DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

PROFESSIONS CODE § 17200 NEGLIGENT HIRING,

SUPERVISION, OR RETENTION

VIOLATION OF PUBLIC POLICY

WRONGFUL TERMINATION IN

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Plaintiff ELLIE MOSSER (hereinafter "MOSSER" or "Plaintiff") for her Complaint against Defendants WYLDER'S HOLISTIC PET CENTER INC, dba The Wagmor, a Delaware Corporation (hereinafter "THE WAGMOR"); WAGMOR PETS, a California Nonprofit Corporation (hereinafter "WAGMOR NONPROFIT"); MELISSA BACELAR, an individual (hereinafter "BACELAR"); and DOES 1 through 50 (collectively "Defendants") alleges as follows:

PARTIES

- Plaintiff is an individual residing in the State of California. Plaintiff was an employee of Defendants THE WAGMOR, WAGMOR NONPROFIT, and BACELAR, at all relevant times herein mentioned.
- 2. On information and belief, Defendant THE WAGMOR is a Delaware corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with its principal place of business in Studio City, California, and Plaintiff's employer at all relevant times herein mentioned. THE WAGMOR operates two luxury pet hotels and spas in Studio City and in Valley Village, within the City of Los Angeles.
- 3. On information and belief, Defendant WAGMOR NONPROFIT is a California nonprofit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of California with its principal place of business in Studio City, California, and Plaintiff's employer at all relevant times herein mentioned. WAGMOR NONPROFIT is a dog rescue and adoption nonprofit.
- 4. On information and belief, Defendant BACELAR is an individual residing in the State of California, County of Los Angeles. BACELAR is the owner and managing agent of THE WAGMOR and WAGMOR NONPROFIT, and Plaintiff's supervisor during her employment with THE WAGMOR and WAGMOR NONPROFIT.
- 5. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate or otherwise, of Defendant DOES 1 through 50, are unknown to Plaintiff, who therefore sues said Defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff will amend this Complaint by inserting the true names and capacities of each such Defendants, with appropriate charging allegations, when they are ascertained. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that each of the Defendants

BACELAR as well, but BACELAR did not implement meaningful changes.

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1	26. On September 18, 2021, MOSSER raised all these unlawful practices to BACELAR again, in
2	writing by email. BACELAR's response was to deny that practices were illegal, while
3	admitting conduct that violated the California Labor Code, and then to shift the blame to
4	MOSSER for THE WAGMOR and WAGMOR NONPROFIT's financial difficulties.
5	27. At the time, MOSSER was on a leave to be with her ill father, who passed away during her
6	leave. When MOSSER tried to return from leave on October 8, 2021, she noticed that she no
7	longer had access to her work email accounts.
8	28. BACELAR emailed MOSSER on October 11, 2021, informing her that she was being
9	terminated from THE WAGMOR and WAGMOR PET, based on a pretextual reason that
10	BACELAR had received complaints from employees about MOSSER's management practices.
11	29. On information and belief, there were no genuine employee complaints about MOSSER.
12	Instead, on information and belief, MOSSER's termination was substantially motivated by her
13	complaints to BACELAR about the numerous unlawful practices BACELAR perpetuated in
14	both the companies.
	FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION
15	FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION
15 16	FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES
16	FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES
16 17	FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES [California Labor Code §§ 1194, 1194.2, 515]
16 17 18	FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES [California Labor Code §§ 1194, 1194.2, 515] (Plaintiff Against All Defendants, Including Does 1-50)
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16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES [California Labor Code §§ 1194, 1194.2, 515] (Plaintiff Against All Defendants, Including Does 1-50) 30. Plaintiff realleges each paragraph of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein. 31. California Labor Code § 1194 entitles an employee to receive compensation in an amount equato or greater than the minimum wage for all hours worked. All hours must be paid at the statutory or agreed rate and no part of this rate may be used as a credit against a minimum wage obligation.
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES [California Labor Code §§ 1194, 1194.2, 515] (Plaintiff Against All Defendants, Including Does 1-50) 30. Plaintiff realleges each paragraph of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein. 31. California Labor Code § 1194 entitles an employee to receive compensation in an amount equato or greater than the minimum wage for all hours worked. All hours must be paid at the statutory or agreed rate and no part of this rate may be used as a credit against a minimum wage obligation. 32. California Labor Code § 515 provides that exempt employees must earn a "monthly salary
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES [California Labor Code §§ 1194, 1194.2, 515] (Plaintiff Against All Defendants, Including Does 1-50) 30. Plaintiff realleges each paragraph of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein. 31. California Labor Code § 1194 entitles an employee to receive compensation in an amount equato or greater than the minimum wage for all hours worked. All hours must be paid at the statutory or agreed rate and no part of this rate may be used as a credit against a minimum wage obligation. 32. California Labor Code § 515 provides that exempt employees must earn a "monthly salary equivalent to no less than two times the state minimum wage for full-time employment."

1	34. The minimum wage in California for employers with 25 or fewer employees in 2021, was \$13
2	an hour. For exempt employees, the minimum yearly salary was \$54,080.
3	35. As an exempt General Manager, from approximately June 22, 2020, to June 20, 2021,
4	MOSSER received a yearly salary of \$45,000, below the minimum salary requirements for both
5	2020 and 2021.
6	36. As a result of violations of California Labor Code § 1194 for failure to pay minimum wage,
7	Plaintiff is entitled to recover minimum wages plus liquidated damages in an amount to the
8	wages unlawfully unpaid and interest thereon.
9	SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION
10	FAILURE TO PAY OVERTIME WAGES
11	[California Labor Code §§ 204, 510]
12	(Plaintiff Against All Defendants, Including Does 1-50)
13	37. Plaintiffs reallege each and every paragraph of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.
14	38. Labor Code § 510 entitles non-exempt employees to one-half times their hourly pay for any and
15	all hours worked in excess of eight hours in any work day, for the first eight hours worked on
16	the seventh consecutive day of work in a work week, and for any work in excess of forty hours
17	in any one work week. Employees are entitled to double their hourly pay for any and all hours
18	worked in excess of 12 hours in any work day and in excess of 8 hours on the seventh
19	consecutive work day.
20	39. During Plaintiff's employment with Defendants as a non-exempt employee, Plaintiff regularly
21	worked 12 and 13-hour shifts, and one 18-hour shift. However, Plaintiff received her regular
22	wage rate for all overtime hours worked.
23	40. By failing to pay overtime compensation to Plaintiff, Defendants violated California Labor
24	Code §§ 204 and 510. As a result of Defendants' unlawful acts, Plaintiff has been deprived of
25	overtime compensation and is entitled to recovery of such amounts plus interest thereon,
26	attorneys' fees and costs, under Labor Code § 1194.
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1	THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION		
2	Failure to Provide Rest Periods		
3	[California Labor Code § 226.7]		
4	(Plaintiff Against All Defendants, Including Does 1-50)		
5	41. Plaintiff realleges each paragraph of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.		
6	42. Plaintiff regularly worked without any rest periods as required by the California labor law.		
7	Labor Code section 226.7 provides:		
8	"(a) No employer shall require any employee to work during any meal or rest period		
9	mandated by an applicable order of the Industrial Welfare Commission. (b) If an employer fails		
10	to provide an employee a meal period or rest period in accordance with an applicable order of		
11	the Industrial Welfare Commission, the employer shall pay the employee one additional hour of		
12	pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each work day that the meal or rest		
13	period is not provided."		
14	43. During Plaintiff's employment with Defendants as a non-exempt employee, she was not		
15	provided two ten (10) minute rest periods for every four (4) hours of work.		
16	44. Because Defendants failed to provide proper rest periods, Defendants are liable to Plaintiff for		
17	one hour of additional pay at the regular rate of compensation for each workday that the proper		
18	rest periods were not provided, pursuant to Labor Code § 226.7 as well as interest thereon, plus		
19	attorney's fees and costs of suit pursuant to Civil Procedure § 1021.5.		
20	FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION		
21	Failure to Provide Meal Periods		
22	[California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512]		
23	(Plaintiff Against All Defendants, Including Does 1-50)		
24	45. Plaintiff realleges each and every paragraph of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.		
25	46. Defendants failed to maintain a policy of providing meal breaks as required by Labor Code §§		
26	226.7 and 512. See Brinker Restaurant Corp. et al. v. Superior Court (2012) 53 Cal. 4th 1004,		
27	1040-41 ("The employer satisfies this obligation if it relieves its employees of all duty,		
28	relinquishes control over their activities and permits them a reasonable opportunity to take an		

1	funds; taking loans for WAGMOR NONPROFIT from unscrupulous sources; defrauding			
2	WAGMOR NONPROFIT's donors and adopters; stealing employee's tips; and not keeping a			
3	healthy work environment for employees and a living environment for animals. Plaintiff had			
4	reasonable cause to believe that the information she provided disclosed a violation of state and			
5	federal statutes and regulations.			
6	52. In response to these complaints, Plaintiff was terminated shortly after complaining.			
7	53. As a direct, foreseeable, and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff has suffered			
8	lost income, employment career opportunities, and has suffered and continues to suffer other			
9	economic loss, in an amount to be proven at trial.			
10	54. As a direct, foreseeable, and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff has suffered			
11	emotional distress, in an amount to be proven at trial.			
12	55. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants' actions were taken with			
13	malice, oppression, fraud, and/or willful and conscious disregard of Plaintiff's rights, and were			
14	carried out by Defendants' managing agents and/or ratified by Defendants. Plaintiff is therefore			
15	entitled to punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial.			
16	56. Defendants are liable for a civil penalty not exceeding \$10,000 for each violation of Labor			
17	Code section 1102.5.			
18	57. Plaintiff is further entitled to recover reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to the provisions of			
19	Labor Code section 1102.5(j).			
20	SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION			
21	RETALIATION IN VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE SECTION 98.6			
22	[California Labor Code § 98.6]			
23	(Plaintiff Against All Defendants, Including Does 1-50)			
24	58. Plaintiff re-alleges each and every paragraph of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.			
25	59. California Labor Code section 98.6 prohibits employers from retaliating against employees who			
26	make bona fide complaints that their rights were violated.			
27	60. As set forth above, Plaintiff complained of not receiving proper wages, and was terminated in			
28	response.			

1	61. As a direct, foreseeable, and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff has suffered lost	
2	income, employment career opportunities, and has suffered and continues to suffer other	
3	economic loss, in an amount to be proven at trial.	
4	62. As a direct, foreseeable, and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff has suffered	
5	emotional distress, in an amount to be proven at trial.	
6	63. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants' actions were taken with	
7	malice, oppression, fraud, and/or willful and conscious disregard of Plaintiff's rights, and were	
8	carried out by Defendants' managing agents and/or ratified by Defendants. Plaintiff is therefore	
9	entitled to punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial.	
10	64. Defendants are liable for a civil penalty not exceeding \$10,000 for each violation of Labor	
11	Code section 1102.5.	
12	65. Plaintiff is further entitled to recover reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to the provisions of	
13	Labor Code section 1102.5(j).	
14	SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION	
15	RETALIATION FOR HEALTH OR SAFETY COMPLAINT	
16	[California Labor Code § 6310]	
17	(Plaintiff Against All Defendants, Including Does 1-50)	
18	(Franklii Against All Defendants, Including Does 1-30)	
	66. Plaintiff realleges each and every paragraph of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.	
19		
19 20	66. Plaintiff realleges each and every paragraph of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.	
	66. Plaintiff realleges each and every paragraph of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein. 67. Defendants violated several health safety laws because, for example, animals were not properly	
20	66. Plaintiff realleges each and every paragraph of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein. 67. Defendants violated several health safety laws because, for example, animals were not properly separated or quarantined to prevent spreading diseases, were not separated to prevent fights,	
20 21	66. Plaintiff realleges each and every paragraph of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein. 67. Defendants violated several health safety laws because, for example, animals were not properly separated or quarantined to prevent spreading diseases, were not separated to prevent fights, were not tacked in software to ensure timely vaccines and medical care, had their emergency	
20 21 22	66. Plaintiff realleges each and every paragraph of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein. 67. Defendants violated several health safety laws because, for example, animals were not properly separated or quarantined to prevent spreading diseases, were not separated to prevent fights, were not tacked in software to ensure timely vaccines and medical care, had their emergency medical needs ignored, and faced preventable deaths. This led to harm to animals as well as to	
20 21 22 23	66. Plaintiff realleges each and every paragraph of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein. 67. Defendants violated several health safety laws because, for example, animals were not properly separated or quarantined to prevent spreading diseases, were not separated to prevent fights, were not tacked in software to ensure timely vaccines and medical care, had their emergency medical needs ignored, and faced preventable deaths. This led to harm to animals as well as to employees.	
2021222324	 66. Plaintiff realleges each and every paragraph of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein. 67. Defendants violated several health safety laws because, for example, animals were not properly separated or quarantined to prevent spreading diseases, were not separated to prevent fights, were not tacked in software to ensure timely vaccines and medical care, had their emergency medical needs ignored, and faced preventable deaths. This led to harm to animals as well as to employees. 68. Plaintiff made a bona fide written complaint to Defendants of unsafe working conditions or 	
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20 21 22 23 24 25 26	 66. Plaintiff realleges each and every paragraph of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein. 67. Defendants violated several health safety laws because, for example, animals were not properly separated or quarantined to prevent spreading diseases, were not separated to prevent fights, were not tacked in software to ensure timely vaccines and medical care, had their emergency medical needs ignored, and faced preventable deaths. This led to harm to animals as well as to employees. 68. Plaintiff made a bona fide written complaint to Defendants of unsafe working conditions or work practices in her place of employment. 69. When Plaintiff made bona fide complaints about the unsafe working conditions or work 	

1	income employment career apportunities, and has suffered and continues to suffer other	
	income, employment career opportunities, and has suffered and continues to suffer other	
2	economic loss, in an amount to be proven at trial.	
3	71. As a direct, foreseeable, and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff has suffered	
4	emotional distress, in an amount to be proven at trial.	
5	72. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants' actions were taken with	
6	malice, oppression, fraud, and/or willful and conscious disregard of Plaintiff's rights, and were	
7	carried out by Defendants' managing agents and/or ratified by Defendants. Plaintiff is therefore	
8	entitled to punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial.	
9	73. Plaintiff is entitled to reinstatement and backpay.	
10	EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION	
11	VIOLATION OF THE UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW	
12	[California Business and Professions Code § 17200]	
13	(Plaintiff Against All Defendants, Including Does 1-50)	
14	74. Plaintiff realleges each paragraph of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.	
15	75. California Business & Professions Code § 17200 prohibits unfair competition in the form of	
16	any unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business act or practice.	
17	76. California Business & Professions Code § 17204 allows "any person acting for the interests of	
18	itself, its members or the general public" to prosecute a civil action for violation of the Unfair	
19	Competition Law.	
20	77. Defendants have engaged in unlawful business practices in California by utilizing and engaging	
21	in an unlawful pattern and practice of failing to properly pay employee compensation as	
22	described hereinabove, specifically, by failing to provide Plaintiff with minimum salary,	
23	overtime wages, and meal and rest breaks.	
24	78. Defendants' use of such practices constitutes an unlawful business practice. California case law	
25	has interpreted the "unlawful" prong of Section 17200 to hold illegal a business practice that	
26	violates any other law, treating it as "unlawful" and making it independently actionable under	
27	17200. Cal-Tech Communications & Cel-Communications, Inc. v. Los Angeles Cellular	
28	Telephone Co. (1999) 20 C.4th 163, 180, 83 CR2d 548.	

1	entitled to punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial.			
2	TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION			
3	WRONGFUL TERMINATION IN VIOLATION OF PUBLIC POLICY			
4	(Plaintiff Against All Defendants, Including Does 1-50)			
5	86. Plaintiff realleges each paragraph of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.			
6	87. As described herein, Plaintiff's employment was terminated in violation of the fundamental			
7	public policies of the State of California including those set out in the California Labor Code,			
8	the California Health and Safety Code, and the California Constitution. Specifically, Plaintiff's			
9	employment was terminated in violation of the California Labor Code as described above.			
10	88. As a direct, foreseeable, and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff has suffered los			
11	income, employment career opportunities, and has suffered and continues to suffer other			
12	economic loss, in an amount to be proven at trial.			
13	89. As a direct, foreseeable, and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff has suffered			
14	emotional distress, in an amount to be proven at trial.			
15	90. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants' actions were taken with			
16	malice, oppression, fraud, and/or willful and conscious disregard of Plaintiff's rights, and were			
17	carried out by Defendants' managing agents and/or ratified by Defendants. Plaintiff is therefore			
18	entitled to punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial.			
19	PRAYER FOR RELIEF			
20	WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants as follows:			
21	(a) For general, special, compensatory damages;			
22	(b) For exemplary and punitive damages;			
23	(c) For emotional distress damages;			
24	(d) For reasonable attorneys' fees;			
25	(e) For civil penalties as permitted by statute;			
26	(f) For pre-judgment and post-judgment interest at the maximum legal rate;			
27	(g) For costs of suit incurred;			
28	(h) For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.			

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2	PLAINTIFF HEREBY DEMANDS A JURY TRIAL.		
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4	DATED: November 19, 2021	MARLIS PARK, P.C.	
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6		By: Wayne K. Dark	
7		Young K. Park Tara H. Hattendorf	
8		Attorneys for Plaintiff, ELLIE MOSSER	
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