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11	Attorneys for Plaintiff and proposed Collection	
12	UNITED STATES I	DISTRICT COURT
	CENTRAL DISTRIC	
13	WESTERN	DIVISION
14	RYAN GORDON, on behalf of	Case No. 2:17-CV-01802
	himself, and all others similarly situated,	COLLECTIVE ACTION
15	,	
	Plaintiff,	CLASS ACTION
16	v.	
		COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS OF FLSA AND STATE WAGE AND
17	MICHIGAN LOGISTICS, INC. d/b/a	HOUR LAWS
	DILIGENT DELIVERY SYSTEMS,	
18	CALIFORNIA LOGISTICS, INC.	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
10	d/b/a DILIGENT DELIVERY	DEMAND FOR SURT TRIAL
19	SYSTEMS, and INTERAMERICAN	
20	MOTOR CORPORATION,	
20	·	
21	Defendants.	
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COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS OF FLSA AND CALIFORNIA WAGE AND HOUR LAWS CASE NO. 2:17-CV-01802

1	Plaintiff Ryan Gordon (hereinafter "Plaintiff") alleges, on behalf of himself
2	and classes of those similarly situated, as follows:
3	JURISDICTION AND VENUE
4	1. This Court has federal question jurisdiction over this action pursuant to
5	28 U.S.C. § 1331 and section 16(b) of the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA"),
6	29 U.S.C. § 216(b).
7	2. Furthermore, this Court has federal question jurisdiction over
8	Plaintiff's declaratory judgment action brought pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2201.
9	Plaintiff's declaratory judgment action involves adjudication of federal issues,
10	because the arbitration agreement at issue seeks to impair, and has the practical
11	effect of impairing, Plaintiff's substantive and procedural rights under the FLSA.
12	3. This Court also has original jurisdiction over this action under the
13	Class Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d), because this is a class action in
14	which: (1) there are 100 or more members in the proposed class; (2) at least some
15	members of the proposed class have a different citizenship from Defendants; and
16	(3) the claims of the proposed class members exceed \$5,000,000 in the aggregate.
17	4. In addition, this Court has supplemental jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C.
18	§ 1367 over Plaintiff's state wage and hour law claims because those claims derive

CASE NO. 2:17-CV-01802

pursuant to

This Court is empowered to issue a declaratory judgment pursuant to

from a common nucleus of operative fact.

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28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202.

SUMMARY OF CLAIMS

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- 8. This lawsuit seeks to recover wages owed to Plaintiff and his similarly situated co-workers, who worked for Defendants in the State of California as delivery drivers, (collectively referred to as "Class Members" and/or "Drivers") under the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA"), 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq.; Cal. Wage Order No. 4-2001; Cal. Labor Code §§ 510, 1194; California Wage Payment Provisions, Cal. Labor Code §§ 201, 202, & 203; California Meal And Rest Period Provisions, Cal. Wage Order No. 4-2001; Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.7 & 512; California Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 et seq.; and the California Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, Cal. Lab. Code §§ 2698-2699.5.
- 9. Plaintiff performed work for Diligent by driving and delivering automobile parts throughout the State of California while classified by Diligent as

an independent contractor.

- 10. Diligent unlawfully classified Plaintiff and Class Members nationwide as independent contractors, despite the fact that they should have been classified as nonexempt employees.
- 11. Plaintiff satisfied all applicable legal tests for employment status. In addition, Diligent cannot bear their burden of showing that Plaintiff fits within one of the narrow exemptions to the FLSA or applicable state wage and hour law.

 Therefore, Plaintiff is entitled to overtime pay for all overtime hours worked, as well as additional remedies available under applicable law.
- 12. Diligent has willfully refused to pay Plaintiff the required overtime compensation for overtime hours worked, and has failed to keep legally required time records.
- 13. Diligent's practices violate the FLSA and the state laws pled herein. Plaintiff seeks declaratory relief; overtime compensation for all overtime work required, suffered, or permitted by Diligent; liquidated and/or other damages and penalties as permitted by applicable law; benefits recoverable under applicable law and interest; and attorneys' fees and costs. Plaintiff also seeks declaratory relief regarding the unconscionability and inapplicability of Diligent's arbitration agreement.

SUMMARY OF COLLECTIVE AND CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

14. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and all persons who

1	have worked for Diligent in any location covered by the FLSA ¹ as delivery drivers
2	(the "Class Position"), at any time within the three years prior to the filing of this
3	Complaint through the date of the final disposition of this action (the "Nationwide
4	FLSA Period"). This group is hereinafter referred to as the "Nationwide FLSA
5	Plaintiffs."
6	15. The proposed FLSA class includes: all current and former Drivers
7	who performed delivery services for Diligent nationwide and were or are classified
8	as independent contractors and/or not classified as employees at any time during the
9	three years prior to the filing of the Complaint.
10	16. Plaintiff Ryan Gordon ("the California Named Plaintiff") also brings
11	this action on behalf of all persons who have worked for Diligent in California in
12	the Class Position ("the California Class"), at any time within the four years prior to
13	the date of the filing of this Complaint through the date of the final disposition of
14	this action (the "California Class Period").
15	17. The California Class is hereinafter referred to as the "State Law
16	Class."
17	THE PARTIES
18	I. <u>Plaintiff</u>
19	A. <u>Ryan Gordon</u>
20	18. Plaintiff Ryan Gordon has worked for Diligent as a Driver from

¹ The FLSA covers work performed in the fifty states, Washington, D.C., Guam, and other locations. 29 U.S.C. § 213(f).

1	approximat	ely 2006 to Present.
2	19.	Specifically, he has worked for Diligent as a Driver during the
3	following ti	me periods:
4		a. From 2006 to 2013, he worked for Diligent out of various car
5		dealerships in California.
6	20.	Beginning in 2013 Mr. Gordon began working as a driver at various
7	IMC location	ons.
8	21.	Mr. Gordon worked for Diligent as a supervisor from mid-2014 to the
9	beginning o	of 2015 before being demoted to a Driver in the beginning of 2015.
10	22.	Mr. Gordon worked as a Driver for Diligent exclusively working out
11	of the IMC	Canoga Park location in Los Angeles County until November 2016.
12	23.	Mr. Gordon consents to sue for violations of the FLSA, pursuant to
13	29 U.S.C. §	§ 216(b) and 256. His consent to join form is attached to this
14	Complaint.	
15	II. <u>Defe</u>	ndants (collectively, "Diligent")
16	Α.	Michigan Logistics, Inc. ("MLI")
17	24.	Defendant Michigan Logistics, Inc. ("MLI") is a corporation
18	incorporate	d under the laws of Texas.
19	25.	MLI does business as Diligent Delivery Systems.
20	26.	MLI is headquartered at 333 N. Sam Houston Parkway East #1000,
21	Houston, To	exas 77060.

1	herein. 29 U	J.S.C. § 203(r) & (s).
2	36.	During the relevant time period, CAL, Inc. has operated and continues
3	to operate a	business principally consisting of logistic management, namely
4	furnishing I	Drivers for delivery companies in the State of California.
5	C.	Interamerican Motor Corporation ("IMC")
6	37.	IMC is a corporation incorporated under the laws of California.
7	38.	IMC is headquartered at 8901 Canoga Avenue, Canoga Park,
8	California 9	01304.
9	39.	At all material times, IMC has been an "employer" within the meaning
10	of the FLSA	A and California Law. 29 U.S.C. §203(d) and Cal. Lab. Code §1171.
11	40.	At all material times, IMC has been and remains an enterprise within
12	the meaning	g of the FLSA by virtue of business it conducts as described herein. 29
13	U.S.C. § 20	3(r) & (s).
14	41.	During the relevant time period, IMC has operated and continues to
15	operate a bu	usiness primarily consisting of retail sales and distribution of automobile
16	parts.	
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D. <u>Joint Employment Relationship</u>

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42. MLI, CAL Inc., and IMC formed a joint employment relationship with respect to Plaintiff and the Class Members in furtherance of their respective business purposes including, but not necessarily limited to delivery of auto parts to customers of IMC by work performed by Plaintiff and Class Members.

1	43.	Defendants constitute a unified operation
2	44.	Defendants constitute a common enterprise.
3	45.	Defendants have interrelated operations.
4	46.	Defendants have common management.
5	47.	Defendants have a centralized control of labor relations.
6	48.	Defendants have common ownership.
7	49.	Defendants MLI and CAL Inc. hire employees who are supervised by
8	IMC.	
9	50.	Defendant IMC directs the day to day work of the Drivers who are
10	hired by De	efendants.
11	51.	Defendants share employees.
12	52.	Defendants commingled funds with each other.
13	53.	Defendants MLI and CAL Inc. share the same physical addresses in
14	the State of	Texas.
15	54.	Defendants constitute a single employer.
16	55.	Defendants constitute an integrated enterprise.
17	56.	As described herein, at all material times, Defendants have jointly
18	provided di	rection to Plaintiff and Class Members and have jointly maintained
19	communica	ation with, and shared control of Plaintiff and Class Members with
20	regard to th	e assignment, method, manner and monitoring the progress of their
21	work and d	eliveries

- 63. Defendant CAL, Inc.'s annual gross volume of sales made or business done is not less than \$500,000 within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. \$203(s)(A)(ii).
- 64. Defendant IMC's annual gross volume of sales made or business done is not less than \$500,000 within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §203(s)(A)(ii).
- 65. At all times hereinafter mentioned, the activities of the Defendants constituted an "enterprise" within the meaning of Section 3(r) & (s) of the FLSA. 29 U.S.C. §203(r) & (s).
- 66. At all relevant times hereinafter mentioned, Defendants employed employees including Plaintiff herein, who regularly engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce or in handling, selling, or otherwise working on goods and materials which have moved in or been produced for commerce within the meaning of Section 3(b), (g), (i) and (j) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §203(b), (i), (j), (r) & (s)(A)(i).
- 67. At all relevant times, Defendants maintained control, oversight, and direction over Plaintiff and Class Members, including timekeeping, payroll and other employment practices that applied to them.
- 68. Defendants applied the same employment policies, practices, and procedures to throughout the State of California, including policies, practices, and procedures with respect to payment of overtime compensation.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

I.	Drivers'	Work
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A. Generally

- 69. Plaintiff and all Class Members were Drivers for Diligent.
- 70. Throughout the relevant period, all Drivers were consistently misclassified by Diligent as independent contractors.
- 71. Defendants MLI and CAL Inc. operate a business that's primary purpose is to partner with businesses as a transportation and logistics services provider. Specifically, they hire drivers for businesses. Defendant IMC operates a business that's primary purpose is sourcing and delivering automobile parts.

 Diligent offers an auto parts delivery service as a primary part of their business.
- 72. As Drivers, Plaintiff and Class Members performed services that are not outside the usual course of, but are in fact integral to, Diligent's business.
- 73. Diligent benefits greatly by misclassifying its Drivers as independent contractors. By treating its Drivers as independent contractors, Diligent operates a scheme to shift its business expenses to its employees. Diligent requires Drivers to pay for insurance, gas, repairs, and maintenance of their own vehicles in order to receive work from Defendants.
- 74. By treating Drivers as independent contractors instead of employees,
 Diligent has engaged and continues to engage in a scheme to avoid workers'
 compensation and unemployment payments, social security, other payroll taxes

owed by employers, and other benefits otherwise owed to employees. 1 By classifying its Driver workforce as independent contractors, 2 75. Diligent is able to obtain a significant competitive advantage over similar 3 companies that operate within the confines of the law by shifting a significant 4 5 portion of the cost of their business expenses to their employees. As a result, Diligent's practices drive down wages, stifle competition, and undercut fair labor 6 7 practices across the industry and in the economy generally. MLI d/b/a Diligent Delivery Services' website boasts: 8 9 Between monthly vehicle payments, continual maintenance costs, fuel prices, and the expense of workers' wages, maintaining your own delivery fleet puts a huge dent in your 10 profit margin. By outsourcing your recurring delivery needs, you can save as much as 32% of your transportation budget, 11 allowing you to divert the finances to improve your specialty services or products. 12 Defendant IMC operates a business enterprise consisting of ten auto 13 76. parts stores throughout the State of California. IMC shares its Drivers throughout 14 the California stores. IMC's Drivers were all hired by Defendants MLI and CAL, 15 Inc.; however, the Drivers day to day employment was and is controlled by 16 17 Defendant IMC, who required and continues to require the Drivers to report to 18 various IMC stores each workday in order to deliver necessary supplies. 19 Diligent controls Drivers' work and limits their freedom and discretion 77. 20 through various mechanisms, including (a) policies set forth in the Owner Operator

Agreement (e.g., the Diligent Owner Operator Agreement ("OOA" or

1	"Agreemen	nt")), ar	nd (b) close supervision by direct supervisors and other Diligent
2	managers.		
3	В.	Dilig	ent's Supervision And Control Over Drivers
4	78.	Dilig	ent closely supervises its Drivers. Diligent retains the right to
5	control and	l does c	ontrol nearly every aspect of its Drivers' work. Such control
6	includes, b	ut is no	t limited to, the following:
7		a.	Plaintiff and Class Members were required to report to a specific
8			IMC store by either 7:00 a.m. or 7:30 a.m. each work day on
9			Mondays through Fridays, at which time, IMC provided
10			Plaintiff and Class Members with their initial round of deliveries
11			that needed to be immediately completed;
12		b.	Plaintiff and Class Members were required to return to their
13			assigned IMC stores at approximately 5:00 p.m. on Mondays
14			through Fridays of each workweek and were not afforded meal
15			or rest breaks throughout the day;
16		c.	Plaintiff and Class Members were required to report to a specific
17			IMC store by either 8:00 a.m. or 8:30 a.m. each Saturday, and
18			were required to return to their assigned IMC stores at
19			approximately 2:00 p.m. and were not afforded meal or rest
20			breaks.
21		d.	Plaintiff and Class Members were not permitted to engage in

1		other employment during their regularly scheduled hours with
2		Diligent;
3	e.	IMC controlled the method, manner, and time that Plaintiff and
4		Class Members deliver automobile parts to IMC's customers
5		through a dispatcher that was located at each IMC store. Each
6		workday, IMC assigned to Plaintiff and the Class Members: the
7		number of stops that Plaintiff and Class Members make, the
8		number of locations parts must be delivered to, how many parts
9		must be delivered to each location, and the time of day each part
10		must be delivered;
11	f.	Plaintiff and Class Members did not negotiate regarding the
12		rates charged for their services;
13	g.	Plaintiff and Class Members were disciplined by all Defendants,
14		with termination recommendations typically originating with
15		Defendant IMC and executed by Defendants MLI and CAL Inc.;
16	h.	Plaintiff and Class Members' deliveries were monitored by
17		Diligent. Plaintiff and Class Members were required to be in
18		contact with IMC's dispatchers regarding the status of deliveries
19		throughout the day. For each delivery stop, Plaintiff and Class
20		Members were required to confirm with IMC that the delivery
21		was made. If Drivers encountered any problems with a delivery,

1		they were required to notify IMC; and
2		i. Plaintiff and Class Members were required to get signatures
3		from customers when deliveries were made.
4	C.	Diligent's Control Over Drivers' Schedules and Assignments
5	79.	All of the work performed by Class Members was assigned by Diligent
6	and/or Dilig	gent was aware of all the overtime work that Plaintiff and Class
7	Members po	erformed.
8	80.	Diligent determines delivery needs and provides the assignments to
9	Drivers. M	LI and CAL, Inc. assign their Drivers to a set schedule, while IMC
10	dispatchers	communicate with Drivers in order to issue specific delivery
11	instructions	that Plaintiff and Class Members are required to follow.
12	81.	Plaintiff and Class Members were told they could delegate their work
13	to other driv	vers, but any substitution was typically completed by Defendants upon
14	Defendants	Drivers requesting a day off.
15	82.	Plaintiff and Class Members could not engage in an independent
16	business giv	ven the full-time nature of their work for Diligent.
17	83.	Plaintiff and Class Members are dependent upon Diligent for their
18	work and ar	re unable to offer delivery services to other companies during their
19	workday.	
20	D.	Drivers' Standard Training And Testing
21	84.	Defendants did not provide Plaintiff and Class Members with any

training in order to complete their duties as drivers.

85. Defendants did not require Plaintiff and Class Members have any specific skills or take any independent initiative to perform their duties.

E. <u>Drivers' Hours</u>

- 86. Plaintiff and Class Members have been victims of Diligent's common policy and plan that has violated their rights under the FLSA and applicable state law by requiring Drivers to work in excess of 40 hours per week and denying them overtime compensation for all overtime worked.
- 87. At all times relevant, Diligent's unlawful policy and pattern or practice of denying its Drivers overtime compensation has been willful.

F. Pay Structure

- 88. Upon hiring, as set forth in Diligent's OOA, Drivers were paid a predetermined, fixed sum at a bimonthly rate.
- 89. Plaintiff and Class Members were not given an opportunity to negotiate the rates charged for their services.
- 90. Plaintiff and Class Members payment was subject to fees and deductions and payments were rarely made on schedule. For example, Plaintiff and Class Members were subject to a daily deduction for an "administrative fee" of \$3 per day as well as a uniform fee where Diligent deducted approximately \$12 from their pay stubs on multiple occasions to pay for T-shirts required as part of their uniform.

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Pay stubs would not reflect any time records of work or basis for 91. deductions. **Misclassification** II. 92. Diligent misclassified its Drivers as so-called "independent contractors." However, the Drivers should have been classified as nonexempt employees, as defined by the FLSA and applicable state law. **Independent Contractor Misclassification** A. Drivers should have been classified as employees, not independent 93. contractors. **Dependence.** As a matter of economic reality, the Drivers are 94. economically dependent on Diligent as opposed to being in business for themselves. Drivers are practically unable to promote themselves or their non-Diligent businesses while on assignment. Plaintiff and Class Members are not allowed and do not exercise independent judgment or discretion regarding their work for Diligent. All independent judgment and discretion is subsumed by adherence to Diligent's scheduling requirements and route micromanagement. 95. **Time period.** Drivers are engaged for lengthy periods of time – usually more than a year – under periodic contracts called OOAs. OOAs typically set forth a period of twelve months. OOAs are generally automatically extended

unless there is a performance or personnel problem that warrants a change in

renews Drivers' OOAs so fluidly that there is little disruption, if any, in their
employment period with Diligent. This arrangement typically results in a de facto
employment period of multiple years for Drivers.

- 96. **Control.** Diligent exercises significant control over Drivers' work. Drivers are required to report to and IMC location at a set time each day, and are required to adhere to a preplanned delivery schedule. Diligent required drivers to wear a uniform identifying them as a Diligent driver, and were required to follow to a dress code policy. Multiple times throughout the year, Diligent would hold group meetings to instruct Drivers regarding new accounts and delivery locations. In effect, Drivers are told how to do their jobs, told when to do their jobs and told where to do their jobs.
- 97. **Supervision**. Diligent maintains close supervision of their Drivers' work. An IMC dispatcher serves as a point of contact throughout the work day, and monitors Drivers' efficiency in making deliveries. Dispatchers call drivers while en route if there are complaints that a delivery is made late.
- 98. **Profit / loss.** Drivers do not have an opportunity to make a profit or loss in any real sense, like true independent contractors do. Diligent pays the Drivers a fixed sum bimonthly, as opposed to by commission or based on productivity. Furthermore, Diligent prohibits Drivers from engaging in other meaningful work or independent business while performing Diligent services because their mandated scheduling effectively render it impossible for Drivers to

engage in other business opportunities.

- 99. **Employment relationship.** Diligent and not the Drivers themselves negotiates and obtains the automobile parts orders and delivery contracts between their clients. Drivers are simply the labor used by Diligent to meet its contractual obligations with their clients. Drivers are an integral part of Diligent's business. Without the Drivers, Diligent could not fulfill its contracts with their clients. Plaintiff and Class Members performed services that were not outside the usual course of Defendants' business and are essential to Diligent's business.
- 100. **Termination.** Diligent's OOA reserves to Diligent the right to terminate the relationship with Drivers at any time before the end of the term if done with seven days' written notice.
- 101. **No subordinates.** Drivers do not supervise other individuals. Drivers do not hire their own employees to facilitate their assignments. While Drivers were told they could delegate work to other drivers, any substitution of a Driver was typically completed by Diligent upon Drivers requesting a day off.

B. <u>Exemption Misclassification</u>

basis. Where Diligent's OOA provides for Salary pay, Diligent cannot satisfy the FLSA's or applicable state laws' salary basis test because Diligent has a policy and practice of making improper compensation deductions that violate the salary basis test. Specifically, OOAs provide that when a Driver will be charged "a fee of \$3.00

1	for each day Owner Operator accepts and completes a client-engagement
2	opportunity." Furthermore, pay stubs would often reflect a payment less than the
3	agreed upon fixed payment, based on deductions made without explanation.
4	103. Nonexempt. Drivers do not fit within any exemption to the FLSA or
5	applicable state law.
6	III. Benefits Available To Diligent Employees
7	104. Because they should properly be considered employees, Drivers are
8	entitled to the same benefits to which properly classified Diligent employees are
9	entitled.
10	105. On information and belief, all full-time Diligent employees are entitled
11	to the following benefits: (1) medical, (2) dental, (3) vision, (4) group legal, (5)
12	life, (6) short- and long-term disability, (7) accidental death and dismemberment,
13	(8) paid time off, and (9) 401(k). These benefits were not provided to Plaintiff or
14	Class members.
15	COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS
16	106. Plaintiff brings the First Claim for Relief for violation of the FLSA as
17	a collective action pursuant to section 16(b) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), on
18	behalf of the Nationwide FLSA Plaintiffs.
19	107. Plaintiff and Nationwide FLSA Plaintiffs are similarly situated in that
20	they have substantially similar job requirements and pay provisions, and are subject
21	to Diligent's common practice, policy, or plan of unlawfully characterizing them as

1	independent contractors and refusing to pay them overtime pay in violation of the
2	FLSA.
3	108. The First Claim for Relief for violations of the FLSA may be brought
4	and maintained as an "opt-in" collective action pursuant to section 16(b) of the
5	FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), since the claims of Plaintiff are similar to the claims of
6	the Nationwide FLSA Plaintiffs.
7	109. The contact information (including names, addresses, phone numbers,
8	e-mail addresses, and other identifying information) of the Nationwide FLSA
9	Plaintiffs are available from Diligent's records. Notice should be provided to the
10	Nationwide FLSA Plaintiffs via first class mail, e-mail, and posting in the offices
11	where they have worked as soon as practicable, to allow the Drivers to make
12	informed decisions regarding their rights to seek overtime pay and other remedies.
13	CALIFORNIA CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS
14	110. The California Named Plaintiff (Mr. Gordon) brings the Second,
15	Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Claims for Relief for violation of
16	California's wage and hour, unfair competition, and private attorney general laws as
17	a class action, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and (b)(3), on behalf of all
18	California Class members, defined in paragraph 17.
19	111. Numerosity (Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(1)) – The California Class is so
20	numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. The California Named
21	Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that during the

1	California (Class	Period, Diligent has employed at least fifty persons who satisfy the
2	definition o	f the	California Class.
3	112.	Co	mmonality (Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(2)) – Common questions of law
4	and fact exi	st as	to members of the California Class, including, but not limited to,
5	the followir	ng:	
6		a.	Whether Diligent unlawfully classified the California Class
7			members as independent contractors;
8		b.	Whether the California Class members are nonexempt
9			employees entitled to overtime compensation for overtime hours
10			worked under the overtime pay requirements of California law;
11		c.	Whether Diligent unlawfully failed to pay overtime
12			compensation in violation of the California Unfair Competition
13			Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 et seq., and the
14			California Labor Code and related regulations, Cal. Labor Code
15			§§ 201, 202, 203, 226, 510, 1174, 1174.5, and 1194, Cal. Wage
16			Order No. 4-2001;
17		d.	Whether Diligent's policy and practice of classifying the
18			California Class as independent contractors exempt from
19			overtime entitlement under California law and Diligent's policy
20			and practice of failing to pay overtime to California Class
21			members violate applicable provisions of California law,

1			including applicable statutory and regulatory authority;
2		e.	Whether Diligent unlawfully failed to keep and furnish
3			California Class members with records of hours worked, in
4			violation of Labor Code §§ 226 and 1174;
5		f.	Whether Diligent unlawfully failed to provide California Class
6			members with meal and rest breaks, in violation of Labor Code
7			§§ 226.7 and 512;
8		g.	Whether Diligent's policy and practice of failing to pay its
9			employees all wages due within the time required by law after
10			their employment ended violates California law; and
11		h.	The proper measure of damages sustained and the proper
12			measure of restitution recoverable by members of the California
13			Class.
14	113.	Typi	cality (Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(3)) – The California Named
15	Plaintiff's c	laims	are typical of California Class' claims. The California Named
16	Plaintiff, lik	te the	California Class, was subjected to Diligent's policy and practice
17	of refusing	to pay	overtime in violation of California law. The California Named
18	Plaintiff's jo	ob dut	ies were typical of those of the California Class.
19	114.	Adec	quacy (Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(4)) – The California Named Plaintiff
20	will fairly a	nd ade	equately represent and protect the interests of the California Class.
21	115.	Adec	quacy of counsel (Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(g)) – The California Named

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7	116. Predominance and superiority (Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3)) – Class
6	of all Class members.
5	commit the necessary resources to prosecute this action vigorously for the benefit
4	misclassification claims under the FLSA and state law. Plaintiff's counsel intend to
3	litigated numerous class actions on behalf of employees asserting overtime
2	the FLSA, and state labor and employment litigation. Plaintiff's counsel has
1	Plaintiff has retained counsel competent and experienced in complex class actions,

certification of the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Claims for Relief is appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3) because questions of law and fact common to the California Class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members of the California Class, and because a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this litigation. Diligent's common and uniform policies and practices unlawfully treat the California Class as independent contractors exempt from overtime pay requirements. The damages suffered by individual California Class members are small compared to the expense and burden of individual prosecution of this litigation. In addition, class certification is superior because it will obviate the need for unduly duplicative litigation that might result in inconsistent judgments about Diligent's practices.

117. **Notice** (Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(2)(B)) – The California Named Plaintiff intends to send notice to all California Class members consistent with the

requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF (Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §§ 201 et seq.,

Brought by Plaintiff on Behalf of Himself and the Nationwide FLSA Plaintiffs)

- 118. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all Nationwide FLSA Plaintiffs, realleges and incorporates by reference all other paragraphs as if they were set forth again herein.
- 119. At all relevant times, Diligent has been, and continues to be, an "employer" engaged in interstate "commerce" and/or in the production of "goods" for "commerce," within the meaning of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203. At all relevant times, Diligent has employed, and continues to employ, "employee[s]," including Plaintiff and the Nationwide FLSA Plaintiffs. At all relevant times, Diligent has had gross operating revenues in excess of \$500,000.
- 120. Plaintiff's signed Consent to Sue form has been filed, pursuant to section 16(b) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 216(b) and 256. It is likely that other similarly situated individuals will sign consent forms and join as Plaintiff in asserting this claim in the future.
- 121. The FLSA requires each covered employer, including Diligent, to compensate all nonexempt employees at a rate of not less than one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for work performed in excess of forty hours in a workweek.
 - 122. Under the FLSA, the Nationwide FLSA Plaintiffs are employees who

1	as provided by the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), interest, and such other legal and
2	equitable relief as the Court deems just and proper.
3	SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF (Cal. Wage Order No. 4-2001; Cal. Labor Code §§ 510, 1194,
4	Brought by the California Named Plaintiff on Behalf of Himself and the
5	<u>California Class)</u>
	129. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all members of the California Class,
6	realleges and incorporates by reference all other paragraphs as if they were set forth
7	again herein.
8	130. California law requires an employer, such as Diligent, to pay overtime
9	compensation to all nonexempt employees for all hours worked over forty per
10	compensation to an nonexempt employees for an nours worked over forty per
	week, or over eight per day.
11	131. Under California law, Plaintiff and the California Class are nonexempt
12	employees entitled to be paid overtime compensation for all overtime hours
13	worked.
14	132. Throughout the California Class Period, and continuing through the
15	present, Plaintiff and the California Class worked in excess of eight hours in a
16	present, Framum and the Camornia Crass worked in excess of eight hours in a
	workday and/or forty hours in a workweek.
17	133. During the California Class Period, Diligent misclassified Plaintiff and
18	the California Class as independent contractors, exempt from overtime pay
19	entitlement, and failed and refused to pay them overtime premium pay for their
	Characteristic, and raned and refused to pay them overtime premium pay for them

overtime hours worked.

1	134. As a direct and proximate result of Diligent's unlawful conduct, as set
2	forth herein, Plaintiff and the California Class have sustained damages, including
3	loss of earnings for hours of overtime worked on behalf of Diligent in an amount to
4	be established at trial, prejudgment interest, and costs and attorneys' fees, pursuant
5	to statute and other applicable law.
6	THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF (California Wage Payment Provisions, Cal. Labor Code §§ 201, 202, & 203,
7	Brought by the California Named Plaintiff on Behalf of Himself and the California Class)
8	135. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and the California Class, realleges and
9	incorporates by reference all other paragraphs as if they were set forth again herein
10	136. California Labor Code sections 201 and 202 require Diligent to pay its
11	employees all wages due within the time specified by law. California Labor Code
12	section 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to timely pay such wages,
13	the employer must continue to pay the subject employees' wages until the back
14	wages are paid in full or an action is commenced, up to a maximum of thirty days
15	of wages.
16	137. Plaintiff and all California Class members who ceased employment
17	with Diligent are entitled to unpaid compensation, but to date have not received
18	such compensation.
19	138 More than thirty days have passed since Plaintiff and certain Californi

Class members left Diligent's employ.

1	139. As a consequence of Diligent's willful conduct in not paying			
2	compensation for all hours worked, Plaintiff and California Class members whose			
3	employment ended during the class period are entitled to thirty days' wages under			
4	Labor Code section 203, together with interest thereon and attorneys' fees and			
5	costs.			
6	FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF			
7	(California Wage Payment Provisions, Cal. Labor Code §§ 201, 202, & 203 California Wage Payment Provisions, Cal. Labor Code §§ 201, 202, & 203			
8	California Wage Payment Provisions, Cal. Labor Code §§ 201, 202, & 203, Brought by the California Named Plaintiff on Behalf of Himself and the			
9	<u>California Class)</u>			
10	140. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and the California Class, realleges and			
10	incorporates by reference all other paragraphs as if they were set forth again herein.			
11	141. Diligent knowingly and intentionally failed to provide timely,			
12	accurate, itemized wage statements including, <i>inter alia</i> , hours worked, to Plaintiff			
13				
1.4	and the California Class in accordance with Labor Code section 226(a) and the			
14	IWC Wage Orders. Such failure caused injury to Plaintiff and the California Class,			
15	by, among other things, impeding them from knowing the amount of wages to			
16				
17	which they are and were entitled. At all times relevant herein, Diligent has failed to			
1/	maintain records of hours worked by Plaintiff and the California Class as required			
18	under Labor Code section 1174(d).			
19				
	142. Plaintiff and the California Class are entitled to and seek injunctive			

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relief requiring Diligent to comply with Labor Code sections 226(a) and 1174(d),

1	and further seek the amount provided under Labor Code sections 226(e) and
2	1174.5, including the greater of all actual damages or fifty dollars (\$50) for the
3	initial pay period in which a violation occurred and one hundred dollars (\$100) per
4	employee for each violation in a subsequent pay period.
5	FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF (California Moal And Bost Pariod Provisions
6	(California Meal And Rest Period Provisions, Cal. Wage Order No. 4-2001; Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.7 & 512, Provedt by The California Named Plaintiff on Rehalf of Himself and the
7	Brought by The California Named Plaintiff on Behalf of Himself and the <u>California Class</u>)
8	143. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and the California Class, realleges and
9	incorporates by reference all other paragraphs as if they were set forth again herein
10	144. Plaintiff and the California Class regularly work and have worked in
11	excess of five-hour shifts without being afforded at least a half-hour meal break in
12	which they were relieved of all duty and more than ten-hour shifts without being
13	afforded a second half-hour meal break in which they were relieved of all duty, as
14	required by Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512 and Wage Order No. 4-2001,
15	section 11(a).
16	145. In addition, Plaintiff and the California Class regularly work and have
17	worked without being afforded at least one ten-minute rest break, in which they
18	were relieved of all duty, per four hours of work performed or major fraction
19	thereof, as required by Labor Code section 226.7 and Wage Order No. 4-2001,
20	section 12.

146. As a result of Diligent's failure to afford proper meal periods, it is

20

1	liable to Plaintiff and the California Class for one hour of additional pay at the
2	regular rate of compensation for each workday that the proper meal periods were
3	not provided, pursuant to Labor Code section 226.7 and Wage Order No. 4-2001,
4	section 11(b).
5	147. As a result of Diligent's failure to afford proper rest periods, it is liable
6	to Plaintiff and the California Class for one hour of additional pay at the regular rate
7	of compensation for each workday that the proper rest periods were not provided,
8	pursuant to Labor Code section 226.7 and Wage Order No. 4-2001, section 12(b).
9	SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
10	(California Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 et seq., Brought by The California Named Plaintiff on Behalf of Himself and the
	<u>California Class)</u>
11	148. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all members of the California Class,
12	realleges and incorporates by reference all other paragraphs as if they were set forth
13	again herein.
14	149. The foregoing conduct, as alleged, violates the California Unfair
15	Competition Law ("UCL"), Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 et seq. Section
	Competition Law (CCL), Can. Bus. & Fron. Code \$\$ 17200 ct seq. Section
16	17200 of the Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code prohibits unfair competition by prohibiting,
16 17	
	17200 of the Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code prohibits unfair competition by prohibiting,
17	17200 of the Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code prohibits unfair competition by prohibiting, inter alia, any unlawful or unfair business acts or practices.

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1	Diligent's conduct as he	erein alleged has
2	by wrongfully denying	them earned wag
3	injurious to Plaintiff and	d the California C
4	151. Diligent en	igaged in unfair c
5	violating, inter alia, eac	h of the followin
6	constitutes an independent	ent and separate v
7	a. The	Fair Labor Stand
8	b. Cali	fornia Labor Cod
9	c. Cali	fornia Labor Cod
10	d. Cali	fornia Labor Cod
11	e. Cali	fornia Labor Cod
12	Any	work in excess o
13	in ex	acess of 40 hours
14	hour	rs worked on the
15	shall	be compensated
16	time	s the regular rate

18

19

20

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injured Plaintiff and the California Class es, and therefore was substantially Class.

- competition in violation of the UCL by g laws. Each of these violations violation of the UCL:
 - ards Act, 29 U.S.C. §§ 201 et seq.;
 - le § 1194;
 - le §§ 201, 202, 203, 226, 226.7, and 512;
 - le § 1174; and
 - le § 510, which provides in relevant part: of eight hours in one workday and any work in any one workweek and the first eight seventh day of work in any one workweek at the rate of no less than one and one-half 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.

1	152. Diligent's course of conduct, acts, and practices in violation of the
2	California laws mentioned in the above paragraph constitute a separate and
3	independent violation of the UCL. Diligent's conduct described herein violates the
4	policy or spirit of such laws or otherwise significantly threatens or harms
5	competition.
6	153. The unlawful and unfair business practices and acts of Diligent,
7	described above, have injured California Class members in that they were
8	wrongfully denied the payment of earned overtime wages.
9	154. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and the California Class, seeks
10	restitution in the amount of the respective unpaid wages earned and due at a rate of
11	at least one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for work performed in excess
12	of forty hours in a workweek, or eight hours in a day, and double the regular rate of
13	pay for work performed in excess of twelve hours per day.
14	155. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and the California Class, seeks recovery
15	of attorneys' fees and costs of this action to be paid by Diligent, as provided by the
16	UCL and California Labor Code §§ 218, 218.5, and 1194.
17	SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
18	(California Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, Cal. Lab. Code §§ 2698- 2699.5,
19	Brought by the California Named Plaintiff on Behalf of Himself and All Aggrieved Employees)
20	(Notice of Future Claim)
21	156. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all aggrieved employees, as well as

on behalf of the general public of California, realleges and incorporates by reference all other paragraphs as if they were set forth again herein.

157. Under the California Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA") of 2004, Cal. Lab. Code §§ 2698-2699.5, an aggrieved employee, on behalf of himself and other current or former employees as well as the general public, may bring a representative action as a private attorney general to recover penalties for an employer's violations of the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders. These civil penalties are in addition to any other relief available under the California Labor Code, and must be allocated 75% to California's Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and 25% to the aggrieved employee, pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699.

158. Plaintiff alleges, on behalf of himself and all aggrieved employees, as well as the general public, that Diligent has violated the following provisions of the California Labor Code and the following provisions of the IWC Wage Orders that are actionable through the California Labor Code and PAGA, as previously alleged herein: Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201-03, 218.5, 226, 226.7, 226.8, 510, 512, 1174, 1174.5, and 1194, and IWC Wage Order No. 4-2001. Each of these violations entitles Plaintiff, as a private attorney general, to recover the applicable civil penalties on his own behalf, on behalf of all aggrieved employees, and on behalf of the general public.

159. California Labor Code § 2699(a), which is part of PAGA, provides in

COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS OF FLSA
AND CALIFORNIA WAGE AND HOUR LAWS

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pertinent part:

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any provision of this code that provides for a civil penalty to be assessed and collected by the Labor and Workforce Development Agency or any of its departments, divisions, commissions, boards, agencies, or employees, for a violation of this code, may, as an alternative, be recovered through a civil action brought by an aggrieved employee on behalf of themselves or himself and other current or former employees pursuant to the procedures specified in § 2699.3.

160. California Labor Code § 2699(f), which is part of PAGA, provides in pertinent part:

For all provisions of this code except those for which a civil penalty is specifically provided, there is established a civil penalty for a violation of these provisions, as follows: . . . (2) If, at the time of the alleged violation, the person employs one or more employees, the civil penalty is one hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial violation and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation.

allocated as PAGA requires, pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699(a) for Diligent's violations of the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders for which violations a civil penalty is already specifically provided by law. Furthermore, Plaintiff is entitled to civil penalties, to be paid by Diligent and allocated as PAGA requires, pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699(f) for Diligent's violations of the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders for which violations a civil penalty is not already specifically provided.

1	162. On March 6, 2017, Plaintiff provided written notice by certified mail
2	to the LWDA of the legal claims and theories of this case. Plaintiff simultaneously
3	provided a copy of that notice by certified mail to Diligent. If the LWDA does not
4	provide notice "within 65 calendar days of the postmark date of" Plaintiff's notice,
5	Plaintiff will be entitled to assert this claim. Cal. Labor Code § 2699.3(a)(2).
6	163. Under PAGA, Plaintiff and the State of California are entitled to
7	recover the maximum civil penalties permitted by law for the violations of the
8	California Labor Code and IWC Wage Order No. 4-2001 that are alleged in this
9	complaint.
10	PRAYER FOR RELIEF
11	WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all Class members
12	nationwide, prays for relief as follows:
13	A. Declaratory judgment that Diligent's arbitration clause is
14	unenforceable.
15	WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all members of the
16	Nationwide FLSA Class, prays for relief as follows:
17	B. Designation of this action as a collective action on behalf of the
18	Nationwide FLSA Plaintiffs (asserting FLSA claims) and prompt issuance of notice
19	pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) to all similarly situated members of the FLSA Opt-
20	In Class, apprising them of the pendency of this action, and permitting them to
21	assert timely FLSA claims in this action by filing individual Consent to Sue forms

1	pursuant to 29 U.S	S.C. § 216(b);
2	C.	Designation of Plaintiff as Representative of the Nationwide
3	FLSA Plaintiffs;	
4	D.	A declaratory judgment that the practices complained of herein
5	are unlawful unde	r the FLSA;
6	E.	An award of damages, according to proof, including liquidated
7	damages, to be pa	id by Diligent;
8	F.	Costs of action incurred herein, including expert fees;
9	G.	Attorneys' fees, including fees pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216;
10	H.	Post-judgment interest, as provided by law; and
11	I.	Such other legal equitable relief as this Court deems necessary,
12	just, and proper.	
13	WHE	EREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and the California
14	Class, prays for re	elief as follows:
15	J.	Certification of this action as a class action on behalf of the
16	California Class;	
17	K.	Designation of Plaintiff as Representative of the California
18	Class;	
19	L.	Designation of Plaintiff's counsel of record as Class Counsel for
20	the California Class;	
21	M.	A declaratory judgment that the practices complained of herein

1	are unlawful under applicable state law;		
2	N. Appropriate injunctive and equitable relief, including an order		
3	enjoining Diligent from continuing its unlawful practices;		
4	O. Appropriate statutory penalties;		
5	P. Appropriate civil penalties;		
6	Q. An award of damages, liquidated damages, and restitution to be		
7	paid by Diligent according to proof;		
8	R. Pre-judgment and post-judgment interest, as provided by law;		
9	S. Such other injunctive and equitable relief as the Court may		
10	deem just and proper; and		
11	T. Attorneys' fees and costs of suit, including expert fees and costs		
12	Plaintiff hereby demands a jury trial on all causes of action and claims with		
13	respect to which he has a right to jury trial.		
14	Respectfully submitted,		
15			
16	Dated: March 6, 2017 By: /s/ Jahan C. Sagafi Jahan C. Sagafi		
17	Jahan C. Sagafi (Cal. Bar No. 224887) Relic Sun (Cal. Bar No. 306701)		
18	OUTTEN & GOLDEN LLP One Embarcadero Center, 38th Floor		
19	San Francisco, CA 94111 Telephone: (415) 638-8800 Facsimile: (415) 638-8810		
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ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: FLSA Class Action Filed Against Diligent Delivery Systems