Case	2:16-cv-06040-BRO-AJW Document 1 Filed 0	08/11/16 Page 1 of 24 Page ID #:1
Case 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	CHRIS BAKER, State Bar No. 181557 <u>cbaker@bakerlp.com</u> MIKE CURTIS, State Bar No. 252392 <u>mcurtis@bakerlp.com</u> BAKER & SCHWARTZ, P.C. 44 Montgomery Street, Suite 3520 San Francisco, CA 94104 Telephone: (415) 433-1064 Fax: (415) 520-0446 Attorneys for Plaintiff STEVE THOMA	
10	UNITED STATES DI	STRICT COURT
11	CENTRAL DISTRICT	OF CALIFORNIA
12		
13	STEVE THOMA	CLASS ACTION, COLLECTIVE
14	Plaintiff,	ACTION AND REPRESENTATIVE ACTION
15		COMPLAINT
16	VS.	1. Unpaid Overtime Pursuant to the
17	CBRE GROUP, INC.; CBRE, INC., J.P. MORGAN CHASE NATIONAL	FLSA 2. Unpaid Overtime Pursuant to
18	CORPORATE SERVICES, INC., J.P.	California Law
19	MORGAN CHASE BANK, NA, AND J.P. MORGAN CHASE & CO., and DOES 1	3. Failure to Pay Wages Upon Termination
20	THROUGH 50	4. Waiting Time Penalties Pursuant
21	Defendants.	to Labor Code § 203 5. Unpaid Premium Pay for Missed
22		Meal and Rest Periods
23		6. Failure to Provide Accurate Wage Statements
24 25		<ul><li>7. Unfair Business Practices</li><li>8. PAGA</li></ul>
23 26		0. FAUA
20		DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
28		]
	COMPLAINT AGAINST CBRE 2	AND JP MORGAN CHASE

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INTRODUCTION Plaintiff Steve Thoma ("Plaintiff") brings the following class and representative action against defendants CBRE Group, Inc., CBRE, Inc. (collectively "CBRE") and J.P. Morgan Chase National Corporate Services, Inc., J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, NA, and J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. (collectively "Chase") on behalf of himself, all others similarly situated, other aggrieved employees, and the State of California. Chase and CBRE misclassified Plaintiff and their other facility managers as exempt, resulting in the following alleged California Labor Code and Fair Labor Standards Act violations and related claims. PARTIES Chase employed Plaintiff as a facility manager from September 2010 1 until December 2013, at which point substantially all of Chase's facility managers became employees of CBRE. Chase employed Plaintiff in Los Angeles County and Plaintiff resides in Los Angeles County. 2. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereupon alleges that J.P. Morgan Chase National Corporate Services, Inc. is a New York corporation, registered to do business in the state of California, while J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, NA and J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. are entities of unknown form, who are not registered to do business in the state of California. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereupon alleges that all three have a principle places of business at 270 Park Avenue, New York, New York, although J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, NA's address is identified on Plaintiff's wage statements as 1111 Polaris Parkway Columbus, Ohio 43240. CBRE employed Plaintiff as a facility manager of Chase facilities 3 from December 2013 to October 2015. CBRE employed Plaintiff in Los Angeles County and Plaintiff resides in Los Angeles County. 4. CBRE touts itself as the world's largest commercial real estate services firm serving owners, investors and occupiers. Plaintiff is informed and

1 believes and thereupon alleges that CBRE Group, Inc. and CBRE, Inc. are each 2 Delaware corporations, with their principle places of business at 400 South Hope Street Los Angeles, California. 3

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5. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereupon alleges that each of the defendants was acting in a single or joint employer, integrated enterprise, 5 6 agency, employer, successor, and/or alter ego capacity such that they are liable for the acts of their agents and/or employees, or, depending on the nature of the 7 relationship, each other. 8

9 6. Plaintiff is ignorant of the true names of those defendants sued as DOES 1 through 50. On information and belief, DOES 1 through 50 do business in 10 11 California and are in some manner responsible for the conduct alleged in this Complaint. Upon discovering the true names and capacities of these fictitiously 12 named defendants, Plaintiff will amend this complaint to show their true names and 13 capacities. (For purposes of this Complaint, "Defendants" should be read to 14 include the Doe Defendants.) 15

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## FACTS

7. Chase operates retail banks and other business across the United 17 States. Chase employed Plaintiff to manage a portfolio of its facilities in Southern 18 California. Chase classified Plaintiff and its other facility managers as exempt. 19 20 Chase compensated Plaintiff with a salary that had an hourly equivalent of between \$40.86 and \$42.10. Chase's other facility managers at the time, performed job 21 duties that were substantially similar to his. 22

8. CBRE provides facility management services to Fortune 500 and 23 smaller companies throughout California. CBRE assigned Plaintiff to a portfolio of 24 Chase's facilities in Southern California. CBRE classified Plaintiff and continues 25 26 to classify its other facility managers as exempt. CBRE compensated Plaintiff with 27 a salary that had an hourly equivalent of between \$42.10 and \$44.02. CBRE's other facility managers perform job duties that are substantially similar to his. 28

9. 1 Facility managers at both Chase and CBRE are subject to numerous 2 levels of supervision. For instance, at CBRE they are supervised by senior facility managers, who are supervised by regional facility managers, who are supervised by 3 regional facility directors. Indeed many of Plaintiff's supervisors at CBRE 4 previously worked with and supervised him at Chase. 5

6 10. Facility managers at Chase and CBRE perform essentially the same 7 job duties. One of Plaintiff's most prominent duties as a facility manager was traveling to and inspecting the facilities to which he was assigned. The inspections 8 9 included things like whether fire extinguisher certifications were up to date and noting the safety and functionality of the facility. The facility managers then must 10 11 enter information about each inspection into a computer system when they return from the inspections. In addition to the planned inspections, facility managers often 12 had to make additional trips to their assigned facilities to respond to the need for 13 emergency repairs, to provide access to and monitor vendors working in the 14 facilities outside business hours, and to respond to requests to survey the facilities. 15 The surveys include things like how many fire extinguishers are in each facility, the 16 locations of the ATMs at each facility and the number of sprinkler watering zones 17 at each facility. 18

Another large part of facility managers' job duties is processing the 19 11. 20 repairs and maintenance that occurs at their assigned facilities. Routine maintenance was either performed by in-house employees or by vendors, with 21 vendors performing the more intensive work. Facility managers would engage 22 23 vendors on an approved list provided to the facility managers through a computerbased work order system. Facility managers then later approve the invoice the 24 vendor submits for the work through the same system. Whether the work is done 25 26 in-house or by a vendor, facility managers spend extensive time processing related 27 paperwork through a computer program.

1 12. A small part of facility managers' jobs is working on 2 recommendations to higher-ups for large projects at the facilities to which they are assigned. These were most commonly roof replacements or replacement of air 3 4 conditioning systems. Facility managers often work with a higher-up called a 5 project manager to prepare these recommendations. 6 13. Plaintiff worked well more than 40 hours each week and more than 7 eight hours a day, but was not paid overtime at both Chase and CBRE. Plaintiff most commonly worked around 60 hours per week. 8 9 14. Neither CBRE nor Chase provided Plaintiff with legally compliant meal periods or rest periods. He was not informed of his right to take them and the 10 11 crippling work load made it impossible for him to do so. 12 15. Plaintiff was not paid all of his earned wages upon termination at Chase or CBRE. For instance, he was not paid overtime or premium wages for 13 missed meal and rest periods. 14 16. The wage statements CBRE and Chase provided to Plaintiff did not 15 16 properly state, among other things, his hours worked or overtime hours. JURSIDICTION AND VENUE 17 17. The Court has federal question jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 18 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and section 16(b) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b). In addition, 19 20 this Court has supplemental jurisdiction over the California law claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1367. The jurisdiction of this Court over the subject matter of this action 21 is also predicated on 28 U.S.C. § 1332. The amount in controversy exceeds 22 \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs. 23 Venue is proper in the Central District of California because it is 24 18. where Plaintiff worked for Chase and CBRE, it is the location of CBRE's primary 25 office, where Plaintiff resides and where a substantial part of the events or 26 omissions giving rise to the claims occurred. 27 28

# **FLSA COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

19. Plaintiff brings the First Claim for Relief for violation of the FLSA as
a collective action pursuant to Section 16(b) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), on
behalf of himself and all persons who were, are or will be employed by Chase
and/or CBRE as facility managers nationwide at any time within the three years
prior to filing this Complaint through the date of final disposition of this action
(hereafter, the "the Nationwide FLSA Collective Plaintiffs").

8 20. The Nationwide FLSA Collective Plaintiffs are subdivided into the
9 following subclasses:

a. All Nationwide FLSA Collective Plaintiffs employed by Chase as
facility managers and/or with similar job titles and duties within the United States
at any time within the three years prior to filing this Complaint through the date of
final disposition of this action, who file(d) consents to join this collective action as
party plaintiffs pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

b. All Nationwide FLSA Collective Plaintiffs employed by CBRE as
facility managers and/or with similar job titles and duties within the United States
at any time within the three years prior to filing this Complaint through the date of
final disposition of this action, who file(d) consents to join this collective action as
party plaintiffs pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

20 21. Plaintiff and the Nationwide FLSA Collective Plaintiffs are similarly
21 situated in that they have substantially similar job requirements and pay provisions
22 within each FLSA subclass, and are or were subject to each Defendant's common
23 practice, policy, or plan of unlawfully characterizing them as exempt employees
24 and failing to pay them overtime compensation for all overtime hours worked in
25 violation of the FLSA.

26 22. The First Claim for Relief for violations of the FLSA may be brought
27 and maintained as an "opt-in" collective action pursuant to Section 16(b) of the
28 FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), because Plaintiff's claims are substantially similar to the

- 6 -

claims of the Nationwide FLSA Collective Plaintiffs and the members of the FLSA
 subclasses.

23. The names and addresses of the Nationwide FLSA Collective
Plaintiffs are available from Chase and CBRE, and notice should be provided to the
Nationwide FLSA Collective Plaintiffs via first class mail to the last address known
to their employer(s) as soon as possible.

7

### **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

8 24. Plaintiff brings the Second through Eighth Claims for Relief on behalf
9 of the following classes and subclasses, pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil
10 Procedure Rule 23(a), (b)(2) and (b)(3):

a. CBRE Facility Manager Class, which is defined as all current and
 former CBRE facility managers who worked for CBRE in California within four
 years of this complaint's filing date. Within this CBRE Facility Manager Class is
 the Former CBRE Facility Manager Subclass, which is limited to CBRE Facility
 Manager Class members who have separated from employment with CBRE.

b. Chase Facility Manager Class, which is defined as all individuals who
worked for Chase as facility managers in California within four years of this
complaint's filing date.

19 25. Plaintiff reserves the right to refine the definition of the proposed
20 Classes (including the applicable time frame) based on further investigation and
21 discovery.

22 26. Plaintiff's claims should be resolved on a class-wide basis, and there is
23 a well-defined community of interest with respect to the litigation.

18. The Classes are so numerous that joinder of all putative class members
is impracticable. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, there
are at least 75 individuals who satisfy the definition of the CBRE Facility Manager
Class. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, there are 40 or
more individuals who satisfy the definition of the Chase Facility Manager Class.

Case	2:16-cv-06040-BRO-AJW Document 1 Filed 08/11/16 Page 8 of 24 Page ID #:8
1	27. The Classes are ascertainable.
2	28. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Classes he seeks to
3	represent. Plaintiff and all members of the classes have been similarly affected by
4	Defendants' conduct since they were all deprived overtime and suffered similar
5	California Labor Code violations.
6	29. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests
7	of the Classes. Plaintiff does not have interests which are adverse to the interests of
8	absent class members.
9	30. Class counsel is experienced, qualified and capable. They have
10	litigated numerous class action cases.
11	31. There are common questions of law and fact that predominate include:
12	a. Are facility managers exempt from California's wage and hour
13	laws?
14	b. Is there a realistic expectation that facility managers spend more
15	than fifty percent of their work time on exempt job duties under California law?
16	c. Is there a realistic expectation that facility managers' job duties
17	are properly characterized as exempt job duties under California law?
18	d. Is performing site inspections an exempt job duty under
19	California law?
20	e. Is traveling to facilities an exempt job duty under California
21	law?
22	f. Is interacting with vendors and in-house employees concerning
23	repairs and maintenance at assigned facilities an exempt job duty under California
24	law?
25	g. Is surveying various items at facilities an exempt job duty under
26	California law?
27	g. Is processing paperwork related to repairs and maintenance an
28	exempt job duty under California law?
	- 8 -
	COMPLAINT AGAINST CBRE AND JP MORGAN CHASE

Case	2:16-cv-06040-BRO-AJW Document 1 Filed 08/11/16 Page 9 of 24 Page ID #:9	
1	h. Is working on recommendations for large projects an exempt job	
2	duty under California law?	
3	i. Did Defendants suffer or permit facility managers to work	
4	overtime under California law?	
5	j. Did Defendants provide facility managers with legally	
6	compliant meal periods under California law?	
7	k. Did Defendants provide facility managers with legally	
8	compliant rest periods under California law?	
9	1. Did Defendants' policies inform facility managers of their rights	
10	to take compliant meal and rest periods?	
11	m. Is Defendants' refusal to pay former employees all wages owed	
12	at the time of their termination willful under California law?	
13	n. Did Defendants knowingly and intentionally fail to provide	
14	information in Plaintiff's and the Classes' wage statements required by California	
15	Labor Code section 226(a)?	
16	o. Did Defendants' wage statements provided to Plaintiff and the	
17	Classes allow them to promptly and easily determine, from the wage statements	
18	alone, their total hours worked and/or all applicable hourly rates in effect during the	
19	pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate?	
20	p. Did Defendants keep payroll records showing the hours worked	
21	daily by Plaintiff and the Classes?	
22	q. Did Defendants fail to pay earned wages, including overtime, bi-	
23	weekly to Plaintiff and the Classes under California law?	
24	32. A class action is the superior way of resolving the class members'	
25	claims. Class treatment will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to	
26	prosecute their claims in a single forum and without unnecessary duplication, and	
27	without fear of retaliation. The damage incurred by each class member is relatively	
28	small, and the burdens of litigation would make it difficult or impossible for	
	- 9 -	
I	COMPLAINT AGAINST CBRE AND JP MORGAN CHASE	

wrong done to them. The cost to the court would be substantial. Individualized litigation inconsistent or contradictory judgments. he Second through Eighth Claims for Relief is ility Manager Class pursuant to the Federal Rules ecause CBRE has acted or refused to act on	
r inconsistent or contradictory judgments. he Second through Eighth Claims for Relief is ility Manager Class pursuant to the Federal Rules ecause CBRE has acted or refused to act on	
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ecause CBRE has acted or refused to act on	
CBRE Facility Manager Class, making	
ive relief with respect to the CBRE Facility	
Manager Class.	
nd notice to all members of the classes to the	
CAUSE OF ACTION	
time Pursuant to the FLSA	
paragraphs 1 through 34 of this Complaint as if	
Defendants have been, and continue to be,	
mmerce and/or in the production of goods for	
U.S.C. § 203.	
laint as Exhibit A is the consent to sue signed by	
216(b) and 256.	
mployers to pay employees overtime for all	
veek.	
hould have known that Plaintiff and the	
tiffs worked more than forty hours a week.	
the Nationwide FLSA Collective Plaintiffs	
ore than 40 hours in a week. Defendants'	
good faith nor with reasonable belief that they	
to facility managers.	
- 10 - NST CBRE AND JP MORGAN CHASE	

Case 2	:16-cv-06040-BRO-AJW Document 1 Filed 08/11/16 Page 11 of 24 Page ID #:11
1	40. Plaintiff and the Nationwide FLSA Collective Plaintiffs were harmed
2	as a result. They did not receive all the wages to which they were entitled.
3	SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION
4	<u>Unpaid Overtime Pursuant to California Law</u>
5	41. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 40 of this Complaint as if
6	fully set forth here.
7	42. Under California law, an employer must pay an employee overtime
8	based upon their regular rate of pay for time worked in excess of 8 hours in a day.
9	See California Labor Code sections 510, 1194.
10	43. Defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiff and the Classes
11	worked more than eight hours a day and more than forty hours a week.
12	44. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and the Classes overtime for time
13	spent working more than 8 hours in a day and/or 40 hours in a week.
14	45. Plaintiff and the Classes were harmed as a result. They did not receive
15	all the wages to which they were entitled.
16	THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION
17	Failure To Pay Wages Upon Termination
18	(Limited to CBRE Former Facility Manager Subclass and Chase Facility
19	Manager Class)
20	46. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 45 of this Complaint as if
21	fully set forth here.
22	47. Under California law, an employer must pay an employee all accrued
23	wages upon termination. See Labor Code sections 201 and 202.
24	48. Defendants did not pay Plaintiff, the CBRE Former Facility Manager
25	Subclass or the Chase Facility Manager Class all owed overtime, premium pay for
26	missed meal and rest periods, and other owed wages upon termination.
27	49. Plaintiff, the CBRE Former Facility Manager Subclass and the Chase
28	Facility Manager Class were harmed as a result of Defendants' actions.
	- 11 -
	COMPLAINT AGAINST CBRE AND JP MORGAN CHASE

Case 2	:16-cv-06040-BRO-AJW Document 1 Filed 08/11/16 Page 12 of 24 Page ID #:12	
1	FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION	
2	Waiting Time Penalties	
3	(Limited to CBRE Former Facility Manager Subclass and Chase Facility	
4	Manager Class)	
5	50. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 49 of this Complaint as if	
6	fully set forth here.	
7	51. Under California law, an employer must pay an employee all wages	
8	due upon termination or resignation. The willful failure to do so results in waiting	
9	time penalties equal to 30 days of an employee's wage. See Labor Code section	
10	203.	
11	52. Defendants did not pay Plaintiff, the CBRE Former Facility Manager	
12	Subclass or the Chase Facility Manager Class all wages due and owing upon their	
13	separation from employ. Defendants did not pay owed overtime wages.	
14	Defendants did not pay premium pay for missed meal and rest periods.	
15	53. This conduct by Defendants was willful. They knew or should have	
16	known of the overtime wages incurred by Plaintiff, the CBRE Former Facility	
17	Manager Subclass and the Chase Facility Manager Class. They knew or should	
18	have known that they were not paying Plaintiff, the CBRE Former Facility	
19	Manager Subclass or the Chase Facility Manager Class premium pay for missed	
20	meal and rest periods.	
21	54. As a result, Defendants are liable to Plaintiff, the CBRE Former	
22	Facility Manager Subclass and the Chase Facility Manager Class for waiting time	
23	penalties.	
24	FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION	
25	<b>Unpaid Premium Pay For Missed Meal And Rest Periods</b>	
26	55. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 54 of this Complaint as if	
27	set forth here.	
28		
	- 12 -	
I	COMPLAINT AGAINST CBRE AND JP MORGAN CHASE	

56. Labor Code § 512 and applicable wage orders require that an
 employee receive a meal period of one half hour in which the employee is relieved
 of all duty for every five hours worked. Employees must receive a second meal
 period for workdays in which an employee works more than 10 hours.

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57. Applicable wage orders provide that employers shall authorize and permit employees to take rest periods at the rate of ten minutes net rest time per four hours of work or major fraction thereof.

58. Labor Code § 226.7 provides that if an employer fails to provide an
employee required rest periods and meal periods, the employer shall pay the
employee one hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each
workday that the rest period is not provided and one hour of pay at the employee's
regular rate of compensation for each workday that the meal period is not provided

13 59. Plaintiff and the Classes did not receive legally compliant rest or meal14 periods.

15 60. Defendants were aware that Plaintiff and the Classes did not receive
16 legally compliant meal or rest periods but did not pay the premium pay required by
17 Labor Code § 226.7.

18 61. Plaintiff and the Classes were harmed as a result because they did not
19 receive all the premium pay to which they were entitled.

20 21

## SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

## Failure To Provide Accurate Wage Statements

62. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 61 of this Complaint as iffully set forth here.

63. Under California law, an employer must provide employees with an
accurate wage statement. Among other things, the wage statement must include the
gross wages earned, the total hours worked, and the wage rate worked for each
hour. An employee suffers injury when this law is violated if the employee cannot
(among other things) easily determine from the wage statement the gross or net

wages paid or earned or the hours worked. The penalties for violating this law are
 set by statute. See California Labor Code sections 226.

64. Defendants knowingly and intentionally failed to provide Plaintiff and
the Classes with accurate wage statements. Because Defendants misclassified the
Classes as exempt employees, and because they work and earn overtime, but are not
paid overtime, the wage statements are inaccurate. The wage statements are also
inaccurate because they do not include all applicable hourly rates in effect during
the pay period with the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate.
See Labor Code § 226(a)(9).

10 65. Plaintiff and the Classes suffered injury as a result of Defendants'
11 conduct. They were not able, from a review of the wage statements, to determine
12 their total hours worked and/or all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay
13 period with the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate.

14 15

## **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

## **Unfair Business Practices**

16 66. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 65 of this Complaint as if
17 fully set forth here.

18 67. California law prohibits any unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business
19 practice. *See* California Business and Professions Code section 17200.

68. Through their actions (as described above), Defendants violated a
variety of California wage and hour laws and the FLSA. Plaintiff and the Classes
have been harmed by Defendants' conduct. They have not been paid all wages
earned. They have not been paid on a timely basis. They are entitled to restitution
and an injunction.

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Case 2	:16-cv-06040-BRO-AJW Document 1 Filed 08/11/16 Page 15 of 24 Page ID #:15
1	EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION
2	Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA")
3	(Alleged only against CBRE)
4	69. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 68 of this Complaint as if
5	fully set forth here.
6	70. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 72 of this Complaint as if
7	set forth here with the following exception. Plaintiff does not bring this PAGA
8	cause of action as a class action.
9	71. Plaintiff is an aggrieved employee under PAGA because he was
10	employed by CBRE during the applicable statutory period and suffered one or more
11	of the Labor Code violations set forth in this Complaint. Plaintiff seeks to recover
12	on his behalf, on behalf of the State, and on behalf of all current and former
13	aggrieved employees of CBRE, the civil penalties provided by PAGA, plus
14	reasonable attorney's fees and costs in this representative action.
15	72. Plaintiff seeks penalties pursuant to PAGA for violation of the
16	following Labor Code sections:
17	a. Failure to provide prompt payment of wages upon termination
18	and resignation in violation of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203;
19	b. Failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements in
20	violation of Labor Code §§ 226 and 226.3;
21	c. Failure to pay overtime wages in violation of applicable wage
22	orders and Labor Code §§ 204, 510, 558, 1194 and 1198;
23	d. failure to provide meal periods and rest periods in violation of
24	applicable wage orders and Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, and 558;
25	e. Failure to keep required payroll records in violation of the
26	applicable wage orders and Labor Code §§ 1174 and 1174.5.
27	73. With respect to violations of Labor Code § 204, Labor Code § 210
28	imposes a civil penalty (apart from other penalties) of \$100 for each initial
	- 15 -
	COMPLAINT AGAINST CBRE AND JP MORGAN CHASE

violation, and \$200 for each subsequent violation, in addition to 25% of the amount
 unlawfully withheld.

74. With respect to violations of Labor Code § 226, Labor Code § 226.3
imposes a civil penalty in addition to any other penalty provided by law of two
hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per aggrieved employee for the first violation, and one
thousand dollars (\$1,000) per aggrieved employee for each subsequent violation of
Labor Code § 226(a).

75. With respect to violations of Labor Code §§ 510 and 512, Labor Code 8 § 558 imposes a civil penalty in addition to any other penalty provided by law of 9 fifty dollars (\$50) for initial violations for each underpaid employee for each pay 10 period in addition to an amount equal to the employee's underpaid wages, and one 11 hundred dollars (\$100) for subsequent violations for each underpaid employee for 12 each pay period in addition to an amount equal to the employee's underpaid wages. 13 The statute of limitations with respect penalties under Labor Code § 558 is three 14 years. Plaintiff seeks civil penalties in the amount of unpaid wages owed to 15 16 aggrieved employees pursuant to Labor Code § 558(a)(3).

17 76. With respect to violations of Labor Code § 1174, Labor Code § 1174.5
18 imposes a civil penalty of \$500 for each violation.

19 77. With respect to violations of Labor Code §§ 201 and 202, Labor Code
20 § 256 imposes a civil penalty not to exceed 30 days' pay as a waiting time penalty
21 under the terms of Labor Code § 203.

78. Labor Code § 2699 et seq. imposes a civil penalty of one hundred
dollars (\$100) per pay period, per aggrieved employee for initial violations, and two
hundred dollars (\$200) per pay period, per aggrieved employee for subsequent
violations for all Labor Code provisions for which a civil penalty is not specifically
provided.

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Case 2	2:16-cv-06040-	BRO-AJW Document 1 Filed 08/11/16 Page 17 of 24 Page ID #:17
1	79.	To the extent applicable. Plaintiff has satisfied the requirements of
1		To the extent applicable, Plaintiff has satisfied the requirements of
2		e section 2699.3, as shown in Exhibit B that is attached to this
3	Complaint.	
4		PRAYER FOR RELIEF
5		EREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself, the Nationwide FLSA
6		Plaintiffs, the Classes, and on behalf of the Sate and other aggrieved
7		prays for judgment against Defendants as follows:
8	1.	An Order that this action may proceed and be maintained on a class-
9		and/or collective basis for the FLSA claim;
10	2.	Appropriate injunctive relief;
11	3.	Attorneys' fees and costs;
12	4.	Restitution;
13	5.	Damages, including unpaid wages and statutory penalties, according to
14	proof;	
15	6.	Civil Penalties pursuant to PAGA against CBRE;
16	7.	Liquidated damages pursuant to the FLSA;
17	8.	Pre-judgment and post-judgment interest, as provided by law;
18	9.	All other relief the Court deems equitable and proper.
19		
20	Dated: Aug	gust 11, 2016 BAKER & SCHWARTZ, P.C.
21		By: <u>/S/ Chris Baker</u>
22		Chris Baker Michael Curtis
23		Attorneys for Plaintiff STEVE THOMA
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		- 17 -
		COMPLAINT AGAINST CBRE AND JP MORGAN CHASE

Case 2	2:16-cv-06040-BRO-AJW Document 1 Filed 08/11/16 Page 18 of 24 Page ID #:18	
1	JURY TRIAL DEMAND	
2	Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury.	
3		
4	Dated: August 11, 2016 BAKER & SCHWARTZ, P.C.	
5	By: /S/ Chris Baker	
6	By: <u>/S/ Chris Baker</u> Chris Baker Michael Curtis	
7	Michael Curtis Attorneys for Plaintiff STEVE THOMA	
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	- 18 -	
	COMPLAINT AGAINST CBRE AND JP MORGAN CHASE	

Case 2:16-cv-06040-BRO-AJW Document 1 Filed 08/11/16 Page 19 of 24 Page ID #:19

# Exhibit A

p.1 Case 2:16-cv-06040-BRO-AJW Document 1 Filed 08/11/16 Page 20 of 24 Page ID #:20

### **CONSENT TO SUE UNDER**

#### FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT (29 U.S.C. § 216(b))

I worked for JP Morgan Chase from approximately September 2010 until December 2013 as a facility manager. I then worked for CBRE as a facility manager from December 1, 2013 to October 9, 2015.

I consent to be a party plaintiff in a lawsuit alleging that JP Morgan Chase and CBRE violated the Fair Labor Standards Act and California labor laws. I understand that this lawsuit seeks unpaid overtime and related damages that may be owed to me and other current and former employees of JP Morgan Chase and CBRE.

I understand that I have the right to choose other counsel and to pursue my claims solely on my own behalf, and I choose to be represented in this matter by class counsel Baker & Schwartz PC, and other attorneys with whom they may associate.

Thomas

Dated: August 10, 2016

Signature: agreed & accepted

Print Name: Steve Thoma

Case 2:16-cv-06040-BRO-AJW Document 1 Filed 08/11/16 Page 21 of 24 Page ID #:21

# Exhibit B

Case 2:16-cv-06040-BRO-AJW Document 1 Filed 08/11/16 Page 22 of 24 Page ID #:22

# Baker & Schwartz

professional corporation 44 Montgomery Street, Suite 3520 San Francisco, CA 94104 213.705.7379 <u>mcurtis@bakerlp.com</u> www.bakerlp.com

March 7, 2016

### Via Certified Mail

Labor & Workforce Development Agency Attn. PAGA Administrator 1515 Clay Street, Suite 801 Oakland, CA 94612

Kathy PourSanae CBRE, Inc., Counsel—Employment 400 S. Hope Street, 25<sup>th</sup> Floor Los Angeles, CA 90071

#### RE: Request For Relief Under the Private Attorney General's Act

Dear LWDA and Ms. PourSanae:

I represent Steve Thoma, a former facility manager of CBRE, Inc. and CBRE Group, Inc (collectively "CBRE"). Mr. Thoma is an "aggrieved employee" under California Labor Code section 2699 *et seq*. The purpose of this letter is to provide notice to the LWDA and his employer.

Mr. Thoma seeks to represent himself and other current and former employees with respect to violations of the California Labor Code pursuant to Labor Code section 2699 *et seq.* CBRE misclassified Mr. Thoma and its other California facility managers as exempt, resulting in numerous Labor Code violations. The facts and theories in support of Mr. Thoma's claims are set forth below.

CBRE employed Mr. Thoma as a facility manager from December 2013 to November 2015. Facility managers are supervised by senior facility managers, who are supervised by regional facility directors.

One of Mr. Thoma's most prominent duties as a facility manager was traveling to and inspecting the facilities to which CBRE assigned him. The inspections include things like

LWDA Kathy PourSanae March 7, 2016 Page 2

whether fire extinguisher certifications were up to date and noting the safety and functionality of the facility. The facility managers then must enter information about each inspection into a computer system when they return from the inspections. In addition to the regular inspections, facility managers must also often make additional trips to their assigned facilities when emergencies occur, such as toilets overflowing, and to let workers into the facility after business hours to perform repairs.

Another large part of facility managers' job duties is processing the repairs and maintenance that occur at their assigned facilities. Routine maintenance was often performed by CBRE employees called "engineers." Other work was performed by vendors on an approved list CBRE provided to the facility managers. Facility managers would engage the vendor through CBRE's computer-based work order system and then later approve the invoice the vendor submits for the work. Whether the work is done by a CBRE engineer or a vendor, the facility manager spends extensive time processing related paperwork through a CBRE computer program.

A small part of facility managers' jobs is working on recommendations to higher-ups for large projects at the facilities to which they are assigned. These were most commonly roof repairs or replacement of air conditioning systems. Facility managers often work with a higher-up called a project manager to prepare these recommendations.

Mr. Thoma worked well more than 40 hours a week and more than eight hours a day, but was not paid overtime.

CBRE did not provide Mr. Thoma with legally compliant meal periods or rest periods.

Mr. Thoma was not paid all of his earned wages upon termination. For instance, he was not paid overtime or premium wages for missed meal and rest periods.

The wage statements CBRE provided to Mr. Thoma did not properly state, among other things, his hours worked or overtime hours.

Mr. Thoma is an aggrieved employee under PAGA because he was employed by Defendants during the applicable statutory period and suffered one or more of the set forth Labor Code violations. Mr. Thoma seeks to recover on his behalf, on behalf of the State, and on behalf of all current and former aggrieved employees of CBRE, the civil penalties provided by PAGA, plus reasonable attorney's fees and costs in this representative action.

Mr. Thoma seeks penalties pursuant to PAGA for the violation of the following Labor Code sections:

a. failure to provide prompt payment of wages to California facility managers upon termination and resignation in violation of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203;

Case 2:16-cv-06040-BRO-AJW Document 1 Filed 08/11/16 Page 24 of 24 Page ID #:24

LWDA Kathy PourSanae March 7, 2016 Page 3

- b. failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements to California facility managers in violation of Labor Code §§ 226(a), 1174, and 1174.5;
- c. failure to provide meal periods and rest periods to California facility managers in violation of applicable wage orders and Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, and 558;
- d. failure to pay overtime wages to California facility managers in violation of applicable wage orders and Labor Code §§ 204, 510, 558, 1194 and 1198; and
- e. failure to keep required payroll records in violation of the applicable wage orders and Labor Code §§ 1174 and 1174.5.

With respect to violations of Labor Code § 226(a), Labor Code § 226.3 imposes a civil penalty in addition to any other penalty provided by law of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per aggrieved employee for the first violation, and one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per aggrieved employee for each subsequent violation of Labor Code § 226(a).

With respect to violations of Labor Code §§ 510 and 512, Labor Code § 558 imposes a civil penalty in addition to any other penalty provided by law of fifty dollars (\$50) for initial violations for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the employee was underpaid in addition to an amount sufficient to recover underpaid wages, and one hundred dollars (\$100) for subsequent violations for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the employee was underpaid in addition to an amount sufficient to recover underpaid wages. Mr. Thoma seeks civil penalties in the amount of unpaid wages owed to aggrieved employees pursuant to Labor Code § 558(a)(3).

With respect to violations of Labor Code § 1174, Labor Code § 1174.5 imposes a civil penalty of \$500 for each violation.

Labor Code § 2699 et seq. imposes a civil penalty of one hundred dollars (\$100) per pay period, per aggrieved employee for initial violations, and two hundred dollars (\$200) pay period, per aggrieved employee for subsequent violations for all Labor Code provisions for which a civil penalty is not specifically provided, including Labor Code §§ 204, 226.7, 1174, 1194, and 1198.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Mun Cu Michael Curtis