	III				
1 2 3 4 5 6	Leila Nourani (SBN 163336) leila.nourani@jacksonlewis.com Damien P. DeLaney (SBN 246476) damien.delaney@jacksonlewis.com JeeHyun Yoon (SBN 279194) jeehyun.yoon@jacksonlewis.com JACKSON LEWIS P.C. 725 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2500 Los Angeles, California 90017-5408 Telephone: (213) 689-0404 Facsimile: (213) 689-0430				
7 8	Attorneys for Defendant ENCORE HEALTH RESOURCES, LLC				
9	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT				
10	FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA				
11					
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	NANCY PIERCE, individually, and on behalf of other members of the general public and all persons similarly situated, Plaintiff, vs. ENCORE HEALTH RESOURCES, LLC. and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, Defendants.	NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF ACTION TO THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332, 1367(a), 1441(a) AND (b) [Filed concurrently with Declarations of Leila Nourani, Christine Hutchinson, and Christy Green; Civil Case Cover Sheet; Certification and Notice of Interested Parties; and Corporate Disclosure Statement]			
21					
22	TO THE HONORABLE CLERK OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT				
23	COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, PLAINTIFF				
24	AND HER COUNSEL OF RECORD:				
25	PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Defendant Encore Health Resources, LLC				
26	("Defendant") hereby invokes this Court's jurisdiction under the provisions of 28 U.S.C				
27	§§ 1332, 1367(a), 1441(a), and 1441(b) to remove this action from the Superior Court of				
28		_			

NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF ACTION

Case No.:

California for the County of Alameda based on diversity jurisdiction. In support thereof, Defendant avers the following:

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STATEMENT OF JURISDICTION

1. The District Court has diversity jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a) where the matter is between citizens of different states and the amount in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs. Where the claims of at least one named Plaintiff satisfies the amount-in-controversy requirement and the other elements of jurisdiction are present, a district court may exercise supplemental jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1367 over the claims of the putative class members in the same case, even if those claims are for less than the jurisdictional minimum for diversity jurisdiction. Exxon Mobil Corp. v. Allapattah Servs., 545 U.S. 546, 549, 552-566 (2005); Gibson v. Chrysler Corp., 261 F.3d 927, 940–941 (9th Cir. 2001).

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As set forth below, jurisdiction within the District Court is proper on the 2. grounds herein described and the Action is timely and properly removed upon the filing of this Notice.

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PLEADINGS AND PROCESS

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3.

On May 25, 2018, Plaintiff Nancy Pierce filed a putative class and representative action Complaint in the Superior Court of California for the County of

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Alameda, bearing Case Number RG18906387, and alleging the following claims: (1) Failure to Pay Overtime Wages in Violation of the California Labor Code; (2) Failure to

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Provide Accurate Wage Statements in Violation of the Labor Code; (3) Failure to Timely

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Pay All Wages Due and Owing in Violation of the California Labor Code; (4) Violation

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of the Private Attorneys General Act; and (5) Unfair Business Practices. (See Complaint

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attached as Exhibit A to the Declaration of Leila Nourani ("Nourani Decl."), ¶ 2.)

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Defendant was personally served with a copy of Plaintiffs' Summons, Complaint and other related court documents on June 7, 2018. (See Service of Process

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Transmittal Sheet attached as Exhibit A to Nourani Decl., ¶¶ 2-3).

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5. On July 6, 2018, Defendant filed its Answer in Alameda Superior Court.

(See Answer attached as Exhibit B to Nourani Decl., ¶ 3).

6. As of the date of this Notice of Removal, the pleadings and papers in Exhibit A constitute all court filings with which Defendant has been served. (Nourani Decl. ¶ 5.)

TIMELINESS OF REMOVAL

7. This Notice of Removal has been filed within thirty (30) days after Defendant was served with a copy of Plaintiffs' Summons and Complaint upon which this action is based. *See Murphy Bros., Inc. Michetti Pipe Stringing, Inc.*, 526 U.S. 344, 353 (1999) (actual service of process is the official trigger for responsive action by a named defendant as opposed to receipt of complaint through other means). This Notice of Removal is therefore filed within the time period provided by 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b).

NOTICE TO ALL PARTIES AND STATE COURT

8. In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d), the undersigned counsel certifies that a copy of this Notice of Removal and all supporting papers promptly will be served on Plaintiff's counsel and filed with the Clerk and the Alameda County Superior Court. Therefore, all procedural requirements under 28 U.S.C. § 1446 have been satisfied.

VENUE

9. Venue of this action lies in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441 *et seq.* and 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(3), as this is the judicial district where Plaintiff filed her Complaint in State Court, and Plaintiff alleges that Defendant conducts business in the State of California. (Complaint, ¶ 2.)

DIVERSITY OF CITIZENSHIP

10. Diversity jurisdiction exists where there is diversity of citizenship between the parties at the time the lawsuit is filed. *Grupo Dataflux v. Atlas Global Group, LP*, 541 U.S. 567, 571 (2004). In class actions, only the citizenship of the named Plaintiff is relevant to the analysis of whether there is complete diversity under 28 U.S.C. §1332. *Hart v. FedEx Ground Package Sys.*, 457 F.3d 675, 676 (7th Cir. 2006). As shown below, there is complete diversity of citizenship because this is an action between

Plaintiff, a citizen of Oklahoma, on the one hand, and Defendant, a citizen of Delaware and Tennessee, on the other hand.

- 11. To establish citizenship for diversity purposes, a natural person must be a citizen of the United States and domiciled in a particular state. *Kantor v. Wellesley Galleries*, *Ltd.*, 704 F.2d 1088, 1090 (9th Cir. 1983). Persons are domiciled in the places where they reside with the intent to remain or to which they intend to return. *Kanter v. Warner-Lambert Co.*, 265 F.3d 853, 857 (9th Cir. 2001).
- 12. Plaintiff was, at the time this action was commenced, and still is, a resident and citizen of the State of Oklahoma. (See Complaint \P 3, attached as Exhibit A to Nourani Decl. at \P 2; see also Declaration of Christine Hutchinson ("Hutchinson Decl."), \P 2.)
- 13. The citizenship of a limited liability company for purposes of diversity jurisdiction is the citizenship of its members. *Johnson v. Columbia Properties Anchorage*, *LP* (9th Cir. 2006) 437 F.3d 894, 899.
- 14. The citizenship of a corporation is the state where it is incorporated and the state where it has its principal place of business. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c). With respect to ascertaining a corporation's principal place of business for purposes of diversity jurisdiction, the United States Supreme Court has adopted the "nerve center test." *Hertz v. Friend*, 130 S. Ct. 1181, 1186 (2010). Under the nerve center test, a corporation's principal place of business is where a corporation's high level officers direct, control and coordinate the corporation's activities. *Id.* A corporation can only have one "nerve center." *Id.* at 93-94. In evaluating where a corporation's "nerve center" is located, courts will look to the center of overall direction, control, and coordination of the company and will no longer weight corporate functions, assets, or revenues in each state. *Id.*
- 15. Defendant Encore Health Resources, LLC was, at the time of filing of the Complaint, and still is, a limited liability company formed under the laws of the State of Texas. (Declaration of Christy Green ("Green Decl."), ¶ 2.) Its sole member is Specialist

Resources Global, Inc. dba EMIDS. (*Id.*) Specialist Resources Global, Inc. was, at the time the Complaint was filed in state court, and still is, at the time of removal, a Delaware company with its principal place of business in Franklin, Tennessee. (Green Decl., ¶ 3.) The Company's headquarters are located in Franklin, Tennessee, where its high level officers direct, control and coordinate Defendant's activities. (*Id.*) The vast majority of administrative, executive and decision-making functions occur at, and are controlled from, the Company's headquarters in Franklin, Tennessee. (*Id.*) Therefore, Defendant was, at the time the Complaint was filed in state court, and still is, a citizen of the State of Delaware and Tennessee within the meaning of section 1332(c)(1).

16. The presence of Doe defendants in this case has no bearing on the diversity with respect to removal. See 28 U.S.C. § 1441(b)(1) (for purposes of removal, "the citizenship of defendants sued under fictitious names shall be disregarded"). DOES 1 through 100 here are fictitious defendants, are not parties to this action and have not been named or served. They should accordingly be disregarded in determining the court's original jurisdiction over this matter.

AMOUNT IN CONTROVERSY

- 17. Although the Complaint does not specify the dollar amount of damages being sought, Defendant has a reasonable good faith belief that the named Plaintiff seeks damages in excess of \$75,000 and the jurisdictional requirements of this Court.
- 18. Without conceding Plaintiff is entitled to damages or could recover damages in any amount whatsoever, the amount in controversy in this action exceeds \$75,000. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a). Where a plaintiff's state court complaint is silent as to the amount of damages claimed, the removing defendant need only establish it is more probable than not that plaintiff's claim exceeds the jurisdictional minimum. Sanchez v. Monumental Life Ins. Co., 102 F.3d 398, 403-404 (9th Cir. 1996).
- 19. Additionally, where the defendant seeks to remove a class action under traditional diversity jurisdiction, as long as one named Plaintiff satisfies the amount-in-controversy requirement (and there is complete diversity), a district court may exercise

supplemental jurisdiction over the claims of the other plaintiffs in the same case, even if those claims are for less than the jurisdictional minimum for diversity jurisdiction. *Exxon Mobil Corp. v. Allapattah Servs.*, 545 U.S. 546, 549, 552–566 (2005); *Gibson v. Chrysler Corp.*, 261 F.3d 927, 940–941 (9th Cir. 2001); *see also* 28 U.S.C. § 1367 ("[I]n any civil action in which the district courts have original jurisdiction, the district courts shall have supplemental jurisdiction over all other claims that are so related to claims in the action within such original jurisdiction that they form part of the same case or controversy under Article III of the United States Constitution.").

- 20. The Court must also presume that Plaintiff will prevail on each and every one of her claims in determining whether the amount in controversy is satisfied. Kenneth Rothschild Trust v. Morgan Stanley Dean Witter (C.D. Cal. 2002) 199 F. Supp. 2d 993, 1001, citing Burns v. Windsor Ins. Co. (11th Cir. 1994) 31 F.3d 1092, 1096 (the amount in controversy analysis presumes that "plaintiff prevails on liability"), citing Angus v. Shiley Inc., (3rd Cir. 1993) 989 F.2d 142, 146 ("the amount in controversy is not measured by the low end of an open-ended claim, but rather by reasonable reading of the value of the rights being litigated"). Therefore, the argument and facts set forth below may appropriately be considered in determining whether the jurisdictional amount in controversy is satisfied. Cohn v. Petsmart, Inc. (9th Cir. 2002) 281 F.3d 837, 843, n. 1.
- 21. The Complaint asserts the following causes of action: (1) Failure to Pay Overtime Wages in Violation of the California Labor Code; (2) Failure to Provide Accurate Wage Statements in Violation of the Labor Code; (3) Failure to Timely Pay All Wages Due and Owing in Violation of the California Labor Code; (4) Violation of the Private Attorneys General Act; and (5) Unfair Business Practices. (See Complaint.) Plaintiff seeks, *inter alia*, the following forms of relief: (1) unpaid overtime; (2) waiting time penalties; (3) statutory and civil penalties; (4) PAGA penalties; and (5) attorney's fees and costs. (Complaint, Prayer for Relief.)
- 22. <u>Overtime</u> Plaintiff alleges that she and other putative class members worked for Defendant in California as "At the Elbow" consultants ("ATE") but were not

- paid any overtime despite often working twelve (12) hours a day, seven (7) days a week. (Complaint, ¶¶ 6, 10, 13, 32.) Plaintiff alleges that she is entitled to recover the alleged unpaid overtime during the period beginning four years before the filing of the Complaint to the date of judgment. (Complaint, ¶ 52.) Here, during the relevant time period of May 25, 2014 to the date of removal, Plaintiff was paid an hourly rate of \$50. (Hutchinson Decl., ¶ 3.) During this relevant time period, Plaintiff worked a total of 78 hours in excess of 8 hours in a day. (Hutchinson Decl., ¶ 3.) This amounts to a total of \$1,950 of alleged unpaid overtime.
- 23. Penalties Plaintiff also seeks civil penalties under Labor Code section 558, which provides, for an initial violation, \$50 for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the employee was underpaid, and for each subsequent violation, \$100 for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the employee was underpaid. (See Complaint, ¶ 53; Lab. Code, § 558.) During the relevant time period of March 21, 2017 to the date of removal, Plaintiff received payments from Defendant during a total of two pay periods. (Hutchinson Decl., ¶ 5.) Thus, penalties under Labor Code section 558 amount to \$150.
- 24. <u>Inaccurate Wage Statements</u> Plaintiff alleges that Defendant knowingly and intentionally failed to provide timely, accurate, and itemized wage statements in violation of Labor Code section 226. (Complaint, ¶ 55.) She seeks the greater of all actual damages or \$50 for the initial pay period in which a violation occurred and \$100 for each violation in a subsequent pay period. (Complaint, ¶ 57.) Plaintiff further alleges that Defendant is also subject to civil penalties for Labor Code sections 226(a) violations in the amount of \$250 per employee per violation in an initial citation and \$1,000 per employee for each violation in a subsequent citation. (Complaint, ¶ 57.) Plaintiff seeks damages for the period beginning one year prior to the date of filing the Complaint (see Complaint, ¶ 33), making the relevant time period May 25, 2017 to the date of removal. During this time period, Plaintiff received payments from Defendant during a total of one pay period. (Hutchinson Decl., ¶ 5.) Thus, penalties under Labor Code section 226 and

226.3 amount to \$300.00.

- 25. Waiting Time Penalties Plaintiff alleges that Defendant has willfully failed to pay all wages due to Plaintiff in violation of Labor Code sections 201 and 202 and therefore is subject to a maximum waiting time penalty of 30 days of wages. (Complaint, ¶¶ 60-62.) Plaintiff's hourly rate was \$50. (Hutchinson Decl., ¶ 4.) Plaintiff's last day worked for Defendant was May 19, 2017. (Hutchinson Decl., ¶ 4.) Plaintiff alleges that she was required to work twelve (12) hours a day. (Complaint, ¶ 13.) Thus, Plaintiff's alleged waiting time penalties would amount to 12 hours X \$50 X 30 days, or \$18,000.
- 26. PAGA Penalties Plaintiff also seeks penalties under PAGA and demands the maximum penalty of \$100 for each initial violation and \$200 for each subsequent violation per pay period. (Complaint, ¶ 69.) PAGA penalties are subject to a one (1) year statute of limitations. See Cal. Code Civ. Proc., § 340(a). However, this limitations period is tolled during the 65 day period during which the LWDA is assessing, or the employer may be curing, the alleged violations. See Cal. Lab. Code, § 2699.3, subds. (a)(2)(B) and (d). Plaintiff alleges that she and the "aggrieved employees" have sent a letter to the LWDA detailing the alleged violations upon which their PAGA claim is premised. (See Complaint, ¶¶ 46, 47.) This makes the relevant time period one (1) year and 65 days preceding the filing of the Complaint on May 25, 2018 to the date of removal, *i.e.*, March 21, 2017 to the date of removal. During this time period, Plaintiff received payments from Defendant during a total of two pay periods. (Hutchinson Decl., ¶ 5.) Thus, PAGA penalties would amount to \$200.00.
- 27. Attorney's Fees Plaintiff also request an award of attorney's fees. (Complaint, Prayer for Relief.) Although Plaintiff seeks an unspecified amount of attorneys' fees, such fees may be taken into account to determine jurisdictional amounts if a statute authorizes fees to a successful litigant. Goldberg v. C.P.C. International, Inc. (9th Cir. 1982) 678 F.2d 1365, 1367; Galt G/S v. JSS Scandinavia (9th Cir. 1998)142 F.3d 1150, 1155-1156; Guglielmino v. McKee Foods Corp. (9th Cir. 2007) 506 F.3d 696,

700 ("[w]here an underlying statute authorizes an award of attorneys' fees, either with 1 2 mandatory or discretionary language, such fees may be included in the amount in 3 controversy"); Simmons v. PCR Tech. (N.D. Cal. 2002) 209 F. Supp. 2d 1029, 1035. "Where the law entitles the prevailing plaintiff to recover reasonable attorney fees, a 4 5 reasonable estimate of fees likely to be incurred to resolution is part of the benefit 6 permissibly sought by the plaintiff and thus contributes to the amount in controversy." 7 Brady v. Mercedes-Benz USA, Inc. (N.D. Cal. 2002) 243 F. Supp 2d 1004, 1011; 8 Celestino v. Renal Advantage, Inc. (N.D. Cal. 2007) 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 33827, *11 ("the amount in controversy includes not only damages accrued up to the time of 9 10 removal, but also a reasonable assessment of damages likely to be accrued after the time of removal"). Here, counsel for Defendant reasonably estimates that attorney's fees 12 alone will exceed the sum of \$75,000 through trial. (Nourani Decl., ¶ 6.) Defendant's 13 attorney, Leila Nourani, has represented employers in employment litigation for over 20 years in California and is familiar with fees awarded to plaintiff's counsel in similar 14 actions filed in California and federal court. (Id.) Based on Ms. Nourani's experience 16 and Plaintiff's allegations, it would be reasonable to expect that attorneys' fees alone in this case will exceed the sum of \$75,000 through trial. (*Id.*) WHEREFORE, Defendant respectfully removes the above action pending in the Alameda County Superior Court.

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DATED: July 9, 2018

JACKSON LEWIS P.C.

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4831-1654-0524, v. 2 28

By: /s/ Leila Nourani

Damien P. DeLaney JeeHyun Yoon

Attorneys for Defendant ENCORE HEALTH RESOURCES, LLC

Leila Nourani (SBN 163336) 1 leila.nourani@jacksonlewis.com Damien P. DeLaney (SBN 246476) damien.delaney@jacksonlewis.com JeeHyun Yoon (SBN 279194) 3 jeehyun.yoon@jacksonlewis.com JACKSON LEWIS P.C. 4 725 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2500 Los Angeles, California 90017-5408 Telephone: (213) 689-0404 Facsimile: (213) 689-0430 5 6 7 Attorneys for Defendant ENCORE HEALTH RESOURCES. LLC 8 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 10 11 12 NANCY PIERCE, individually, and on CASE NO. behalf of other members of the general 13 public and all persons similarly situated, DECLARATION OF LEILA NOURANI IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANT'S NOTICE OF 14 Plaintiff, REMOVAL OF ACTION TO THE 15 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT VS. FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF 16 ENCORE HEALTH RESOURCES, LLC. CALIFORNIA PURSUANT TO 28 and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, U.S.C. §§ 1332, 1367(a), 1441(a) AND (b) 17 Defendants. [Filed concurrently with Notice of 18 Removal; Declarations of Christy Green and Christine Hutchinson; Civil Case Cover Sheet; Certification and Notice of 19 Interested Parties; and Corporate 20 Disclosure Statement 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 Case No.: DECLARATION OF LEILA NOURANI ISO

1

NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF ACTION

DECLARATION OF LEILA NOURANI

I, Leila Nourani, hereby declare as follows:

- 1. I am an attorney admitted to practice before all courts of the State of California and before this Court. I am a principal with the law firm Jackson Lewis P.C., counsel of record for Defendant Encore Health Resources, LLC ("Defendant"). I make the following declaration based on personal knowledge, unless otherwise stated, and on my review of and familiarity with Defendant's files and documents in the above-captioned matter. If called as a witness, I could and would competently testify to the facts contained herein. I submit this declaration in support of Defendant's Notice of Removal to the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.
- 2. On May 25, 2018, Plaintiff Nancy Pierce filed a putative class and representative action Complaint in the Superior Court of California for the County of Alameda, bearing Case Number RG18906387, and alleging the following claims: (1) Failure to Pay Overtime Wages in Violation of the California Labor Code; (2) Failure to Provide Accurate Wage Statements in Violation of the Labor Code; (3) Failure to Timely Pay All Wages Due and Owing in Violation of the California Labor Code; (4) Violation of the Private Attorneys General Act; and (5) Unfair Business Practices. A true and correct copy of this Complaint is attached hereto as Exhibit A.
- 3. According to the Service of Process Transmittal Sheet, Defendant was personally served with a copy of Plaintiffs' Summons, Complaint and other related court documents on June 7, 2018. A true and correct copy of the Service of Transmittal Sheet is also attached hereto as Exhibit A.
- 4. On July 6, 2018, Defendant filed its Answer in Alameda Superior Court. A true and correct copy of this Answer is attached hereto as Exhibit B.
- 5. As of the date of this Notice of Removal, the pleadings and papers in Exhibit A constitute all court filings with which Defendant has been served.
- 6. I have represented employers in employment litigation for over 20 years in California and is familiar with fees awarded to plaintiff's counsel in similar actions filed

Case 4:18-cv-04736 Document 1-1 Filed in TXSD on 07/09/18 Page 3 of 36

in California and federal court. Based on my experience and Plaintiff's allegations, it would be reasonable to expect that attorneys' fees alone in this case will exceed the sum of \$75,000 through trial.

I declare under penalty of perjury and under the laws of the United States and California that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Executed July 9, 2018 at Los Angeles, California.

/s/ Leila Nourani Leila Nourani

4839-2534-8716, v. 1

DECLARATION OF LEILA NOURANI ISO NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF ACTION

EXHIBIT A

6/7/18 @3Pm

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): ENCORE HEALTH RESOURCES, LLC

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): NANCY PIERCE FOR COURT USE ONLY
(SELO PARA USO DE LA CORTE)

ENDORSED

ALAMEDA COUNTY

ALAMEDA 25 2018

MAY 25 2018

CLERIV OF THE SUPERIOR COURTS

CLERIV OF THE BURIN, Deputy

By Lanette Burin, Deputy

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS effer this summone and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A latter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal from if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Chrise Self-Melp Center (www.courthinc.ce.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fas, est the court clerk for a fee welver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken writtenut further warming from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney retard acroics. If you cannot afford an alterney, you may be sligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web sta (www.lawhelposillomis.org), the California Courte Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinto.ca.gow/selfne/p), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lian for waived feez and costs on any estilement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lian must be paid before the court will demise the case. AVISOI Lo han demandatio. Si no responde dentro de 30 dies, is corte puede dealth on su contra sin escucher su versión. Les la información a continuación.

Tiene SO DIAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen este clization y papelas lagales pere presentar una respuesta por escrito en este corta y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carte o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que ester en formato legal correcto al desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que ustad pueda usar para su respuesta. Pueda encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (New sucorta ca gov), en la bibliotece de leyes de su condado o en la corte que la quade más carca. Si no preda pagar la cuda da presentación, pida al accretario de la corte que la de un formulario de exención de pago de custas. Si no presente su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte la podrá quitar su aueldo, dinero y bienes ain más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales, les recomendable que liame a un abogado hunediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede liamer a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar e un abogado, os positila que cumple con los requisitos para obtener aervicios legales gratuitos de un programa de contetos legales sin finas de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin finas de lucro en el cido web de Celifornia Legal Services. (www.levinalpesiliemia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.aucorta.ca.gov) o poniándose en contecto con la ceria o el codegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por lay, la corte tiene derecho e recismer las curtas y los costos exentos por imporas un gravamen sobre cualquier tecupareción de \$10,000 ó más de vator recibilia madiente un accuardo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte entes de que la corte puede desocher el caso.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Rene C. Davidson Courthouse 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, California 94612

The name, addrese, and telephone number of plaintiffs attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, la: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teláfono del abopado del demendente, o del demendente que no tiene ebogado, es): Thierman Buck, LLP, 7287 Lekeside Drive, Reno, NV 89511 OATE: . Deputy (Fecha) Chad Finke (Secretario) (Adjunto) (For proof of service of this summons, use Proof of Service of Summons (form POS-010),) (Pera prueba de entrega de este cliatión use el formulario Proci of Sarvice of Summons, (POS-010)). NOTICE TO THE PERSON BERVED: You are served REALI] es en Individuel defendent. as the person sued under the fictilious name of (specify): 3. XI on behalf of (specify): Encore Health Resources LLC under: CCP 416.10 (corporation) CCP 410.60 (minor) CCP 416.20 (defund corporation) CCP 416.70 (conservates) CCP 418.40 (essectation or partnership) CCP 416.90 (authorized person) x other (specify): CCP § 17061 (Limited Liability Company) 4. De personal delivery on (dele): Pasa 4 cd 4

Form Adoption for Mandatory Use Judicial Countril of California GUN-100 (Pays. July 1, 2008)

SUMMONS

Code of CAA Procedure (§ 412.29, 486

Mark R. Thierman, Cal SB# 72913 ENDORSED Joshua D. Buck, Cal SB# 258325 2 ALAMÉDĂ COUNTY THIERMAN BUCK LLP 7287 Lakeside Drive 3 MAY 25 2018 Reno, Nevada 89511 CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COUR Tel: (775) 284-1500 4 Email: mark@thiermanbuck.com By Lanette Buffin, Deputy 5 Email: josh@thiermanbuck.com 6 Ryan F. Stephan (Pro Hoc Vice Pending) Andrew C. Ficzko (Pro Hoc Vice Pending) 7 STEPHAN ZOURAS, LLP 8 205 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 2560 Chicago, Illinois 60601 9 312 233 1550 312 233 1560 f 10 Email: RStephan@stephanzouras.com Email: AFiczko@stephanzouras.com 11 12 Attorneys for Plaintiff, the general public, and all others similarly situated 13 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 14 FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA CASE NO HAL 8 9 0 6 3 8 7 15 16 NANCY PIERCE, individually, and on behalf of other members of the general 17 public and all persons similarly situated; <u>CLASS ACTION, CCP 8382, AND</u> <u>REPRESENTATIVE ACTION</u> 18 Plaintiff, COMPLAINT: 19 ٧. 1) Failure to Pay Overtime Wages in Violation 20 of the California Labor Code; ENCORE HEALTH RESOURCES, LLC. 21 and DOES 1 through 100; inclusive, 2) Failure to Provide Accurate Wage Statements in Violation of the California Labor Code; 22Defendants. 3) Pailure to Timely Pay All Wages Due and 23 Owing in Violation of the California Labor Code: 24 4) Violating Private Attorney Generals Act; 25 5) Unfair Business Practices. 26 JURY TRIAL DEMAND 27 28

BY FAX

Come now Plaintiff NANCY PIERCE, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, the general public, and all aggrieved employees (hereinafter "Plaintiffs") and hereby complain and allege against the Defendant ENCORE HEALTH RESOURCES, LLC (hereinafter "ENCORE" and/or "Defendant") as follows:

I.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 1. The Superior Court of the State of California, for the County of Alameda, has original jurisdiction over the state law claims alleged herein pursuant to the California Constitution.
- 2. Venue is proper in this Court because Defendant has failed to designate a principal office in California and has conducted business in the state of California. *Easton v. Sup.Ct.* (Schneider Bros., Inc.) (1970) 12 CA3d 243, 246-247, 90 CR 642, 644.

II.

<u>PARTIES</u>

- 3. Representative Plaintiff, NANCY PIERCE, is a resident of El Reno, Oklahoma and worked for Defendant as an ATE Go-Live Support Consultant (hereinafter referred to as "ATE") at Cedars-Sinai in California during the applicable statute of limitations period.
- 4. Defendants Encore Health Resources, LLC, is a Texas corporation providing information technology educational services for the healthcare industry across the country. Encore's principal place of business is located in Houston, Texas. Encore provides its services to customers throughout California, including this District, and nationwide.
- 5. At all times relevant, Defendant was Representative Plaintiff's "employer" as defined by the Cal.Code Regs., tit. 8, § 11140, subd. 2(C) and interpreted in *Martinez v. Combs*, 49 Cal. 4th 35, 231 P.3d 259 (2010), as modified (June 9, 2010), and was actively engaged in the conduct described herein. Throughout the relevant period, Defendant employed Representative Plaintiff and similarly-situated employees within the meaning of the California Labor Code.

M.

FACTS

6. Plaintiffs are individuals who worked for Defendant as "At the Elbow" consultants or other similarly-titled, hourly-paid positions during the statutory period. Amongst other things.

Plaintiffs all shared similar job titles, training, job descriptions, and job tasks, Importantly, Representative Plaintiff and the Class members were all paid an hourly rate of pay.

- 7. Encore, as a leading healthcare information technology firm, provides training and support to medical facilities in connection with the implementation and administration of integrated health computer systems, specifically, new electronic recordkeeping systems. Encore employs ATEs, such as Plaintiffs, to perform such training and support services to medical facilities throughout the country.
- 8. Encore's financial results are significantly driven by the total number of ATEs providing training and support services to Encore's customers and the respective fees that Encore charges its customers for these services.
- 9. Representative Plaintiff worked as an ATE for Encore at Cedars-Sinai during the applicable statute of limitations period.
- 10. Plaintiffs were all compensated on an hourly basis and were paid only straight time for all hours they worked, including all overtime hours worked each week.
- 11. Despite the fact that the Representative Plaintiff and the other similarly-situated ATEs did not meet any test for exemption, Encore failed to pay them the requisite overtime rate of 1 ½ times or 2 times their regular rate for all hour worked more than 8 hours in a day, more than 12 hours in a day, more than 40 hours per week, 8 hours worked on the seventh consecutive day in a workweek, and more than 8 hours on the seventh consecutive day of work in a workweek. ("Overtime Hours").

<u>Plaintiffs Routinely Worked Overtime Hours Without Being Paid Overtime</u> <u>Premium Compensation</u>

- 12. The Representative Plaintiff and other similarly-situated ATEs routinely worked Overtime Hours but were not paid overtime premium compensation as required by California Labor Code.
- 13. The Representative Plaintiff and other similarly-situated ATEs were often required to work twelve (12) hours a day, seven (7) days a week. Projects, on average, lasted a few weeks at a time.

- 14. Despite the fact that the Representative Plaintiff and other similarly-situated ATEs were required, permitted, and/or encouraged to work Overtime Hours, Encore failed to pay them one and one-half (1½) times their regular rate of pay for all Overtime Hours worked, as required by California Labor Code.
- Rather, Representative Plaintiff and other similarly-situated ATEs were paid a straight hourly rate for all hours that they worked, regardless of whether they worked Overtime Hours. The Representative Plaintiff and other similarly-situated ATEs were not paid on a salary basis.
 - 16. Defendant knew, and was aware at all times, of the above-mentioned violations.
 - 17. The conduct alleged above reduced Defendant's labor and payroli costs.
- 18. Plaintiff and other similarly-situated ATEs were subject to Defendant's uniform policies and practices and were victims of Defendant's schemes to deprive them of overtime compensation. As a result of Defendant's improper and willful failure to pay Plaintiff and other similarly-situated ATEs in accordance with the requirements of the California Labor Code, Plaintiff and Class members suffered lost wages and other related damages.

Plaintiffs Are Not Exempt

- 19. The Representative Plaintiff and other similarly-situated ATEs provide support and training to various healthcare staff across the country in connection with the implementation and administration of integrated health computer systems. Plaintiff has no specialized training or certification in computer programming, software documentation and analysis, or testing of computer systems or programs. Plaintiffs were not working as, nor were they similarly skilled as, computer systems analysts, computer programmers or software engineers.
- 20. Plaintiffs' primary duty was to provide first-line troubleshooting which consisted of training and supporting various healthcare staff across the country with the implementation and administration of integrated health computer systems, specifically, new electronic recordkeeping software. This support is known as "at the elbow" because the Representative Plaintiff and other similarly-situated ATEs are "at the elbow" of the healthcare staff, providing them guidance on the new software system. Plaintiffs had little discretion in the performance of their job and worked within closely-prescribed limits provided by Encore.

- 21. Plaintiff and all other ATEs were not primarily engaged in work that was intellectual or creative and that requires the exercise of discretion and independent judgment; they are not gighly skilled and proficient in the theoretical and practical application of highly specialized information to computer systems analysis, programming, or software engineering.
- 22. Plaintiff and all other ATEs' duties dld not include (i) application of systems analysis techniques and procedures, including consulting with users, to determine hardware, software, or system functional specifications; (ii) the design, development, documentation, analysis, creation, testing, or modification of computer systems or programs, including prototypes, based on and related to user or system design specifications; or (iii) the documentation, testing, creation, or modification of computer programs related to the design of software or hardware for computer operating systems.
- 23. Plaintiffs did not analyze, consult or determine hardware, software programs or any system functional specifications for Encore's clients.
- 24. Plaintiffs did not consult with Encore's clients to determine or recommend hardware specifications. Plaintiffs did not design, develop, document, analyze, create, test or modify a computer system or program.
- 25. Throughout the statutory period, Plaintiffs' primary duty was not related to the management of the business operations of Encore or its customers.
- 26. Throughout the statutory period, Plaintiffs' primary duty did not require the use of discretion and independent judgment with respect to matters of significance.
- 27. Throughout the statutory period, Plaintiffs' primary duty was not the performance of work requiring advanced knowledge in a field of science or learning.
- 28. Throughout the statutory period, Plaintiffs did not perform work requiring invention, imagination, originality, or talent in a recognized field of artistic or creative endeavor.
- 29. Despite the fact that Representative Plaintiff and other similarly-situated ATEs did not meet any test for exemption, Encore failed to pay the Representative Plaintiff and other similarly-situated ATEs the requisite overtime rate of 1½ times their regular rate for Overtime Hours worked. Rather, Encore paid Plaintiffs their regular straight, hourly rate for Overtime Hours worked that they were encouraged, suffered and permitted to perform.

Defendant Willfully Violated the California Labor Code

- 30. Encore had no legitimate basis to believe the Plaintiffs were exempt from the overtime requirements of the California Labor Code. Instead, Encore either knew or acted with reckless disregard of clearly applicable Labor Code provisions in failing to pay Plaintiffs overtime compensation for all Overtime Hours worked. Encore's willful actions and/or willful failures to act, included, but were not necessarily limited to:
 - a. Encore maintained payroll records which reflected that Plaintiffs did, in fact, regularly work Overtime Hours and therefore, Encore had actual knowledge that the Plaintiffs worked overtime;
 - b. Encore knew that it did not pay Plaintiffs one and one half (11/2) times their regular rate of pay for all Overtime Hours worked;
 - c. Encore's own documents, including but not necessarily limited to, job offer letters, employment agreements, and training materials for ATEs, reflect that Encore was aware of the nature of the work performed by ATEs, and, in particular, that these individuals worked exclusively at-the-elbow of healthcare workers employed by Encore's clients, providing basic training and support with the implementation and administration of integrated health computer systems;
 - d. Encore's own documents, including but not necessarily limited to, job offer letters, employment agreements, and training materials for ATEs, reflect that Defendant knew that it was subjected to the wage requirements of the Labor Code;
 - e. Encore was aware that its ATEs were not involved with: (i) computer systems analysis, computer programming, or software engineering; (ii) the application of systems analysis techniques and procedures; or (iii) the design, development, analysis, creation, testing or modification of a computer system or program;
 - f. Encore lacked any good-faith basis to believe that its ATEs fell within any exemption from the overtime requirements of the Labor Code; and
 - g. Encore was aware that it would (and did) benefit financially by failing to pay Plaintiffs overtime premium pay for all Overtime Hours worked, reducing its labor and payroll costs.

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IV.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 31. Pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure ("CCP") §382 and the common law related thereto, a case should be treated as a class action when a court finds: (a) that the predominant issues raised in the case are of a common interest; (b) that the parties are so numerous that it is impracticable to bring them all before this Court; (c) that the proposed Class and Subclass are clearly and easily ascertainable; (d) that the named representatives' claims are typical of the claims of the proposed classes; (e) that the Class representatives will adequately represent the interests of the classes; and (e) that a class action is superior to other methods of adjudicating the claims alleged herein. Plaintiff herein allege that each and every one of the foregoing can and will be demonstrated at the time for hearing on Plaintiff' motion for class certification.
- 32. Plaintiff brings this suit as a class action pursuant to CCP §382, on behalf of the Class of individuals:

All individuals who currently work, or have worked, for the Defendant as an ATE or any other similarly-titled, hourly-paid position, in the state of California at any time within the preceding 4-years from the date of filing the complaint.

- 33. Plaintiff further seeks Certification of the following Subclasses: (a) Wage Statement Subclass: All members of the Class who were employed at any time within the preceding 1-year from the date of filing the complaint; and (b) Waiting Time Penalty Subclass: All members of the Class who are former employees and who were employed at any time within the preceding 3-years from the date of filing the complaint.
- 34. Members of the Class and Subclasses will hereinafter be referred to as "class members."
- 35. Plaintiff reserves the right to redefine the Class and Subclass and to add additional subclasses as appropriate based on further investigation, discovery, and specific theories of liability.

¹ The Itemized Wage Statement and Waiting Time Penalty Subclasses are comprised of the same persons as the Class but are limited in time (a 3-year statute of limitations for Waiting Time Penalty claims and a 1-year statute of limitations for an Itemized Wage Statement claim) and employee classification (Waiting Time Penalty claims are only available to former employees).

- 36. <u>Numerosity</u>: Plaintiff is informed and believes and based on such information and belief, allege that, in conformity with CCP § 382, the potential membership in the Class and the subclass is so numerous that joinder of all members is impractical. While the exact number of members in each of the classes is presently unknown to Plaintiff, they estimate membership in the Class to exceed 100. The exact number and specific identities of the members of the Class and the subclass, may be readily ascertained through inspection of Defendants' business records. Moreover, the disposition of class members' claims by way of a class action will provide substantial benefits to the parties and the Court.
- 37. <u>Commonality</u>: Plaintiff is informed and believes and based on such information and belief alleges that numerous questions of law and/or fact are common to all members of the class, including, without limitation:
 - a. Whether Plaintiff and the Class members were all paid by the hour;
 - b. Whether Plaintiff and the Class members, by definition, were exempt from overtime;
 - c. Whether Plaintiff and the Class members, by definition, all worked Overtime Hours;
 - d. Whether Defendant maintained common timekeeping and payroll systems and policies with respect to Plaintiff and the Class members, regardless of their job title or location;
 - e. Whether Defendant failed to pay Representative Plaintiff and the Class members an overtime premium for overtime hours worked;
 - f. Whether Defendant complied with the wage reporting requirements of Labor Code § 226 (a)(9);
 - g. Whether Defendant failed to timely pay Plaintiff and putative Class members the wages due them during their employment;
 - h. Whether Defendant failed to timely pay wages due to Plaintiff and Class members upon their discharge;
 - i. Whether Defendant's failure to pay all wages due in accordance with the California Labor Code was willful or reckless;

- j. Whether Defendant engaged in unfair business practices in violation of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq.;
- k. Whether Defendant failed to pay Representative Plaintiff and Class members all compensation rightfully owed; and
- The appropriate amount of damages, restitution, or monetary penalties resulting from Defendant's violations of law.
- 38. <u>Typicality</u>: Representative Plaintiff's claims are typical of those of the class members, because Representative Plaintiff suffered the violations set forth in this Complaint.
- 39. Adequacy: Representative Plaintiff will adequately protect the interests of class members. Representative Plaintiff has no interests that are adverse to or in conflict with class members and she is committed to the vigorous prosecution of this lawsuit. To that end, Representative Plaintiff has retained counsel who are competent and experienced in handling class actions on behalf of employees.
- forth in the commonality discussion above predominate over individual questions because Defendant's alleged underlying activities and impact of its policies and practices affected Class members in the same manner: they were subjected to a policy of suffering overtime work without overtime pay. A class action is superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy, since joinder of all members is impracticable. Furthermore, as the amount suffered by individual class members may be relatively small, the expense and burden of individual litigation make it impossible for members of the Class to individually redress the wrongs done to them. There will be no inordinate difficulty in the management of this case as a class action. The class is geographically disbursed throughout California but Defendant's policies and decisions affecting the class all emanated from its central offices. Representative Plaintiff is informed and believes and based on such information and belief alleges that this action is properly brought as a class action, not only because the prerequisites of CCP §382 and common law related thereto are satisfied (as outlined above), but also because of the following:
 - The prosecution of separate actions by or against individual members of the Class would create risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual

- members of the Class which would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the party opposing the Class;
- b. Adjudications with respect to individual members of the Class would, as a practical matter, be dispositive of the interests of the other members not parties to the adjudications or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests;
- Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to all members of the Class, making declaratory relief appropriate with respect to all of the Class;
- d. Questions of law or fact common to the members of the Class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members; and, Class action treatment is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.

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PAGA ENFORCEMENT ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 41. At all times set forth herein, PAGA was applicable to Plaintiff's employment by Defendant as the employer.
- 42. At all times set forth herein, PAGA states that any provision of law under the California labor code that provides for a civil penalty to be assessed and collected by the LWDA for violations of the California labor code may, as an alternative, be recovered through a civil action brought by an aggrieved employee on behalf of him or herself and other current or former employees pursuant to procedures outlined in Labor Code § 2699.3.
- 43. Pursuant to PAGA, a civil action under PAGA may be brought by any "aggrieved employee," who is a person that was employed by the alleged violator and against whom one or more of the alleged violations was committed.
- 44. Defendant employed Plaintiff and other employees and committed the alleged violations against Plaintiff and said employees in connection with their employment. Thus, Intervenor and these other employees are "aggrieved employees" as that term is defined in Labor Code section 2699(c).

- 45. Pursuant to California Labor Code sections 2699.3 and 2699.5, an aggrieved employee, including Plaintiff, may pursue a civil action arising under PAGA after the following requirements have been met:
 - a. The aggrieved employee shall give written notice electronically to the LWDA with copy to the employer of the specific provisions of the California Labor Code alleged to have been violated, including the facts and theories to support the alleged violations.
 - b. The LWDA shall provide notice (hereinafter "LWDA Notice") to the employer and the aggrieved employee by certified mail that it does not intend to investigate the alleged violation within thirty (30) calendar days of the postmark date of the Employee's Notice. Upon receipt of the LWDA Notice, or if the LWDA Notice is not provided within thirty-three (33) calendar days of the postmark date of the Employee's Notice, the aggrieved employee may commence a civil action pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699 to recover civil penalties in addition to any other penalties to which the employee may be entitled.
- 46. Plaintiff has provided written notice as required by law to the LWDA and to Defendant of the specific provisions of the California Labor Code alleged to have been violated, including the facts and theories to support the alleged violations, pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699.3. A true and correct copy of Plaintiff's PAGA letter is attached hereto as Exhibit A.
- 47. Plaintiff therefore brings this action as a PAGA Representative action on behalf of the following aggrieved employees: All members of the Class who were employed at any time from May 22, 2018, through the date of entry of judgment.

VI.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Failure to Pay Overtime Wages for All Overtime Hours Worked
(On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Class Against Defendants)

48. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by this reference all the paragraphs above in this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

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Labor Code §§ 510 and 1198, and Section 3 of applicable Wage Order No. 9, 49. mandate that California employers pay overtime compensation at one and one-half times the regular rate of pay to all non-exempt employees for all hours worked over eight (8) per day or over forty (40) per week and "any work in excess of 12 hours in one day shall be compensated at the rate of no less than twice the regular rate of pay for an employee. In addition, any work in excess of eight hours on any seventh day of a workweek shall be compensated at the rate of no less than twice the regular rate of pay of an employee." Section 3(A)(1) of the applicable Wage Order states in relevant part: "Employment beyond eight (8) hours in any workday or more than six (6) days in any workweek is permissible provided the employee is compensated for such overtime at not less than: (a) One and one-half (11/2) times the employee's regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours up to and including 12 hours in any workday, and for the first eight (8) hours worked on the seventh (7th) consecutive day of work in a workweek; and (b) Double the employee's regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of 12 hours in any workday and for all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours on the seventh (7th) consecutive day of work in a workweek."

- 50. Labor Code § 1198 states that "The maximum hours of work and the standard conditions of labor fixed by the commission shall be the maximum hours of work and the standard conditions of labor for employees. The employment of any employee for longer hours than those fixed by the order or under conditions of labor prohibited by the order is unlawful."
- 51. Because Defendant failed to compensate Plaintiff and Class members at the correct overtime rate for all overtime hours worked, as set forth above, Defendant failed to pay Plaintiff and Class members overtime compensation when due.
- 52. Wherefore, Plaintiff demands for herself and for Class members that Defendant pay Plaintiff and Class members overtime pay at the applicable legal rate for all overtime hours worked together with attorneys' fees, costs, and interest as provided by law. Because Defendant's conduct described immediately above is an act of unfair competition and a business practice in violation of California Business & Professions Code § 17200, Plaintiff and Class members are entitled to recover the amounts previously specified for four years prior to the filing of this complaint to the date of judgment after trial.

- 57. Plaintiff and the Class members are entitled to and seek injunctive relief requiring Defendant to comply with Labor Code §§ 226(a) and further seek the amount provided under Labor Code § 226(e), including 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) per employee for each violation in a subsequent pay period.
- 58. Defendant is also subject to civil penalties for Labor Code §§ 226(a) violations "in the amount of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) per employee per violation in an initial citation and one thousand (\$1,000) per employee for each violation in a subsequent citation" as provided by Labor Code §§ 226.3. These penalties are in addition to any other penalty provided by law and are recoverable by private individuals on behalf of the state of California under the Private Attorney General Act, Labor Code § 2699, et. seq.
- 59. Because Defendant's conduct described immediately above is an act of unfair competition and a business practice in violation of California Business & Professions Code Section 17200, Plaintiff further demands the Defendant be enjoined from continuing to provide inaccurate pay statements that fail to include the amount of hours worked by each employee, the hourly rate of pay, and the amount of all overtime hours worked at the corresponding hourly rate.

VIII.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

Failure to Timely Pay All Wages Due and Owing

(On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Waiting Time Penalties Subclass Against Defendant)

- 60. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by this reference all the paragraphs above in this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 61. Labor Code §§ 201 and 202 require an employer to pay its employees all wages due within the time specified by law. Labor Code § 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to timely pay such wages, the employer must continue to pay the subject employees' wages until the back wages are paid in full or an action is commenced, up to a maximum of thirty (30) days of wages.
- 62. Class members who ceased employment with Defendant are entitled to unpaid compensation for unpaid overtime wages, as alleged above, but to date have not received such

compensation. Defendant's failure to pay such wages and compensation, as alleged above, was knowing and "willful" within the meaning of Labor Code § 203.

63. As a consequence of Defendant's willful conduct in not paying compensation for all hours worked, Class members whose employment ended within the last three years from the filing of this complaint arc entitled to up to thirty days' wages under Labor Code § 203, together with interest thereon and attorneys' fees and costs.

IX.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Violating California Private Attorney General Act

(On Behalf of Plaintiff and all Aggrieved Employees Against Defendant)

- 64. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by this reference all the paragraphs above in this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.
 - 65. Labor Code § 2699(a) states:

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

- 66. Plaintiff and Class members are "aggrieved employees" as that term is defined in the California Labor Code Private Attorney General Act of 2004, because they are current or former employees of the alleged violator and against whom one or more of the alleged violations was committed.
- 67. As outlined above, Plaintiff has met all the notice requirements set forth in Labor Code § 2699.3 necessary to commence a civil action.
- 68. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of herself and all aggrieved employees who were subject to Defendant's failure to pay Plaintiff and aggrieved employees for all hours they worked at the applicable overtime wage rate; its failure to provide accurate wage statements; and

its failure to pay Plaintiff and aggrieved employees who are former employees all their wages due and owing upon termination.

- 69. Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and in a representative capacity on behalf of all members of the PAGA aggrieved employee Class, demand the maximum civil penalty specified in Labor Code § 2699 in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100) for Plaintiff and each aggrieved member of the Class per period for the initial violation and two hundred dollars (\$200) per pay period for each subsequent violation for violations of Labor Code §§ 201-204, 226, 226.7, 510, 1194, 1197, and 1198.
- 70. These penalties are recoverable in addition to any other civil penalty separately recoverable by law.

X.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Unfair Business Practices

(On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Class Against Defendant)

- 71. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by this reference all the paragraphs above in this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 72. By the conduct described throughout this Complaint, Defendant has violated the provisions of the California Labor Code as specified and has engaged in unlawful, deceptive, and unfair business practices prohibited by California Business & Professions Code § 17200, et seq. Defendant's use of such practices resulted in greatly decreased labor costs and constitutes an unfair business practice, unfair competition, and provides an unfair advantage over Defendant's competitors.
- 73. The unlawful and unfair business practices complained of herein are ongoing and present a threat and likelihood of continuing against Defendant's current employees as well as other members of the general public. Plaintiff and Class members are therefore entitled to injunctive and other equitable relief against such unlawful practices in order to prevent future damage and to avoid a multiplicity of lawsuits. Accordingly, Plaintiff and the Class members request a preliminary and permanent injunction prohibiting Defendant from the unfair practices complained of herein.

CLASS AND REPRESENTATIVE ACTION COMPLAINT

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EXHIBIT A

EXHIBIT A



7287 Lakeside Drive Renc, NV 89511 T: (775) 264-1500 F: (775) 703-5027 Info@thilermanBuck.com www.ThilermanBuck.com

May 23, 2018

<u>YIA E-FILING</u>

California Labor and Workforce Development Agency 801 K Street, Suite 2101 Sacramento, California 95814

Subject:

PAGA Claim Notice: Nancy Pierce v. Encore Health Resources, LLC

Dear Representative:

This office represents NANCY PIERCE, on behalf of herself and all other similarly situated and aggrieved employees ("Plaintiff"), in connection with her claims under the California Labor Code against her employer ENCORE HEALTH RESOURCES, LLC ("Defendant"). Plaintiff intends to seek penalties for certain violations of the California Labor Code (hereinafter referred to as "Labor Code"), detailed below, which are recoverable under Labor Code §§ 2699, et seq. ("the Private Attorneys General Act"). Plaintiff is seeking penalties on behalf of the State of California and aggrieved employees. This letter is sent in compliance with the reporting requirements of Labor Code § 2699.3.

A draft complaint is attached to this letter as Exhibit A which sets forth all of the factual and legal theories that support Plaintiff's claim for unpaid wages and penalties. Therefore, on behalf of all aggrieved employees, Plaintiff seeks all applicable penalties related to these violations of the California Labor Code pursuant to the Private Attorneys General Act.

The employer may be contacted directly at the following address:

Encore Health Resources, LLC 4820 Emperor Boulevard Durham, NC 27703

This communication has also been sent to National Registered Agents, Inc., 818 West Seventh Street, Suite 930, Los Angeles, 90017, the employer's registered agent.

Page 2 of 2

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, of if we may be of any further assistance, please contact me at (775) 284-1500.

Very truly yours,

Mark R. Thierman

Mark R. Thierman

cc: Nancy Pierce

Encore Health Resources, LLC (Via Certified Mail)

Encore Health Resources, LLC c/o National Registered Agents, Inc.

file

Jasmin Williams

From

noreply@salesforce.com on behalf of LWDA DO NOT REPLY <lwdadonotreply@dir.ca.gov>

Sent:

Wednesday, May 23, 2018 9:32 PM

To:

info

Subject:

Thank you for submission of your PAGA Case.

5/23/2018

LWDA Case No. LWDA-CM-540215-18

Item submitted: Initial PAGA Notice

Thank you for your submission to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency. Please make a note of the LWDA Case No. above as you may need this number for future reference when filing any subsequent documents for this Case.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this submission or your case, please send an email to pagainfo@dir.ca.gov.

DIR PAGA Unit on behalf of Labor and Workforce Development Agency

Website: http://labor.ca.gov/Private_Attorneys_General_Act.htm

EXHIBIT B

ENDORSED Leila Nourani (SBN 163336) FILED leila.nourani@jacksonlewis.com Damien P. DeLaney (SBN 246476) ALAMEDA COUNTY 2 damien.delaney@jacksonlewis.com JUL 0 6 2018 JeeHyun Yoon (SBN 279194) jeehyun.yoon@jacksonlewis.com JACKSON LEWIS P.C. SUL PESKO 725 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2500 Reach - -Los Angeles, California 90017-5408 5 Telephone: (213) 689-0404 Facsimile: (213) 689-0430 6 Attorneys for Defendant 7 ENCORE HEALTH RESOURCES, LLC 8 9 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 10 FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA 11 NANCY PIERCE, individually, and on behalf of Case No. RG18906387 other members of the general public and all persons similarly situated, 13 [Assigned for all purposes to the Honorable Brad S. Seligman, Department 23] Plaintiff. 14 CLASS AND REPRESENTATIVE ACTION 15 VS. DEFENDANT'S ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF'S ENCORE HEALTH RESOURCES, LLC. and 16 UNVERIFIED COMPLAINT DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, 17 Complaint Filed: May 25, 2018 Defendants. 18 19 20 Defendant Encore Health Resources, LLC ("Defendant"), on behalf of itself and for no other defendant, hereby responds to Plaintiff Nancy Pierce's ("Plaintiff") class and representative action 21 complaint ("Complaint") and admits, denies, and otherwise pleads as follows: 22 23 GENERAL DENIAL 24 Pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 431.30(d), Defendant denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation in the Complaint and denies that Plaintiff has suffered any 25 injury or been damaged in any sum whatsoever, as alleged, or at all. 26 27 28 DEFENDANT'S ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF'S UNVERIFIED COMPLAINT

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

As separate and distinct affirmative defenses to Plaintiff's Complaint and the causes of action alleged therein, and to each of them, Defendant alleges as follows:

FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

1. The Complaint as a whole, and each purported cause of action alleged therein, fails to state facts sufficient to constitute a cause of action against Defendant upon which relief may be granted.

SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

2. The Complaint as a whole, and each purported cause of action alleged therein, is barred in whole or in part, because Defendant was not the employer.

THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

3. The Complaint as a whole, and each purported cause of action alleged therein, is barred in whole or in part by the applicable statute of limitations, including without limitation Code of Civil Procedure sections 338, 340(a), and Business and Professions Code section 17208.

FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

4. The Complaint as a whole, and each purported cause of action alleged therein, is barred in whole or in part by the applicable statute of limitations, including without limitation Code of Civil Procedure sections 338, 340(a), and Business and Professions Code section 17208.

FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

5. Plaintiff's claims, including without limitation her claims for waiting time penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 203, are barred, in whole or in part, and/or recovery is precluded, because Defendant's conduct was not willful.

SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

6. Plaintiff's Complaint, and each purported cause of action alleged therein, is barred, in whole or in part, because Plaintiff has received all income, compensation, and pay to which Plaintiff ever has been entitled from Defendant.

SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

7. Plaintiff's Complaint, and each purported cause of action alleged therein, is barred, in whole or in part, because any duty or obligation by Defendant to pay wages, whether contractual or

otherwise, which Plaintiff claims is owed to her has been fully performed, satisfied, and/or discharged.

EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

8. Defendant alleges that a reasonable opportunity for investigation and discovery will reveal that some or all of certain hours claimed by Plaintiff are not "hours worked" within the meaning of any wage order and/or under applicable law so that compensation need not be paid for such hours.

NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

9. The Complaint as a whole, and each purported cause of action alleged therein, is barred, in whole or in part, because based on her hours worked, Plaintiff is not entitled to wages or other compensation or penalties under any Labor Code, any applicable wage orders of the, federal law, and/or any other applicable law.

TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

10. The acts or omissions of Defendant were not willful.

ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

11. Without admitting the allegations of the Complaint, Defendant alleges Plaintiff's claim pursuant to California Business and Professions Code sections 17200 *et seq.* is barred because Defendant's alleged practices were not unfair, the public was not likely to be deceived by any alleged practices, Defendant gained no competitive advantage by such practices, and the benefits of the alleged practices outweighed any harm or other impact they may have caused.

TWELFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

12. Plaintiff is not entitled to equitable or injunctive relief as prayed for in the Complaint because Plaintiff has suffered no irreparable injury based on any alleged conduct of Defendant and Plaintiff has an adequate remedy at law for any such alleged conduct.

THIRTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

13. Plaintiff's claim pursuant to California Business and Professions Code sections 17200 *et seq.* is barred, in whole or in part, because Defendant's business practices are and were not unlawful in that Defendant complied with all applicable statutes and regulations in the payment of compensation to Plaintiff.

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FOURTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

14. Any recovery on Plaintiff's Complaint, or any purported cause of action alleged therein, is barred because the damages alleged by Plaintiff were either wholly or in part, negligently or otherwise, caused by persons, firms, or entities other than Defendant, and such fact eliminates or comparatively reduces the liability, if any, of Defendant.

FIFTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

15. Any recovery on Plaintiff's Complaint, or any purported cause of action alleged therein, is barred under the equitable doctrines of consent, waiver, and estoppel.

SIXTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

16. Plaintiff's Complaint, and each purported cause of action alleged therein, is barred in whole or in part to the extent that Plaintiff and/or the putative class members previously have pursued any claim(s) before the California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Labor Standards Enforcement or the United States Labor Department.

SEVENTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

17. Defendant alleges that, even assuming, *arguendo*, that Plaintiff and/or the putative class members were not provided with proper itemized statements of wages and deductions, Plaintiff and/or the putative class members are not entitled to recover damages because Defendant's alleged failure to comply with California Labor Code 226(a) was not a "knowing and intentional failure" under California Labor Code section 226(e).

EIGHTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

18. Defendant alleges that, even assuming, *arguendo*, that Plaintiff and/or the putative class members were not provided with proper itemized statements of wages and deductions, Plaintiff and/or the putative class members are not entitled to recover damages because they did not suffer any injury.

NINETEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

19. Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, because Plaintiff failed to record all time worked as reasonably permitted, expected, or required by Defendant.

TWENTIETH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

20. Any recovery on Plaintiff's cause of action for penalties under Labor Code sections 2699 et seq. ("PAGA") is barred in that Plaintiff is not an "aggrieved party."

TWENTY-FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

21. Plaintiff's PAGA claims are barred pursuant to the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I, section 17 of the California Constitution to the extent California Labor Code sections 2698, *et seq.* because the penalties impose excessive fines, double penalties, and violate the due process rights of Defendant.

TWENTY-SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

22. Plaintiff has not and cannot satisfy the requirements of California Code of Civil Procedure section 382.

TWENTY-THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

23. This case is not appropriate for class certification because Defendant alleges that certain of the interests of the Plaintiff and the putative class members are in conflict with the interests of all or certain of the members of the alleged class of persons which Plaintiff purports to represent.

TWENTY-FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

24. Although Defendant denies that it has committed or has responsibility for any act that could support the recovery against Defendant in this lawsuit, including but not limited to, Plaintiff's causes of action for penalties under Labor Code sections 203, 226.7, and 2699 et seq., to the extent any such act is found, such recovery against Defendant is unconstitutional under numerous provisions of the United States Constitution and the California Constitution, including the Excessive Fines Clause of the Eighth Amendment, the Due Process clauses of the Fifth Amendment and Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment and other provisions of the United States Constitution, and the Excessive Fines Clause of Section 17 of Article I, the Due Process Clause of Section 7 of Article I and other provisions of the California Constitution.

TWENTY-FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

25. Defendant acted reasonably and in good faith at all times, and therefore Plaintiff's claims, including without limitation any claims for liquidated damages, are barred in whole or in part.

1 TWENTY-SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE 26. 2 Plaintiff signed a valid agreement pursuant to which Plaintiff agreed to litigate any claims 3 arising out of said agreement in Harris County, State of Texas. Plaintiff further agreed that this agreement shall be construed pursuant to the laws of the State of Texas. 4 5 TWENTY-SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE 27. 6 Defendant has engaged attorneys to represent it in defense of Plaintiff's frivolous, 7 unfounded and unreasonable action and, Defendant is thereby entitled to an award of reasonable 8 attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to California Labor Code Section 218.5 upon judgment thereon in its 9 favor. 10 WHEREFORE, Defendant prays for judgment as follows: 11 1. That Plaintiff take nothing by the Complaint; 12 2. That the Complaint be dismissed in its entirety with prejudice; 13 3. That Plaintiff be denied each and every demand and prayer for relief contained in the 14 Complaint; 4. 15 For cost of suits incurred herein, including reasonable attorneys' fees; and 5. 16 For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable. 17 18 DATED: July 6, 2018 JACKSON LEWIS P.C. 19 20 By: 21 Leila Nourari Damien P. DeLaney 22 JeeHyun Yoon 23 Attorneys for Defendant ENCORE HEALTH RESOURCES, LLC 24 25 26 27 28

1 PROOF OF SERVICE 2 STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ALAMEDA 3 CASE NAME: PIERCE, ETC., ET AL. V. ENCOREHEALTH RESOURCES, LLC 4 **CASE NUMBER:** RG18906387 5 I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and 6 not a party to the within action; my business address is 725 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2500, Los Angeles, California 90017. 7 On July 6, 2018 I served the foregoing document described as: 8 DEFENDANT'S ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF'S UNVERIFIED COMPLAINT 9 in this action by transmitting a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed as follows: 10 Mark R. Thierman, Esq. Ryan F. Stephan, Esq. 11 Joshua D. Buck, Esq. Andrew C. Fiezko, Esq. THIERMAN BUCK LLP STEPHAN ZOURAS LLP 12 7287 Lakeside Drive 205 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 2560 Reno.Nevada 89511 Chicago, IL 60601 13 P: 775.284.1500 P: 312.233.1550 Email: mark@theirmanbuck.com F: 312.233.1560 14 Email: josh@thiermanbuck.com Email: rstephan@stephanzouas.com Email: afiezko@stephanzouras.com 15 Counsel for Plaintiff Nancy Pierce Counsel for Plaintiff 16 Nančv Pierce 17 [X]**BY MAIL** 18 [X] As follows: I am "readily familiar" with the firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing. Under that practice it would be deposited with U.S. postal service on that 19 same day with postage thereon fully prepaid at Los Angeles, California in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal 20 cancellation date or postage meter date is more than one day after date of deposit for mailing in affidavit. 2.1 STATE I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the 22 above is true and correct. 23 Executed on July 6, 2018 at Los Angeles, California. 24 Netur Esculante 25 26 27 4822-1825-2140, v. 1 28



Superior Court of California, County of Alameda Rene C. Davidson Alameda County Courthouse 1225 Fallon Street Oakland, CA 94612

Clerk: spesko Date: 07/06/2018

Receipt Nbr: 796821

Туре	Case Number	Description	Amount
Filing Filing	RG18906387 RG18906387	Initial Appearance Complex Fee - Adverse Party	\$435.00 \$1000.00
	Total Amount Due: Prior Payment: Current Payment: Balance Due: Overage: Excess Fee: Change:	\$1,435.00 \$1,435.00 \$.00	
Payment	Method: Cash: Check:	\$1,435.00	

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		TES DISTRICT COURT ISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
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12 13	NANCY PIERCE, individually, and on behalf of other members of the general	CASE NO.
14	public and all persons similarly situated, Plaintiff,	DECLARATION OF CHRISTINE HUTCHISON IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANT'S NOTICE OF
15	VS.	REMOVAL OF ACTION TO THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
16	ENCORE HEALTH RESOURCES, LLC. and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive,	FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332, 1367(a), 1441(a) AND (b)
17	Defendants.	[Filed concurrently with Notice of
18 19		Removal; Declarations of Leila Nourani and Chris Green; Civil Case Cover Sheet;
20		Certification and Notice of Interested Parties; and Corporate Disclosure Statement
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	Case No.:	DECLARATION OF CHRISTINE HUTCHISON ISO

NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF ACTION

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DECLARATION OF CHRISTINE HUTCHISON

- I, Christine Hutchison, hereby declare as follows:
- I am employed by Specialist Resources Global, Inc. dba EMIDS (the 1. "Company") as Senior Director of Consulting. I have been in this position since July 14, 2017. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration and if called upon to do so, I could and would competently testify to them. I submit this declaration in support of Defendant's Notice of Removal of Civil Action.
- In my capacity as Senior Director of Consulting, I have access to various records pertaining to projects involving "At the Elbow" consultants (ATEs), including ATEs who provided services to clients in California during the relevant time period beginning May 25, 2014. These records were maintained during the ordinary course of business. I have reviewed the Company's records pertaining to services provided by Plaintiff as an ATE.
- 3. The Company's records reflect that, at all relevant times, Plaintiff has provided a residence address in Oklahoma.
- 4. The Company's records also reflect that Plaintiff worked as an ATE on two projects for clients in California during the relevant time period beginning May 25, 2014 to the present. On those particular projects, Company records reflect that Plaintiff's hourly rate was \$50 and worked a total of 78 hours in excess of 8 hours in a day, 0 hours in excess of 12 hours in a day, and 0 hours in excess of 12 hours in a day and/or in excess of 8 hours on the seventh consecutive day of work in a workweek.
 - 5. Plaintiff's last day worked for Defendant was May 19, 2017.
- 6. Generally, the Company has issued paychecks to its employees on a semimonthly basis from May 25, 2014 to the present. According to the pay records maintained by the Company during the ordinary course of business, Plaintiff was paid by the Company for services rendered as an ATE during the following pay periods:

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1	a. March 21, 2017 to the present: 2 pay periods
2	b. May 25, 2017 to the present: 1 pay period.
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4	I declare under penalty of perjury and under the laws of the United States and
5	California that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
6	Executed this July, 2018 at Franklin, Tennessge.
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9	CHRISTINE HUTCHISON
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		TES DISTRICT COURT ISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
12	NANCY PIERCE, individually, and on behalf of other members of the general	CASE NO.
13	public and all persons similarly situated,	DECLARATION OF CHRISTY GREEN IN SUPPORT OF
14	Plaintiff,	DEFENDANT'S NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF ACTION TO THE
15	VS.	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF
16	ENCORE HEALTH RESOURCES, LLC. and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive,	CALIFORNIA PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332, 1367(a), 1441(a) AND (b)
17	Defendants.	[Filed concurrently with Notice of
18	Doromannis.	Removal; Declarations of Leila Nourani and Christine Hutchinson; Civil Case
19		Cover Sheet: Certification and Notice of
20		Interested Parties; and Corporate Disclosure Statement]
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DECLARATION OF CHRISTY GREEN

- I, Christy Green, hereby declare as follows:
- I am General Counsel to Specialist Resources Global, Inc. dba EMIDS (the 1. "Company"). I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration and if called upon to do so, I could and would competently testify to them. I submit this declaration in support of Defendant's Notice of Removal of Civil Action.
- In my capacity as General Counsel, I am familiar with the business structure, 2. operations, and state of organization of the Company and its related entity, Defendant Encore Health Resources, LLC. Defendant Encore Health Resources, LLC was, at the time of filing of the Complaint, and still is, a limited liability company formed under the laws of the State of Texas. Its sole member is Specialist Resources Global, Inc. dba EMIDS.
- 3. Specialist Resources Global, Inc. was, at the time the Complaint was filed in state court, and still is, at the time of removal, a Delaware company with its principal place of business in Franklin, Tennessee. The Company's headquarters are located in Franklin, Tennessee, where its high level officers direct, control and coordinate Defendant's activities. The vast majority of administrative, executive and decisionmaking functions occur at, and are controlled from, the Company's headquarters in Franklin, Tennessee.

I declare under penalty of perjury and under the laws of the United States and California that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Executed this July ______, 2018 at Franklin, Tennessee.

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Class Action Filed Against Encore Health Resources Cites Unpaid Wage Allegations</u>