	Case 2:23-cv-07838 Document 1-1 Fil	led 09/19/23 Page 1 of 18 Page ID #:19				
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	 Case 2:23-cv-07838 Document 1-1 Fil FRANK H. KIM, State Bar No. 264609 <i>fkim@kim-legal.com</i> KIM LEGAL, APC 3435 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 2700 Los Angeles, CA 90010 Telephone: (323) 482-3300 Facsimile: (866) 652-7819 HELEN U. KIM, State Bar No. 260195 <i>helen@helenkimlaw.com</i> HELEN KIM LAW, APC 3435 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 2700 Los Angeles, CA 90010 Telephone: (323) 487-9151 Facsimile: (866) 652-7819 Attorneys for Plaintiff Paul Ward 	led 09/19/23 Page 1 of 18 Page ID #:19 Electronically FILED by Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles 5/22/2023 9:39 PM David W. Slayton, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court, By J. Covarrubias, Deputy Clerk				
10						
11	SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA					
12	COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES					
13	PAUL WARD , individually and on behalf of other persons similarly situated,	Case No.: 238TCV11666				
14	Plaintiff,	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES:				
15	VS.					
16 17 18	HOME BOX OFFICE, INC., a foreign corporation; COOLER WATERS PRODUCTIONS, LLC, a foreign limited liability company; and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,	 Failure to Pay All Premium Wages Failure to Pay All Overtime Wages Failure to Pay All Wages Due and Owing On Separation; Failure to Provide Accurate Wage Statements; 				
19	Defendants.	 Unfair Business Practices [Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200] 				
20		DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL				
21						
22						
23						
24 25						
25 26						
26 27						
27						
20	COM	IPLAINT				

Plaintiff Paul Ward ("Plaintiff") on behalf of himself, and all others similarly situated, complains and alleges as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. 4 This is a class action lawsuit brought on behalf of Plaintiff and other similarly 5 situated persons who work or worked as non-union background talent for Defendants, Home Box Office, Inc. and/or Cooler Waters Productions, LLC who, in addition to their base hourly rate, 6 7 earned other forms of compensation not excludable under California law when calculating an 8 employee's regular rate. Plaintiff's claims for overtime and meal and rest period violations, inaccurate wage statement penalties, waiting time penalties, and unfair competition arise from 9 10 Defendants' failure to factor these forms of non-discretionary remuneration into the calculation of the regular rate of pay for the payment of overtime (and double time) and the calculation of 11 the regular rate of compensation for the payment of break premiums under Labor Code § 226.7 12 13 and 512. Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 382, Plaintiff seeks class-wide remedies for underpayment of premium wages for meal and rest period violations, underpayment of overtime 14 wages, waiting time penalties in the form of continuation wages for failure to timely pay 15 employees all wages, inaccurate wage statement penalties, equitable relief, reasonable attorneys' 16 fees and costs. 17

18

1

2

3

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

19 2. The Superior Court of the State of California has jurisdiction in this matter
20 because Plaintiff is a resident in the State of California and Defendants are qualified to do
21 business in and regularly conduct business in California. Further, no federal question is at issue
22 because the claims are based solely on California law.

3. This Court has jurisdiction over this action under Article 6 of the California
Constitution and California Code of Civil Procedure § 410.10.

4. This Court has jurisdiction over Plaintiff's and Class Members' claims for unpaid
overtime wages, unpaid premium wages and waiting time penalties under California Labor Code
§ 218.

5. This Court has jurisdiction over Plaintiff's and the Class Members' claims for
 restitution of unpaid wages and other ill-gotten benefits arising from Defendants' unlawful
 and/or unfair business practices under California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200 *et seq.*

6. Venue is proper in this judicial district, pursuant to California Code of Civil
Procedure § 395.5, because Plaintiff, and other persons similarly situated, performed work for
Defendants in the County of Los Angeles, Defendants maintain offices and facilities and transact
business in the County of Los Angeles, and Defendants' illegal policies and practices that are the
subject of this action were applied, at least in part, to Plaintiff and other persons similarly
situated in the County of Los Angeles.

10

PARTIES

7. Plaintiff Paul Ward is a resident of Los Angeles County, California. Plaintiff was
 employed by Defendants as a non-exempt non-union background actor in Los Angeles,
 California, on September 16, 2022.

14 8. Plaintiff appears in this action on behalf of himself and on behalf of all others
15 similarly situated.

9. During Plaintiff's employment, Plaintiff worked more than 8 hours per day and as much as 10.2 hours per day. In addition, Plaintiff and other similarly situated hourly employees received various forms of non-discretionary incentive pay, including but not limited to shift differentials or lump sum payments for wet work, smoke work, hair premiums, body make-up premiums, wardrobe allowances, night premiums, among other things, that are not excludable under California law when calculating an employee's regular rate (hereinafter the aforementioned forms of pay are collectively referred to as "Incentive Pay").

23 10. On information and belief, Home Box Office, Inc. is now, and at all times
24 mentioned in this complaint, was, a foreign corporation organized and existing under the laws of
25 the State of Delaware and is qualified to do business in California.

26 27

1 11. On information and belief, Cooler Waters Productions, LLC is now, and at all
 2 times mentioned in this complaint, was, a foreign limited liability company organized and
 3 existing under the laws of the State of Delaware and is qualified to do business in California.

4 12. Plaintiff is informed and believes that DOES 1 through 50 are corporations,
5 individuals, limited liability partnerships, limited liability companies, general partnerships, sole
6 proprietorships or are other business entities or organizations of a nature not currently known to
7 Plaintiff.

8 13. Plaintiff is unaware of the true names of Defendants DOES 1 through 50. 9 Plaintiff sues said defendants by said fictitious name and will amend this complaint when the 10 true names and capacities are ascertained or when such facts pertaining to liability are 11 ascertained, or as permitted by law or by the Court. Plaintiff is informed and believes that each 12 of the fictitiously named Defendants is in some manner responsible for the events and allegations 13 set forth in this complaint.

14. 14 All of the acts and failures to act alleged herein were duly performed by and were 15 attributable to all Defendants, each acting as a joint employer, successor, agent, employee, or under the direction and control of the others, except as specifically alleged otherwise. Said acts 16 17 and failures to act were within the scope of such agency and/or employment, and each Defendant 18 participated in, approved and/or ratified the unlawful acts and omissions by the other Defendants 19 complained of herein. Whenever and wherever reference is made in this Complaint to any act by 20 a Defendant or Defendants, such allegations and reference shall also be deemed to mean the acts 21 and failures to act of each Defendant acting individually, jointly and/or severally.

Plaintiff makes the allegations in this complaint without any admission that, as to
any particular allegation, Plaintiff bears the burden of pleading, proving, or persuading, and
Plaintiff reserves all of Plaintiff's rights to plead in the alternative.

25 16. Defendants Home Box Office, Inc., Cooler Waters Productions, LLC and DOES
26 1-50 are collectively referred to herein as "Defendants," and each, a "Defendant."

27 28

1 2

3

4

5

6

GENERAL FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

17. **Facts Related to Defendants' Calculation of Overtime Wages**: On or about September 16, 2022 and September 22, 2022, Defendants employed Plaintiff as a non-union background actor to appear in the show, "Winning Time." Defendants paid Plaintiff a base hourly rate of \$16.50 per hour. On September 16, 2022, Plaintiff worked at least eight (8) hours and received a meal premium for \$16.50.

7 18. On September 22, 2022, Plaintiff worked at least 10.2 hours. As such, Defendants
8 paid Plaintiff 2 hours of overtime at one and one-half time his base hourly rate (or \$24.75/hour)
9 and 0.2 hours of double time at twice his base hourly rate (or \$33.00/hour).

19. 10 On both days, Plaintiff also earned and was promised an additional \$10 for performing work that involved smoke (referred to on his paystub as "SMOKE WORK"). On 11 12 September 22, 2022, Plaintiff also earned and was promised an additional \$10 for getting his hair 13 cut (referred on his paystub as "HAIR"). Each of the \$10 promised payment was not based solely on the discretion of Defendants and, as such, was required to be factored into the calculation of 14 Plaintiff's regular rate of pay for the payment of his overtime and double time wages and into the 15 calculation of Plaintiff's regular rate of compensation for the payment of his meal period 16 17 premium.

20. Despite Defendants' promised payment of the non-discretionary "SMOKE WORK" and (as applicable) "HAIR" payment to Plaintiff, and other similarly situated hourly employees, Defendants failed to include the payment when calculating Plaintiff's and other similarly situated persons' regular rate of pay, thereby causing them to be underpaid all of their required overtime and double time wages. Instead, Defendants paid Plaintiff one and one-half times his base rate, which was not equal to one and one-half times the applicable regular rate.

24 21. On information and belief, during the relevant period, Defendants have failed to
25 factor other forms of Incentive Pay into the regular rates of pay for the payment of overtime and
26 double time wages to persons employed as background talent.

27 28

22. Facts Related to Defendants' Calculation of Meal and Rest Period Premiums: 1 2 Section 11 of the applicable Wage Orders provides: "If an employer fails to provide an employee 3 a meal period in accordance with the applicable provisions of this order, the employer shall pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee's *regular rate of compensation* for each 4 5 workday that the meal period is not provided." See, e.g., Wage Order 12-2001(11)(C), (12)(B) (same re rest periods) (emphasis added); see also Labor Code § 226.7(c) ("If an employer fails to 6 7 provide an employee a meal or rest or recovery period in accordance with a state law, ..., the 8 employer shall pay the employee one additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of 9 compensation for each work day that the meal or rest period is not provided." (Emphasis 10 added)).

During the relevant period, Defendants paid premium wages to Plaintiff and other
members of the Break Premium Class for violations of the California's meal and rest break laws.
For example, because Plaintiff experienced meal period violations on September 16, 2022 due to
Defendants' failure to provide him with a compliant meal period, Defendants paid her meal
period premiums (reflected on her wage statement or voucher as "DINNER PENALTY") or
"MEAL PENALTY") in the amount of \$16.50.

17 24. As with overtime, Defendants were required to factor the \$10 "SMOKE WORK"
18 payment into the calculation of Plaintiff's regular rate of compensation for the payment of his
19 meal period premium.

20 25. However, Defendants paid Plaintiff and other members of the Break Premium
21 Class one hour of pay at the employee's base hourly rate when compensating those employees
22 for violations of the meal and rest period requirements, including in periods when the employee
23 earned Incentive Pay required to be factored into an employee's regular rate of compensation.

24 26. On information and belief, during the relevant period, Defendants have failed to
25 factor other forms of Incentive Pay into the regular rates of compensation for the payment of
26 premium wages to persons employed as background talent.

28 ||

CLASS DEFINITIONS AND CLASS ALLEGATIONS

27. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of herself, on behalf of all others similarly situated, and as a member of Classes defined as follows:

- a. <u>Overtime Class</u>: All current and former non-exempt non-union employees of any Defendant employed as background talent in California who earned and were paid overtime wages on the same work day that any Defendant paid them Incentive Pay (as defined above) during the four years preceding the filing of Plaintiff's Complaint through the date Notice is mailed to the members of this Class.
- b. <u>Break Premium Class</u>: All current and former non-exempt non-union employees of any Defendant employed as background talent in California to whom any Defendant paid premium pay pursuant to Labor Code section 226.7 or Sections 11 or 12 of the applicable Wage Orders on the same work day that any Defendant paid them Incentive Pay (as defined above) during the four years preceding the filing of Plaintiff's Complaint through the date Notice is mailed to the members of this Class.
 - c. <u>Waiting Time Penalty Class</u>: Members of the Overtime Class and members of the Break Premium Class whose employment by any Defendant ended at any time during the three years preceding the filing of Plaintiff's Complaint through the date Notice is mailed to the members of this Class.
 - c. <u>Wage Statement Class</u>: Members of the Overtime Class and members of the Break Premium Class employed by any Defendant at any time during the one-year period preceding the filing of Plaintiff's Complaint through the date Notice is mailed to the members of this Class.

28. This action has been brought and may be properly maintained as a class action 2 pursuant to the provisions of California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 and other applicable law.

3 29. Numerosity: Code of Civil Procedure § 382: members of the Classes are so numerous that their individual joinder is impracticable. Plaintiff estimates that there are no less 4 5 than 50 persons in each of the classes. The precise number of Class members and their addresses are unknown to Plaintiff. However, Plaintiff is informed and believes that the number can be 6 7 obtained from Defendants' records. Class members may be notified of the pendency of this 8 action by mail, electronic mail, the Internet, or published notice.

9

10

11

12

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

1

30. Existence of Predominance of Common Questions of Fact and Law: Code of Civil Procedure § 382: Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class. These questions predominate over any questions effecting only individual members of the class. These common factual and legal questions include:

- 13 (a) Whether Defendants' failure to factor non-discretionary remuneration, such as shift differentials and other forms of compensation paid to class members, into 14 15 the payment of overtime wages violated Labor Code § 510 and the applicable IWC Wage Orders; 16
- 17 (b) Whether Defendants' failure to factor non-discretionary remuneration, such as 18 shift differentials and other forms of compensation paid to class members, into 19 the payment of premium wages for break violations violated Labor Code § 20 226.7(c) and the applicable IWC Wage Orders;
 - (c) Whether Defendants failed to provide class members who ceased employment with Defendants all wages owed at the time of the cessation of the employeeemployer relationship;
 - (d) Whether Defendants committed unlawful business practices or acts within the meaning of Business & Professions Code Sects. 17200 et seq.;
 - (e) Whether, as a consequence of Defendants' unlawful conduct, the members of the Classes are entitled to restitution, and/or equitable relief;

2

1

(f) Whether Defendants' affirmative defenses, if any, raise any common issues of law or fact as to Plaintiff and the class members as a whole.

3 31. <u>Typicality</u>: Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the members of each
Class because Plaintiff, as an hourly paid employee, was exposed to the same unlawful business
practices as the members of the classes. Plaintiff sustained the same types of injuries and losses
that the class members sustained. Plaintiff is subject to the same affirmative defenses as the
members of the class.

8 32. <u>Adequacy</u>: Plaintiff will adequately and fairly protect the interests of the 9 members of the Classes. Plaintiff has no interest adverse to the interests of absent Class 10 members. Plaintiff is represented by legal counsel who has substantial class action experience in 11 civil litigation and employment law.

33. 12 Superiority: A class action is superior to other available means for fair and 13 efficient adjudication of the claims of the Classes and would be beneficial for the parties and the 14 court. Class action treatment will allow a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute 15 their common claims in a single forum, simultaneously, efficiently, and without the unnecessary duplication of effort and expense that numerous individual actions would require. The monetary 16 17 amounts due to many individual Class members are likely to be relatively small, and the burden 18 and expense of individual litigation would make it difficult or impossible for individual members 19 of the Class to seek and obtain relief. A class action will serve an important public interest by 20 permitting such individuals to effectively pursue recovery of the sums owed to them. Further, 21 class litigation prevents the potential for inconsistent or contradictory judgments raised by 22 individual litigation.

23

24

25

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

FAILURE TO PAY ALL PREMIUMS FOR MEAL AND REST PERIOD VIOLATIONS (By Plaintiff and the Break Premium Class against Defendants)

26 34. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the foregoing allegations as27 though set forth herein.

35. At all relevant times, Plaintiff and the other members of the Break Premium Class
 were employees of one or more Defendants covered by Labor Code Section 226.7 and the
 applicable Wage Orders, including Wage Order 12.

4

5

6

7

36. Pursuant to Labor Code Section 226.7 and Wage Order 12, Plaintiff and the other members of the Break Premium Class were entitled to rest periods of at least 10 minutes for each four-hour period of work, or major fraction thereof, and one hour of additional pay (i.e., premium) for every day a required rest period was not provided.

8 37. Pursuant to Labor Code Sections 226.7 and 512, and Wage Order 12, Plaintiff and
9 the other members of the Break Premium Class were entitled to a meal period of at least 30
10 minutes for each workday they worked more than 5 hours in any workday, and one additional
11 hour of pay (i.e., premium) for every day that a timely meal period was not provided.

12 38. When one or more Defendants failed to allow Plaintiff and other members of the 13 Break Premium Class to take their meal and/or rest periods in accordance with Labor Code 14 Section 226.7 and Wage Order 12, one ore mor Defendants maintained a policy or practice of 15 paying break premiums at amounts that only included "base hourly wages" and did not factor in 16 Incentive Pay earned for an hour's work owed to members of the Break Premium Class as 17 required by Labor Code Section 226.7 and Wage Order 12.

39. During the period in which one or more Defendants did not provide Plaintiff and
members of the Break Premium Class all compliant rest and/or meal periods, one ore more
Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff and other members of the Break Premium Class the
additional hour of pay required by Labor Code Section 226.7 and Wage Order 12.

40. As a result of one or more Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiff and other
members of the Break Premium Class have suffered damages in an amount, subject to proof, to
the extent they were not paid all premiums owed for meal and rest period violations.

41. Pursuant to Labor Code Section 218, Plaintiff and other members of the Break
Premium Class are entitled to recover the full amount of their unpaid additional pay for meal and
rest period violations. Pursuant to Labor Code Section 218.5, Plaintiff and other members of the

Break Premium Class are entitled to recover their reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit.
 Pursuant to Labor Code Section 218.6 or Civil Code Section 3287(a), Plaintiff and other
 members of the Break Premium Class are entitled to recover prejudgment interest on the
 additional pay owed for meal and rest period violations.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

FAILURE TO PAY ALL OVERTIME WAGES

(Cal. Labor Code §§ 510, 1194)

(By Plaintiff and the Overtime Class against Defendants)

9 42. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all of the foregoing paragraphs,
10 as though they are set forth in full.

43. Pursuant to Labor Code Sections 510, 1194 and Subsection 3(D) of Wage Order
12-2001, require an employer to pay an employee one and one-half (1½) times such employee's
regular rate of pay for work in excess of eight hours in a day. See Wage Order 12(3)(d)
(specifically providing for "One and one-half (1½) times the extra player's rate of pay for the
ninth (9th) and tenth (10th) work hours of employment and not less than double the extra
player's rate of pay for all hours worked thereafter").

44. 17 Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon, alleges that one ore more 18 Defendants regularly and systematically, as a policy and practice, miscalculated the overtime and 19 double time rates of pay by failing to properly include the various forms of Incentive Pay paid to Plaintiff and members of the Overtime Class, such as the \$10 "SMOKE WORK" payment 2021 promised to Plaintiff and others and the \$10 "HAIR" payment paid to Plaintiff and others, which 22 are not statutory exclusions when calculating an employee's regular rate of pay. Rather, Plaintiff 23 and members of the Overtime Class were only paid one and one-half times their base rate, which 24 was not equal to the regular rate, as one ore more Defendants failed to include the various forms 25 of Incentive Pay earned during corresponding periods that were required to be included in the regular rate, but were not. 26

27

5

6

7

8

45. At least one Defendant's policy and practice of requiring overtime work but not

paying at the proper overtime and double time rates for said work violates Labor Code Section
 510 and the applicable California Wage Orders.

46. As a result of the unlawful acts of Defendants, Plaintiff and the members of the
Overtime Class she seeks to represent have been deprived of overtime wages in amounts to be
determined at trial, and are entitled to recovery of such amounts, plus interest thereon, attorneys'
fees, and costs.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

FAILURE TO PAY ALL WAGES DUE AND OWING ON SEPARATION OF

EMPLOYMENT

(Cal. Labor Code §§ 201.5, 203)

(By Plaintiff and the Waiting Time Penalty Class against Defendants)

12 47. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all of the foregoing paragraphs,13 as though they are set forth in full.

14 48. Plaintiff and the other members of the Waiting Time Penalty Class were
15 employees of one ore more Defendants covered by Labor Code Sections 201.5 whose
16 employment with Defendants ended during the relevant class period.

49. Labor Code Section 201.5 provides "An employee engaged in the production or
broadcasting of motion pictures whose employment terminates is entitled to receive payment of
the wages earned and unpaid at the time of the termination by the next regular payday."

20 50. As alleged above, one ore more Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and other 21 members of the Waiting Time Penalty Class all wages earned and unpaid prior to termination, 22 including all overtime and premium wages due at the time of the cessation of the employee-23 employer relationship in accordance with Labor Code Section 201.5. Plaintiff is informed and 24 believes and thereon alleges that at all relevant times within the applicable limitations period, 25 one or more Defendants maintained and continue to maintain a policy or practice of not paying 26 terminated employees all their final wages, including all overtime wages and premium wages, 27 earned before termination due under Labor Code Section 201.5.

28

7

8

9

10

51. At least one Defendant's failure to pay Plaintiff and members of the Waiting
 Time Penalty Class all wages earned prior to termination in accordance with Labor Code Section
 201.5 was willful. At least one Defendant had the ability to pay all wages earned by employees
 prior to termination in accordance with Labor Code Section 201.5, but intentionally adopted
 policies or practices incompatible with the requirements of Labor Code Section 201.5.

6 52. Pursuant to Labor Code Section 201.5, Plaintiff and other members of the Waiting
7 Time Penalty Class are entitled to all wages earned prior to termination that Defendants failed to
8 pay them.

9 53. Pursuant to Labor Code Section 203, Plaintiff and other members of the Waiting
10 Time Penalty Class are entitled to continuation of their wages, from the day their earned and
11 unpaid wages were due upon termination until paid, up to a maximum of 30 days.

12 54. As a result of one or more of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff and other members of
13 the Waiting Time Penalty Class have suffered damages in an amount, subject to proof, to the
14 extent they were not paid for all wages earned prior to termination.

15 55. As a result of one or more of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff and members of the
16 Waiting Time Penalty Class have suffered damages in an amount, subject to proof, to the extent
17 they were not paid all continuation wages owed under Labor Code Section 203.

56. Pursuant to Labor Code Sections 218 and 218.5, Plaintiff and other members of
the Waiting Time Penalty Class are entitled to recover the full amount of their unpaid wages,
continuation wages under Labor Code Section 203, reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit.
Pursuant to Labor Code Section 218.6 or Civil Code Section 3287(a), Plaintiff and other
members of the Waiting Time Penalty Class are entitled to recover prejudgment interest on the
amount of their unpaid wages and unpaid continuation wages.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

FAILURE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE WAGE STATEMENTS

(Labor Code § 226)

(By Plaintiff and the Wage Statement Class against Defendants)

57. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all of the foregoing paragraphs, as though they are set forth in full.

7 58. Labor Code § 226(a) sets forth reporting requirements for employers when they 8 pay wages, including in relevant part: "Every employer shall ... at the time of each payment of 9 wages, furnish each of his or her employees ... an itemized statement in writing showing (1) 10 gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the employee, ... (5) net wages earned," Labor Code § 226(e)(1) provides: "An employee suffering injury as a result of a knowing and 11 12 intentional failure by an employer to comply with subdivision (a) is entitled to recover the 13 greater of all actual damages or fifty dollars (\$50) for the initial pay period in which a violation occurs and one hundred dollars (\$100) per employee for each violation in a subsequent pay 14 15 period, not exceeding an aggregate penalty of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) per employee, and is entitled to an award of costs and reasonable attorneys' fees." 16

17 59. Labor Code § 226(e)(2)(B)(iii) provides: "An employee is deemed to suffer injury for purposes of this subdivision if the employer fails to provide accurate and complete 18 19 information as required by any one or more of items (1) to (9), inclusive, of subdivision (a) and 20 the employee cannot promptly and easily determine from the wage statement alone one or more 21 of the following: (i) The amount of the gross wages or net wages paid to the employee during the 22 pay period or any of the other information required to be provided on the itemized wage 23 statement pursuant to items (2) to (4), inclusive, (6) and (9) of subdivision (a) ... (iii) The name 24 and address of the employer...."

60. Throughout the period applicable to this cause of action, one or more Defendants
knowingly and intentionally failed to furnish, and continue to knowingly and intentionally fail to
furnish, to Plaintiff and other members of the Wage Statement Class, itemized statements

28

1

2

3

4

5

6

accurately showing the required information, including but not limited to all wages earned and
 correct applicable hourly rates of pay.

3 61. Plaintiff and the other members of the Wage Statement Class suffered injury by
4 these failures because, among other things, they could not determine from the wage statement
5 alone their total wages and correct hourly rates.

6 62. Plaintiff and the other Wage Statement Class members are entitled to the amounts
7 provided for in Labor Code § 226(e), plus costs of suit.

8 63. Pursuant to Civil Code § 3287(a), Plaintiff and the other members of the Wage
9 Statement Class are entitled to recover prejudgment interest on the amount of their § 226(e)
10 remedies. Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure Section 1021.5, the substantial benefit doctrine,
11 and/or the common fund doctrine, Plaintiff and other members of the Class are entitled to
12 recover their attorney's fees.

13

14

15

16

17

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

FOR RESTITUTION OF UNDERPAYMENT OF OVERTIME AND PREMIUM WAGES

PURSUANT TO BUSINESS & PROFESSIONS CODE SECTIONS 17200 ET SEQ.

(UNFAIR COMPETITION)

(By Plaintiff and the Classes against Defendants)

18 64. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all of the foregoing paragraphs,19 as though they are set forth in full.

20 65. Beginning at an exact date unknown to Plaintiff, one or more Defendants engaged
21 in unfair competition as defined in California Business and Professions Code section 17200.

22 66. Section 17200 provides a private cause of action for any "unlawful, unfair or
23 fraudulent business practice and unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading advertising."

At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff and other members of the Classes
were employees of one or more Defendants entitled to the benefits of Labor Code sections 201203, 226.7, 510 and 1194.

68. During the relevant time period, one or more Defendants intentionally and

28

27

willfully failed to pay Plaintiff and other members of the Overtime Class their overtime wages at
 the rate of pay required by law. Accordingly, Plaintiff and other members of the Overtime Class
 did not receive the full amount of overtime and double time that they were entitled to receive by
 law.

5 69. During the relevant time period, one or more Defendants intentionally and 6 willfully failed to pay Plaintiff and other members of the Break Premium Class their meal and 7 rest break premium wages at the rate of pay required by law. Accordingly, Plaintiff and other 8 members of the Break Premium Class did not receive the full amount of premium wages that 9 they were entitled to receive by law.

10 70. During the relevant time period, one or more Defendants intentionally and
11 willfully failed to pay Plaintiff and other members of the Waiting Time Penalty Class the full
12 amount of their overtime wages and/or premium wages upon the separation of employment by
13 one or more Defendants and, thereafter, failed to pay waiting time penalties pursuant to Labor
14 Code section 203 to the members of the Waiting Time Penalty Class. Accordingly, Plaintiff and
15 members of the Waiting Time Penalty Class did not receive all of the wages they were entitled to
16 receive by law.

17 71. The unlawful conduct of one or more Defendants alleged herein constitutes unfair
18 competition within the meaning of Business and Professions Code section 17200. Due to its
19 unlawful and unfair business practices in violation of the Labor Code, Defendants have gained a
20 competitive advantage over other comparable companies doing business in the State of
21 California that comply with their obligations under the Labor Code.

72. As a result of one or more of Defendants' unfair competition as alleged herein,
Plaintiff and other members of the Classes have suffered injury in fact and lost money or
property. Plaintiff and members of the Classes have been deprived of their rights to all overtime
and double time wages owed to them, additional premium wages for meal and rest period
violations; and/or timely payment of all earned wages due upon termination of employment.

27

73. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 17203, Plaintiff and other

members of the Classes are entitled to restitution of the amount of overtime pay by which one or
 more Defendants underpaid them, the amount of the premium wages by which Defendants
 underpaid them, and to their reasonable attorneys' fees and costs under Code of Civil Procedure
 section 1021.5.

5	WIII	PRAYER FOR RELIEF				
6	WITT					
6	WHEREFORE, Plaintiff on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, prays for					
7	relief and judgment against Defendants as follows:					
8		CLASS CERTIFICATION:				
9	1.	An order that the action be certified as a class action;				
10	2.	An order that Plaintiff be certified as the representative of the Classes;				
11	3.	An order that counsel for Plaintiff be confirmed as Class counsel;				
12	ON THE FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION:					
13	1.	Damages for underpaid premiums for meal and rest period violations;				
14	2.	Prejudgment interest;				
15		ON THE SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION:				
16	1.	Damages for underpaid overtime wages;				
17	2.	Prejudgment interest;				
18	ON THE THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION:					
19	1.	Damages for unpaid wages earned prior to termination of employment;				
20	2.	Damages for unpaid continuation wages owed for failing to pay all earned wages				
21		timely upon termination of employment;				
22	3.	Prejudgment interest;				
23		ON THE FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION:				
24	1.	Damages for inaccurate wage statements for each pay period;				
25	2.	Prejudgment interest;				
26						
27						
28		16				
		COMPLAINT				

	Case 2:23-cv-0783	8 Document 1-1	Filed 09/19/23	Page 18 of 18	Page ID #:36				
1	ON THE FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION:								
2	1. Restitutio								
3	members	members of the Overtime Class;							
4	2. Restitution of all underpayment of premium wages by Defendants to Plaintiff and								
5	members of the Break Premium Class;								
6	3. Prejudgn	3. Prejudgment interest;							
7	ON ALL CAUSES OF ACTION:								
8	1. Judgment in favor of Plaintiff and the putative Classes and against Defendants;								
9	2. Reasonable attorney's fees;								
10	3. Costs of	3. Costs of suit; and							
11	4. Such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.								
12									
13	Dated: May 22, 2023		KIM LEGAL, A	РС					
14									
15			On.	apphi					
16	By: Frank H. Kim								
17		Attorneys for Plaintiff Paul Ward							
18									
19 20	Plaintiff demand		FOR JURY TRI		o triable				
20	Plaintiff demands a trial by jury for herself and the Class on all claims so triable.								
21	Dated: May 22, 2023 KIM LEGAL, APC								
22	\mathcal{X}								
23			Ву:	anhi					
25	Frank H. Kim								
26			Attorneys for Pla	intiff Paul Ward					
27									
28	17								
	COMPLAINT								

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>HBO, Production Company Hit with Class</u> <u>Action Over Alleged California Labor Law Violations</u>