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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

SALVADOR CANAVA, individually
And on behalf of others similarly
situated,

No.

**COLLECTIVE & CLASS
ACTION COMPLAINT**

Plaintiffs,

vs.

RAIL DELIVERY SERVICES,
INCORPORATED AND GREG P.
STEFFLRE, JUDI GIRARD
STEFFLRE,

Defendants.

1. Plaintiffs are California based truck drivers who regularly drive commercial vehicles in interstate commerce for Defendant RAIL DELIVERY SERVICES, INCORPORATED ("RDS") in California.

2. Defendant RDS is a privately-owned company headquartered in California. It is owned and operated by Defendant GREG P. STEFFLRE to move freight for customers of RDS.

3. This is an action for relief from Defendants' policy of willfully and unlawfully misclassifying Plaintiffs as "independent contractors" and by that system, failing to reimburse them for employment-related expenses and losses; taking wrongful deductions from their wages; failing to provide meal and rest breaks and/or premium pay, and failing to provide lawful minimum wages for all hours worked in violation of the California Labor Code, California's Industrial

1 Welfare Commission Wage Order No. 9 ("IWC Wage Order No. 9") and the Fair
2 Labor Standards Act ("FLSA"), 29 U.S.C. §201 *et. seq.*

3 4. By treating its Drivers as independent contractors instead of
4 employees, Defendants obtain a vast competitive advantage over competitor
5 trucking companies that treat their employee drivers as employees in compliance
6 with the law. As such, Defendants' pay practices drive down trucker wages and
7 undercut fair labor practices in California and across the country.

8 5. Plaintiffs bring their federal minimum wage claims individually and
9 on behalf of other similarly situated Drivers under the collective action provisions
10 of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

11 6. Plaintiffs bring their state claims as a class action pursuant to Fed. R.
12 Civ. P. Rule 23.

13 7. Defendants require Plaintiffs to sign an Independent Contractor
14 Agreement ("ICA") that states certain disputes between the parties "shall be
15 arbitrated according to the terms of the Federal Arbitration Act (9 U.S.C § 1, *et*
16 *seq.*)".

17 8. The ICA and its arbitration provision do not apply to Plaintiffs (a) as
18 they are void as unconscionable and (b) the ICA and Defendants' truck lease
19 agreements with Plaintiffs are exempt from coverage under the Federal Arbitration
20 Act.

21 9. Section 1 of the FAA, 9 U.S.C. §1, exempts, inter alia, contracts with
22 transportation workers engaged in commerce, regardless of whether they are
23 employees or independent contractors. Accordingly, the Federal Arbitration Act is
24 inapplicable to the claims asserted herein.

25 JURISDICTION

26 10. Jurisdiction is conferred upon this Court by 29 U.S.C. §216(b) of the
27 FLSA and by 28 U.S.C. §1331, as this action arises under laws of the United
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1 States, and by 28 U.S.C. §1337, as this action arises under Acts of Congress
2 regulating commerce. Jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' claims for declaratory relief is
3 conferred by 28 U.S.C. §§2201 and 2202.

4 11. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over the state law claims
5 raised by virtue of 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332 and 1367 including § 1367(a).

6 **VENUE**

7 12. The Named Plaintiff SALVADOR CANAVA resides in California.

8 13. Defendants reside in California. Defendant RDS has its headquarters
9 and terminal in Central District. Defendant STEFFLRE works, and upon
10 information and belief, resides in Central District.

11 14. Venue is proper in the Central District of California, pursuant to 28
12 U.S.C. § 1391, because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to
13 the claims occurred in Central District and at least one Defendant resides in Central
14 District.

15 **PARTIES**

16 15. The term "Plaintiffs" as used in this Complaint refers to the named
17 Plaintiff and all individuals represented pursuant to the collective action provisions
18 of 29 U.S.C. §216(b) as well as all putative Rule 23 Class Members as defined
19 below.

20 **A. Named Plaintiff**

21 16. Plaintiff SALVADOR CANAVA is a natural person residing in
22 California. CANAVA leased a truck from Defendants and signed Defendants'
23 Independent Contractor Agreement.

24 **B. Represented Parties under FLSA**

25 17. Named Plaintiff CANAVA brings this case under the collective action
26 provision of the FLSA as set forth in 29 U.S.C. §216(b) on behalf of himself and
27 similarly situated persons defined as "all individuals who lease(d) a truck from
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1 RDS to drive for RDS during the three years preceding the filing of the initial
2 complaint and through the date of final judgment herein and subject to any
3 equitable tolling for any applicable portion of the limitation period.” The putative
4 FLSA collective action is referred to herein as the FLSA Class.

5 **C. Rule 23 Class Action Allegations**

6 18. Named Plaintiff CANAVA brings the claims under California law set
7 forth herein under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, on behalf of
8 himself and a class of similarly situated persons defined as “all individuals who
9 lease(d) a truck from RDS to drive for RDS in California during the limitation
10 period preceding the filing of the initial complaint and through the date of final
11 judgment herein and subject to any equitable tolling for any applicable portion of
12 the limitation period.” This proposed class is referred to herein as the Rule 23
13 Class.

14 19. Excluded from any Rule 23 Class and FLSA Class are Defendants'
15 legal representatives, officers, directors, assigns, and successors, or any individual
16 who has, or who at any time during the relevant class periods has had, a controlling
17 interest in any Defendants or supervised any other Plaintiffs.

18 20. The persons in the Rule 23 Class are so numerous that joinder of all
19 members is impracticable. The precise number of such persons is not known to
20 Named Plaintiff, however, the facts on which the calculation of that number can be
21 based are presently within the sole control of Defendants.

22 21. Plaintiff is informed and believes and, based upon such information
23 and belief, alleges that there are in excess of 100 members in the Rule 23 Class.

24 22. There are questions of law and fact common to the Rule 23 Class that
25 predominate over any questions solely affecting individual members of the Class,
26 including but not limited to:

27 a. Whether the Rule 23 Class members have provided services
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1 to Defendants as employees rather than independent
2 contractors under California law;

- 3 b. Whether Rule 23 Class members have necessarily incurred
4 employment-related expenses and losses in performing their
5 duties for Defendants;
- 6 c. Whether Defendants have failed to indemnify Rule 23 Class
7 members for their necessary employment-related expenses
8 and losses in violation of Labor Code § 2802;
- 9 d. Whether Defendants' failure to indemnify Rule 23 Class
10 members for their necessary employment-related expenses
11 and losses constitutes an unlawful, unfair, and/or fraudulent
12 business practice under Business & Professions Code
13 §17200, *et seq.*;
- 14 e. Whether Defendants have made deductions from the
15 compensation paid to Rule 23 Class members in violation of
16 California law;
- 17 f. Whether Defendants' deductions from Rule 23 Class
18 members' compensation constitute an unlawful, unfair,
19 and/or fraudulent business practice under Business &
20 Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.*;
- 21 g. Whether Defendants have failed to provide Rule 23 Class
22 members with legally required off-duty meal periods and/or
23 compensation for missed meal periods in violation of Labor
24 Code §§ 226.7 and 512 and IWC Wage Order No. 9, § 11;
- 25 h. Whether Defendants' failure to provide Rule 23 Class
26 members with legally required off-duty meal periods and/or
27 meal period compensation constitutes an unlawful, unfair,
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1 and/or fraudulent business practice under Business &
2 Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.*;

3 i. Whether Defendants have failed to authorize and permit
4 Rule 23 Class members with legally required off-duty, paid
5 rest periods and/or compensation for missed rest periods in
6 violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and IWC Wage Order No.
7 9, §12;

8 j. Whether Defendants' failure to authorize and permit Rule 23
9 Class members legally required off-duty, paid, rest periods
10 and/or rest period compensation constitutes an unlawful,
11 unfair, and/or fraudulent business practice under Business &
12 Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.*;

13 k. Whether Defendants imposed unconscionable and/or
14 unlawful lease and "Independent Contractor" contracts upon
15 Plaintiffs under Civil Code §1670.5;

16 l. Whether Defendants were unjustly enriched by imposition
17 of unconscionable contracts upon Plaintiffs;

18 m. Whether Plaintiffs are entitled to declaratory judgment as to
19 any of the claims identified herein; and

20 n. The nature and extent of Class-wide injury and the
21 appropriate measure of damages for the Classes;

22 23. The claims of Plaintiff are typical of the claims of the Rule 23 Class
23 he seeks to represent. insofar as he alleges that (a) Defendants have a policy and
24 pattern or practice of exercising the powers of an employer with respect to him and
25 the Rule 23 Class; (b) Defendants failed to pay him and the Rule 23 Class all
26 wages due, (c) Defendants made unlawful and excessive deductions from his
27 wages and the Rule 23 Class members' wages and (d) failed to pay him and the
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1 Class members the minimum wage for all hours worked, and failed to afford him
2 and the Class all meal and rest breaks required by law.

3 24. Plaintiff and his counsel will fairly and adequately represent and
4 protect the interests of the Rule 23 Class members.

5 25. Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds generally
6 applicable to the Rule 23 Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief
7 or corresponding declaratory relief with respect to the Rule 23 Class as a whole
8 under Fed. R. Civ. P Rule 23(b)(2).

9 26. The state law claims are properly maintainable as a class action under
10 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b). A class action is superior to other available
11 methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this litigation, particularly in the
12 context of wage litigation like the present action, where individual Plaintiffs may
13 lack the financial resources to vigorously prosecute a lawsuit in federal court
14 against a defendant of this size and with greater resources. The members of the
15 Rule 23 Class have been damaged and are entitled to recovery as a result of
16 Defendants' common and uniform policies, practices, and procedures. In addition,
17 class treatment is superior because it will obviate the need for unduly duplicative
18 litigation that might result in inconsistent judgments about Defendants' practices.

19 **D. Defendants**

20 27. Defendant RAIL DELIVERY SERVICES, INCORPORATED (RDS)
21 is a California business corporation that has its principal place of business in
22 Fontana, California.

23 28. Defendant GREG P. STEFFLRE, is a resident of the State of
24 California. He is an attorney, co-founder of RDS, and its Chief Executive Officer.
25 Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based upon such information and belief,
26 alleges that STEFFLRE has an ownership interest in the RDS, and purports to own
27 the copyright on the ICA used by RDS to employ the members of the class.
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29. Defendant JUDI GIRARD STEFFLRE is a resident of the State of California. She is cofounder, Chairman and COO of RDS. Upon information and belief, she has an ownership interest in the corporate defendant, and manages the operations of RDS.

30. Plaintiff is informed and believes and based upon such information and belief, alleges that the non-corporate Defendants are related individuals who both have offices at the principal place of business of RDS in Fontana, California.

FACTS

31. Defendant RDS is a motor carrier that is engaged in the interstate shipment of freight.

32. Defendants conduct business throughout the country.

33. Defendants, individually and collectively, constitute an enterprise engaged in interstate commerce for purposes of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

34. Defendants have common control and a common business purpose and are operated as a single enterprise, within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. 203(r)(1).

35. All actions and omissions described in this complaint were made by Defendants directly or through their supervisory employees and agents.

36. Plaintiffs, including named Plaintiff CANAVA, entered into two form documents with Defendant RDS, a truck Rental Agreement (hereafter “Truck Lease”) and an ICA which purports to make the driver an independent contractor of RDS for purposes of driving freight for RDS.

37. Plaintiff CANAVA signed Defendants' ICA and Truck Tease with RDS in September 2017 and thereupon began working for Defendants as a truck driver.

38. Plaintiff CANAVA drove for Defendants in California pursuant to his ICA and Truck Lease from in or around September 2017 to in and around April 2018.

1 39. The Truck Lease and ICA are form agreements that are drafted by
2 Defendants and are presented to Plaintiffs as a package on a take it or leave it
3 basis. Together they formed a single contract.

4 40. The Truck Lease that Plaintiffs signed obligated them to
5 simultaneously sign and maintain an ICA with RDS.

6 41. The Truck Lease purports to bind Plaintiffs for a term of up to 5 or
7 more years.

8 42. The ICA has a term of one year in some instances.

9 43. While ICA and the Truck Lease state that Plaintiffs are independent
10 contractors, these contracts allow Defendants to exert nearly complete control over
11 Plaintiffs' work and ensure that Plaintiffs cannot independently work for other
12 trucking companies.

13 44. Despite the declaration in the ICA and the Truck Lease that Plaintiffs
14 are "independent contractors," Defendants treat Plaintiffs as employees as a matter
15 of law in that, *inter alia*:

- 16 a. Defendants' agents inform Plaintiffs that they can only drive
17 for RDS and are not permitted to drive for other carriers.
- 18 b. RDS controls the manner in which the work is to be
19 performed;
- 20 c. RDS controls Plaintiffs' opportunity for profit or loss
21 through its assignment of loads and trailers, and its setting of
22 compensation rates;
- 23 d. RDS owns Plaintiffs' truck and controls Plaintiffs'
24 investment in equipment or materials required for driving
25 RDS freight,
- 26 e. RDS controls Plaintiffs' employment of helpers;
- 27 f. RDS has the special skills necessary for the operation of a
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1 trucking company – its sales force, its dispatchers, its
2 computer systems, its communications, GPS, billing and
3 payroll;

4 g. RDS controls the degree of permanence of the working
5 relationship; and

6 h. The services rendered by Plaintiffs are an integral part of the
7 business of RDS.

8 45. Plaintiffs fulfill the primary business in which RDS engages – the
9 transportation of goods for the customers of RDS.

10 46. Defendants dispatch Plaintiffs to jobs that it wishes them to perform.
11 Defendants monitor and control the time of Plaintiffs' departure and the time of
12 arrival. Defendants can dictate and monitor the route Plaintiffs will travel.
13 Defendants give job instructions by a pre-printed manual with which Plaintiffs are
14 obligated to comply.

15 47. Defendants also give job instructions and monitor compliance with
16 those instructions by use of an on-board communications and GPS system, and by
17 telephone.

18 48. Defendants assign shipping work to the Plaintiffs through the on-
19 board communications and GPS system on which RDS sets the day and time for
20 pickup and delivery of freight.

21 49. Defendants monitor Plaintiffs' exact location, speed, control of the
22 truck, route, estimated time of arrival, rest time and driving time, and other aspects
23 of job performance by the on-board computerized communications and GPS
24 system.

25 50. Defendants can seize a Plaintiff's truck, for many reasons, including
26 "there are negative material changes which, in [RDS] discretion, substantially
27 impact your business operations" and/or if a Plaintiff is deemed by RDS to be in
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1 breach of any term of the rental agreement or a material breach of the ICA.

2 51. By the terms of the Truck Lease, RDS does not lease to truck drivers
3 who will not drive for RDS.

4 52. The ICA provides that RDS may cancel the Plaintiffs' contracts and
5 discharge Plaintiffs immediately with "cause," or on 1 days' notice without cause.

6 53. RDS may effectively discharge Plaintiffs at will on less than 1 day's
7 notice by refusing to dispatch them.

8 54. If Defendants terminate a Plaintiff's ICA, Defendants are permitted to
9 take possession of the truck and insist that the remaining lease payments be paid to
10 RDS, even though Defendants' termination of the ICA and the Truck Lease may
11 have caused the "default" and notwithstanding that any actual losses are capable of
12 determination and mitigation through re-leasing the truck, and that any losses are
13 far less than asserted by Defendants.

14 55. The ability to terminate the ICA is not mutual, as there are severe
15 consequences to a Plaintiff that terminates the ICA, including repossession of the
16 truck and the truck driver's liability to Defendants for liquidated damages.

17 56. Because Defendants take possession of the truck upon discharge of a
18 Plaintiff, Plaintiffs are unable to use the truck to drive for other trucking
19 companies. Thus, Plaintiffs are often forced to endure working under Defendants'
20 exclusive control for the duration of their lease.

21 57. Defendants prohibit Plaintiffs from freely using the truck they lease
22 from Defendants by a variety of means, including but not limited to the following:

- 23 a. The ICA gives RDS exclusive control over the equipment.
24 b. Plaintiffs are not permitted to drive the vehicle other than for
25 the business of RDS.
26 c. Plaintiffs cannot freely hire other truckers to work for them
27 without the approval of RDS.
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- d. RDS controls where the vehicle will be parked.
- e. RDS controls what loads will be carried.
- f. RDS owns the trailers used to carry freight for RDS.
- g. RDS negotiates with shippers for the terms by which RDS and Plaintiffs will carry freight.
- h. RDS prohibits transfer or assignment or sublease of its truck.
- i. Defendants tell Plaintiffs they cannot drive for third parties.
- j. RDS can put a Plaintiff in default for driving for another trucking company without permission.
- k. Merely requesting permission to drive for another trucking company puts a Plaintiff at risk that RDS can put the Plaintiff in default of the Truck Lease without cause, thereby requiring Plaintiffs to pay the net aggregate lease balance and surrender the truck at Plaintiffs' expense.
- l. While the ICA purports to permit Plaintiffs to perform work for other trucking companies, Plaintiffs are effectively compelled to work only for RDS during the terms of their contract.

58. Defendants cannot show that Plaintiffs (a) are, in fact, free from the control and direction of RDS in connection with the performance of the work, (b) perform work for RDS that is outside the usual course of the business of RDS, and (c) are customarily engaged in an independently established trade, occupation, or business.

59. As a result of the facts alleged in the foregoing paragraphs, Plaintiffs are not properly be deemed independent contractors, but instead are employees of RDS which has suffered and permitted and continues to suffer and permit Plaintiffs

1 to work.

2 60. Plaintiffs' equipment lease requires them to make weekly payment of
3 a portion of the total lease price. The rental payment is deducted from each
4 Plaintiff's wage remittance for the lease of the Defendants' truck.

5 61. Defendants deduct monthly fees for use of the on-board
6 communications and GPS which Plaintiff must rent/purchase from Defendants
7 (incurring additional pay deductions) or elsewhere.

8 62. Plaintiffs are required to pay money to Defendants for security which
9 has not been returned to Plaintiffs upon their termination.

10 63. The deductions described in the three preceding paragraphs are
11 business expenses of Defendants that act as deductions from Plaintiffs wages.
12 Other business expenses of Defendants that the Truck Lease and ICA require
13 Plaintiffs to bear are: rent and other fees for the truck; the communications and
14 GPS device by which Defendants send instructions to Plaintiffs; liability insurance
15 (indemnifying RDS); taxes; tolls; gas; maintenance, and a wide variety of other
16 charges.

17 64. Defendants deduct their business expenses, including those listed in
18 the preceding paragraph as well as, insurance premiums and security deposits from
19 Plaintiffs' compensation.

20 65. Defendants coerce or compel Plaintiffs to purchase many of the items
21 listed above from Defendants or their preferred sources.

22 66. Named Plaintiff CANAVA is informed and believes, and based upon
23 such information and belief, alleges that Defendants claim the depreciation on the
24 trucks leased to Plaintiffs.

25 67. While Defendants' scheme described herein shifts the costs of
26 maintaining RDS' fleet and general business operations to Plaintiffs, Defendants
27 keep all the benefits. This scheme also shifts the risk of trucking business
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1 downturns from Defendants to Plaintiffs as Defendants are not obligated to give
2 Plaintiffs any specific amount of work while Plaintiffs have continuing obligations
3 to RDS under the lease, insurance policies and other matters.

4 68. RDS pays Plaintiffs by trip rates and other flat rates set by the
5 company.

6 69. Defendants do not guarantee any amount of work to Plaintiffs.

7 70. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff the applicable federal and State
8 minimum wage for each hour worked in some weeks.

9 71. Defendants' treatment of Plaintiffs as independent contractors caused
10 them loss of wages, additional tax burdens, insurance obligations, and a variety of
11 other monetary and non-monetary compensable harm.

12 72. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiffs the proper wages required by law
13 was willful.

14 73. Defendants extracted profits by failing to pay Plaintiffs' the wages
15 that would otherwise be due.

16 74. Defendants' unlawful conduct has been intentional, willful, and in bad
17 faith, and has caused significant damages to Plaintiffs and the Classes.

18 75. Defendants were aware or should have been aware that the law
19 required them to pay Plaintiffs and the Class Members' minimum wages for each
20 workweek.

21 76. The Truck Lease and ICA contracts are unlawful and unconscionable,
22 insofar as they (a) call for the employment of Plaintiffs but treat them as
23 independent contractors; (b) allow RDS to terminate Plaintiffs' Truck Lease and
24 ICA but nevertheless require Plaintiffs to continue to make lease payments; (c)
25 shift Defendants' risk of business downturn to Plaintiffs; (d) make Plaintiffs
26 responsible for the costs of carrying and maintaining Defendants' fleet, and (e)
27 exact profits and reimbursements from Plaintiff- employees.
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1 77. By using the Truck Lease and ICA contract to misclassify Plaintiffs
2 and unlawfully shift the costs of their business to Plaintiffs, Defendants gained a
3 significant competitive advantage over competing trucking companies that treated
4 their employee-drivers as employees.

5 78. The ICA and the Truck Lease state that California substantive law
6 applies to the Parties.

7 79. Plaintiffs were engaged in interstate commerce while working for
8 Defendants pursuant to their Truck Leases and ICAs.

9 80. Trucks leased to Plaintiffs through RDS are registered with the
10 California Department of Motor Vehicles to RDS.

11 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**
12 **(Violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act)**

13 81. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs federal minimum wages for each
14 hour worked in each work week in violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29
15 U.S.C. §206 *et seq.* and its implementing regulations.

16 82. Defendants' failure to pay proper minimum wages for each hour
17 worked per week was willful within the meaning of the FLSA.

18 83. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' failure to comply with
19 the FLSA minimum wage protections, Plaintiffs suffered loss of wages, liquidated
20 damages, and interest thereon. As a further and direct result of Defendants'
21 unlawful conduct, as set forth herein, members of the FLSA Class, including
22 Plaintiff CANOVA, are entitled to recover costs and attorneys' fees.

23 **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**
24 **(Relief for unconscionable agreements)**

25 84. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference as through fully alleged herein
26 Paragraphs 1 through 83, inclusive.

27 85. The Defendants' Truck Lease and ICA are unconscionable.

28 86. The Defendants' unconscionable agreements are void, or

1 alternatively, voidable by Plaintiffs under the common law.

2 87. The Defendants have been unjustly enriched by the unconscionable
3 terms of the contracts they imposed on the Plaintiffs.

4 88. Plaintiffs are entitled to restitution or damages in *quantum meruit* for
5 the value the Defendants' unconscionable contracts conferred upon Defendants.

6 **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

7 **(Failure to pay the California minimum wage)**

8 89. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference as though fully alleged herein
9 Paragraphs 1 through 88, inclusive.

10 90. Defendants failed to pay the minimum wage and all wages due to
11 Plaintiffs in violation of Labor Code sections 1194 and 1182.12, and IWC Wage
12 Order 9, Section 4.

13 91. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs the minimum wage in each week in
14 violation of Labor Code sections 1194 and 1182.12 and IWC Wage Order 9,
15 Section 4.

16 92. As a further and direct result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, as set
17 forth herein, the members of the Rule 23 Class, including Plaintiff CANOVA, are
18 entitled to recover minimum wages, liquidated damages, as well as costs and
19 attorneys' fees pursuant to statute, all in a sum to be established at trial.

20 **FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

21 **(Failure to provide meal periods or compensation lieu thereof)**

22 93. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference as though fully alleged herein
23 Paragraphs 1 through 92, inclusive.

24 94. At all relevant times, Defendants were under a duty to comply with
25 Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512 and IWC Wage Order No. 9.

26 95. Labor Code section 226.7 and IWC Wage Order No. 9 provide that if
27 an employer fails to provide a non-exempt employee with an appropriate of duty
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1 meal period, the employer must pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the
 2 employee's regular rate of compensation for each work day that the meal period is
 3 not provided.

4 96. Pursuant to the policies and business practices of RDS, Rule 23 Class
 5 members, including Plaintiff CANAVA, were not regularly provided adequate
 6 meal periods as required by California law and were not compensated by
 7 Defendants for each work day that adequate meal periods were not provided.

8 97. By failing to regularly provide timely uninterrupted and unrestricted
 9 meal periods, during which members of the Rule 23 Class were relieved of all
 10 duty, Defendants violated Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512, and IWC Wage
 11 Order No. 9.

12 98. As a direct and proximate result of RDS' unlawful conduct, as set
 13 forth herein, the members of the Rule 23 Class, including Plaintiff CANAVA, are
 14 entitled to unpaid wages and interest pursuant to statute, all in a sum to be
 15 established at trial. As a further and direct result of Defendants' unlawful conduct,
 16 as set forth herein, the members of the Rule 23 Class, including Plaintiff
 17 CANOVA, are entitled to recover various penalties as well as costs and attorneys'
 18 fees pursuant to statute, all in a sum to be established at trial.

19 **FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

20 **(Failure to authorize and permit rest periods or compensation lieu thereof)**

21 99. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference as though fully alleged herein
 22 Paragraphs 1 through 98, inclusive.

23 100. At all relevant times, Defendants were under a duty to comply with
 24 Labor code sections 226.7 and IWC Wage Order No. 9.

25 101. Labor Code section 226.7 and IWC Wage Order No. 9 provide that if
 26 an employer fails to authorize and permit a non-exempt employee with an
 27 appropriate of paid rest period, the employer must pay the employee one (1) hour
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1 of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each work day that the
2 rest period is not provided.

3 102. Pursuant to the policies and business practices of RDS, Rule 23 Class
4 members, including Plaintiff CANAVA, were not regularly authorized and
5 permitted by Defendants' to take adequate rest periods as required by California
6 law and did not received compensation for each work day that adequate rest
7 periods were not provided.

8 103. Defendants failed to provide members of the Rule 23 Class, including
9 Plaintiff CANAVA, with timely rest periods of not less than ten (10) minutes per
10 four (4) hours or major fraction thereof worked as required by the Labor Code.

11 104. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, as
12 set forth herein, the members of the Rule 23 Class, including Plaintiff CANAVA,
13 are entitled to unpaid wages and interest pursuant to statute, all in a sum to be
14 established at trial. As a further and direct result of Defendants' unlawful conduct,
15 as set forth herein, the members of the Rule 23 Class, including Plaintiff
16 CANOVA, are entitled to recover various penalties as well as costs and attorneys'
17 fees pursuant to statute, all in a sum to be established at trial.

18 **SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

19 **(Failure to pay compensation timely upon severance of employment)**

20 105. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference as though fully alleged herein
21 Paragraphs 1 through 104, inclusive.

22 106. Labor Code section 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to
23 timely pay earned wages due to an employee who is discharged or quits, in
24 accordance with Labor Code sections 201 or 202, the employee's wages continue
25 at the same rate until paid or until suit is filed, but not for more than 30 days.

26 107. Defendants have had a consistent policy of failing to timely pay
27 wages earned by members of the Rule 23 Class, including Plaintiff CANAVA,
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1 who have been discharged by Defendants or who have voluntarily quit. The
2 members of the Rule 23 Class, including Plaintiff CANAVA, earned the above-
3 described wages prior to their termination of employment or voluntary resignation.

4 108. Defendants willfully failed to pay said wages at the time said
5 members of the Rule 23 Class were discharged, or quite their employment, in
6 violation of Labor Code section 203. As a result, Plaintiff CANAVA and each
7 member of the Rule 23 Class who was discharged or voluntarily resigned is
8 entitled to a payment of up to 30 days' pay at the rate that each such member of the
9 Rule 23 Class was paid at the time of separation of that employee's employment
10 and an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to statute, all in
11 amounts to be proven at trial.

12 **SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

13 **(Failure to comply with itemized employee wage statement provisions)**

14 109. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference as though fully alleged herein
15 Paragraphs 1 through 108, inclusive.

16 110. Labor Code section 226(a) states that every employer shall,
17 semimonthly or at the time of each payment of wages, furnish each of its
18 employees, either as a detachable part of the check, an accurate itemized statement
19 in writing showing substantial detailed information, including but limited to, all
20 hours worked, rates of pay, and amounts paid.

21 111. Defendants failed to provide "accurate itemized statements" to
22 members of the Rule 23 Class, including Plaintiff CANAVA, because the wage
23 statements failed to correctly state all items required by Labor Code section 226(a).

24 112. Members of the Rule 23 Class, including Plaintiff CANAVA, were
25 damaged by the failure of Defendants to comply with the requirements of Labor
26 Code section 226, and allege that such violations were knowing and willful.
27 Pursuant to Labor Code section 226(3), Plaintiff CANAVA and members of the
28

1 Rule 23 Class are entitled to recover the greater of actual damages or \$50 for the
2 initial violation and \$100 per employee for each subsequent violation up to a total
3 of \$4,000, plus reasonable attorney fees and costs, all in amounts to be proven at
4 trial.

5 **EIGHTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**
6 **(Violation of Labor Code sections 221 and 2802)**

7 113. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference as though fully alleged herein
8 Paragraphs 1 through 112, inclusive.

9 114. Defendants made unlawful deductions from the pay due to members
10 of the Rule 23 Class, including Plaintiff CANAVA and failed to pay for employer
11 expenses borne by Plaintiffs in violation of Labor Code sections 221 and 2802 and
12 IWC Wage Order 9, Section 9.

13 115. Defendants coerced or compelled members of the Rule 23 Class,
14 including Plaintiff CANAVA, to patronize Defendants or others in the purchase of
15 things of value in violation of Labor Code section 450.

16 116. Defendants unlawfully made deductions from Plaintiffs' compensation
17 to cover certain ordinary business expenses of Defendants, including but not
18 limited to, payments for cargo equipment loss and damage through direct
19 withdrawals, insurance premiums and security deposits, in violation of Labor Code
20 § 221 and IWC Wage Order No. 9, Section 8 and are thus liable to Plaintiffs for the
21 compensation that should have been paid but for the unlawful deductions, pursuant
22 to Labor Code § 221 and IWC Wage Order No. 9, § 8.

23 117. As a result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, as set forth herein, the
24 members of the Rule 23 Class, including Plaintiff CANAVA, are entitled to be
25 compensated for the deductions from their compensation and an award of
26 reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to statute, all in amounts to be proven
27 at trial.
28

NINTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Violation of Business and Professions Code section 17200 *et seq.*)

118. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference as though fully alleged herein Paragraphs 1 through 117, inclusive.

119. Defendants have engaged in unfair business practices in California by utilizing and engaging in an unlawful pattern and practice of failing to pay properly employee compensation as previously described herein, including without limitation by not paying minimum wages, by not providing adequate meal periods and rest periods, by failing to timely pay wages due and owing, and by failing to pay for violations of Labor Code sections 203, 221, 226, 226.7, 450, 1182.12, 1194, and 2802.

120. Defendants' use of such practices constituted and constitutes an unfair business practice, unfair competition, and provides an unfair advantage of Defendants' competitors in California.

121. As a result of their unlawful acts and unfair business practices, Defendants deprived members of the Rule 23 Class, including Plaintiff CANAVA, of the wages and benefits they legitimately earned and Defendants have used these wages and benefits for their own use and advantage. Defendants should be ordered to restore to the Rule 23 Class, including Plaintiff CANAVA, their lost wages and benefits. The restitution includes all wages earned and unpaid, including interest thereon, all in an amount to be proven at trial.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs request that this Court enter an Order:

1. With respect to the FLSA violations
 - a. Declaring that Defendants violated the FLSA;
 - b. Approving this action as a collective action;
 - c. Declaring that Defendants' violations of the FLSA were willful;
 - d. Granting judgment to Plaintiff CANOVA, and similarly situated

1 represented parties for their claims of unpaid wages as required
2 by the Fair Labor Standards Act, as well as an equal amount in
3 liquidated damages, and interest; and

- 4 e. Awarding Plaintiffs and represented parties their costs and
5 reasonable attorneys' fees.

6 2. With respect to the state law claims:

- 7 a. Certifying this action as a class action;
8 b. Designating Plaintiff CANOVA as the Class Representative;
9 c. Designating the undersigned counsel as Class Counsel;
10 d. Entering a declaratory judgment that the practices
11 complained of herein are unlawful;
12 e. Fashioning appropriate equitable and injunctive relief to
13 remedy Defendants' violations of law, including but not
14 necessarily limited to an order determining that the contract
15 is void, or voidable, or alternatively severing any
16 unconscionable clauses and enjoining Defendants from
17 continuing their unlawful practices as described herein;
18 f. Awarding statutory, compensatory, liquidated damages,
19 appropriate statutory penalties, restitution and other make
20 whole relief to be paid by Defendants according to proof;
21 g. Awarding Pre-judgment and Post-Judgment interest, as
22 otherwise provided by law;
23 h. Granting such other legal, injunctive and equitable relief as
24 the Court may deem just and proper;
25 i. Awarding Plaintiffs reasonable attorneys' fees and costs,
26 including expert fees and
27
28

1 j. Awarding Plaintiffs such other and further relief as this
2 Court deems just and proper.
3

4 Dated: March 1, 2019

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