	Case 2:14-cv-00879-LKK-CMK						
1 2 3 4 5 6	SEAN P. GATES (CA SBN 186247) SGates@mofo.com MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP 707 Wilshire Boulevard Los Angeles, California 90017-3543 Telephone: 213.892.5200  Attorney for Plaintiffs JOHN DOE I, JOHN DOE II, JOHN DOE III, JOHN DOE IV, AND JOHN DOE V						
7 8 9 10	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA						
11 12	JOHN DOE I, JOHN DOE II, JOHN DOE Case No. III, JOHN DOE IV, AND JOHN DOE V,						
13	Plaintiffs,						
14	v.						
15 16	PURE FOREST, LLC, JEFF WADSWORTH, OWEN WADSWORTH,						
17	Defendants.						
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19	<u>COMPLAINT</u>						
20	Plaintiffs John Doe I, John Doe II, John Doe IV, and John Doe						
21	V (collectively, "Plaintiffs") are victims of human trafficking who proceed under						
22	pseudonyms due to a reasonable fear of retaliation due to threats of bodily injury or						
23	death made by defendants, either directly or through their agents. Plaintiffs allege						
24	as follows:						
25	<u>PARTIES</u>						
26	1. Plaintiffs are citizens of Mexico who were recruited by defendants to						
27	enter the United States to perform labor for defendant Pure Forest, LLC ("Pure						
28	Forest"). Plaintiffs entered the United States lawfully in April and July 2012 on H-1						
	COMPLAINT						

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### STATEMENT OF FACTS

## Fraudulent Recruitment of John Doe I, John Doe II, and John Doe III

9. Acting through its Mexican national employees Pure Forest recruited individuals, including Plaintiffs, to travel to the United States to perform labor.

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- 10. Acting with the authorization of Pure Forest and, on information and belief, at the direction of defendants Jeff Wadsworth and Owen Wadsworth, the Mexican recruiter offered work to Mexican nationals, including three Plaintiffs: John Doe I, John Doe II, and John Doe III ("Does I-III").
- 11. Through its Mexican recruiter and, on information and belief, at the direction of Jeff Wadsworth and Owen Wadsworth, Pure Forest made fraudulent representations to Does I-III, promising that Pure Forest would employ Does I-III in California to do deforestation work for forty hours a week at a wage of \$16.47 per hour for nine months. Pure Forest also promised that it would pay for the visa and travel expenses for Does I-III. In addition, Pure Forest promised that it would provide Does I-III with all meals during their time of employment and would provide trailers for lodging. Does I-III accepted this offer.
- 12. Pure Forest scheduled interviews at the U.S. embassy for Does I-III to apply for their visas. Each obtained an H-2B visa.
- 13. Pure Forest arranged for Does I-III to travel to the United States. Sometime after April 1, 2012, U.S. CIS inspected and admitted Does I-III on the H-2B visas.
- 14. In Gerber, California, Does I-III and other workers were divided amongst the Pure Forest "bosses." Does I-III were assigned to work under one Pure Forest supervisor. The Pure Forest supervisor took the Plaintiffs to a remote work location in the Sierra Nevada mountains.
- 15. When the Plaintiffs arrived at the work site they were given nothing but a tent to sleep in. Does I-III were forced to share a tent because there were not enough for all of the workers. Does I-III were each forced to buy a sleeping bag from Pure Forest for \$35.

## Fraudulent Recruitment of John Doe IV and John Doe V

16. Through Pure Forest's Mexican recruiters Pure Forest recruited Plaintiffs John Doe IV and John Doe V ("Does IV-V"). Through these Mexican

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recruiters and, on information and belief, at the direction of Jeff Wadsworth and Owen Wadsworth, Pure Forest made fraudulent representations to Does IV-V. The manner of recruitment was nearly identical to the recruitment of Does I-III. Pure Forest offered work in California to do deforestation work for forty hours a week at a rate of \$16.47 an hour for nine months. Pure Forest promised that it would pay for the visa and travel expenses for Does IV-V. In addition, Pure Forest promised that it would provide Does IV-V with all meals during their time of employment and would provide trailers for lodging. Does IV-V accepted this offer.

- 17. Pure Forest scheduled interviews at the U.S. embassy for Does IV-V to apply for their visas. Each obtained an H-2B visa.
- 18. Pure Forest arranged for Does IV-V to travel to the United States. U.S. CIS inspected and admitted each of them on H-2B visas in July 2012.
- 19. Once in Sacramento, California, Does IV-V and other workers were separated into groups and assigned to work under Owen Wadsworth. Owen Wadsworth took Does IV-V to a remote work location in the Sierra Nevada mountains.
  - 20. Does IV-V were given only a tent to sleep in.

## Confiscation of Plaintiff's Passport

- 21. John Doe III had his passport taken by Pure Forest when he arrived in Gerber, California. Pure Forest retained the passport for several weeks before returning it to John Doe III.
- 22. John Doe IV had his passport, identification cards and other documents taken by defendant Owen Wadsworth. John Doe IV asked to have these documents returned when they were told the work was done and they needed to leave. Pure Forest would not return the documents upon request.

## **Oppressive Working Conditions**

23. Once each group of Plaintiffs arrived in the mountains, they were required by defendants to plant trees and spray chemicals on the surrounding

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ground. Plaintiffs did not receive proper attire or equipment for working with the tools and chemicals. Plaintiffs received no training.

- 24. Plaintiffs were forced to carry chemical containers on their backs. The containers often leaked, resulting in chemical burns on Plaintiffs' backs and hands. Plaintiffs' eyes are red and irritated from the constant exposure to the chemicals.
- 25. Doe V became ill from chemical exposure. He often woke up nauseous and dizzy from the chemicals. He also cut his hand during work. Defendants would not let him rest while he was injured. Defendants did not provide any medication or first aid for these injuries.
- 26. Plaintiffs suffered anxiety worrying about the long-term effects they would suffer due to the harmful chemicals they were using.
- 27. Pure Forest supervisors were always armed; they carried weapons and had weapons in their vehicles. Pure Forest supervisors, under the supervision of Jeff Wadsworth and Owen Wadsworth, constantly threatened Plaintiffs and the other workers, telling them repeatedly that they would shoot them and leave them for dead if they did not continue to work. For instance, John Doe I witnessed one Pure Forest supervisor tell another worker that he would put a bullet in his head. John Doe I was paralyzed with fear. The Pure Forest supervisors also used abusive and crude language to berate the Plaintiffs and other workers, eroding their confidence.
- 28. The Pure Forest supervisors often would shoot their guns off in the middle of the night to scare the workers. Plaintiffs reasonably feared for their lives.
- 29. The Pure Forest supervisors, under the supervision of Jeff Wadsworth and Owen Wadsworth, inflicted this psychological and verbal abuse to coerce Plaintiffs into believing that they would be seriously harmed if they did not work at a fast pace or tried to leave Pure Forest.
- 30. Plaintiffs were forced to work twelve to thirteen hours each day, six days a week, regardless of the weather conditions. Plaintiffs were not permitted

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27 28 breaks to rest in the summer in order to take shelter from the heat. Plaintiffs were forced to work outdoors in the rain.

- 31. Plaintiffs received only one short break for a meal and water during the long work days. Plaintiffs would often not eat because the food was rotten. They were forced to drink unpurified water directly from the river. Plaintiffs only source of water for showering was also the river.
- 32. On Sundays the Plaintiffs would be required to prepare for the next week; they would sharpen tools, mix chemicals, and wash their clothes. Plaintiffs did not have a day off during their time with Pure Forest.
- 33. On Sundays Plaintiffs were taken to town to wash their clothes. Pure Forest's drivers would watch them closely while in town to make sure they did not speak with anyone. The laundry mat owners eventually told Plaintiffs they could not use the washing machines due to all of the chemicals on their clothing. Plaintiffs were forced to use what little money they had saved to buy a used washing machine from one Pure Forest supervisor.
- 34. Plaintiffs continued to work only because they had no other option. They were disoriented, confused, stuck in a remote part of the Sierra Nevada mountains miles from the nearest town, and they were in a foreign country where they did not speak the language. Plaintiffs felt trapped, they believed they had no choice other than to do as they were told. They feared that they would not ever be permitted to leave. Plaintiffs were terrified that they would face serious harm if they did not continue to work. Plaintiffs suffered from serious stress, lack of sleep, and anxiety caused by these circumstances.
- Plaintiffs also feared for the safety of their families. The Pure Forest supervisors, under the supervision of Jeff Wadsworth and Owen Wadsworth, intimidated Plaintiffs by threatening to harm their families in Mexico.
- 36. It was in the interest of Pure Forest, and with the actual or constructive knowledge of Jeff Wadsworth and Owen Wadsworth, that the Pure Forest

## supervisors intimidated, defrauded, and coerced Plaintiffs as described above.

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Plaintiffs had no recourse.

## Defendants' "Deductions" From Plaintiffs' Pay

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37. Plaintiffs were "paid" in cash by Pure Forest every two weeks.

Although Plaintiffs were given paystubs showing payment for 40 hours of work at

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\$16.50 an hour, the paystubs did not show the "deductions" taken out by Pure Forest, including for travel expenses and each Plaintiffs' visa. Plaintiffs had not

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been previously informed about these deductions. When Plaintiffs complained

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about these deductions, they were told that they had to pay for these items.

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38. Plaintiffs were each forced to pay for food and to give \$60 to the cook using what little cash they were given. Plaintiffs had not been previously informed about these expenses. After the deductions, Plaintiffs were left with essentially no money.

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39. Defendants Jeff Wadsworth and Owen Wadsworth were fully aware of the deductions taken from Plaintiffs' pay.

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40. Does II and V complained to a Pure Forest supervisor about the deductions that were being taken out of each pay check. Plaintiffs asked Jeff Wadsworth how much they owed for the visa and travel expenses. Plaintiffs were never given an answer.

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41. The "deductions" continued for the entire time Plaintiffs worked for Pure Forest.

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42. Plaintiffs never received a tax statement from defendants.

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Defendants' Failure to Pay Wages

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43. Upon information and belief, Pure Forest failed to keep accurate wage and hour records as required by federal and state law.

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44. Due to the deductions made by defendants described in paragraphs 37 through 41, Plaintiffs' hourly wages fell below both state and federal minimum wage requirements.

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45. Defendants failed to pay the wage rate promised to the Plaintiffs at the time of their recruitment in Mexico.

- Defendants failed to pay the Plaintiffs for all of the hours they worked 46. in each workweek.
- 47. Although Plaintiffs worked well over forty hours in each workweek, defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs overtime at the rate of one and a half times the regular rate of pay for their overtime hours in excess of 8 hours per day and/or 40 hours per week, as required by federal law, state law, and the foreign labor certification. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs overtime at the rate of two times the regular rate of pay for their overtime hours in excess of twelve hours per day, as required by state law. Defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiffs were working extremely long hours each week and were not receiving the wages to which the Plaintiffs were entitled by law.

#### Plaintiffs Leave Pure Forest

- 48. On about October, 2012 Plaintiffs were told that there was no more work for them. They were taken to a bus stop where a Pure Forest supervisor paid for bus tickets with money that had been withheld from the Plaintiffs' last pay checks.
- 49. The Pure Forest supervisors, under the supervision of Jeff Wadsworth and Owen Wadsworth, threatened Plaintiffs and the other workers. The Pure Forest supervisors warned them not to tell anyone what had happened, and they threatened to harm Plaintiffs' and the other workers' families if they did tell anyone.

### FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT ("FLSA") (*All Defendants*)

- Plaintiffs repeat and re-allege the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 50. through 49 of this complaint as if full set forth herein.
- 51. At all times relevant to this case, defendants were employers within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 203(d).

- 52. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs the federal statutory minimum wage during the time they were employed by defendants, in violation of 29 U.S.C. § 206(a)(1).
- 53. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs overtime pay for all hours that they worked in excess of forty per week in violation of 29 U.S.C. § 207(a)(1).
- 54. Defendants made unlawful deductions from Plaintiffs' wages. These unlawful deductions cumulatively brought Plaintiffs' wages below the statutory minimum in violation of 29 U.S.C. § 211(c).
- 55. Defendants made deductions from Plaintiffs' wages for their transportation fees to the United States and the associated visa fees, which were expenses incurred primarily for the benefit of the defendant employers, in violation of 29 C.F.R. § 531.35. Because of defendants' deductions, Plaintiffs were not paid all wages free and clear during their employment, in violation of 29 U.S.C. § 206(a)(1).
  - 56. As a result of these violations, Plaintiffs suffered damages.
- 57. Plaintiffs are entitled to an award of damages for unpaid minimum wages and unpaid overtime, plus liquidated damages in an equal amount and interest, as well as attorneys' fees, in an amount to be determined at trial. 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

# SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF MIGRANT AND SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKER PROTECTION ACT ("AWPA") (All Defendants)

- 58. Plaintiffs repeat and re-allege the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 57 of this complaint as if set fully set forth herein.
- 59. At all times relevant to this case, defendants were agricultural employers within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 1802(2).
- 60. At all times relevant to this case, the Plaintiffs were migrant agricultural workers within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 1802(8)(A).

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concerning the terms and conditions of employment in violation

of 29 U.S.C. § 1821(f);

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1	g. Failing to pay the wages owed to each worker when due, in					
2	violation of 29 U.S.C. § 1822(a);					
3	h. Requiring Plaintiffs purchase goods in violation of 29 U.S.C.					
4	§ 1822(b);					
5	i. Violating, without justification, the terms of the working					
6	arrangement in violation of 29 U.S.C. § 1822(c);					
7	j. Failing to ensure that the housing in which defendants forced					
8	Plaintiffs to live met federal and state health and safety codes, in					
9	violation of 29 U.S.C. § 1823(a);					
10	k. Housing Plaintiffs without first securing the certification					
11	required by 29 U.S.C. § 1823(b); and					
12	1. Discriminating against and intimidating Plaintiffs for voicing					
13	complaints about their working conditions, in violation of 29					
14	U.S.C. § 1855(a).					
15	62. As a result, Plaintiffs suffered damages.					
16	63. Defendants are jointly and severally liable to Plaintiffs for these					
17	violations of their rights under federal law.					
18	THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF					
19	FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGE AND OVERTIME (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194, 1194.2,1197, and 1198)  (Defendant Pure Forest)					
20	(Dejendani i dre Poresi)					
21	64. Plaintiffs repeat and re-allege the allegations contained in paragraphs 1					
22	through 63 of this complaint as if fully set forth herein.					
23	65. By virtue of defendant Pure Forest's unlawful failure and refusal to					
24	pay Plaintiffs wages in the amount and at the time due as required by law, Plaintiffs					
25	have suffered damages in amounts to be proven at trial, and are entitled to all					
26	appropriate penalties provided by the Labor Code and the Industrial Welfare					
27	Commission ("IWC") Wage Orders, including liquidated damages.					
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# FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGE AND OVERTIME (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1197.1)

(All Defendants)

- Plaintiffs repeat and re-allege the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 66. through 65 of this complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 67. By virtue of defendants' unlawful failure and refusal to pay Plaintiffs' wages in the amount and at the time due as required by law, Plaintiffs have suffered damages in amounts to be proven at trial, and are entitled to all appropriate penalties provided by the Labor Code and the Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") Wage Orders, including penalties of \$100 for each Plaintiff for the initial violation and an additional \$250 for each Plaintiff for each subsequent pay period for which Plaintiffs were underpaid under California Labor Code § 1197.1(a).

#### FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF FAILURE TO PROVIDE MEAL BREAKS AND REST BREAKS (Cal. Lab. Code § 226.7)

(Defendant Pure Forest)

- 68. Plaintiffs repeat and re-allege the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 67 of this complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 69. Defendant Pure Forest routinely and repeatedly refused to provide Plaintiffs with adequate meal periods, and to authorize or permit Plaintiffs to take rest period, in violation of California Labor Code § 226.7 and applicable IWC Wage Orders.
- 70. By virtue of its unlawful refusal to allow Plaintiffs meal and rest periods, to which they were entitled to by law, defendant Pure Forest is liable to Plaintiffs for statutory damages in an amount equal to one hour of wages for each day that an adequate rest period was not authorized or permitted, and one hour of wages for each day that an adequate meal period was not provided, in amounts to be proven at trial.

### SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF FRAUDULENT MISREPRESENTATION

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- 71. Plaintiffs repeat and re-allege the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 70 of this complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- Defendants committed fraud by representing, either directly or through 72. their agents, to Plaintiffs that they would be paid \$16.47 per hour and work 40 hours per week. Defendants falsely represented to Plaintiffs that they would not need to pay for their transportation to California or their visa expenses. Further, defendants falsely represented to Plaintiffs that they would have a decent place to sleep and would not need to pay for food.
- 73. When defendants made these representations to Plaintiffs, defendants knew these representations to be false.
- 74. Defendants made these representations in order to induce Plaintiffs to travel to the United States and to perform labor for defendants.
  - 75. Plaintiffs relied on defendants' representations to their detriment.
- 76. Plaintiffs were justified in their reliance on defendants' fraudulent representations.
- 77. Plaintiffs are entitled to monetary damages in an amount equivalent to double the detriment they suffered by relying upon defendants' fraudulent representations.

# SEVENTH CLAIM FOR R NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION

(Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1709, 1710) (All Defendants)

- 78. Plaintiffs repeat and re-allege the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 77 of this complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 79. Defendants made false representations, either directly or through their agents, to Plaintiffs about the circumstances of their employment in the United States, including, but not limited to, making false representations about the amount

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86. The California Labor Code imposes duties on employers, including the

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duty to "do every other thing reasonably necessary to protect the life, safety, and health of employees." Cal. Lab. Code § 6401.

- By virtue of the relationship described above and defendants' position 87. as Plaintiffs' employers, their duty of reasonable care towards Plaintiffs under the circumstances included but was not limited to: 1) a duty to provide a work environment free of intimidation, threats, and fear; 2) a duty to provide reasonable accommodations and a safe working and living environment; 3) a duty of reasonable care under the circumstances to protect Plaintiffs' emotional state; 4) a duty of reasonable care under the circumstances to protect Plaintiffs' physical wellbeing; and 5) a duty to ensure Plaintiffs were informed of their rights as employees under the laws of the United States and the State of California. On the basis of the facts alleged in this complaint, defendants assumed a duty to care to Plaintiffs beyond that owed to the public in general, including but not limited to the duties listed above.
- 88. Defendants breached these duties owed to Plaintiffs by the acts and omissions alleged in this complaint, including but not limited to: subjecting Plaintiffs to threats of death and verbal abuse; failure to allow Plaintiffs one day's rest in seven; and failure to allow or provide Plaintiffs means to leave the premises unaccompanied or contact the outside world.
- 89. As a direct and proximate cause of defendants' breach of their duty of reasonable care under these circumstances, Plaintiffs have suffered financial harm, serious emotional distress, and other injuries.

# NINTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF (*All Defendants*)

- Plaintiffs repeat and re-allege the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 90. through 89 of this complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 91. Defendants collectively entered into contracts with Plaintiffs and each party's acceptance was supported by good and valuable consideration.

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100. By laboring for Pure Forest, Plaintiffs provided benefits to defendants.

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101. Plaintiffs expected to be compensated for the labor they provided to defendants. Defendants' unjust failure to pay Plaintiffs prevailing wages for the

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1	labor performed constituted a distinct detriment to the Plaintiffs.
2	102. Accordingly, Plaintiffs are entitled to money damages equal to the
3	reasonable value of the labor provided to defendants.
4	TWELFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
5	INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS (All Defendants)
6	103. Plaintiffs repeat and re-allege the allegations contained in paragraphs 1
7	through 102 of this complaint as if fully set forth herein.
8	104. Defendants intentionally engaged in extreme and outrageous conduct
9	that they knew would cause severe emotional distress for the Plaintiffs or acted in
0	reckless disregard of the probability that Plaintiffs would suffer emotional distress.
1	105. Defendants' conduct, either directly or through their agents, which
2	intentionally inflicted emotional distress included, but is not limited to, the use of
.3	coercion (including threats of physical harm) to force Plaintiffs to perform manual
4	labor; the withholding of legal documents; the refusal to provide prompt medical
5	treatment when needed; the refusal to pay contractually defined wages; the failure
6	to identify and remedy workplace violations of federal and state laws; and the
7	consistent verbal intimidation and abuse.
8	106. Plaintiffs suffered severe emotion distress that included emotional
9	reactions such as fear, humiliation, anger, worry, helplessness, and powerlessness.
20	This distress was caused by defendants' intentional acts.
21	107. Further, defendants intentionally engaged in conduct that was
22	malicious, oppressive, despicable, and performed with a reckless indifference to the
23	interests of Plaintiffs.
24	108. Plaintiffs are entitled to monetary relief for both compensatory and
25	punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial.
26 27	THIRTEENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS (All Defendants)
28	109. Plaintiffs repeat and re-allege the allegations contained in paragraphs 1

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118. Plaintiffs repeat and re-allege the allegations contained in paragraphs 1

Forced Labor, 18 U.S.C. § 1589 (All Defendants)

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1	through 117 of this complaint as if fully set forth herein.							
2	119. This claim is brought under 18 U.S.C. § 1595 of the Trafficking							
3	Victims Protection Act.							
4	120. Defendants subjected Plaintiffs to forced labor in violation of 18							
5	U.S.C. § 1589.							
6	121. Defendants, either directly or through their agents, subjected Plaintiffs							
7	to intense psychological and verbal abuse, which was designed to coerce Plaintiffs							
8	into believing that they would suffer serious harm if they were to leave the employ							
9	of defendants in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1589(2).							
10	122. Defendants, either directly or through their agents, closely controlled							
11	and monitored the movements of Plaintiffs in such a way that made Plaintiffs							
12	believed they were physically restrained from leaving the employ of defendants in							
13	violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1589.							
14	123. Defendants confiscated Plaintiffs John Doe III and John Doe IV's							
15	passports in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1592.							
16	124. Plaintiffs are entitled to compensatory damages, punitive damages, and							
17	restitution in an amount to be determined at trial and any other relief deemed							
18	appropriate.							
19	FIFTHTEENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF							
20	TVPA Human Trafficking, 18 U.S.C. § 1590							
21	(All Defendants)							
22	125. Plaintiffs repeat and re-allege the allegations contained in paragraphs 1							
23	through 124 of this complaint as if fully set forth herein.							
24	126. This claim is brought under 18 U.S.C. § 1595 of the Trafficking							
25	Victims Protection Act.							
26	127. Defendants recruited Plaintiffs for the purpose of subjecting them to							
27	forced labor in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1590.							
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128. Defendants recruited Plaintiffs in Mexico with the intention of subjecting them to forced labor. Plaintiffs were told that they would be working in deforestation in California for \$16.47 per hour for 40 hours per week. Instead, they were forced to work many more hours each week for very little pay.

129. Plaintiffs are entitled to compensatory damages, punitive damages, and restitution in an amount to be determined at trial and any other relief deemed appropriate.

# SIXTEENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF CALIFORNIA TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT ("CTVPA") Cal. Civ. Code § 52.5 (All Defendants)

- 130. Plaintiffs repeat and re-allege allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 129 of this complaint as if fully set forth herein.
  - 131. This claim is brought under California Civil Code § 52.5.
- 132. Defendants subjected Plaintiffs to forced labor in violation of California Penal Code § 236.1.
- 133. Defendants conspired to and used fraud and/or deceit to contract with Plaintiffs for their employment and to bring them to the United States. Defendants then conspired to and used threats, duress, intimidation, fraud, deceit and/or coercion to overbear Plaintiffs' will, to deprive them of personal liberty by keeping them secluded in a desolate place with no way of contacting their families, and to force them to work for very little wages.
- 134. Through such actions, defendants, acting individually and in concert, and with malice, oppression, fraud and/or duress, conspired to and did subject Plaintiffs to a situation of human trafficking.
- 135. As a direct and proximate result of these actions, Plaintiffs have sustained damages, including mental suffering, humiliation, emotional distress, economic losses and physical injuries.
  - 136. Plaintiffs are entitled to actual damages, compensatory damages, and

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143. Defendants aided and abetted the imposition of involuntary servitude and/or forced labor by directing, ordering, conspiring to commit, or aiding the imposition of involuntary servitude and/or forced labor.

144. Plaintiffs are entitled to compensatory and punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial and any other relief deemed appropriate.

# EIGHTEENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF ALIEN TORT CLAIMS ACT, 28 U.S.C. § 1350 Human Trafficking (All Defendants)

- 145. Plaintiffs repeat and re-allege the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 144 of this complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 146. This Court has jurisdiction over this violation of international law pursuant to the Alien Tort Claims Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1350.
- 147. Defendants engaged in human trafficking, which is a violation of the law of nations and customary international law as reflected, expressed, and defined in multilateral treaties and other international instruments, international and domestic judicial decisions, and other authorities.
- 148. The U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, of which the United States became a signatory in 2000, defines human trafficking as:

[T]he recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.

Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Crime, G.A. Res. 55/25, Annex II, U.N. GAOR, 55th Sess., U.N. Doc. A/Res/55/25 at 32 (Jan. 8, 2001).

149. Defendants, either directly or through their agents, engaged in acts including, but not limited to the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of Plaintiffs. These acts were conducted through the use of force, the threat

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- b) committed mail and wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1341 and 1343, respectively, by sending fraudulent visa applications to U.S. DOL and U.S. CIS;
- c) threatened physical violence, either directly or through their agents, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1951; and
- d) robbed and/or extorted Plaintiffs of their property in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1951.
- 162. Each RICO I Defendant possessed knowledge of the general nature and contours of the criminal worker exploitation scheme.
- 163. Each RICO I Defendant possessed knowledge that the conspiracy extended beyond their individual roles.
- 164. Each RICO I Defendant conspired and agreed to further the criminal worker exploitation scheme, which resulted in the commission of the predicate acts described above.
- 165. Each RICO I Defendant shared the same intent as their co-conspirators and had reason to believe that the criminal worker exploitation scheme would lead to the commission of the predicate acts described above.
- 166. The predicate acts of racketeering activity described above constitute a "pattern of racketeering activity" as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 1961(5).
- 167. The predicate acts were related to one another: they were committed against the same individuals (the Plaintiffs) and for the same purposes (furtherance of the criminal worker exploitation scheme and personal profit).
- 168. The predicate acts were related to the enterprise. RICO I Defendants could not successfully conduct or conspire to conduct the criminal worker exploitation scheme without the associations that formed the enterprise.
- 169. Upon information and belief, the racketeering activity took place over the course of multiple years.

- 170. Such acts of racketeering activity have been part of the RICO I Defendants' regular way of doing business through the enterprise, which implies a threat of continued criminal activity.
- 171. Plaintiffs bring suit under 18 U.S.C. § 1964(c) to recover treble damages for injuries sustained by Plaintiffs as a result of the RICO I Defendants' violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c) and (d).

### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court:

- 172. Award Plaintiffs monetary damages for unpaid wages and unpaid overtime plus liquidated damages in an equal amount and interest, as provided by the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), in the amount of \$20,300.00 for each of Does I-III and \$11,000.00 for each of Does IV-V or an amount to be determined at trial;
- 173. Award Plaintiffs, for each violation of AWPA, the amount of his actual damages in the amount of \$20,300.00 for each of Does I-III and \$11,000.00 for each of Does IV-V or an amount to be determined at trial plus interest or up to \$500 in statutory damages, as provided by the AWPA, 29 USC § 1854;
- 174. Award Plaintiffs unpaid wages and overtime wages pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198 and 226.7, in the amount of \$26,200.00 for each of Does I-III and \$14,000.00 for each Does IV-V or in an amount to be determined at trial;
- 175. Award Plaintiffs compensatory damages in the amount of \$100,000 each or in an amount to be determined at trial.
- 176. Award Plaintiffs damages for emotional distress in the amount of \$100,000 each or in an amount to be determined at trial.
- 177. Award treble damages to Plaintiffs for violations of California Civil Code § 52.5(b) and the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 1961 et seq., in an amount to be determined at trial.
  - 178. Award restitution to Plaintiffs pursuant to Mandatory Victim's

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1	Restitution Act (2000) 18 U.S.C. § 3663 in an amount to be determined at trial.						
2	179. Award attorneys' fees and costs to Plaintiffs pursuant to 18 U.S.C §						
3	1964(c) (RICO); 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) (FLSA); California Labor Code §§ 1194,						
4	1194.2, 1197, 1198 and 226.7; 18 U.S.C. § 1595 (TVPA); and California Civil						
5	Code § 52.5 (CTVPA).						
6	180. Issue a permanent injunction barring defendants from contacting						
7	Plaintiffs or their families.						
8	181. Grant such additional and further relief as the Court deems just and						
9	proper.						
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12	Dated:	April 8, 2014	MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP				
13			D. ///Com D. Com				
14			By: /s/ Sean P. Gates SEAN P. GATES				
15			Attorney for Plaintiffs John Doe I, John Doe II, John				
16			Doe II, John Doe II, John Doe III, John Doe IV, and John Doe V				
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JS 44 (Rev. 12/12)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

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

purpose of initiating the civil d	ocket sheet. (SEE INSTRUC	TIONS ON NEXT PAGE O	F THIS FO	RM.)			
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff  (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)  (c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)				DEFENDANT	ΓS		
				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant  (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)  NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.  Attorneys (If Known)			
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	ICTION (Place an "X" in G	ne Box Only)	III. CI	 TIZENSHIP OF	PRINCIPA	AL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plai
□ 1 U.S. Government	☐ 3 Federal Question			(For Diversity Cases Only			and One Box for Defendant) PTF DEF
Plaintiff	(U.S. Government	Not a Party)	Citize	en of This State		Incorporated <i>or</i> Pri of Business In T	incipal Place 🗖 4 🗖 4
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizensh	ip of Parties in Item III)	Citize	en of Another State	<b>2 2</b> 2	Incorporated and P of Business In A	
				en or Subject of a reign Country	<b>3 3</b>	Foreign Nation	□ 6 □ 6
IV. NATURE OF SUIT			T.C		y n.v	WDIIDTOW	OTHER CTATUTES
□ 110 Insurance □ 120 Marine □ 130 Miller Act □ 140 Negotiable Instrument □ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment □ 151 Medicare Act □ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) □ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits □ 160 Stockholders' Suits □ 190 Other Contract □ 195 Contract Product Liability □ 196 Franchise    REAL PROPERTY   □ 210 Land Condemnation □ 220 Foreclosure □ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment □ 245 Tort Product Liability □ 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY  ☐ 310 Airplane ☐ 315 Airplane Product Liability ☐ 320 Assault, Libel &	PERSONAL INJUR    365 Personal Injury - Product Liability   367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability   368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability   368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability   PERSONAL PROPEF   370 Other Fraud   371 Truth in Lending   380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability    PRISONER PETITION   Habeas Corpus:   463 Alien Detainee   510 Motions to Vacate Sentence   530 General   535 Death Penalty Other:   540 Mandamus & Oth   550 Civil Rights   555 Prison Condition   560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of	Y	DRFEITURE/PENALTY 5 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 88 0 Other  LABOR 0 Fair Labor Standards Act 0 Labor/Management Relations 0 Railway Labor Act 1 Family and Medical Leave Act 0 Other Labor Litigation 1 Employee Retirement Income Security Act  IMMIGRATION 2 Naturalization Applicat 5 Other Immigration Actions	422 Appe	RTY RIGHTS vrights nt emark  SECURITY (1395ff) k Lung (923) C/DIWW (405(g)) D Title XVI	OTHER STATUTES  □ 375 False Claims Act □ 400 State Reapportionment □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced an □ Corrupt Organizations □ 480 Consumer Credit □ 490 Cable/Sat TV □ 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange □ 890 Other Statutory Actions □ 891 Agricultural Acts □ 893 Environmental Matters □ 895 Freedom of Information Act □ 896 Arbitration □ 899 Administrative Procedur Act/Review or Appeal o Agency Decision □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
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VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	(See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCKE	ET NUMBER	
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