide Class Members with accurate itemized wage statements; (g)

1 maintain documentation of the actual hours worked each day; and (h)
2 timely pay Class Members all wages that were due upon termination,
3 along with Defendants' collection and deduction of fees and expenses
4 from Class Members' compensation and their willful misclassification
5 of Class Members as independent contractors, and their charging fees
6 and/or making deductions from Plaintiff and Class Members'
7 compensation constitute unlawful, unfair, and/or fraudulent business
8 practices under Cal. Business & Professions Code §17200, *et seq.*

- 9 c. Typicality: Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class. Plaintiff
10 and Class Members sustained damages arising out of Defendants'
11 aforementioned common practice of misclassifying Distributors as
12 independent contractors. Plaintiff, like Class Members, was a Distributor who
13 was classified as an independent contractor under Defendants' form
14 Distributor Agreement.
- 15 d. Adequacy of Representation: Plaintiff is a member of the Class, does not have
16 any conflicts of interest with other Class Members, and will represent and
17 protect the interests of the Class Members. Plaintiff's counsel are competent
18 and experienced in litigating employment class actions.
- 19 e. Superiority: Class treatment will permit a large number of similarly situated
20 persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously,
21 efficiently, and without unnecessary duplication of effort and expense that
22 numerous individual claims would entail. Class treatment will also avoid the
23 risk of inconsistent or contradictory judgments.

24 **DAMAGES**

25 36. As a direct, foreseeable, and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff
26 and similarly situated Class Members are owed un-reimbursed necessary employment-related
27 expenses, restitution of fees collected from compensation, overtime compensation, meal and rest
28 period compensation, restitution of fees paid to Defendants as a condition of employment,

1 liquidated damages, interest, waiting time penalties, and available statutory penalties and
2 damages, the precise amounts of which will be proven at trial.

3 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**
4 **REIMBURSEMENT FOR BUSINESS EXPENSES**
5 **(CALIFORNIA LABOR CODE § 2802)**
6 **(ON BEHALF OF PLAINTIFF AND CLASS MEMBERS)**

7 37. The allegations of each of the preceding paragraphs are re-alleged and
8 incorporated herein by reference, and Plaintiff alleges as follows a claim of relief on behalf of
9 himself and all Class Members.

10 38. While discharging their duties for Defendants, Plaintiff and Class Members have
11 incurred and paid work-related expenses. Such expenses include, but are not limited to, the
12 leasing or purchase of vehicles; fuel, maintenance, and other vehicle operating costs; uniforms;
13 software; hardware; and insurance.

14 39. In addition, Plaintiff and Class Members were required to purchase Defendants'
15 tools and equipment in order to resell them to customers.

16 40. Defendants failed to indemnify or reimburse Plaintiff and Class Members for
17 these expenses and losses. In failing to indemnify or reimburse Plaintiff and Class Members for
18 necessary expenditures or losses that were incurred as a direct consequence of their discharge of
19 duties for Defendants and/or obedience of Defendants' direction, Defendants violated California
20 Labor Code § 2802.

21 41. Defendants' actions were willful, in bad faith, and in knowing violation of the
22 California Labor Code.

23 42. By unlawfully failing to reimburse Plaintiff and Class Members for necessary
24 expenditures or losses, Defendants have caused Plaintiff and Class Members to suffer losses in
25 an amount to be determined at trial. Plaintiff and Class Members are also entitled to recover
26 reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

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SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

**FAILURE TO PAY CALIFORNIA OVERTIME COMPENSATION
(CALIFORNIA LABOR CODE §§ 510, 1194, IWC WAGE ORDER NO. 7)
(ON BEHALF OF PLAINTIFF AND CLASS MEMBERS)**

43. The allegations of each of the preceding paragraphs are re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference, and Plaintiff alleges as follows a claim of relief on behalf of himself and all Class Members.

44. During the Class Period, Plaintiff and the Class Members worked on many occasions in excess of eight hours in a workday and/or 40 hours in a work week without being paid overtime compensation in violation of California Labor Code §§ 510, 1194 and IWC Wage Order No. 7, § 3, which require overtime compensation for non-exempt employees. The precise number of overtime hours will be proven at trial.

45. Defendants' actions were willful, in bad faith, and in knowing violation of the California Labor Code.

46. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful conduct as set forth herein, Plaintiff and Class Members have sustained damages, including loss of earnings for hours of overtime work, in an amount to be determined at trial. Pursuant to California Labor Code § 1194(a), Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to recover their unpaid overtime and double time compensation, including interest thereon. Plaintiff and Class Members are also entitled to recover reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

**UNLAWFUL COLLECTION AND RECEIPT OF EARNED WAGES
(CALIFORNIA LABOR CODE §§ 221, 400-410, IWC WAGE ORDER 7)
(ON BEHALF OF PLAINTIFF AND CLASS MEMBERS)**

47. The allegations of each of the preceding paragraphs are re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference, and Plaintiff alleges as follows a claim of relief on behalf of himself and all Class Members.

48. California Labor Code § 221 makes it unlawful for an employer to collect or receive from an employee any part of wages paid to the employee.

49. Labor Code §§ 400-410 ("Employee Bond Law") provide the limited

1 circumstances under which an employer can exact a cash bond from its employees. These
2 provisions are designed to protect employees against the very real danger of an employer taking
3 or misappropriating employee funds held by the employer in trust.

4 50. IWC Wage Order No. 7, § 8 provides that the only circumstance under which an
5 employer can make a deduction from an employee's wage due to cash shortage, breakage, or loss
6 of equipment is if the employer can show that the shortage, breakage, or loss was the result of the
7 employee's gross negligence or dishonest or willful act.

8 51. IWC Wage Order No. 7, § 9 states that "When uniforms are required by the
9 employer to be worn by the employee as a condition of employment, such uniforms shall be
10 provided and maintained by the employer."

11 52. These and related statutes, along with California's fundamental public policy
12 protecting wages and wage scales, prohibit employers from subjecting employees to
13 unanticipated or unpredicted reductions in their wages; making employees the insurers of their
14 employer's business losses; otherwise passing the ordinary business losses of the employer onto
15 the employee; taking deductions from wages for business losses unless the employer can
16 establish that the loss was caused by a dishonest or willful act, or gross negligence of the
17 employee; or taking other unpredictable deductions that may impose a special hardship on
18 employees.

19 53. Defendants' policy and practice of collecting uniform fees, software fees,
20 computer expenses, upfront costs for tools, and other expenses from Plaintiff and Class
21 Members' compensation violates the above-referenced sections of the California Labor Code.

22 54. As a result, a result, Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to a return of the
23 monies paid as well as interest that has accrued, reasonable attorneys' fees, and costs.

24 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
25 **FAILURE TO PROVIDE MEAL PERIODS**
26 **(CALIFORNIA LABOR CODE §§ 226.7, 512, IWC WAGE ORDER NO. 7)**
(ON BEHALF OF PLAINTIFF AND CLASS MEMBERS)

27 55. The allegations of each of the preceding paragraphs are re-alleged and
28 incorporated herein by reference, and Plaintiff alleges as follows a claim of relief on behalf of

1 himself and all Class Members.

2 56. California Labor Code § 226.7 states in part, “An employer shall not require an
3 employee to work during a meal or rest or recovery period mandated pursuant to an applicable
4 statute, or applicable regulation, standard, or order of the Industrial Welfare Commission.”

5 57. California Labor Code § 512 states in part, “An employer may not employ an
6 employee for a work period of more than five hours per day without providing the employee
7 with a meal period of not less than 30 minutes,” and “[a]n employer may not employ an
8 employee for a work period of more than 10 hours per day without providing the employee with
9 a second meal period of not less than 30 minutes.”

10 58. IWC Wage Order No. 7, § 11 provides in part that “[n]o employer shall employ
11 any person for a work period of more than five (5) hours without a meal period of not less than
12 30 minutes,” and “[a]n employer may not employ an employee for a work period of more than
13 ten (10) hours per day without providing the employee with a second meal period of not less than
14 30 minutes.”

15 59. If an employer fails to provide an employee with a meal period in accordance
16 with these provisions, the employer shall pay the employee one additional hour of pay at the
17 employee’s regular rate of compensation for each workday that the meal period is not provided.

18 60. Defendants have not promulgated a policy for the provision of meal breaks to
19 Plaintiff and Class Members.

20 61. Plaintiff and Class Members have regularly worked in excess of five hours a day
21 without being provided at least a half-hour meal period in which they were relieved of all duties,
22 as required by California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512 and IWC Wage Order No. 7, § 11.

23 62. By failing to provide Plaintiff and Class Members an uninterrupted, thirty-minute
24 meal period within the first five hours of work each day, Defendants have violated the California
25 Labor Code and applicable IWC Wage Order provisions.

26 63. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that Defendants have
27 never paid the one hour of compensation as a premium payment to any Class Member pursuant
28 to California Labor Code § 226.7 for not providing proper meal periods.

1 amount of \$4,000.

2 78. In addition, upon information and belief, and in violation of IWC Wage Order No.
3 7, Defendants have failed to keep the required payroll records showing the actual hours worked
4 each day by Plaintiff and Class Members. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants'
5 actions, Plaintiff and Class Members have suffered economic harm as they have been precluded
6 from accurately monitoring the number of hours worked and thus seeking all accrued overtime
7 pay.

8 79. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful conduct as set forth
9 herein, Plaintiff and Class Members have been injured by not receiving the information required
10 by California Labor Code § 226(a), not being paid their overtime hours, not having records
11 showing their total hours worked, not being able to ascertain from their wage statements whether
12 or how they have been lawfully compensated for all hours worked, among other things, in an
13 amount to be determined at trial.

14 80. Plaintiff and Class Members may recover damages and penalties provided for
15 under California Labor Code § 226(e), plus interest thereon, reasonable attorneys' fees, and
16 costs.

17 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
18 **WAITING TIME PENALTIES**
19 **(CALIFORNIA LABOR CODE §§ 201, 202, 203)**
20 **(ON BEHALF OF PLAINTIFF AND CLASS MEMBERS)**

21 81. The allegations of each of the preceding paragraphs are re-alleged and
22 incorporated herein by reference, and Plaintiff alleges as follows a claim of relief on behalf of
23 himself and all Class Members.

24 82. California Labor Code § 201 states that an employer is required to provide an
25 employee who is terminated all accrued wages and compensation at the time of termination.

26 83. California Labor Code § 202 states that an employer is required to provide an
27 employee who resigns all unpaid wages within 72 hours of their resignation, or upon resignation
28 if the employee has provided at least 72 hours' notice.

84. California Labor Code § 203 states that if an employer willfully fails to pay

1 compensation promptly upon discharge, as required by § 201 and § 202, then the employer is
2 liable for waiting time penalties equivalent to the employee’s daily wage, for a maximum of 30
3 days.

4 85. Plaintiff and numerous Class Members who were employed by Defendants during
5 the Class Period resigned or were terminated. Upon resignation or termination, they were not
6 paid all wages due within the statutory time period. Defendants willfully failed and refused to
7 pay timely compensation and wages for, among other things, unpaid overtime, unpaid meal and
8 rest periods, and unlawful fees.

9 86. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants’ willful conduct in failing to pay
10 Plaintiff and former Class Members for all hours worked, Plaintiff and affected members of the
11 Class are entitled to recover “waiting time” penalties of up to thirty (30) days’ wages pursuant to
12 § 203, with interest thereon, and reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs.

13 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
14 **VIOLATIONS OF THE UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW (UCL)**
15 **(CALIFORNIA BUSINESS & PROFESSIONS CODE §§ 17200-09)**
16 **(ON BEHALF OF PLAINTIFF AND CLASS MEMBERS)**

17 87. The allegations of each of the preceding paragraphs are re-alleged and
18 incorporated herein by reference, and Plaintiff alleges as follows a claim of relief on behalf of
19 himself and all Class Members.

20 88. California Business & Professions Code § 17200, et seq. (“UCL”) prohibits
21 “unfair competition” in the form of any unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business act or practice.

22 89. Beginning at an exact date unknown to Plaintiff but within four years preceding
23 the filing of this action, Defendants have engaged in unfair competition as defined by the UCL
24 by, and as further described above: (1) failing to indemnify Plaintiff and similarly situated Class
25 Members for employment-related business expenses and losses in violation of Labor Code §
26 2802 & and IWC Wage Order No. 7; (2) failing and refusing to provide meal and rest periods to
27 Plaintiff and similarly situated Class Members in violation of California Labor Code §§ 226.7
28 and 512 and IWC Wage Order No. 7, and failing to separately compensate Plaintiff and Class
Members for rest periods in violation of California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 1194 and IWC

1 Wage Order No. 7; (3) failing to provide complete and accurate itemized wage statements in
2 violation of California Labor Code §§ 226 & 1174 and IWC Wage Order No. 7; (4) failing to
3 pay overtime compensation to Plaintiff and similarly situated Class Members in violation of
4 California Labor Code §§ 510, 1194 *et seq.*, and IWC Wage Order No. 7, § 3; (5) failing to pay
5 Plaintiff and similarly situated former Class Members all due and unpaid wages upon
6 termination in violation of California Labor Code §§ 201–03; (6) willfully and unlawfully
7 misclassifying Plaintiff and similarly situated Class Members as independent contractors in
8 violation of California Labor Code § 226.8 & and IWC Wage Order No. 7; (7) charging Plaintiff
9 and Class Members and/or making deductions from compensation for goods, materials, services,
10 and equipment maintenance arising from their employment in violation of Labor Code § 226.8;
11 (8) unlawfully collecting or receiving wages from Plaintiff and Class Members and requiring that
12 Plaintiff and Class Members put up a cash bond as an investment in Defendants’ business in
13 violation of Labor Code §§ 221, 400-410 and IWC Wage Order No. 7; (9) compelling or
14 coercing Plaintiff and Class Members to patronize Defendants in the purchase of a thing of value
15 in violation of Labor Code § 450, including tools, computer software and hardware, and other
16 items.

17 90. Defendants’ knowing failure to adopt policies in accordance with and/or to adhere
18 to these laws, all of which are binding upon and burdensome to its competitors, engenders an
19 unfair competitive advantage to Defendants thereby constituting an unfair business practice
20 under California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200-17208.

21 91. Plaintiff and similarly-situated Class Members have suffered injury in fact and
22 have lost money as a direct and proximate result of Defendants’ unfair competition, including,
23 but not limited to, money due to them as overtime compensation, necessary expenditures or
24 losses, unlawful fees arising from their employment, compensation for missed meal and rest
25 periods, and waiting time penalties, which money has been acquired by Defendants by means of
26 their unfair competition within the meaning of the UCL.

27 92. Pursuant to California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200 *et seq.*, Plaintiff
28 and Class Members are entitled to (i) restitution of all fees, wages, and compensation alleged

1 herein that Defendants collected, withheld, and retained during the period commencing four
2 years preceding the filing of this action, (ii) an award of reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to
3 Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 1021.5 and other applicable law, and (iii) costs. All remedies are
4 cumulative pursuant to California Business & Professions Code § 17205.

5 **NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
6 **CIVIL PENALTIES UNDER LABOR CODE PRIVATE ATTORNEY GENERAL ACT**
7 **(CALIFORNIA LABOR CODE §2698 ET SEQ.)**
8 **(REPRESENTATIVE ACTION)**

9 93. The allegations of each of the preceding paragraphs are re-alleged and
10 incorporated herein by reference, and Plaintiff alleges as follows a claim of relief on behalf of
11 himself and all aggrieved employees.

12 94. Plaintiff, as an aggrieved employee, brings this claim under California Labor
13 Code §§ 2698-2699 in a representative capacity on behalf of current and former Distributors of
14 Defendants subjected to the unlawful wage and hour practices alleged herein.

15 95. The California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA"),
16 California Labor Code § 2698 *et seq.*, grants California employees the right to bring a civil
17 action for the violation of any provision of the Labor Code on behalf of themselves and other
18 current or former employees in order to recover civil penalties. PAGA is intended to assist in the
19 achievement of maximum compliance with state labor laws by empowering aggrieved
20 employees to act as private attorneys general in order to recover civil penalties for Labor Code
21 violations that would otherwise be prosecuted by the state. *See Arias v. Super. Ct.* (2009) 46 Cal.
22 4th 969, 980.

23 96. PAGA permits an aggrieved employee to collect the civil penalty authorized by
24 law and normally collectible by the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency. To
25 address violations for which no penalty has been established, § 2699(f) creates a private right of
26 action for aggrieved employees and a default penalty in the amount of \$100 for each aggrieved
27 employee per pay period for the initial violation, and \$200 for each aggrieved employee per pay
28 period for each subsequent violation. *See Cal. Lab. Code § 2699(f).*

97. Plaintiff hereby seeks to collect these civil penalties for the above-described

1 Labor Code violations, including:

- 2 a. Under California Labor Code § 2699(f)(2), a civil penalty of one hundred
3 dollars (\$100) for Plaintiff and each aggrieved employee per pay period for
4 the initial violation of Labor Code § 2802, for failure to indemnify employees
5 for business expenses as alleged in Plaintiff's First Cause of Action, and two
6 hundred dollars (\$200) for Plaintiff and each aggrieved employee per pay
7 period for each subsequent violation of Labor Code § 2802.
- 8 b. Under California Labor Code § 558, a civil penalty of fifty dollars (\$50) for
9 Plaintiff and each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial violation
10 of Labor Code § 510 for Defendants' failure to pay overtime premiums as
11 alleged in Plaintiff's Second Cause of Action, and one hundred dollars (\$100)
12 for Plaintiff and each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent
13 violation of Labor Code § 510.
- 14 c. Under California Labor Code § 2699(f)(2), a civil penalty of one hundred
15 dollars (\$100) for Plaintiff and each aggrieved employee per pay period for
16 the initial violation of Labor Code § 221, for withholding or collecting wages
17 from employees as alleged in Plaintiff's Third Cause of Action, and two
18 hundred dollars (\$200) for Plaintiff and each aggrieved employee per pay
19 period for each subsequent violation of Labor Code § 221.
- 20 d. Under California Labor Code § 2699(f)(2), a civil penalty of one hundred
21 dollars (\$100) for Plaintiff and each aggrieved employee per pay period for
22 the initial violation of Labor Code § 226.7 for failing to provide meal periods
23 as alleged in Plaintiff's Fourth Cause of Action, and two hundred dollars
24 (\$200) for Plaintiff and each aggrieved employee per pay period for each
25 subsequent violation of Labor Code § 226.7 for failing to provide meal
26 periods.
- 27 e. Under California Labor Code § 2699(f)(2), a civil penalty of one hundred
28 dollars (\$100) for Plaintiff and each aggrieved employee per pay period for

1 the initial violation of Labor Code § 226.7 for failing to provide rest periods
2 as alleged in Plaintiff's Fifth Causes of Action, and two hundred dollars
3 (\$200) for Plaintiff and each aggrieved employee per pay period for each
4 subsequent violation of Labor Code § 226.7 for failing to provide rest periods.

5 f. Under California Labor Code § 226.3, which provides for civil penalties for
6 violations of California Labor Code § 226(a), a civil penalty of two hundred
7 fifty dollars (\$250) for Plaintiff and each aggrieved employee for the first
8 violation, and one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for Plaintiff and each aggrieved
9 employee for each subsequent violation of Labor Code § 226(a) for failure to
10 provide timely, accurate, itemized wage statements, as described in Plaintiff's
11 Sixth Cause of Action.

12 g. Under California Labor Code § 2699(f)(2), a civil penalty of one hundred
13 dollars (\$100) for Plaintiff and each aggrieved employee per pay period for
14 the initial violation of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, and 203 for Defendants'
15 failure to pay earned wages upon discharge as alleged in Plaintiff's Seventh
16 Cause of Action, and two hundred dollars (\$200) for Plaintiff and each
17 aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation of Labor
18 Code §§ 201, 202, and 203.

19 h. Under California Labor Code § 226.8, a civil penalty of not less than five
20 thousand dollars (\$5,000) and not more than fifteen thousand dollars
21 (\$15,000) for each violation against Plaintiff and each aggrieved employee,
22 and if the court finds that Defendants have engaged in a pattern or practice of
23 violation of § 226.8(a), a civil penalty of not less than ten thousand dollars
24 (\$10,000) and not more than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for each
25 violation.

26 i. Under California Labor Code § 2699(f)(2), a civil penalty of one hundred
27 dollars (\$100) for Plaintiff and each aggrieved employee per pay period for
28 the initial violation of Labor Code § 432.5, for requiring Plaintiff and Class

1 Members to agree to terms and conditions known to Defendants to be
2 prohibited by law (including non-compete provisions), and two hundred
3 dollars (\$200) for Plaintiff and each aggrieved employee per pay period for
4 each subsequent violation of Labor Code § 432.5.

5 j. Under California Labor Code § 2699(f)(2), a civil penalty of one hundred
6 dollars (\$100) for Plaintiff and each aggrieved employee per pay period for
7 the initial violation of Labor Code § 450, for compelling or coercing Plaintiff
8 and Class Members to patronize Defendants in the purchase of a thing of
9 value, and two hundred dollars (\$200) for Plaintiff and each aggrieved
10 employee per pay period for each subsequent violation of Labor Code § 450.

11 98. Additionally, as a result of violations under California Labor Code § 226.8(a),
12 Plaintiff requests that the Court order Defendants to take certain steps to notify employees and
13 the general public of the determination that they have violated § 226.8, pursuant to § 226.8(e).

14 99. California Labor Code § 2699(g) further provides that any employee who prevails
15 in an action for civil penalties is entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.
16 Plaintiff hereby seeks to recover his attorneys' fees and costs under this fee and cost shifting
17 statute.

18 100. On November 6, 2018, pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699.3, Plaintiff sent
19 notice by certified mail to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) and
20 Defendants of the specific provisions of the Labor Code that have been violated, including the
21 facts and theories to support the violations. The LWDA received this notice on the same day,
22 November 6, 2018. The sixty-five-day time limit for the agency to respond has expired, such that
23 Plaintiff has exhausted his administrative remedies.

24 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

25 101. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and the above-described Class of
26 similarly situated Distributor Class Members, requests relief as follows:

27 a. Certification of the above-described Class as a class action, pursuant to Rule
28 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;

- 1 b. Appointment of Plaintiff as Class Representative;
- 2 c. Appointment of Plaintiff's Counsel as Class Counsel;
- 3 d. Provision of class notice to all Class Members;
- 4 e. A declaratory judgment that Defendants knowingly and intentionally violated
- 5 the following provisions of law, among others:
 - 6 i. California Labor Code § 2802 & IWC Wage Order No. 7, by failing to
 - 7 reimburse Plaintiff and Class Members for necessary expenditures or
 - 8 losses;
 - 9 ii. California Labor Code § 221 & IWC Wage Order No. 7, by unlawfully
 - 10 collecting and deducting wages from Plaintiff and Class Members;
 - 11 iii. California Labor Code §§ 226.7, 1194 and 512, and IWC Wage Order
 - 12 No. 7 for failing to provide off-duty meal and rest periods to Plaintiff
 - 13 and Class Members;
 - 14 iv. California Labor Code §§ 201-203, by willfully failing to pay all
 - 15 wages owed at the time of termination of employment;
 - 16 v. California Labor Code § 226(a) and 1174, by failing to provide
 - 17 itemized written statements semimonthly or at the time of payment of
 - 18 wages accurately showing all the information required by California
 - 19 law, including but not limited to total hours worked, and for failing to
 - 20 keep accurate payroll records;
 - 21 vi. California Labor Code §§ 510, 1194 et seq., 1197, and IWC Wage
 - 22 Order No. 7, by failing to pay overtime compensation to Plaintiff and
 - 23 Class Members;
 - 24 vii. California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200 et seq., by failing
 - 25 to pay unpaid overtime compensation due to Plaintiff and Class
 - 26 Members; by willfully failing to pay all compensation owed to
 - 27 Plaintiff and Class Members upon termination of employment; by
 - 28 willfully failing to provide legally compliant wage statements to

1 Plaintiff and Class Members; by requiring Plaintiff and Class
2 Members to work through their meal and rest periods without paying
3 them proper compensation; by failing to reimburse Plaintiff and Class
4 Members for necessary expenditures or losses; by willfully and
5 knowingly misclassifying Plaintiff and Class Members as independent
6 contractors for Defendants' financial gain under Labor Code Section
7 226.8; by charging Plaintiff and Class Members fees and/or making
8 deductions from compensation in violation of Labor Code Section
9 226.8; and by coercing Plaintiff and Class members to patronize
10 Defendants' business in the purchase of a thing of value in violation of
11 Labor Code § 450.

- 12 f. A declaratory judgment that Defendants have knowingly and intentionally
13 violated California Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 221, 226, 226.7, 510, 512, 2802,
14 226.8, 432.5, 1194, 400-410, and 450, all of which give rise to civil penalties
15 and other remedies under the PAGA;
- 16 g. A declaratory judgment that Defendants' violations as described above were
17 willful and/or knowing and intentional;
- 18 h. An equitable accounting to identify, locate, and restore to all current and
19 former Class Members the overtime wages due;
- 20 i. An award to Plaintiff and the Class Members of damages in the amount of
21 unpaid overtime compensation, necessary business expenses, unlawful
22 collection and deductions from wages, and meal and rest period
23 compensation, including interest thereon subject to proof at trial;
- 24 j. An award of penalties owed, pursuant to Labor Code § 203, to Plaintiff and all
25 Class Members who resigned or whose employment was terminated by
26 Defendants without receiving all overtime compensation owed at the time of
27 separation;
- 28

- 1 k. An order requiring Defendants to pay restitution of all amounts owed to
2 Plaintiff and similarly situated Class Members for Defendants' failure to pay
3 legally required overtime pay, meal and rest period pay, out-of-pocket
4 employment-related necessary expenditures or losses, unlawful fees, and
5 interest thereon, in an amount according to proof, pursuant to California
6 Business & Professions Code § 17203 and other applicable law;
- 7 l. An award to Plaintiff and the Class Members of damages and/or statutory
8 penalties as set forth in California Labor Code § 226(e);
- 9 m. An award to Plaintiff and the Class Members of premium wages for meal and
10 rest periods, according to proof;
- 11 n. An award to Plaintiff of PAGA civil penalties under Labor Code § 2699, et
12 seq., subject to proof;
- 13 o. An award to Plaintiff and the Class Members of reasonable attorneys' fees and
14 costs, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5, California
15 Labor Code §§ 226(e), 1194, 2802, 218.5, 2699(g) and/or other applicable
16 law;
- 17 p. An award to Plaintiff and the Class Members of such other and further relief
18 as this Court deems just and proper.

19 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

20 102. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, hereby demands a
21 trial of his claims by jury to the extent authorized by law.

22 Dated: January 25, 2019

RUKIN HYLAND & RIGGIN LLP

23
24 By: /s/ Valerie Brender

Valerie Brender

Peter Rukin

Jessica Riggin

Dylan Cowart

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS-CAND 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet. The JS-CAND 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved in its original form by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the Clerk of Court to initiate the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I. a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- b) County of Residence.** For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the “defendant” is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- c) Attorneys.** Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section “(see attachment).”
- II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a), which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an “X” in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
- (1) United States plaintiff. Jurisdiction based on 28 USC §§ 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.
 - (2) United States defendant. When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an “X” in this box.
 - (3) Federal question. This refers to suits under 28 USC § 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
 - (4) Diversity of citizenship. This refers to suits under 28 USC § 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS-CAND 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an “X” in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin.** Place an “X” in one of the six boxes.
- (1) Original Proceedings. Cases originating in the United States district courts.
 - (2) Removed from State Court. Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 USC § 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
 - (3) Remanded from Appellate Court. Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
 - (4) Reinstated or Reopened. Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
 - (5) Transferred from Another District. For cases transferred under Title 28 USC § 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
 - (6) Multidistrict Litigation Transfer. Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 USC § 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.
 - (8) Multidistrict Litigation Direct File. Check this box when a multidistrict litigation case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket. Please note that there is no Origin Code 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.
- VI. Cause of Action.** Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC § 553. Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service.
- VII. Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an “X” in this box if you are filing a class action under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23. Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction. Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases.** This section of the JS-CAND 44 is used to identify related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.
- IX. Divisional Assignment.** If the Nature of Suit is under Property Rights or Prisoner Petitions or the matter is a Securities Class Action, leave this section blank. For all other cases, identify the divisional venue according to Civil Local Rule 3-2: “the county in which a substantial part of the events or omissions which give rise to the claim occurred or in which a substantial part of the property that is the subject of the action is situated.”
- Date and Attorney Signature.** Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: [Former Matco Tools Distributor Files Worker Misclassification Lawsuit](#)
