

1 Matthew C. Helland, SBN 250451
Helland@nka.com
2 Daniel S. Brome, SBN 278915
dbrome@nka.com
3 NICHOLS KASTER, LLP
4 235 Montgomery Street, Suite 810
San Francisco, CA 94104
5 Telephone: (415) 277-7235
6 Facsimile: (415) 277-7238

7 Jason T. Brown, NJ Bar ID 35921996*
jtb@jtblawgroup.com
8 Nicholas Conlon, NJ Bar ID 34052013*
nicholasconlon@jtblawgroup.com
9 Lotus Cannon, NY Bar ID 964031*
lotus.cannon@jtblawgroup.com
10 BROWN, LLC
11 111 Town Square Place, Suite 400
Jersey City, NJ 07310
12 T: (877) 561-0000
F: (855) 582-5297
13 *Pro Hac Vice Application forthcoming

14 ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS AND
15 OTHERS SIMILALY SITUATED

16 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
17 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

18 James Smith, individually and on behalf of
19 others similarly situated, and on behalf of the
general public,

20 Plaintiff,

21 vs.

22 Oakley Transport, Inc., Oakley Transportation
Group, Inc. (dba Oakley Transport),

23 Defendants.
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Civil Case No.: 4:19-cv-05854

(1) Minimum Wage (Cal. Labor Code §§ 1182.11, 1194, et seq., IWC Wage Order No. 9, Minimum Wage Order)

(2) Failure to Provide Off-Duty Meal Periods (Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, IWC Wage Order No. 9)

(3) Failure to Provide Off-Duty Paid Rest Periods (Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.7, IWC Wage Order No. 9)

(4) Failure to Timely Provide Code-Compliant Wage Statements (Labor Code § 226)

(5) Failure to Pay Earned Wages Upon Discharge, Waiting Time Penalties in Violation of Labor Code §§ 201-203;

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(6) Violations of the Unfair Competition Law (UCL) (Business & Professions Code §§ 17200-09)

Jury Trial Demanded

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

1. This class action is brought by James Smith (“Plaintiff”), on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, by and through his attorneys, Nichols Kaster LLP and Brown, LLC, against Oakley Transport, Inc., Oakley Transportation Group, Inc. (dba Oakley Transport) to recover unpaid minimum wage and other relief relating to violations of the California Labor Code and California’s Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order No. 9 (“IWC Wage Order No. 9”).

2. Plaintiff worked as a truck driver for Defendants and seeks relief for violations of California law arising out of Defendants’ policy of failing to pay minimum wage for all hours worked; failing to provide off-duty meal periods; failing to permit and authorize paid, off-duty rest periods; failing to provide accurate itemized wage statements, and failing to timely pay all wages due, all in violation of the California Labor Code and California’s Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order No. 9 (“IWC Wage Order No. 9”).¹

3. Through this action Plaintiff, on his own behalf and on behalf of the class, seeks unpaid minimum wages, liquidated damages, meal and rest period premiums, penalties for failure to provide accurate wage statements, penalties for failure to timely pay all wages due, restitution, interest, penalties, and attorneys’ fees and costs.

¹ Plaintiffs are aware of the Grant of Petition of Determination of Preemption, issued December 28, 2018 by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, finding that California’s meal and rest period laws are preempted by federal law. That Order is being challenged at the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in case number 18-73488. Plaintiffs believe it is appropriate to stay their meal and rest period claims pending that review.

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2 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

3 4. This Court has original jurisdiction over this action pursuant to the Class Action
4 Fairness Act (“CAFA”), 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d) because at least one member of Plaintiff’s class is a
5 citizen of a state different from Defendants, there are over 100 members in the putative class, and the
6 amount in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000.

7 5. This Court may properly maintain personal jurisdiction over Defendants because
8 Defendants’ contacts with this state and this judicial district are sufficient for the exercise of
9 jurisdiction over Defendants to comply with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

10 6. Venue is proper in the Northern District of California pursuant to 28 U.S.C.
11 §1391(b)(1) and (2) because a substantial part of the acts and/or omissions giving rise to the claims
12 set forth herein occurred in this judicial district and Defendants are deemed to reside where they are
13 subject to personal jurisdiction, rendering Defendants residents of this judicial district.

14 7. **Intradistrict Assignment.** Pursuant to Local Rule 3-2 this matter should be assigned
15 to the Oakland or San Francisco Divisions of the Northern District of California because this action
16 arises in Alameda County.

17 **PARTIES**

18 **Plaintiffs**

19 8. Plaintiff James Smith is an adult resident of Roosevelt County, New Mexico.

20 9. Plaintiff Smith was employed by Defendants as a Truck Driver from December 9,
21 2017 through April 9, 2019.

22 10. Plaintiff Smith drove for Defendants within the state of California on several
23 occasions, including to San Francisco, California.

24 11. Plaintiff brings his class action claims on behalf of himself and all other similarly
25 situated individuals pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23. Plaintiff and other “Rule 23 California Class”
26 members are truck drivers who drove within California for Defendants within the applicable statutory
27 period for the claims alleged in this Complaint.

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1 12. At all relevant times, Defendants are, and have been, “employers” of Plaintiff and the
2 Rule 23 California Class members within the meaning of California law.

3 **Defendants**

4 13. Defendants Oakley Transport, Inc., Oakley Transportation Group, Inc. (collectively
5 “Oakley Transport”) are Florida Corporations, and share a common business address of 101 ABC
6 Road, Lake Wales, Florida, 33859. Oakley Transport is engaged in the hauling and delivery of freight
7 across the United States.

8 14. Upon information and belief, because of their interrelation of operations, common
9 management, centralized control of labor relations, common ownership, common financial controls,
10 and other factors, Oakley Transport is sufficiently interrelated and integrated in its activities, labor
11 relations, ownership, and management that it may be treated as a single employer for purposes of the
12 instant action.

13 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

14 15. At all relevant times, Defendants employ and have employed truck drivers, such as
15 Plaintiff, who was responsible for transporting time-sensitive freight, such as food, to and from
16 Defendants’ designated pick-up and drop-off locations.

17 16. When Plaintiff and other truck drivers deliver freight to and from destinations in
18 California, they work more than six hours within the state of California.

19 17. Defendants had a policy of willfully and unlawfully paying Plaintiff and other Rule
20 23 California Class members a mileage rate only, without separate compensation for non-driving
21 work activities, thereby failing to pay them the minimum wage for all hours worked, in violation of
22 state law.

23 18. Specifically, and by way of example, Defendants’ mileage-based compensation
24 scheme did not provide separate payment for Plaintiff’s time spent fueling his truck or for time spent
25 performing required inspections on his truck. Defendants also required that Plaintiff and other truck
26 drivers have their truck cleaned between deliveries, but did not provide separate payment for that
27 work task. Defendants also required that Plaintiff and other truck drivers stay with their truck while
28 it was being loaded and unloaded, but did not pay Plaintiff or other truck drivers for this work time

1 unless they personally attached the hoses to the truck, and then Defendants only paid a flat \$25.
2 Plaintiff performed these uncompensated work activities within the state of California.

3 19. Plaintiff was responsible for his trucks during his non-driving time, including the time
4 he was sleeping, but Defendants did not pay him for this time.

5 20. Defendants' policy was that Plaintiff and other Rule 23 California Class Members
6 were to take one 30-minute break for every 8 hours driven. As a result, Plaintiff and other truck
7 drivers often drove over 6 hours in a day in the state of California without any breaks.

8 21. Defendants did not provide any extra compensation for time spent on breaks, even
9 though Plaintiff and other truck drivers were responsible for their trucks during breaks, and therefore
10 were not completely relieved from duty.

11 22. Defendants did not provide premium pay for missed meal or rest periods.

12 23. The pay stubs Defendants provided Plaintiff and California Rule 23 Class Members
13 failed to disclose, among other things, the total hours worked and the rates of pay. Defendants knew
14 that their paystubs failed to include this information.

15 24. Plaintiff has left his employment with Defendants, but Defendants have not paid
16 Plaintiff all the wages due and owing to him, as outlined in this complaint.

17 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

18 25. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and as a class action on behalf of all
19 similarly situated truck drivers, the class members, hereinafter to be referred to as the "Rule 23
20 California Class," to be defined as:

21 *All current and former truck drivers employed by Defendants who drove within*
22 *California for Defendants at any time during the applicable statutory period for the*
23 *claims alleged in this complaint.*

24 26. This action is properly brought as a class action pursuant to the class action procedures
25 of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

26 27. The class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impractical. While the exact
27 number and identities of class members are unknown at this time, and can only be ascertained through
28 appropriate discovery, Plaintiff believes that there are at least forty (40) class members.

1 28. This litigation is properly brought as a class action because of the existence of
2 questions of fact and law common to Plaintiff and other members of the class which predominate
3 over any questions affecting only individual members, including:

- 4 a. Whether Defendants are liable to members of the class described above for
5 violations of the applicable labor codes;
- 6 b. Whether Defendants failed to pay members of the class described above for all
7 hours worked;
- 8 c. Whether Defendants failed to provide off-duty meal periods;
- 9 d. Whether Defendants failed to permit and authorize paid, off-duty rest periods;
- 10 e. Whether Defendants knowingly and intentionally failed to provide accurate wage
11 statements; and
- 12 f. Whether Defendants willfully failed to pay all wages due at termination of
13 employment.

14 29. This litigation is properly brought as a class action because Plaintiff's claims are
15 typical of the claims of the class members, inasmuch as all such claims arise from Defendants'
16 standard policies and practices, as alleged herein.

17 30. Like all class members, Plaintiff was damaged by Defendants' system-wide policies
18 and practices of failing to pay wages for all hours worked, failing to provide off-duty meal periods
19 and failing to permit and authorize paid, off-duty rest periods, thus giving rise to legal remedies under
20 applicable California labor law.

21 31. Plaintiff has no interests antagonistic to the interests of other class members.

22 32. Plaintiff is committed to the vigorous prosecution of this action and retained
23 competent counsel experienced in class action litigation. Accordingly, Plaintiff is adequate and will
24 fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class.

25 33. A class action is an appropriate and superior method for the fair and efficient
26 adjudication of the controversy, particularly in the context of wage and hour litigation where
27 individual plaintiffs lack the financial resources to vigorously prosecute separate lawsuits in federal
28 court against large corporate defendants.

1 38. As a result of the mileage-rate system failing to compensate Plaintiff and other Rule
2 23 California Class members for all work activities, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and other Rule
3 23 California Class members minimum wages for all hours worked, as required by law.

4 39. As a direct and proximate result of the acts and/or omissions of Defendants, Plaintiff
5 and other Rule 23 California Class members were deprived of minimum wages due in amounts to be
6 determined at trial, and to additional amounts as liquidated damages, pursuant to Labor Code §§ 1194
7 and 1194.2.

8 40. By violating Labor Code §§ 1182.11, 1182.12 and 1197, and Wage Order No. 9,
9 Defendants are also liable for reasonable attorneys' fees and costs under Labor Code § 1194.

10 41. Plaintiff requests relief as described below.

11 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

12 **Failure to Provide Off-Duty Meal Periods**

13 **(Brought Individually and on a Class Basis Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23)**

14 42. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates all previous paragraphs herein.

15 43. Plaintiff and other Rule 23 California Class members regularly worked in excess of
16 five (5) hours a day without taking at least a 30-minute meal period in which they were relieved of
17 all duties, as required by Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512, and IWC Wage Order No. 9, § 11(A).
18 Plaintiff and other Rule 23 California Class members also frequently worked in excess of 10 hours
19 in a day without taking a second 30-minute meal period in which they were relieved of all duties.

20 44. Because Defendants failed to provide proper meal periods, they are liable to Plaintiff
21 and other Rule 23 California Class members for one hour of additional pay at the regular rate of
22 compensation for each workday that the proper meal periods were not provided, pursuant to Labor
23 Code § 226.7(b) and IWC Wage Order No. 9 § 11(B).

24 45. Plaintiff requests relief as described below.

25 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

26 **Failure to Provide Off-Duty Paid Rest Periods**

27 **(Brought Individually and on a Class Basis Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23)**

28 46. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates all previous paragraphs herein.

1 47. Plaintiff and other Rule 23 California Class members regularly worked in excess of
2 three and a half hours a day without being afforded at least a paid 10-minute rest period in which
3 they were relieved of all duties, as required by Labor Code §§ 226.7, and IWC Wage Order No. 9, §
4 12(A).

5 48. Because Defendants failed to afford proper paid rest periods, they are liable to
6 Plaintiff and other Rule 23 California Class members for one hour of additional pay at the regular
7 rate of compensation for each workday that the proper rest periods were not provided, pursuant to
8 Labor Code § 226.7(b) and IWC Wage Order No. 9, § 12(B).

9 49. Plaintiff requests relief as described below.

10 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

11 **Failure to Timely Provide Code-Compliant Wage Statements Pursuant to Labor Code § 226**

12 **(Brought Individually and on a Class Basis Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23)**

13 50. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates all previous paragraphs herein.

14 51. Defendants, in violation of Labor Code § 226(a), knowingly and intentionally failed
15 to furnish Plaintiff and other Rule 23 California Class members with accurate, itemized wage
16 statements showing all items required pursuant to said code section, including, but not limited to,
17 total hours worked, rates of pay, and hours worked at each rate of pay.

18 52. Pursuant to Labor Code section 226(e)(2), Plaintiff and class members suffered injury
19 because, due to Defendants' failure to provide the required information, Plaintiff and other Rule 23
20 Class Members could not promptly and easily determine, among other things, their hours worked,
21 rates of pay, and hours worked at each rate of pay.

22 53. Plaintiff requests relief as described below, including damages and/or penalties
23 pursuant to Labor Code §226(e)(1) for each violation by Defendants of Labor Code §226(a) and an
24 award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code §226(h).

25 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

26 **Late Pay and Waiting Time Penalties Pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 201-203**

27 **(Brought Individually and on a Class Basis Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23)**

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- 1 a. failing to provide adequate, off-duty meal periods to Plaintiff and other Rule 23
2 California Class members and failing to pay them premium pay for missed meal
3 periods;
- 4 b. failing to permit and authorize adequate and paid off-duty rest periods to Plaintiff and
5 other Rule 23 California Class members and failing to pay them premium pay for
6 missed/unpaid rest periods; and
- 7 c. failing to pay minimum wage compensation to Plaintiff and other Rule 23 California
8 Class members for all hours worked.

9 63. The violations of these laws serve as unlawful, unfair, and/or fraudulent predicate acts
10 and practices for purposes of Business & Professions Code § 17200.

11 64. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful, unfair, and/or fraudulent
12 acts and practices described herein, Defendants received and continue to hold ill-gotten gains
13 belonging to Plaintiff and other Rule 23 California Class members. As a direct and proximate result
14 of Defendants' unlawful business practices, Plaintiff and other Rule 23 California Class members
15 suffered economic injuries including, but not limited to, compensation for missed meal and rest
16 periods and loss of minimum wages. Defendants have profited from their unlawful, unfair, and/or
17 fraudulent acts and practices in the amount of that unpaid compensation and interest accrued by
18 Plaintiff and other Rule 23 California Class members.

19 65. Plaintiff and other Rule 23 California Class members are entitled to restitution
20 pursuant to Business & Professions Code §§ 17203 and 17208 for all unpaid minimum wages, missed
21 meal and rest period compensation, and interest for four years prior to the filing of this action.

22 66. Plaintiff's success in this action will enforce important rights affecting the public
23 interest. In this regard, Plaintiff sues on behalf of the public as well as on behalf of himself and others
24 similarly situated. Plaintiff seeks and is entitled to reimbursement of unpaid compensation,
25 declaratory relief, and any other appropriate remedy.

26 67. In order to prevent Defendants from profiting and benefiting from their wrongful and
27 illegal acts and continuing those acts, the Court should issue an order requiring Defendants to restore
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1 such moneys in which Plaintiff and other Rule 23 California Class members have an ownership
2 interest, including the unpaid compensation complained of herein.

3 68. Plaintiff has assumed the responsibility of enforcement of the laws and lawful claims
4 specified herein. There is a financial burden incurred in pursuing this action which is in the public
5 interest. Therefore, reasonable attorneys' fees are appropriate pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure §
6 1021.5.

7 69. Pursuant to Business & Prof. Code §17203, Plaintiff and other Rule 23 California
8 Class members are entitled to: (a) restitution of money acquired by Defendants by means of their
9 unfair business practices, in amounts not yet ascertained but to be ascertained at trial; and (b) a
10 declaration that Defendants' business practices were unfair within the meaning of the statute.

11 70. Plaintiff requests relief as described below.

12 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

13 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and those similarly situated, prays for
14 judgment against Defendants as follows:

15 a. That the Court determine that this action may be maintained as a class action under
16 Rule 23(b)(1) and (3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;

17 b. That Plaintiff be designated as the representative of the Rule 23 California Class, and
18 Plaintiff's Counsel be designated class counsel;

19 c. That Defendants be ordered and enjoined to pay damages and restitution to Plaintiff
20 and other Rule 23 California Class members due to Defendants' unlawful activities, pursuant
21 to California state law cited above;

22 d. That Defendants be further enjoined to cease and desist from unlawful activities in
23 violation of state laws cited above;

24 e. Judgment that Defendants violated the Labor Code and IWC Wage Order No. 9 as to
25 Plaintiff and other Rule 23 California Class members by:

- 26 1. Failing to pay at least the applicable minimum wage for all hours worked;
- 27 2. Failing to provide 30-minute, off-duty meal periods to Plaintiff and other Rule 23
28 California Class members;

- 1 3. Failing to authorize or permit 10-minute, paid, duty-free rest periods to Plaintiff
- 2 and other Rule 23 California Class members;
- 3 4. Failing to provide Plaintiff and other Rule 23 California Class members with
- 4 itemized statements of showing all hours worked, rates of pay, and hours worked
- 5 at each rate of pay;
- 6 5. Failing to pay all wages due and owing at the time of termination of employment,
- 7 resulting in unpaid waiting time penalties;
- 8 6. California Business & Professions Code sections 17200-17209, by failing to
- 9 provide off-duty meal periods and/or pay meal period compensation to Plaintiff
- 10 and other Rule 23 California Class members, and by failing to pay Plaintiff and
- 11 other Rule 23 California Class members minimum wage compensation.

12 f. An award to Plaintiff and other Rule 23 California Class members of unpaid
13 minimum wage compensation, liquidated damages, penalties, and meal and rest period
14 compensation, including interest thereon, subject to proof at trial;

15 g. That Defendants be ordered to pay restitution to Plaintiff and other Rule 23
16 California Class members for amounts gained through Defendants' unlawful activities
17 pursuant to Business and Professions Code sections 17200-05 and enjoined to cease and
18 desist from unlawful and unfair activities in violation of California Business and Professions
19 Code section 17200 et seq.;

20 h. An award to Plaintiff and other Rule 23 California Class members of
21 reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section
22 1021.5 and California Labor Code sections 226, 1194, and/or other applicable law;

23 i. Leave to amend to add additional causes of action, including claims for
24 penalties under the Private Attorney General Act ("PAGA"); and

25 j. An award to Plaintiff and other Rule 23 California Class members of such
26 other and further relief, in law or equity, as this Court deems appropriate and just.

27 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

28 Plaintiff James Smith, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, by and through

1 his attorneys, hereby demand a trial by jury pursuant to Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil
2 Procedure and the court rules and statutes made and provided with respect to the above entitled cause.

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Dated: September 19, 2019

NICHOLS KASTER, LLP
BROWN, LLC

s/ Matthew C. Helland
Matthew C. Helland
Attorneys for Plaintiffs and Others Similarly Situated