Case 2:18-cv-02340-JAM-AC Document 1 Filed 08/27/18 Page 1 of 10 COLLIN D. COOK, SBN 251606 1 E-mail ccook@fisherphillips.com FISHER & PHILLIPS LLP 2 One Embarcadero Center, Suite 2050 3 San Francisco, CA 94111-3709 Irvine, California 92614 Telephone: (415) 490-9032 4 Facsimile: (415) 490-9001 5 CHRISTOPHER M. AHEARN, SBN 239089 E-mail cahearn@fisherphillips.com 6 FISHER & PHILLIPS LLP 7 2050 Main Street, Suite 1000 Irvine, California 92614 8 Telephone: (949) 851-2424 Facsimile: (949) 851-0152 9 Attorneys for Defendant PRIMEFLIGHT AVIATION SERVICES, INC. WHICH WILL DO BUSINESS IN 10 CALIFORNIA AS PRIMEFLIGHT OF DE, INC. 11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 12 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 13 14 HERTA GUADALUPE KUHN, on behalf Case No: 2:18-at-0135 15 of herself and all others similarly situated, and on behalf of the general public, 16 NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF ACTION TO Plaintiff, U.S. DISTRICT COURT 17 18 v. [Originally California Superior Court (Sacramento) Case No. 34-2018-00235596] PRIMEFLIGHT AVIATION SERVICES. 19 INC. WHICH WILL DO BUSINESS IN CALIFORNIA AS PRIMEFLIGHT OF DE, 20 INC., a Delaware Corporation, PRIME FLIGHT AVIATION SERVICES, INC., a 21 Ohio Corporation and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive. 22 23 Defendants. 24 25 26 27 28 NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF ACTION TO U.S. DISTRICT COURT

FPDOCS 32353023.1

Defendant PRIMEFLIGHT AVIATION SERVICES, INC. WHICH WILL DO BUSINESS IN CALIFORNIA AS PRIMEFLIGHT OF DE, INC. (hereinafter referred to as "Defendant" or "PrimeFlight – DE") hereby removes the above-captioned action from the Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the County of Sacramento, to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332(d) (the Class Action Fairness Act), 1441, 1446, and 1453. Such removal is based upon and supported by the following.

I. THE STATE COURT ACTION

- 1. On or about June 22, 2018, Plaintiff HERTA GUADALUPE KUHN (hereinafter, "Plaintiff") filed an unverified "Class and Representative Action Complaint" (hereinafter, the "Complaint") in the Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the County of Sacramento, thereby initiating the civil action entitled "HERTA GUADALUPE KUHN, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, and on behalf of the general public, Plaintiff, vs. PRIMEFLIGHT AVIATION SERVICES, INC. WHICH WILL DO BUSINESS IN CALIFORNIA AS PRIMEFLIGHT OF DE, INC., a Delaware Corporation, PRIME FLIGHT AVIATION SERVICES, INC, a Ohio Corporation and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, Defendants", Case No. 34-2018-00235596 (hereinafter, the "State Court Action"). A true and correct copy of the Complaint is attached hereto as Exhibit A. The named defendants in the State Court Action are referred to collectively herein as the "Defendants."
- 2. The County of Sacramento is within the territory of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California.
- 3. Plaintiff's Complaint asserts causes of action for: (1) Failure to Provide Meal and Rest Periods in Violation of (Labor Code § 226.7, 512 and 558); (2) Knowing and Intentional Failure to Comply with Itemized Employee Wage Statement Provisions (Labor Code § 226(a), (e)); (3) Failure to Timely Pay Wages Due at Termination (Labor Code §§ 201-203); (4) Violation of Business and Professions Code § 17200); and (5) Penalties Pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(f) for Violations of Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, 558, § 226(a)(e), §§ 201-203.

4. True and correct copies of all other process, pleadings and orders (*see* 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a)) that have been served on PrimeFlight – DE in the State Court Action are attached hereto, respectively, as Exhibit B (Summons), Exhibit C (Civil Cover Sheet), and Exhibit D (Notice of Case Management Conference).

5. The Complaint, along with Exhibits B through D hereto, were served on PrimeFlight – DE by personal service on July 27, 2018.

II. REMOVAL IS SUBJECT TO A LIBERAL PLEADING STANDARD

6. In 2014, the U.S. Supreme Court held that notices of removal are subject to the same general pleading standards applicable to complaints pursuant to Rule 8(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and that accordingly such notices need not attach evidence or meet a burden of proof, but rather need only contain a "short and plain statement of the grounds for removal." *Dart Cherokee Basin Operating Co., LLC v. Owens*, 135 S.Ct. 547, 551-554 (2014) (quoting 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a)). This governing principle also applies to a removing party's allegations as to the amount in controversy. *Id.*; *Garnett v. ADT LLC*, 74 F. Supp. 3d 1332, 1334 (E.D. Cal. 2015). Only if the Court, or another party, contests the allegations of removability must the removing party submit evidence supporting its allegations, whereupon removability is decided under a preponderance of the evidence standard. *Dart Cherokee*, *supra*, 135 S.Ct. at 553-554.

III. THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT HAS JURISDICTION PURSUANT TO THE CLASS ACTION FAIRNESS ACT

7. On February 18, 2005, Congress enacted the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 (hereinafter, the "CAFA"). The CAFA gives U.S. District Courts original jurisdiction over civil class action lawsuits in which any member of the putative class is a citizen of a state different from any defendant, and in which the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$5 million, exclusive of interest and costs. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2). The CAFA authorizes removal of such actions in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1446. While there are a number of exceptions to this rule of original jurisdiction contained in 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332(d)(3)-(5), no such exceptions apply here.

- 8. There is no "presumption against removal" when a defendant seeks to remove pursuant to the CAFA. *Dart Cherokee, supra*, 135 S.Ct. at 554.
- 9. This Court has original jurisdiction over this case under the CAFA, in that the case is a civil putative class action wherein the matter in controversy exceeds the sum of \$5 million, exclusive of interest and costs, and at least one member (if not all) of the class of plaintiffs is a citizen of a state different than that of PrimeFlight DE. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d).
- 10. Plaintiff's Complaint asserts all of her claims on behalf of a putative class consisting of "[a]ll current and former employees of Defendants since the date four (4) year [sic] prior to the filing of this complaint" (hereinafter, the "Putative Class"). Complaint, ¶ 16. There are more than one hundred (100) such persons, and as such CAFA's exception for classes of fewer than one hundred (100) persons does not apply. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(5)(B).
- 11. Plaintiff's Complaint asserts the same claims, on behalf of the same Putative Class, against both PrimeFlight DE and a separate entity, namely "Prime Flight Aviation Services, Inc." (hereinafter, "Prime Flight OH"), alleging that Defendants acted as each other's agents, that they carried out a "joint scheme, business plan or policy" with respect to all matters alleged in the Complaint, that "the acts of each [such defendant is] legally attributable to the other Defendants", and that the Defendants "in all respects acted as the employer and/or joint employer of Plaintiff and the [Putative Class]." Complaint, ¶ 9.
- 12. Under 28 U.S.C. § 1453(b), a part of the CAFA, "a class action may be removed to a district court of the United States in accordance with section 1446 (except that the 1-year limitation under section 1446(b) shall not apply), without regard to whether a defendant is a citizen of the State in which the action is brought, except that such action may be removed by any defendant without the consent of all defendants." CAFA's diversity requirement is satisfied when at least one plaintiff is a citizen of a state in which none of the defendants are citizens, when one plaintiff is a citizen of a foreign state and one defendant is a U.S. citizen, or when one plaintiff is a U.S. citizen and one defendant is a citizen of a foreign state. 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332(d)(2), 1332(d)(5)(B), 1453(a).

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- 13. At all times since at least June 22, 2018, Plaintiff has been a resident and citizen of the State of California. See, e.g., Complaint, \P 6.
- 14. A corporation is deemed to be a citizen of the state in which it is incorporated and where it has its principal place of business. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c)(1). The phrase "principal place of business" "refers to the place where the corporation's high level officers direct, control, and coordinate the corporation's activities." Hertz Corp. v. Friend, 559 U.S. 77, 80 (2010). This is the corporation's "nerve center." *Id.* at 78. "[I]n practice [this] should normally be the place where the corporation maintains its headquarters..." Id. The headquarters is the place from which the corporation's business activities are directed, controlled, and coordinated. *Id.* At all times since at least June 22, 2018, the following have been the case with regard to PrimeFlight – DE: (a) it has been a Corporation, incorporated in and under the laws of the State of Delaware; (b) its corporate headquarters, where its "high level" officers and executives have directed, controlled, and coordinated PrimeFlight – DE's business operations, has been located in the State of Texas; (c) its core executive and administrative functions have been carried out in the State of Texas, including but not limited to all legal work and analysis, policy-making and decisions, corporate communications (internal and external), advertising and marketing, and centralized information technology operations. Therefore, PrimeFlight – DE is a citizen of the states of Delaware and Texas. *Hertz*, *supra*, 559 U.S. at 78.
- 14. Based upon the foregoing, minimal diversity is established because at all times since at least June 22, 2018, Plaintiff has been a citizen of California and PrimeFlight DE has been a citizen of Delaware and Texas. *See* 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332(d)(2), 1332(d)(5)(B), 1453(a), (b); *Hertz, supra*, 559 U.S. at 78.
- 15. Prime Flight OH has not been served with process in the State Court Action. And, in any event, consent of co-defendants is not required for removal under the CAFA. 28 U.S.C. § 1453(b); *United Steel, et al. v. Shell Oil Co.*, 549 F.3d 1204, 1208-1209 (9th Cir. 2008). Accordingly, whether Prime Flight OH consents to this removal is not material. *Id.*; *see* 28 USC § 1446(b)(2)(B); *see also Destfino v. Reiswig*, 630 F.3d 952, 956 (9th Cir. 2011).

16. Intra-district assignment to the Sacramento Division of this Court is proper because the case was originally filed in the California Superior Court in and for the County of Sacramento.

- 17. Section 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d) (a part of the CAFA) authorizes the removal of class action cases in which, among other factors mentioned above, the amount in controversy for all class members exceeds \$5 million. Plaintiff's Complaint is silent as to the total amount of monetary relief sought. However, the failure of the Complaint to specify the total amount of monetary relief sought by Plaintiff does not deprive this Court of jurisdiction. *White v. J.C. Penny Life Ins. Co.*, 861 F. Supp. 25, 26 (S.D. W.Va.1994) (defendant may remove suit to federal court notwithstanding the failure of Plaintiff to plead a specific dollar amount in controversy; if the rules were otherwise, "any Plaintiff could avoid removal simply by declining. . . to place a specific dollar claim upon its claim.")
- 18. On March 8, 2018, Prime Flight OH filed a notice of removal in a separate civil action alleging similar claims (wage and hour claims including failure to provide California meal and rest periods, wage statement violations, and "waiting time" penalties), against a similar class (all non-exempt employees), as are alleged here. *See* "Notice of Removal of Civil Action Under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332, 1441, 1446 and 1453 by Defendant PrimeFlight Aviation Services, Inc.", filed March 8, 2018 in the U.S. District Court (N.D. Cal.) in an action entitled *Edgardo Dones, et al. v. PrimeFlight Aviation Services, Inc.*, Case No. 3:18-cv-01503 (hereinafter, the "Prime Flight OH Removal Notice"), attached hereto as Exhibit E, ¶¶ 2, 8. Also attached hereto as Exhibit F is a copy of the supporting declaration of Emil Czechowski, M.B.A. in support of such removal notice (hereinafter, the "Czechowski Decl.").
 - 18. The "Amount in Controversy" requirement is met here based on the following.

(a) Meal and Rest Period Claims

Plaintiff's First Cause of Action alleges that Defendants collectively failed entirely to provide Plaintiff and Putative Class Members with meal and rest periods as required by California law. *See* Complaint, ¶¶ 26-31. Plaintiff claims one hour of pay for each day that

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Defendants did not provide all require meal periods, and an additional hour for each day that
Defendants did not provide all required rest periods Id . at ¶¶ 27-29. Plaintiff's claims for mea
and rest period "premium" wages are potentially subject to up to a four-year limitation period.
See Murphy v. Kenneth Cole Productions, Inc., 40 Cal. 4th 1094, 1105-1114 (2007).

Defendant employed at least approximately 575 members of the Putative Class in California at any one given time, during the time period since it commenced operations in California on or about November 10, 2017. Such persons earned an average of approximately \$16.25 per hour (with some earning substantially more). Such employees generally worked a schedule consisting of five (8) eight-hour workdays per week, at least approximately fortyeight (48) weeks per year (accounting for vacations, leaves, and illness). Based on those figures, the amount at issue on Plaintiff's meal and rest periods alone is 575 (persons) x 36 (weeks) x 5 x \$16.25 (avg. regular hourly rate) x 2 (premiums per workday) = \$3,363,750. Additionally, the Prime Flight – OH Removal Notice shows that, with regard to the same work force, as to the time period from October 30, 2013 to October 30, 2017, the meal and rest period premium allegations place an additional \$1,669,472 in controversy (conservatively reducing Prime Flight – OH's figure of \$989,300 + \$1,097,540 = \$2,086,840 by 20% to account for the fact that the limitation period in such action runs back from October 30, 2017 instead of June 22, 2018). See Prime Flight – OH Removal Notice, ¶¶ 20-21; Czechowski Decl., ¶ 5. This brings the total amount in controversy to \$5,033,222. It is significant to note that Prime Flight – OH's figures are also conservative in that they assume a 20% violation rate, even though Plaintiff in this case has placed no such limitation on her meal and rest period allegations. See Id.; Complaint, ¶ 28 (referring to "one or more" such meal and rest periods). Accordingly, in reality the allegations against Prime Flight – OH alone establish an additional \$6,677,888 in controversy in this action (\$1,669,472 x 4), bringing the total in controversy on this claim to \$11,711,110 (\$3,363,750 + \$1,669,472 + \$6,677,888).

As such, the amount at issue on Plaintiff's meal and rest period claim is between \$5,033,222 and \$11,711,110.

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On Plaintiff's claim for failure to provide accurate, itemized wage statements (Complaint, ¶¶ 32-34), Plaintiff may claim penalties in the amount of \$50 for the initial pay period, plus \$100 for each additional pay period, to a maximum of \$4,000 per employee, with a one-year limitation period. Cal. Lab. Code § 226(e); Cal. Code Civ. Proc. § 340(a). There were at least 575 members of the Putative Class employed by Defendant and/or Prime Flight – OH, for a full year prior to the date of the filing of the Complaint on June 22, 2017, and such persons were paid bi-weekly. During such time period, there have been at least thirty (30) bi-weekly pay periods. As such, at least the following amount is put at issue by Plaintiff's wage statement claim: 575 x [\$50 (initial pay period penalty) + (\$100 x 29 remaining pay periods)] = \$1,696,250.

(c) Waiting Time / Separation Pay Penalties

Plaintiff's claim for "waiting time" penalties alleges that Defendants failed to pay her and other members of the Putative Class all wages due upon separation of employment, resulting in a penalty of thirty (30) days' pay at the employees' daily rate of pay. Complaint, ¶¶ 35-40; Cal. Lab. Code § 203. This claim has a three-year limitation period. *Pineda v. Bank of* America, 50 Cal.4th 1389, 1392-1402 (2010). The "daily rate of pay" is the employees' typical number of hours worked per day, multiplied by the hourly rate, in this case on average 8 hours x \$16.25 or \$130. See Cal. Lab. Code § 203. At least approximately one hundred fifty (150) members of the Putative Class separated from employment with Defendant during the time period since it commenced operations in California on or about November 10, 2017 to the present. Thus, the amount put at issue by this claim is $$130 \times 150 \times 30 = $585,000$. Additionally, the Prime Flight – OH Removal Notice shows that there is an additional amount of approximately \$1,614,164.60 in controversy on this claim (conservatively reducing their figure of \$2,017,707 by 20% to account for the fact that the limitation period in the other action runs back from October 30, 2017 and not June 22, 2018). See Prime Flight – OH Removal Notice, at 9:18-10:8 & Czechowski Decl., ¶ 7. Accordingly, the amount in controversy on this claim is \$2,199,164.60.

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- (d) As such, the total amount put at issue by Plaintiff's claims, without counting for his unpaid wage/overtime claim, or attorney fees, is between \$8,928,636.60 (\$5,033,222 + \$1,696,250 + \$2,199,164.60) and \$15,606,524.60 (\$11,711,110 + \$1,696,250 + \$1,696,250)\$2,199,164.60). It is well-settled that in determining whether a complaint meets the amount in controversy requirement, the Court should consider attorneys' fees. Missouri State Life Ins. Co. v. Jones, 290 U.S. 199, 200-202 (1933) (attorneys' fees may be taken into account to determine jurisdictional amount where statute authorizes prevailing party attorney fees); See Cal. Lab. Code §§ 218.5, 226(e)(1) (providing for attorney fees for a prevailing plaintiff on claims for wages in improper wage statements); Complaint, at page 10 (Prayer for Relief, item 8, seeking attorney fees). If an award of attorneys' fees of 25% (a generally accepted standard in cases such as this one) is added to the above, the total would equal between \$11,160,795.80 (\$8,928,636.60 x 1.25) and \$19,508,155.80 (\$15,010,524.60 x 1.25).
- 19. By removing this matter, Defendant does not waive and, to the contrary, reserves, any rights it may have including, without limitation, all available arguments and defenses, including the right to move to compel Plaintiff's claims to arbitration. "The amount in controversy is simply an estimate of the total amount in dispute, not a prospective assessment of defendant's liability." Lewis v. Verizon Commc'ns, Inc., 627 F.3d 395, 400 (9th Cir. 2010).

IV. NOTICE, SERVICE, AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS ARE MET

- 20. "Doe" defendants 1 through 20 are fictitious. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a), the citizenship of Defendants sued under fictitious names must be disregarded for the purposes of determining diversity jurisdiction and cannot destroy the diversity of citizenship between the parties in this action. Newcombe v. Adolf Coors Co., 157 F.3d 686, 690-91 (9th Cir. 1998).
- 21. As required by 28 U.S.C. §1446(b), this Notice was filed within 30 days after Defendant was first served with a copy of Plaintiff's Summons and Complaint.
- 22. In accordance with 28 U.S.C. §1446(d), Defendant will promptly provide notice of this removal to Plaintiff through his attorneys of record, and Defendant will promptly file a copy of this Notice of Removal with the Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the

Case 2:18-cv-02340-JAM-AC Document 1 Filed 08/27/18 Page 10 of 10 County of Sacramento. 1 In the event this Court has a question regarding the propriety of this Notice of 23. 2 3 Removal, Defendant requests that it issue an Order to Show Cause so that it may have an opportunity to more fully brief the basis for this removal, and to produce supporting evidence. 4 5 6 Respectfully submitted, Dated: August 27, 2018 7 FISHER & PHILLIPS LLP 8 9 /s/ Christopher M. Ahearn By: _ COLLIN D. COOK 10 CHRISTOPHER M. AHEARN Attorneys For Defendant 11 PRIMEFLIGHT AVIATION SERVICES, INC. WHICH WILL DO BUSINESS IN 12 CALIFORNIA AS PRIMEFLIGHT OF DE, INC. 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

Herta Kuhn v. PrimeFlight Aviation Services, Inc., et al., U.S. Dist. Ct. (E.D. Cal.) Case No. [Unassigned]

NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF ACTION TO U.S. DISTRICT COURT

EXHIBIT A (State Court Complaint)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Roman Otkupman, CSBN 249423 Roman@OLFLA.com Meghan Maertz, CSBN 276976 Meghan@OLFLA.com OTKUPMAN LAW FIRM, A LAW CORPORA 28632 Roadside Dr., Suite 203 Agoura Hills, CA, 91301 Telephone: (818) 293-5623 Facsimile (888) 850-1310 Attorney for Plaintiff, Herta Guadalupe Kuhn, on behalf of herself and the general public SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COUNTY OF S HERTA GUADALUPE KUHN, on behalf of	all others similarly situated, and on behalf of E STATE OF CALIFORNIA
11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	herself and all others similarly situated, and on behalf of the general public, Plaintiff, vs. PRIMEFLIGHT AVIATION SERVICES, INC. WHICH WILL DO BUSINESS IN CALIFORNIA AS PRIMEFLIGHT OF DE, INC., a Delaware Corporation, PRIME FLIGHT AVIATION SERVICES, INC, a Ohio Corporation and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, Defendants.	CLASS AND REPRESENTATIVE ACTION COMPLAINT FOR: 1. FAILURE TO PROVIDE MEAL AND REST PERIODS IN VIOLATION OF (LABOR CODE § 226.7, 512 AND 558) 2. KNOWING AND INTENTIONAL FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ITEMIZED EMPLOYEE WAGE STATEMENT PROVISIONS (LABOR CODE § 226(a), (e)); 3. FAILURE TO TIMELY PAY WAGES DUE AT TERMINATION (LABOR CODE §§ 201-203); 4. VIOLATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE § 17200; 5. PENALTIES PURSUANT TO LABOR CODE § 2699(f) FOR VIOLATIONS OF LABOR CODE §§ 226.7, 512, 558, § 226(a)(e), §§ 201-203
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PLAINTIFF, Herta Guadalupe Kuhn ("Plaintiff"), on behalf of herself and other "aggrieved employees" complains of Defendants as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

- 1. This is a Class and Representative Action, pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 382 on behalf of Plaintiff and certain individuals who are employed by, or were formerly employed by, PRIMEFLIGHT AVIATION SERVICES, INC. WHICH WILL DO BUSINESS IN CALIFORNIA AS PRIMEFLIGHT OF DE, INC.; PRIME FLIGHT AVIATION SERVICES, INC. and any subsidiaries or affiliated companies (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Defendants") within California.
- 2. For at least four (4) years prior to the filing of this action and continuing to the present (the "liability period"), Defendants have had a consistent policy of failing to pay all final wages due at termination or within seventy-two (72) hours after separation to all employees in California, and failing to provide employees with accurately itemized wage statements. Defendant further failed to provide Plaintiff and the class with the wage statements in compliance with Labor Code § 226(a).
- 3. Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and all proposed Plaintiff Class members (specifically, the "California Class" as defined herein), brings this action pursuant to Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512 and 558, Labor § 226(a)(e), Labor Code § 201-203.
- 4. Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and all proposed Plaintiff Class members pursuant to Business & Professions Code §§ 17200-17208, also seeks injunctive relief, restitution, and disgorgement of all benefits Defendants enjoyed from their failure to pay wages.
- 5. Venue as to each Defendants is proper in this judicial district, pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 395. Defendants operate within the State of California. The unlawful acts alleged herein took place in Sacramento, California.

II. PARTIES

A. PLAINTIFF

- 6. Plaintiff Herta Guadalupe Kuhn is a resident of Sacramento, California. At all times relevant herein, she was employed by Defendants in Sacramento County, California. Plaintiff was employed by Defendants as a non-exempt, hourly employee in California, including in and around the city of Sacramento, County of Sacramento. During Plaintiff's employment:
 - A. Plaintiff did not receive final wages upon separation.

- B. Plaintiff and the Class were not paid in a timely manner pertaining to the waiting time penalties in accordance with Labor Code §§ 201-203.
- C. Was required to work without meal and rest periods, nor compensation in lieu thereof, as required by the Labor Code and relevant Wage Orders.
- D. Plaintiff was forced to receive inaccurately itemized and deficient wage statements, in violation of Labor Code § 226(a).

B. DEFENDANTS

- 7. Defendants PRIMEFLIGHT AVIATION SERVICES, INC. WHICH WILL DO BUSINESS IN CALIFORNIA AS PRIMEFLIGHT OF DE, INC. is a Delaware Corporation doing business in Sacramento, California; PRIME FLIGHT AVIATION SERVICES, INC. is a Ohio Corporation doing business in Sacramento, California. It operates within the State of California. Defendants employed Plaintiff and similarly situated employees within California. The violations alleged herein arose in Sacramento, California.
- 8. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate, or otherwise, of Defendants sued herein as DOES 1 to 10, inclusive, are currently unknown to Plaintiff, who therefore sues Defendants by such fictitious names under Code of Civil Procedure § 474. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that each of the Defendants designated herein as a DOE is legally responsible in some manner for the unlawful acts referred to herein. Plaintiff will seek leave of court to amend this Complaint to reflect the true names and capacities of the Defendants designated hereinafter as DOES when such identities become known.
- 9. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that each Defendant acted in all respects pertinent to this action as the agent of the other Defendants, carried out a joint scheme, business plan or policy in all respects pertinent hereto, and the acts of each Defendant are legally attributable to the other Defendants. Furthermore, Defendants in all respects acted as the employer and/or joint employer of Plaintiff and the proposed Class.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 10. Defendants willfully deny their California employees their meal and rest periods, and fail to timely provide such, or compensation in lieu thereof, as required by Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512 and 558.
- 11. Defendants fail to properly itemize the wage statement of Plaintiff and members of California Class, in violation of Labor Code §226(a).

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12. Defendants also violate Labor Code §§ 201-203 pertaining to the waiting time penalties as a result of Defendant's failure to pay Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees in a timely manner.

. 13. Plaintiff and proposed California Class are covered by California Industrial Welfare Commission Occupational Wage Order No. 7-2001.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 14. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated as a Class Action pursuant to § 382 of the Code of Civil Procedure.
 - 15. Plaintiff seeks to represent a class composed of and defined as follows:

THE CALIFORNIA CLASS

- All current and former California employees of Defendants since the date 16. four (4) year prior to the filing of this complaint.
- 17. Plaintiff reserves the right under Rule 3.765, California Rules of Court, to amend or modify the class description with greater specificity or further division into subclasses or limitation to particular issues.
- 18. This action has been brought and may properly be maintained as a class action under the provisions of § 382 of the Code of Civil Procedure because there is a well-defined community of interest in the litigation and the proposed Class is easily ascertainable.

NUMEROSITY

- The potential members of the proposed Class as defined are so numerous that joinder of all the members of the proposed Class is impracticable. While the precise number of proposed Plaintiff Class members has not been determined at this time, Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendants currently employ, and during the relevant time periods employed, over seventy-five (75) Class members in the State of California.
- Accounting for employee turnover during the relevant periods necessarily increases this number substantially. Plaintiff alleges that Defendants' employment records would provide information as to the number and location of all proposed Plaintiff Class members. Joinder of all members of the proposed Class is not practicable.

B. **COMMONALITY**

There are questions of law and fact common to the proposed Class that predominate CLASS AND REPRESENTATIVE ACTION COMPLAINT

 over any questions affecting only individual Class members. These common questions of law and fact include, without limitation, whether Defendants failed to provide members of the Class with wage statements that fully and accurately itemize the requirements set forth in Labor Code §226(a), accurate final wages, and final wages on the day of termination and or within seventy-two (72) hours of separation and whether the meal and rest periods were timely made available.

C. TYPICALITY

22. The claims of the named Plaintiff are typical of the claims of the proposed Class. Plaintiff and all members of the proposed Class sustained injuries and damages arising out of and caused by Defendants' common course of conduct in violation of laws, regulations that have the force and effect of law, and statutes as alleged herein.

D. ADEQUACY OF REPRESENTATION

23. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the members of the proposed Class. Counsel who represents Plaintiff is competent and experienced in litigating large employment class actions.

E. <u>SUPERIORITY OF CLASS ACTION</u>

- 24. A class action is superior to other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. Individual joinder of all proposed Plaintiff Class members is not practicable, and questions of law and fact common to the proposed Class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members of the proposed Class. Each member of the proposed Class has been damaged and is entitled to recovery by reason of Defendant's failure to comply with Labor Code 226(a).
- 25. Class action treatment will allow those similarly situated persons to litigate their claims in the manner that is most efficient and economical for the parties and the judicial system. Plaintiffs are unaware of any difficulties that are likely to be encountered in the management of this action that would preclude its maintenance as a class action.

CAUSES OF ACTION

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

FAILURE TO PROVIDE MEAL AND REST PERIODS OR COMPENSATION IN LIEU THEREOF (LABOR CODE §§ 226.7, 512 and 558)

26. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 25 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

- Plaintiff is entitled to one hour of pay for each day that Defendants failed to properly 27. provide one or more meal and rest periods as set forth in the IWC Wage Orders and Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512 and 558.
- Defendants have failed to provide Plaintiff one or more meal and rest periods during 28. her employment. Defendant has failed to compensate her at the rate of one hour or pay at their regular rate of pay for each day on which one or meal and rest periods were not provided.
- Pursuant to Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512 and 558 Plaintiff seeks the payment of all meal 29. and rest period compensations, which she was owed since she commenced to work for Defendant, according to proof.
- Additionally, Plaintiff is entitled to, and seeks, attorney's fees and costs, and 30. prejudgment interest.
 - Wherefore, Plaintiff seeks to represent request relief as described below. 31.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

KNOWING AND INTENTIONAL FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ITEMIZED EMPLOYEE WAGE STATEMENT PROVISIONS (LABOR CODE § 226(a),(e))

- 32. Plaintiff incorporates all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- Section 226(a) of the California Labor Code requires Defendants to provide wage 33. statements to employees. In those wage statements, Defendants must accurately set forth, among other things, the total gross and net wages earned, and all hourly rates in effect, for Plaintiff. Defendants have knowingly and intentionally failed to comply with Labor Code § 226(a).
- The wage statements provided to Plaintiff and members of the Class fail to accurately 34. itemize in wage statements total gross and net wages earned, and all hourly rates in effect for Plaintiff. Defendants' violations of Labor Code § 226(a) are knowing and intentional, and Plaintiff has suffered injury as a result of the receipt of defective wage statements, thereby entitling them to penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 226(e).

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THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

FAILURE TO PAY WAGES DUE AT THE TIME OF DISCHARGE IN VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE §§ 201-202, RESULTING IN SECTION 203 WAGES AND PENALTIES (WAITING TIME PENALTIES)

- 35. Plaintiff hereby incorporates preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 36. At all times material herein, the California Labor Code Sections 201, 202, and 203 were in effect and binding on Defendant.
- 37. California Labor Code § 202 requires employers to pay employees all wages due within seventy-two (72) hours of resignation. California Labor Code § 201 states in pertinent part that "if an employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately." California Labor Code § 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to timely pay such wages the employer must, as penalty, continue to pay the subject employee's wages until the back wages are paid in full or an action is commenced. The penalty cannot exceed 30 days of wages.
- 38. Plaintiff was entitled to compensation for unpaid wages, but to date has not received such compensation. Specifically, Defendant failed to pay Plaintiff all wages due to Plaintiff at the time of her separation of employment from Defendant's. Thus, since Defendant failed to promptly pay Plaintiff all wages due to Plaintiff at the time of her separation of employment, Defendant violated Section 201 of the Labor Code and Plaintiff is therefore entitled to wages and penalties pursuant to Labor Code Section 203.
- 39. More than 30 days have passed since Plaintiff's employment ended with Defendant.
- 40. As a consequence of Defendant's willful conduct in not paying wages owed to Plaintiff, Plaintiff is entitled to 30 days of wages as a penalty pursuant to Labor Code § 203 for Defendant's failure to timely pay legal wages, together with attorney's fees and cost of suit, and interest pursuant to California Labor Code Section 218.5.

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FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

UNFAIR COMPETITION PURSUANT TO BUSINESS & PROFESSIONS CODE § 17200

- 41. Plaintiff incorporates all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 42. This is a Class Action for Unfair Business Practices. Plaintiff Herta Guadalupe Kuhn, on her own behalf and on behalf of the general public, and on behalf of others similarly situated, brings this claim pursuant to Business & Professions Code § 17200, et seq. The conduct of all Defendants as alleged in this Complaint has been and continues to be unfair, unlawful, and harmful to Plaintiff, the general public, and the proposed Class. Plaintiff seeks to enforce important rights affecting the public interest within the meaning of Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5.
- 43. Plaintiff is a "person" within the meaning of Business & Professions Code § 17204, and therefore has standing to bring this cause of action for injunctive relief, restitution, and other appropriate equitable relief.
- 44. Business & Profession Code § 17200 et. seq. prohibits unlawful and unfair business practices.
- 45. Defendants have violated statutes and public policies. Through the conduct alleged in this Complaint, Defendants, and each of them, have acted contrary to these public policies, have violated specific provisions of the *Labor Code*, and have engaged in other unlawful and unfair business practices in violation of *Business & Professions Code* § 17200, et seq., depriving Plaintiff, and all persons similarly situated, and all interested persons of rights, benefits, and privileges guaranteed to all employees under law.
- 46. Defendants' conduct, as alleged herein, constitutes unfair competition in violation of § 17200 et. seq. of the Business & Professions Code.
- 47. As a proximate result of the above mentioned acts of Defendants, Plaintiff and others similarly situated have been damaged in a sum as may be proven.
- 48. Unless restrained by this Court, Defendants will continue to engage in the unlawful conduct as alleged above. Pursuant to *Business & Professions Code*, this Court should make such orders or judgments, including the appointment of a receiver, as may be necessary to prevent the use or employment, by Defendants, their agents, or employees, of any unlawful or deceptive practice prohibited by the *Business & Professions Code*, and/or, including but not limited to, disgorgement of

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profits which may be necessary to restore Plaintiff and the proposed Plaintiff Class members to the money Defendants have unlawfully failed to pay.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

PENALTIES PURSUANT TO LABOR CODE § 2699(f) FOR VIOLATIONS OF LABOR CODE § 226.7, 512 and 558, § 226(a)(e), §§ 201-203

- 49. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 48 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 50. As a result of the acts alleged herein, Plaintiff seeks penalties under Labor Code §§ 2698 et seq. because of Defendants' violation of Labor Code § 226.7, 512 and 558, Labor Code § 226(a)(e), Labor Code §§ 201-203.
- 51. For each such violation, Plaintiff and all aggrieved employees are entitled to penalties in an amount to be shown at the time of trial subject to the following formula:
 - a. With respect to the violation of Labor Code § 2699(f) for violations of Labor Code § 226.7, 512 and 558, § 226(a)(e), §§ 201-203, \$100 for the initial violation per employee per pay period and \$200 for each subsequent violation per employee per pay period.
- 52. These penalties will be allocated 75% to the Labor Workforce Development Agency, and 25% to the affected employees.
- 53. On March 20, 2018, Plaintiff sent a letter, by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the LWDA and Defendants setting forth the facts and theories of the violations alleged against Defendants, as prescribed by Labor Code § 2698 et seq. (Exhibit "A"). Pursuant to Labor Code § 2699.3(a)(2)(A), no notice was received by Plaintiff from the LWDA within sixty-five (65) calendar days of March 20, 2018. Plaintiff may therefore commence this action to seek penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 2698 et seq.
- 54. Wherefore, Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees she seeks to represent request relief as described herein.

RELIEF REQUESTED

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for the following relief:

- 1. For penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 203 for all members of the California class who are no longer employed by Defendants, equal to their daily wage multiplied by thirty (30) days;
 - 2. For penalties pursuant to Labor Code §§ 226(e) for members of the Class;

TRUPHAN LAW PIRM, ALC:

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial of her claims by jury to the extent authorized by law.

Dated: June 18, 2018 OTKUPMAN LAW FIRM, A Law Corporation

> By: **MEGHAN MAERTZ** Attorneys for Plaintiff

EXHIBIT "A"

OTKUPMAN LAW FIRM, A LAW CORPORATION

28632 Roadside Drive, Suite 203
Agoura Hills, CA 91301
Tel.: 818-293-5623
Fax: 888-850-1310

March 20, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Labor & Workforce Development Agency

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

PrimeFlight Aviation Services, Inc. DBA
PrimeFlight of De, Inc.
Three Sugar Creek Center, Suite 450
Sugar Land, TX 77479
Defendant certified mail # 7016 3560 0000 1041 3973

PrimeFlight Aviation Services, Inc.
7135 Charlotte Pike Ste 100
Nashville, TN 37209
Defendant certified mail # 7016 3560 0000 1041 3966

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Agent for Service of Process
Vivian Imperial
818 W Seventh St Ste 930
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Agent certified mail # 7016 3560 0000 1041 3935

Re: Kuhn v. PrimeFlight Aviation Services, Inc. DBA PrimeFlight of De, Inc.;
PrimeFlight Aviation Services, Inc. – Labor Code Violations of PrimeFlight
Aviation Services, Inc. DBA PrimeFlight of De, Inc.; PrimeFlight Aviation
Services, Inc. – Compliance Letter of California Labor Code § 2698 - Private
Attorneys General Act

Dear Sir or Madam:

This office represents Herta Guadalupe Kuhn, a former California employee of PrimeFlight Aviation Services, Inc. DBA PrimeFlight of De, Inc.; PrimeFlight Aviation Services, Inc. ("Defendants"). The purpose of this letter is to comply with the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, pursuant to California Labor Code § 2698 et seq.

Labor & Workforce Development Agency
PrimeFlight Aviation Services, Inc. DBA PrimeFlight of De, Inc.
PrimeFlight Aviation Services, Inc.
March 20, 2018
Page 2

Our client worked for Defendants in Northern California. Herein we set forth the facts and theories of California Labor Code violations which we allege Defendants engaged in with respect to our client and all other of its California employees.

Defendants failed to pay premium wages to our client and its non-exempt California employees who were denied meal and rest breaks, in violation of Labor Codes §§ 226.7, 512, 558, and IWC Order No. 5-2001. Section 12. Our client and all other non-exempt California employees were routinely unable, and not authorized, to take a 10-minute rest break. Moreover, they were not paid premium wages of one hour's pay for each missed rest break. This violates Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 558. Our client and all other non-exempt California employees were also routinely unable to take uninterrupted thirty (30) minute lunch break for every shift which they worked. However, they were not paid premium wages of one hour's pay for each missed meal period, in violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, and 558.

Defendants failed to issue our client and all other California employees accurately itemized wage statements. As Defendants failed to compensate our client and other non-exempt California employees with all wages due, as detailed above, their wage statements failed to accurately state all gross wages earned, in violation of Labor Code § 226(a)(1), total hours worked, in violation of Labor Code § 226(a)(2), net wages earned, in violation of Labor Code § 226(a)(5), and all applicable hourly rates during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked, in violation of Labor Code § 226(a)(9).

Our client further alleges that Defendants paid her and other of its non-exempt California employees their final wages beyond the time frames set forth in Labor Code §§ 201 and 202. As they were not paid all wages due and owing throughout the course of their employment as a result of Defendants' failure to pay all premium wages as detailed above, at the time of their separation, they were not paid all final wages due and owing for the entirety of their employment. This violates Labor Code §§ 201-203.

We invite Defendants or its attorney to contact our office to discuss this matter, including whether an early resolution of the claims can be reached.

Our office awaits your response.

Very truly yours,

OTKUPMAN LAW FIRM

ROMAN OTKUPMAN

NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF ACTION TO U.S. DISTRICT COURT

EXHIBIT B (Summons)

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similarly situated, and or	behalf of the general public		Daputy Clark			
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You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summions and legal papers are served on you to fite a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone cell will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case: Thore may be a count form that you can use for your response. You can find those count forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinio.co.gov/self-help), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing for, ask the cannot derk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on timo. you may lose the case by default, and your weges, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an atterney right away, if you do not know an atterney, you may want to call an atterney roleral service. If you cannot efford an atterney, you may want to call an atterney roleral service. If you cannot efford an atterney was the California Courts of these nonprofit groups at the California Logal Services Wob site (www.lewholpcelifornia.org), the California Courts Ortino Self-Help Center (www.courfinle.ca.gov/solfnets), or by contacting your local court or county bar essociation. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for valved fees and costs on any selfoment or arbitration award of \$10,000 or mare in a court's tien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. IAVISOL La han demandade. Si no responde denire de 30 dias is corte puede decidir on su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lou la información a continuación. Tiane 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta cilación y papoles legales para presentar una respuesta per secrito en esta corto y hacer que se entregue una copia al domandante. Une carte o una liamada telatónica no le protegen. Su respuesta para su respuesta. Puede encolurir esta termularios de la corte y más información. In contra de la corte						
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CCP 416.40 (association or partnership) CCP 416.90 (authorized person)



EXHIBIT C (Civil Cover Sheet)

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Issues that will be time-consuming to resolve c. Substantial amount of documentary evidence f. Substantial postjudgment judicial supervision 3. Remedies sought (check ell that apply): a. monetary 4. Number of causes of action (specify): Five (5) 5. This case is not a class action suit. 6. If there are any known related cases, file and serve a notice of related case. (You may use norm CM-015.) Date: June 19, 208 Roman Otkupman NOTICE Plaintiff must file this cover sheet with the first paper filed in the action or provideding (except small claims cases or cases filed under the Probate Code, Family Code, or Welfare and institutions Code). (Cal. Rules of Courl, rule 3.220.) Fallure to file may result in sanctions. File this cover sheet in addition to any cover sheet required by local court rule. If this case is complex under rule 3.400 et seq. of the California Rules of Court, you must serve a copy of this cover sheet on all			er of wilnesses
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1 =16	 File this cover sheet in addition to any cover 		· 1
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other parties to the action or proceeding. Unless this is a collections case under rule 3.740 or a complex case, this cover sheet will be used for statistical purposes only. Page 1 et 2	Unless this is a collections case under rule	3.740 or a complex case, this cover si	heet will be used for statistical purposes only.

Herta Kuhn v. PrimeFlight Aviation Services, Inc., et al., U.S. Dist. Ct. (E.D. Cal.) Case No. [Unassigned]

NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF ACTION TO U.S. DISTRICT COURT

EXHIBIT D (Notice of CMC)

The state of the s	FOR COURT USE ONLY
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO	. POR COURT USE ONLY
STREET ADDRESS: 720 Ninth STREET	
MAILING ADDRESS: 720 Ninth STREET	
CITY AND ZIPCODE: Secramento, CA 95814-1311	
BRANCH NAME: Gordon D Schaber Counthouse	
at a tall the state of the stat	
PHONE NUMBER: (916) 874-5522	
CUODE TITLE: Make up Delegation Autoline Condens inc	
SHORT TITLE: Kuhn vs. Primeflight Aviation Services Inc	
NOTICE OF CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE	CASE NUMBER:
HOTICE OF CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE	
AND ORDER TO APPEAR	34-2018-00235596-CU-OE-GDS

Hearing Date

The above entitled action has been set for a case management conference at 08:30 AM on 12/27/2018 in Department 39 in accordance with California Rules of Court 212. You must be familiar with the case and fully prepared to participate effectively in the case management conference.

Case Management Statement

All parties must file and serve a case management statement at least 15 calendar days before the case management conference. Parties are encouraged to file a single joint case management statement.

Minimum Requirements
Prior to the filing of the case management statement, the parties should have done the following:
-Served all parties named in the complaint within 60 days after the summons has been issued
-Ensured that all defendants and cross-defendants have answered, been dismissed, or had their defaults entered
-Met and conferred with all parties as required by CRC 212 (f) to discuss and resolve issues set forth therein.

Tentative Ruling
Following its review of the case management statement(s), the court may determine that a case management Conference is not necessary.

To determine whether an appearance is required, the parties must check the court's tentative rulings after 2:00 p.m. on the Court day before the Thursday calendar by accessing the court's internet website at www.saccourt.ca.gov

Case Management Orders At the case management conference, the court will consider whether the case should be ordered to judicial arbitration or referred to other forms of Alternative Dispute Resolution. Whether or not a case management conference is held, the court will issue a case management order shortly after the scheduled conference date.

Service of Case Management Notice
Unless otherwise ordered by the court, plaintiff shall serve a copy of this notice on any party to the complaint appearing after the court issued this notice. The cross-complainant shall have the same obligation with respect to the cross-complaint.

Certification Filed in Lieu of Case Management Statement
If parties in the action file a certification on a form provided by the court at least 15 calendar days prior to the date of
the case management conference that the case is short cause (five hours or less of trial time), that the pleading
stage is complete and that the case will be ready for trial within 60 days, the case will be exempted from any further
case management requirements and will be set for trial within 60-120 days. The certification shall be filed in lieu of a
case management statement.

Case 2:18-cv-02340-JAM-AC Document 1-4 Filed 08/27/18 Page 3 of 3

Compliance
Failure to comply with this notice or to appear at the case management conference may result in the imposition of sanctions (including dismissal of the case, striking of the answer, or payment of money).

Continuances
Case management conference will not be continued except on a showing of good cause. If your case management conference is continued on motion or by the court on its own motion all parties shall file and serve a new case management statement at least 15 calendar days before the continued case management conference.

Dated: 06/26/2018

David W. Abbott, Judge of the Superior Court

Swil W. Rapes



NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF ACTION TO U.S. DISTRICT COURT

EXHIBIT E (Prime Flight – OH Removal Notice)

Case 3:18-cv-01503 Document 1 Filed 03/08/18 Page 1 of 12 Case 2:18-cv-02340-JAM-AC Document 1-5 Filed 08/27/18 Page 2 of 13 1 GREGORY C. CHENG, CA Bar No. 226865 gregory.cheng@ogletree.com CAROLYN B. HALL, CA Bar No. 212311 carolyn.hall@ogletree.com 3 OGLETREE, DEAKINS, NASH, SMOAK & STEWART, P.C. 4 Steuart Tower, Suite 1300 One Market Plaza 5 San Francisco, CA 94105 415.442.4810 Telephone: 6 Facsimile: 415.442.4870 Attorneys for Defendant PRIMEFLIGHT AVIATION SERVICES, INC. 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 10 11 EDGARDO DONES, ROMEO VITE, Case No. 12 EMMANUEL BERJAMIN, on behalf of themselves, others similarly situated, and the 13 general public, NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF CIVIL ACTION UNDER 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332, 1441, 14 Plaintiffs. 1446, AND 1453 BY DEFENDANT PRIMEFLIGHT AVIATION SERVICES, 15 INC. VS. 16 **CLASS ACTION** PRIMEFLIGHT AVIATION SERVICES, INC., and DOES 1-25. 17 Action Filed: October 30, 2017 Defendants. Trial Date: None Set 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 Case No. NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF CIVIL ACTION UNDER 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332, 1441, 1446, AND 1453 BY DEFENDANT PRIMEFLIGHT AVIATION SERVICES, INC.

TO THE CLERK OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, PLAINTIFFS, AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Defendant PRIMEFLIGHT AVIATION SERVICES, INC. ("Defendant" or "PrimeFlight"), through the undersigned counsel, hereby removes the above-captioned action, filed by Plaintiffs Edgardo Dones, Romeo Vite and Emmanuel Berjamin (collectively "Plaintiffs"), from the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of San Francisco, to the United States District Court, Northern District of California, San Francisco/Oakland Division, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332, 1441, 1446, and 1453, on the following grounds:

THE STATE COURT ACTION

- 1. On or about October 30, 2017, Plaintiffs filed their unverified Class Action Complaint ("Complaint") in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Francisco, entitled "Edgardo Dones, Romeo Vite, Emmanual Berjamin, on behalf of themselves, others similarly situated, and the general public, *Dones et al. v. PrimeFlight Aviation Services*, *Inc.*, and DOES 1-25, Defendants," Case No. CGC-17-532193.
- 2. Plaintiffs served PrimeFlight's registered agents for service of process with the Summons and Complaint, Civil Case Cover Sheet, Alternative Dispute Resolution ("ADR") Program Information Package, and Notice of Case Management Conference and Order on or about February 6, 2018. The Complaint asserts claims for: (1) Unpaid Wages (Lab. Code §§ 1194, 1194.2, and Wage Order #9); (2) Unpaid Overtime Compensation (Wage Order #9 and Lab. Code §§ 500, 510, and 1194); (3) Failure to Pay Compensation for Missed & Improper Meal Periods (Lab. Code §226.7 and Wage Order #9); (4) Failure to Pay Compensation for Missed & Improper Rest Periods (Lab. Code §226.7(a) and Wage Order #9); (5) Failure to Issue Accurate Wage Statements (Lab. Code § 226(a) and Wage Order #9); (6) Waiting Time Penalties (Lab. Code §§ 201-203); and (7) Unfair Competition (Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq.). A true and correct copy of the Summons and Complaint that was served on PrimeFlight is attached hereto as Exhibit "A."
 - 3. On March 7, 2018, Defendant timely filed its Answer in the San Francisco County

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Superior Court. True and correct copies of Defendant's Answer to the Complaint are attached hereto as Exhibit "B". Defendant believes Exhibits A and B constitute the entire case file in San Francisco County Superior Court related to this action. The case was timely removed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446 (b)(2)(B).

THE FEDERAL COURT'S JURISDICTION AND REMOVABILITY PURSUANT TO THE CLASS ACTION FAIRNESS ACT

- 4. The action was pending in the San Francisco County Superior Court, which is in the territory of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.
- On February 18, 2005, the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 ("the Act") was 5. enacted. In relevant part, the Act grants federal district courts original jurisdiction over civil class action lawsuits filed under federal or state law in which any member of a class of plaintiffs is a citizen of a state different from any defendant, and where the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$5 million, exclusive of interests and costs. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2). The Act authorizes removal of such actions in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1446. While there are a number of exceptions to this rule of original jurisdiction contained in amended 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332(d)(3)-(5), none of them is applicable here.
- In its recent decision in Dart Cherokee Basin Operating Co. v. Owens, 132 S. Ct. 6. 547 (2014), the U.S. Supreme Court provided significant clarification to the standards applicable to notices of removal in CAFA cases, establishing a much more liberal standard in favor of removing defendants. The Dart Cherokee Court held that a removal must only contain "a short and plain statement of the grounds for removal." Id. at 553 (quoting 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a)). The Court noted that this same language is used for the pleading standard in Rule 8(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. *Id.* The use of this language in the removal statute was intentional clearly indicating that courts should apply the same liberal pleading standards to notices of removal as they should to plaintiffs' complaints and other pleadings. Id. The Court further held that a removing defendant need not submit evidence with its pleading to establish that the elements of federal subject matter jurisdiction are met. Id. at 552-53. Only if the court or another party challenges jurisdiction should the court require a removing defendant to prove, under the

applicable "preponderance" standard, that the jurisdictional requirements are met. *Id.* at 553-54. The Court summarized its holding as follows: "[i]n sum, as specified in § 1446(a), a defendant's notice of removal need include only a plausible allegation that the amount in controversy exceeds the jurisdictional threshold. Evidence establishing the amount is required by § 1446(c)(2)(B) only when the plaintiff contests, or the court questions, the defendant's allegation." *Id.* at 554. Also, there is no "presumption against removal" in CAFA cases because CAFA was specifically enacted by Congress "to facilitate adjudication of certain class actions in federal court." *Id.*

7. This Court has original jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d) of the Act, in that it is a civil action filed as a class action wherein the matter in controversy exceeds the sum of \$5 million, exclusive of interests and costs, and at least one member (if not all) of the alleged class of plaintiffs is a citizen of a state different from defendant.

THE PUTATIVE CLASS COMPRISES MORE THAN 100 MEMBERS

8. This action was initially brought pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 382 on behalf of a putative class with an aggregate potential membership of excess of 500 individuals. (Complaint, ¶ 11.) Plaintiffs seek to bring this action on behalf of "[a]ll current and former hourly or non-exempt employees of DEFENDANTS who worked in the State of California at any time from four years preceding the date of filing of this action through the entry of final judgment in this action" (Complaint, p. 3.). Therefore, this action is a class action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d).

MINIMAL DIVERSITY EXISTS BETWEEN THE PARTIES

9. Section 1453(b) of the Act provides: "A class action may be removed to a district court of the United States in accordance with section 1446 (except that the 1-year limitation under section 1446(b) shall not apply), without regard to whether a defendant is a citizen of the State in which the action is brought, except that such action may be removed by any defendant without the consent of all defendants." The Act's diversity requirement is satisfied when at least one plaintiff is a citizen of a state in which none of the defendants is a citizen, when one plaintiff is a citizen of a foreign state and one defendant is a U.S. citizen, or when one plaintiff is a U.S. citizen and one defendant is a citizen of a foreign state. 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332(d)(2), 1332(d)(5)(B), 1453(a); see,

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e.g., Rodgers v. Central Locating Serv., Ltd., 412 F. Supp. 2d 1171, 1174-79 (W.D. Wa. 2006).

- 10. Defendant is informed and believes that Plaintiffs were, at the time of the filing of this action, and still are, residents of the State of California. Members of the putative class, who are or were employed in California, are presumed to be primarily citizens of the State of California. For diversity purposes, a person is a "citizen" of the state in which he is domiciled. *Kantor v. Wellesley Galleries, Ltd.*, 704 F.2d 1088, 1090 (9th Cir. 1983).
- Defendant was, at the time of filing of the state court action, and remains incorporated in the State of Tennessee, and its principal place of business is located in the State of Tennessee, in Nashville, Tennessee, where its corporate headquarters are located and where its high-level corporate officers, who are responsible for the direction, control, and coordination of the activities of Defendant, are located. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c), "a corporation shall be deemed to be a citizen of any State by which it has been incorporated and of the State where it has its principal place of business." Defendant does business in a number of states and does not conduct the substantial predominance of its business in any single state. For the purposes of federal diversity jurisdiction, Defendant is a citizen of the State of Tennessee. As such, Defendant is not a citizen of the State of California for diversity purposes. See Indus. Tectonics, Inc. v. Aero Alloy, 912 F.2d 1090, 1093 (9th Cir. 1990) (providing that where a corporation does business in a number of states and does not conduct the substantial predominance of its business in any single one, the state where corporate headquarters is located is the corporation's principal place of business; where a corporation does conduct a substantial predominance of its business in one state, that state is the principal place of business); see also Hertz Corp. v. Friend, 130 S. Ct. 1181 (2010) (in determining the principal place of business of a corporation for purposes of diversity jurisdiction, the "principal place of business' [as contained in § 1332(c)] is best read as referring to the place where a corporation's officers direct, control, and coordinate the corporation's activities.").
- 12. Based on the foregoing, diversity is established because Plaintiffs are citizens of California, and Defendant is a citizen of Tennessee.
 - 13. Removal and Intradistrict Assignment to the San Francisco division of this Court is

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thus proper because the alleged actions and inactions allegedly occurred at San Francisco International Airport. (Complaint, ¶ 3.)

THE AMOUNT IN CONTROVERSY EXCEEDS \$5 MILLION

- 14. The Class Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d) authorizes the removal of class action cases in which, among other factors mentioned above, the amount in controversy for all class members exceeds \$5 million. Plaintiffs' Complaint is silent as to the total amount of monetary relief sought. However, the failure of the operative complaint to specify the total amount of monetary relief sought by Plaintiffs does not deprive this Court of jurisdiction. See White v. J.C. Penny Life Ins. Co., 861 F. Supp. 25, 26 (S.D. W. Va. 1994) (observing that defendant may remove suit to federal court notwithstanding the failure of plaintiff to plead a specific dollar amount in controversy; if the rules were otherwise, "any Plaintiff could avoid removal simply by declining . . . to place a specific dollar claim upon its claim."). Defendant need only establish by a preponderance of the evidence that Plaintiffs' claim exceeds the jurisdictional minimum. See Rodriguez v. AT&T Mobility Servs., LLC, 728 F.3d 975, 977 (9th Cir. 2013) (citing Standard Fire Ins. Co. v. Knowles, 133 S. Ct. 1345 (2013)); Sanchez v. Monumental Life Ins. Co., 102 F.3d 398, 404 (9th Cir. 1996); Singer v. State Farm Mut. Auto Ins. Co., 116 F.3d 373, 376 (9th Cir. 1997); Guglielmino v. McKee Foods Corp., 506 F.3d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 2007) (in CAFA removal actions, where the amount in controversy is unclear from the face of the complaint, defendant must produce underlying facts showing it is more likely than not that the amount in controversy exceeds \$5 million).
- 15. While Defendant denies the validity of Plaintiffs' claims and requests for relief thereon, the facial allegations in Plaintiffs' Complaint and their claimed damages are in excess of the jurisdictional minimum. See Rodriguez, 728 F.3d at 977 (citing Standard Fire Ins. Co. v. Knowles, 133 S. Ct. 1345 (2013)); Luckett v. Delta Airlines, Inc., 171 F.3d 295, 298 (5th Cir.1999) (finding that facts presented in notice of removal, combined with plaintiff's allegations, sufficient to support finding of jurisdiction); DeAguillar v. Boeing Co., 47 F.3d 1404, 1412 (5th Cir.1995) (stating that "defendant can show by a preponderance of the evidence that the amount in controversy is greater than the jurisdictional amount"); accord Gaus v. Miles, Inc., 980 F.2d 564,

566-67 (9th Cir. 1992); White v. FCI USA, Inc., 319 F.3d 672, 674 (5th Cir.2003) (facially apparent from the lengthy list of damages, combined with a claim for attorney's fees, that plaintiff's claim exceeded the jurisdictional threshold).

16. In determining the amount in controversy for CAFA purposes, all potential damages based on the claims in the complaint, as well as attorney's fees, are included. *See Guglielmino*, 506 F.3d at 701 (unspecified attorney's fees are appropriately counted toward the amount in controversy in CAFA removal actions); *Muniz v. Pilot Travel Centers LLC*, No. CIV. S-07-0325 FCD EFB, 2007 WL 1302504, at *3 (E.D. Cal. May 1, 2007) ("In measuring the amount in controversy, a court must assume that the allegations of the complaint are true and that a jury will return a verdict for the plaintiffs on all claims made in the complaint."). As set forth and described in more detail below, the amount in controversy is at least \$5,632,347, which satisfies CAFA's jurisdictional prerequisite.

Summary of Estimated Amount in Controversy				
Claim	Date Range	Amount in		
		Controversy		
Missed Meal Breaks	10/30/2013 - 10/30/2017	\$989,300		
Missed Rest Breaks	10/30/2013 - 10/30/2017	\$1,097,540		
Wage Statement Penalties	10/30/2016 – 10/30/2017	\$1,527,800		
Waiting Time Penalties	10/30/2014 — 10/30/2017	\$2,017,707		
Total Potential Amount in Contr	\$5,632,347			

17. This lawsuit arises from Plaintiffs' employment at Defendant. In their Complaint, Plaintiffs claim that they and the other putative class members working in California received less than minimum wage, were not paid for all hours worked due to rounding¹, were not paid premium compensation for all overtime hours worked, were not provided compliant 30 minute meal

¹ Plaintiffs did not provide sufficient factual allegations in their Complaint for Defendant to estimate the amount in controversy for hours that were worked but not paid due to alleged rounding.

periods, were not authorized or permitted to take 10 minute rest periods for every four hours worked, or major fraction thereof, that PrimeFlight failed to properly itemize the number of hours worked and the actual payment due, and PrimeFlight failed to timely pay compensation upon the end of employment. (Complaint, ¶ 8-11.) Plaintiffs further claim that, as a result, they and other putative class members are entitled to, among other things, compensatory and consequential damages; unpaid minimum wages and overtime compensation owed for four years preceding the filing of the complaint, plus interest; compensation for one hour at the regular rate of pay for each meal and rest period denied; statutory damages; waiting time penalties; statutory penalties; restitution; and attorneys' fees and costs. (Complaint, p. 13-14.) As discussed above, Plaintiffs seek certification of a class that would include "[a]ll current and former hourly or non-exempt employees of DEFENDANTS who worked in the State of California at any time from four years preceding the date of filing of this action through the entry of final judgment in this action." (Complaint, ¶ 3.)

- Based on a preliminary review of human resources data for California-based hourly paid and non-exempt employees who worked for PrimeFlight, there were 1,450 employees during the putative class period from October 30, 2013 through the date the Complaint was filed. (Declaration of Emil Czechowski in support of Defendant PrimeFlight Aviation Services, Inc.'s Removal of Action ("Czechowski Decl."), ¶ 3.) Based on a preliminary review of employee timekeeping data for California-based hourly paid and non-exempt employees who worked for PrimeFlight during the putative class period from October 30, 2013 through the date the Complaint was filed, there were 968 employees. (Czechowski Decl. ¶ 3.) Based on the timekeeping data of PrimeFlight, in total, for the 968 employees for whom timekeeping records were available, a total of 340,532 meal-eligible and 378,607 rest-eligible shifts were identified. (Czechowski Decl. ¶ 4.)
- 19. Based upon (i) premiums for one hour at the regular rate of pay for each meal and rest period denied; (ii) statutory damages; (iii) waiting time penalties; (iv) statutory penalties; and (vi) attorneys' fees and costs (Complaint, p. 13-14) the associated potential amount in controversy, as alleged and claimed by Plaintiffs is as follows:

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A. Failure to Pay Premiums for Missed & Improper Meal Periods

20. Plaintiffs allege that PrimeFlight "often" failed and refused to provide Plaintiffs and putative class members compliant 30 minute meal periods. (Complaint, ¶44.) Plaintiffs allege that PrimeFlight lacks any established system to track break violations and pay the required break penalty. (Complaint, ¶27.) Plaintiffs allege that, for example, sometimes PrimeFlight provided Plaintiffs and putative class member with meal periods that were too late or at the very end of shifts when employees are almost set to go home. (Complaint, ¶28.) PrimeFlight conservatively assumes for the purpose of this calculation that only 20% of meal breaks had any violation and 20% of rest breaks had any violation. Based on this assumption, the putative class size, and an average hourly wage rate of the putative class members, the amount in controversy for the meal period premium pay for this claim is \$989,300.² (Czechowski, ¶5.)

B. Failure to Pay Premiums for Missed & Improper Rest Periods

Plaintiffs allege that PrimeFlight "often" failed and refused to authorize or permit Plaintiffs and putative class members 10 minute rest periods for every four hours worked, or major faction thereof. (Complaint, ¶29, 49.) Plaintiffs allege that PrimeFlight lacks any established system to track break violations and pay the required break penalty. (Complaint, ¶27.) Plaintiffs allege that, for example, putative class members often skip rest periods entirely or receive rest periods that are combined with their meal period. (Complaint, ¶29.) Additionally, Plaintiffs allege that rest periods are often skipped entirely because of the workloads assigned to putative class members and employees do not have enough time to take sufficient rest periods and properly attend to their work duties. (Complaint, ¶30.) PrimeFlight conservatively assumes for the purpose of this calculation that only 20% of meal breaks had any violation and 20% of rest breaks had any violation.³ Based on this assumption, the putative class size, and an average hourly

² This is the equivalent of one hour of pay per potential violation at the hourly rates listed.

³ This assumption, used for both meal and rest break violations, results in a 10% violation rate out of the days for which the putative class members worked. Nevertheless, there is authority that provides that where a plaintiff does not allege facts specific to the circumstances of allegedly missed meal and/or rest periods, the defendant may use a 100% violation rate in calculating the amount in controversy. *See, e.g., Muniz v. Pilot Traveler Centers LLC*, No. CIV .S-07-0325, FCD EFB, 2007 WL 1302504 (E.D. Cal. May 1, 2007) (citing and quoting *Caterpillar, Inc. v. Williams*,

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wage rate of the putative class members, the amount in controversy for the meal period premium pay for this claim is \$1,097,540.⁴ (Czechowski, ¶5.)

C. Failure to Issue Accurate Wage Statements

1. Labor Code section 226(e) provides for the greater of all actual damages or fifty dollars (\$50) for the initial pay period in which a violation occurred and one hundred dollars (\$100) for each subsequent pay period, up to a maximum of \$4,000 for each putative class member. The applicable statute of limitations to recover penalties under California Labor Code section 226(e) is one year. Cal. Code Civ. Proc. § 340(a). Plaintiffs filed the initial complaint in the instant action on October 31, 2017. Accordingly, if the allegations in the Complaint, and Plaintiffs' legal theories are correct, any individual employed by PrimeFlight in California on or after October 31, 2016 is entitled to penalties under Labor Code section 226(e). Given that there are a number of claims in the Complaint that could potentially trigger a wage statement penalty, such as rounding claims and minimum wage violations, assuming that any bi-weekly pay period from October 30, 2016 to the date the Complaint was filed would potentially trigger a penalty payment, the potential amount in controversy due to alleged wage statement violations is \$1,527,800. (Czechowski Decl. ¶ 6.)

D. Waiting Time Penalties

2. Plaintiffs claim waiting time penalties under Section 203 of the Labor Code. As set forth in *Bolton v. U.S. Nursing Corp.*, No. C 12–04466 LB, 2012 WL 5269738, at *5 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 23, 2012), an employer may establish the amount in controversy for a waiting time penalty claim pursuant to California Labor Code section 203 by: (1) assessing a minimum hourly rate

482 U.S. 386, 392 (1987)) ("As these allegations reveal, plaintiff includes no fact-specific allegations that would result in a putative class or violation rate that is discernibly smaller than 100%, used by defendant in its calculations. Plaintiff is the 'master of [her] claim[s],' and if she wanted to avoid removal, she could have alleged facts specific to her claims which would narrow the scope of the putative class or the damages sought."). Here, although PrimeFlight has not included the entire 100% violation rate that is allowable as estimations in support of removal—as only 20% is sufficient to meet the amount in controversy—these amounts are clearly in controversy and would further support jurisdiction under CAFA.

⁴ This is the equivalent of one hour of pay per potential violation at the hourly rates listed.

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E. Attorney's Fees

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based on the regular rate applicable to the putative class; (2) multiplying the hourly rate by the average hours worked per shift; (3) multiplying that number by the number of days in the waiting period; and (4) multiplying that number by the number of terminated putative class members. Given that there are a number of causes of action in the Complaint that could potentially trigger a waiting time penalty, assuming that each terminated employee would have at least one instance that would trigger the waiting time penalty and that there were 720 terminations on or after October 30, 2014 and on or before October 30, 2017, the total estimated potential exposure due to waiting time penalties is \$2,017,707.⁵ (Czechowski Decl. ¶ 7.)

In addition to the foregoing, Plaintiffs seek an award of attorney's fees and costs. 22. (Complaint, p. 14)) A realistic estimate of Plaintiffs' attorney's fees is 25% of the total recovery. See Muniz, 2007 WL 1302504, at *4 n.8 (noting that "in California, where wage and hour class actions have settled prior to trial for millions of dollars, it is not uncommon for an attorneys' fee award to be in the realm of 25% to 30% of the settlement "). Nevertheless, PrimeFlight does not include an estimate of a 25% recovery for attorney's fees sought, despite the fact that this amount would represent a considerable proportion of any recovery by Plaintiffs for damages and penalties associated with his claims, which would clearly add significantly to the amount in controversy for CAFA purposes.

23. Based on the allegations in the Complaint; the damages and penalties, exclusive of attorney's fees sought by Plaintiffs; and the number of putative class members, as explained in detail above, the amount in controversy is at least \$5,632,347, which satisfies CAFA's jurisdictional prerequisite. Although PrimeFlight specifically denies Plaintiffs' claims and further denies that Plaintiffs will recover the relief they seek, it is clear from the scope of the relief sought that the amount in controversy arising from the relief Plaintiffs seek exceeds the \$5,000,000 jurisdictional threshold of 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d).

⁵ The calculation for potential waiting time penalties for each termination occurring on or after October 30, 2014 is as follows: (the lesser of 30 days or the number of days from the termination to May 30, 2014) × the employees' last hourly base rate × average daily hours worked.

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Case 2:18-cv-02340-JAM-A	C Document	t 1-5 Filed ()8/ <mark>27/1</mark> 8 I	Page 13 of	13

SATISFACTION OF PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

- 24. As required by 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b), the original Notice of Removal was filed within thirty (30) days after PrimeFlight was served with a copy of the Complaint.
- 25. As required by 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d), PrimeFlight provided notice of this Removal to Plaintiffs' counsel.
- 26. As required by 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d), a copy of the original Notice of Removal will be filed with the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of San Francisco.
- 27. In the event this Court has a question regarding the propriety of this Notice of Removal, PrimeFlight respectfully requests that the Court issue an Order to Show Cause so that PrimeFlight may have an opportunity to supplement a more detailed brief outlining the basis for this removal.

WHEREFORE, Defendant removes the above action to this Court.

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DATED: February 8, 2018

OGLETREE, DEAKINS, NASH, SMOAK & STEWART, P.C.

By: /s/ Gregory C. Cheng

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GREGORY C. CHENG CAROLYN B. HALL Attorneys for Defendant PRIMEFLIGHT AVIATION SERVICES, INC.

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Case No. [Unassigned]

NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF ACTION TO U.S. DISTRICT COURT

EXHIBIT F (Czechowski Decl.)

Case 4:18-cv-01503-KAW Document 8 Filed 03/12/18 Page 1 of 5 Case 2:18-cv-02340-JAM-AC Document 1-6 Filed 08/27/18 Page 2 of 6 1 GREGORY C. CHENG, CA Bar No. 226865 gregory.cheng@ogletree.com CAROLYN B. HALL, CA Bar No. 212311 carolyn.hall@ogletree.com OGLETREE, DEAKINS, NASH, SMOAK & STEWART, P.C. 4 Steuart Tower, Suite 1300 One Market Plaza San Francisco, CA 94105 Telephone: 415.442.4810 6 Facsimile: 415.442.4870 Attorneys for Defendant PRIMEFLIGHT AVIATION SERVICES, INC. 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 10 11 EDGARDO DONES, ROMEO VITE, Case No. 12 EMMANUEL BENJAMIN, on behalf of themselves, others similarly situated, and the 13 general public, **DECLARATION OF EMIL** CZECHOWSKI, M.B.A. IN SUPPORT OF 14 Plaintiffs. DEFENDANT PRIMEFLIGHT AVIATION SERVICES, INC.'S REMOVAL OF 15 **ACTION** VS. 16 PRIMEFLIGHT AVIATION SERVICES, INC., and DOES 1-25. Action Filed: October 30, 2017 17 Trial Date: None Set Defendants. 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 Case No.

DECLARATION OF EMIL CZECHOWSKI

I, Emil Czechowski, declare that I am making this declaration based on my own, first-hand knowledge (except as to matters declared on information and belief, of which I have been informed and do believe) and, if called upon to do so, could and would competently testify to the following:

I. SCOPE

I have been retained by Defendant PrimeFlight Aviation Services, Inc.
 ("PrimeFlight") to review and analyze available timekeeping and human resources data related to
 Plaintiffs' claims in the above-referenced lawsuit.

II. QUALIFICATIONS

2. I am a Director at Resolution Economics LLC, an economic consulting firm whose activities include performing economic and statistical analyses in connection with litigation matters. At Resolution Economics, I have provided consulting services in more than 100 class-action matters alleging wage and hour violations under FLSA and other state laws. In connection with this work, I have processed and analyzed complex databases, including human resources data related to class certification, merits and damages. I hold an M.B.A. from the UCLA Anderson School of Management and a B.A. degree in Economics and Political Science from Columbia University. I have been qualified as an expert witness in State Court. My resume is attached to this report as Attachment A. My hourly rate for services rendered is \$550, which is the rate I customarily charge for both consulting work and expert testimony.

III. ESTIMATED AMOUNT IN CONTROVERSY

A. Data Relied Upon

3. I was provided with and have reviewed human resources data for California-based hourly paid and non-exempt employees who worked for PrimeFlight during the putative class period from October 30, 2013 through the date the Complaint was filed. The data contains records for 1,450 employees and, among other things, contains their employee ID, hire date, termination date, rehire date (if any), last hourly rate, and job title. In addition, I was provided with employee timekeeping data for California-based hourly paid and non-exempt employees who worked for

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PrimeFlight during the putative class period from October 30, 2013 through the date the Complaint was filed. The data contained records for 968 employees¹.

B. Meal and/or Rest Periods

- 4. In order to calculate potential exposure due to allegedly noncompliant meal and/or rest periods, first the number of meal and rest break-eligible shifts must be identified. From the timekeeping data that was provided, I identified the number of meal-break eligible shifts (i.e., shifts greater than 5 hours in duration) and rest-break eligible shifts (i.e., shifts greater than 3.5 hours in duration) that each employee worked. In total, for the 968 employees for whom timekeeping records were available, a total of 340,532 meal-eligible and 378,607 rest-eligible shifts were identified.
- 5. Assuming that only 20% of meal breaks had any violation, the total potential amount in controversy based upon the calculation of alleged meal break violations is \$989,300.² Assuming that only 20% of rest breaks had any violation, the total potential amount in controversy based upon the calculation of alleged rest break violations is \$1,097,540.³

C. <u>Wage Statement Penalties</u>

6. It is my understanding that California Labor Code Section 226(a) requires a written, accurate itemized wage statement. The Labor Code states that an aggrieved employee "is entitled to recover the 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 violating in a subsequent pay period, not to exceed an aggregate penalty of four thousand dollars (\$4,000)". Based on my

Timekeeping was available for approximately 968 employees based on employee ID; thus, any estimates of potential meal and rest breaks would likely increase if the data for the remaining hourly employees whose timekeeping data was not available were to be considered.

² This is the equivalent of one hour of pay per potential violation at the hourly rates listed. For purposes of this declaration, I have not estimated any potential interest owed.

³ This is the equivalent of one hour of pay per potential violation at the hourly rates listed. For purposes of this declaration, I have not estimated any potential interest owed.

⁴ State of California Department of Labor Standards Enforcement Labor Code. It is my understanding that Plaintiffs will likely argue that each pay period after an employee's first pay period during the relevant period qualifies as a "subsequent violation." This is the methodology under which the exposure was estimated.

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understanding, the statutory penalty is limited to pay periods within one year of the Complaint filing date.⁵ Given that there are a number of claims in the Complaint that could potentially trigger a wage statement penalty, such as rounding claims and minimum wage violations, I assume that any bi-weekly pay period from October 30, 2016 to the date the Complaint was filed would potentially trigger a penalty payment. The potential amount in controversy due to alleged wage statement violations is \$1,527,800.

D. Waiting Time Penalties

7. It is my understanding that California Labor Code Section 201-203 requires that wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately. The penalty for violation of this Labor Code states under Section 203 that "an employee who is discharged or who quits, the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or until and action therefor is commenced; but the wages shall not continue for more than 30 days." Based on my understanding, the potential waiting time penalty exposure is limited to terminations that occurred within three years of the Complaint filing date. Given that there are a number of causes of action in the Complaint that could potentially trigger a waiting time penalty, I assume that each terminated employee would have at least one instance that would trigger the waiting time penalty. In this case, that includes the 720 terminations on or after October 30, 2014 and on or before October 30, 2017. The total estimated potential exposure due to waiting time penalties is \$2,017,707.

E. Summary of Amount in Controversy Putative Class Members

8. As shown in the table below, the total potential amount in controversy to just 20% of meal breaks with violation, 20% of rest breaks with violations, and the associated wage statement (§226) and waiting time (§203) penalties is \$5,632,347.

⁵ I understand that PrimeFlight hourly paid, non-exempt employees were paid bi-weekly.

⁶ State of California Department of Labor Standards Enforcement Labor Code section 201-203, et seq.

⁷ The calculation for potential waiting time penalties for each termination occurring on or after October 30, 2014 is as follows: (the lesser of 30 days or the number of days from the termination to the present) × the employees' last hourly base rate × average daily hours worked.

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Summary of Estimated Potential Exposure						
Cause of Action	Date Range	Potential Exposure				
Missed Meal Breaks	10/30/2013 - 10/30/2017	\$989,300				
Missed Rest Breaks	10/30/2013 - 10/30/2017	\$1,097,540				
Wage Statement Penalties	10/30/2016 - 10/30/2017	\$1,527,800				
Waiting Time Penalties	10/30/2014 - 10/30/2017	\$2,017,707				
Total Potential Estimated Exposure	\$5,632,347					

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on March 8, 2018.

EMIL CZECHOWSKI, M.B. A.

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The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

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(a) PLAINTIFFS Herta Guadalupe Kuhn, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated and on behalf of the general public			ed,	DEFENDANTS PrimeFlight Aviation Services, Inc. which will do business in California as PrimeFlight of DE, Inc., a Delaware Corporation, Prime Flight Aviation Services, Inc, a Ohio Corporation and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive					
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Sacramento				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant					
(EX	KCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA	ISES)		NOTE: IN LAND CO		<i>LAINTIFF CASES O.</i> ON CASES, USE TH IVOLVED.	. ,	OF	
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Roman Otkupman & Meghan Maertz Otkupman Law Firm, A Law Corporation 28632 Roadside Dr., Suite 203 Agoura Hills, California 91301 (818) 293-5623				Attorneys (If Known) Christopher M. Ahea Fisher & Phillips, LL 2050 Main St., Suite Irvine, California 926	rn & Collin I P 1000	D. Cook			
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VIII. RELATED CASE IF ANY	VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY (See instructions): JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER								
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08/27/2018		/s/ Christopher M.	Ahearn						
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY									
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Case 2:18-cv-02340-JAM-AC Document 1-8 Filed 08/27/18 Page 1 of 2 COLLIN D. COOK, SBN 251606 1 E-mail ccook@fisherphillips.com FISHER & PHILLIPS LLP 2 One Embarcadero Center, Suite 2050 3 San Francisco, CA 94111-3709 Irvine, California 92614 Telephone: (415) 490-9032 4 Facsimile: (415) 490-9001 5 CHRISTOPHER M. AHEARN, SBN 239089 6 E-mail cahearn@fisherphillips.com FISHER & PHILLIPS LLP 7 2050 Main Street, Suite 1000 Irvine, California 92614 8 Telephone: (949) 851-2424 Facsimile: (949) 851-0152 9 Attorneys for Defendant PRIMEFLIGHT AVIATION SERVICES, INC. WHICH WILL DO BUSINESS IN 10 CALIFORNIA AS PRIMEFLIGHT OF DE, INC. 11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 12 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 13 14 HERTA GUADALUPE KUHN, on behalf Case No: 2:18-at-0135 15 of herself and all others similarly situated. and on behalf of the general public, 16 CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT Plaintiff, **PURSUANT TO FRCP 7.1** 17 18 v. [Originally California Superior Court (Sacramento) Case No. 34-2018-00235596] PRIMEFLIGHT AVIATION SERVICES. 19 INC. WHICH WILL DO BUSINESS IN CALIFORNIA AS PRIMEFLIGHT OF DE, 20 INC., a Delaware Corporation, PRIME FLIGHT AVIATION SERVICES, INC., a 21 Ohio Corporation and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive. 22 23 Defendants. 24 25 26 27 28 CORP. DISCL. STMT. – FRCP RULE 7.1

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Case 2:18-cv-02340-JAM-AC Document 1-8 Filed 08/27/18 Page 2 of 2

1	Defendant PRIMEFLIGHT AVIATION SERVICES, INC. WHICH WILL DO						
2	BUSINESS IN CALIFORNIA AS PRIMEFLIGHT OF DE, INC. (hereinafter, "Defendant"),						
3	by and through counsel, hereby submits this Corporate Disclosure Statement pursuant to Rule						
4	7.1 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.						
5	Defendant's parent corporations are:						
6	• PFAS, Inc.;						
7	PFAS Interco, Inc.; and						
8	PrimeFlight Aviation Services Holdings, L.P.						
9	There is no publicly held corporation that owns 10% or more of Defendant's stock.						
10	Dated: August 27, 2018	Respectfully submitted,					
11		FISHER & PHILLIPS LLP					
12							
13	By:	/s/ Christopher M. Ahearn COLLIN D. COOK					
14		CHRISTOPHER M. AHEARN Attorneys For Defendant					
15		PRIMEFLIGHT AVIATION SERVICES, INC. WHICH WILL DO BUSINESS IN					
16		CALIFORNIA AS PRIMEFLIGHT OF DE, INC.					
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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: <u>Prime Flight Aviation Services Facing Lawsuit Over Allegedly Unpaid Wages</u>