1	CHRIS BAKER, State Bar No. 181557  ELECTRONICALLY				
2	DEBORAH SCHWARTZ, State Bar No. 208934  FILE D  Superior Court of California,				
3	dschwartz@bakerlp.com  BAKER CURTIS & SCHWARTZ, P.C.  Superior County of San Francisco  11/21/2017				
4	44 Montgomery Street, Suite 3520 San Francisco, CA 94104 Telephone: (415) 433-1064 Fax: (415) 366-2525				
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7 8	Attorneys for Plaintiffs JOHN DOE, DAVID GUDEMAN AND PAOLA CORREA				
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10	SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA				
11	COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO				
12					
13	JOHN DOE, DAVID GUDEMAN, and PAOLA CORREA on behalf of the State of	Case No. CGC-16-556034			
14	California and aggrieved employees,	FIFTH AMENDED COMPLAINT PURSUANT TO THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT			
15	Plaintiff,				
16	vs.	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL			
17	GOOGLE, INC., ALPHABET, INC., ADECCO USA INC., ADECCO GROUP	Dept: 304			
18	NORTH AMERICA and ROES 1 through 10,	Judge Curtis Karnow			
19	Defendants.	Complaint Filed: December 20, 2016 Trial Date: Not Set			
20					
21					
22	<u>IMPORTA</u>	NT NOTES			
23	1. In this Fifth Amended Complaint,	Plaintiffs Doe, Gudeman, and Correa re-allege			
24	the causes of action 1 through 22 that the Court dismissed without leave to amend. Correa also				
25	re-alleges the 23rd cause of action as to Adecco with respect to the GBike and Social Event				
26	Releases that the Court dismissed without leave to amend.				
27	2. Plaintiffs re-plead these causes of	action here as a matter of caution, in order to			
28	preserve without doubt their right to appeal the Court's prior orders in this case, including the				
	FIFTH AMENDED PAGA COMPLAINT				

June 27, 2017 Order, the September 14, 2017, and the November 7, 2017 Order. *See*, *e.g.*, *County of Santa Clara v. Atlantic Richfield Co.* (2006) 137 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 292, 312 ("where the plaintiff chooses to amend, any error in the sustaining of the demurrer is ordinarily waived"); *Miletak v. All State Ins. Co.* (N.D. Cal 2007) 2007 WL 7061350, \*3-5 (stating that "under Ninth Circuit precedent, a plaintiff must re-allege even dismissed causes of action in order to preserve them for appeal."); But see, potentially CCP § 472c(b)(1) (noting that an appeal remains open "to *a cause of action* within a complaint or cross-complaint where the order did not sustain the demurrer as to the entire complaint or cross-complaint," without explaining if this is on a per party basis, and without explaining the impact of a demurrer sustained with leave to amend as to all causes of action but one).

3. Per the Court's November 7, 2017 Order, this amendment expressly adds a cause of action against Adecco with respect to its liability for the harassment release that Adecco requires its employees working at Google to sign.

#### INTRODUCTION AS TO GOOGLE

- 4. Google's motto is "don't be evil." Google's illegal confidentiality agreements, policies, and practices fail this test.
- 5. As a condition of employment, Defendants Google, Inc. and Alphabet, Inc. (collectively "Google" unless the context clearly indicates otherwise) require all of their current and former employees, including supervisors, managers and contingent workers (collectively "Googlers"), to comply with illegal confidentiality agreements, policies, guidelines, and practices. These illegal policies and agreements restrict the Googlers' right to speak, right to work, and right to whistle blow. The policies prohibit Googlers from speaking plainly even internally about illegal conduct or dangerous product defects, because such statements might one day be subject to discovery in litigation or sought by the government. The policies prohibit Googlers from telling a potential employer how much money they make, or what work they performed, when searching for a different job. The policies prohibit Googlers from using or disclosing all of their skills, knowledge, acquaintances, and their overall experience at Google when working for a new employer. The policies prohibit Googlers from speaking to the

government, attorneys, or the press about wrongdoing at Google. The policies even prohibit Googlers from speaking to their spouse or friends about whether they think their boss could do a better job.

- 6. Google's unlawful confidentiality policies are contrary to the California Labor Code, contrary to public policy, and contrary to the interests of the State of California. The unnecessary and inappropriate breadth of the policies are intended to control Google's former and current employees, limit competition, infringe on constitutional rights, and prevent the disclosure and reporting of misconduct. The policies are wrong and illegal.
- 7. This case does not concern Google's trade secrets, consumer privacy, or information that should not be disclosed under the law (such as material non-public information under the securities laws). This case instead concerns Google's use of confidentiality and other agreements and policies for illegal and improper purposes. Google defines essentially everything as "confidential information." However, a publicly-traded company with Google's reach, power, and close ties to the federal government cannot be permitted to declare to its workforce that everything it does and everything that happens from the location of a water cooler to serious violations of the law is "confidential" upon pain of termination and the threat of ruinous litigation.

#### INTRODUCTION AS TO ADECCO

- 8. Defendant Adecco is a staffing firm with thousands of temporary employees that it provides to California-based clients as "contingent workers." In legal parlance, Adecco is the "primary employer" of these employees, and Adecco's clients are the "secondary employers" of these employees. One of Adecco's clients is Google.
- 9. Adecco requires its temporary employees throughout California to agree to a confidentiality agreement, commitment sheet, handbook, policies, and practices that violate the California Labor Code. Adecco requires its temporary employees, throughout California, to abide by these illegal agreements, policies and practices during their employment and forever after.
  - 10. This is against the law.

#### **PARTIES**

#### **Plaintiffs**

- 11. **John Doe** resides in San Francisco. From July 2014 to April 2016, Doe worked as an "L5" Product Manager for Google at one of Alphabet's "other bets" companies called Nest. Even then, he was a high-level employee, only three steps removed from Alphabet CEO Larry Page.
- 12. In April 2016, Doe was unceremoniously terminated from Google after being falsely accused of disclosing certain memes concerning Nest working conditions to the press. He did not.
- 13. Doe uses a pseudonym because he should not be required to self-publish his name, which would then be tied to Google's defamatory statements about him, in order to enforce rights under the Labor Code. Moreover, as the allegations set forth below make clear, Google is extraordinary intolerant of individuals who disclose information about working conditions (which this lawsuit does), and Doe rightfully fears retaliation.
- 14. Doe, as an <u>L5</u> Product Manager, was a supervisory and/or managerial employee of Google outside the coverage of the National Labor Relations Act. Google contends that Doe, as an <u>L5</u> Product Manager, was a supervisory/managerial employee, and it is judicially estopped from claiming otherwise. Moreover, the General Counsel of the NLRB concluded that Doe as an <u>L5</u> Product Manager -- "possesses supervisory authority to promote and that he has effectively promoted an employee with the use of independent judgment," and that he "formulates and effectuates the Employer's policies regarding the production of its products and in so doing he exercises discretion in the interests of the Employer." The General Counsel's final decision in this regard was made on behalf of the Board. It thus extinguishes the Board's primary (as opposed to exclusive) jurisdiction over the circumstances of Doe's termination as an <u>L5</u> Product Manager.
- 15. Regardless, as an L5 Product Manager, Doe was inarguably a managerial/supervisory employee of Google outside the protection of the National Labor Relations Act.

16. Perhaps more importantly, in June 2016, Google reinstated Doe and promoted him to the previously-promised position of an <u>L6</u> Product Manager. He thus became an even higher-level and more important employee of Google. Among other things, Google describes the <u>L6</u> Product Manager role thus:

[L6 Product Manager] owns a coherent portfolio of projects and is accountable for the entire product life cycle and identifying new areas of investment (new projects) for the product. Product decisions are highly complex and have long-term strategic impact on the overall Product Area, affecting all Customer' constituents.

[L6 Product Manager] is the entrepreneurial negotiator for their team. They can identify, negotiate, and secure resources needed for a plan they define. They understand the priorities of their extended team (i.e., their Product/PA) and how to operate effectively within them. They proactively propose trade-offs in resourcing or scope and identify ways for disparate teams to work together to achieve a common goal.

[L6 Product Manager] regularly identifies new product opportunities and is highly adept at building consensus for and support of those ideas. They are a highly effective and respected decision maker on their project portfolio, recognized as a product expert in that area. PM is skilled at working the whole team through complex and controversial decisions quickly but thoughtfully to ensure the right decision is made and the whole team is supportive of and motivated towards that outcome.

- 17. Doe remains employed by Google as an <u>L6</u> Product Manager. It is inarguable that from June 2016 to the present (if not before), Doe was a managerial and/or supervisory employee of Google outside the coverage of the National Labor Relations Act. Among other things, he is inarguably high in the managerial structure, he is aligned with management, he formulates and effectuates Google's policies regarding the production of its products, and he exercises significant discretion. He was and remains subject to the agreements, policies, and practices of Google at issue in this litigation.
- 18. Doe is an "aggrieved employee" under PAGA, which applies to employees, as well as to supervisors and managers outside the coverage of the NLRA.
  - 19. **David Gudeman** resides in South San Francisco. From November 2013 to

December 2016 Gudeman worked for Google as a software engineer. In early December 2016, Google terminated Gudeman's employment, stating that he was "unable to meet expectations for a Software Engineer III." Gudeman disagrees with this claim. Gudeman was not terminated for conduct that is arguably protected or prohibited by the National Labor Relations Act. Gudeman was also not arguably terminated as a consequence of, or in connection with, a labor dispute.

- 20. Gudeman seeks to write a book about Google. However, as a former employee, he remains subject to Google's unlawful confidentiality agreement as well as its unlawful policies and practices (which are incorporated by reference into the confidentiality agreement).
  - 21. Gudeman has no expectation of ever working for Google or Alphabet again.
- 22. Gudeman is an "aggrieved employee" under PAGA. As a former employee who was not terminated in connection with a labor dispute or because of an unfair labor practice, he is inarguably outside the coverage of the NLRA.
- 23. **Paola Correa** resides in San Francisco. Correa was directly employed by Google in 2013 and then again in 2014 as an intern. As part of her termination from Google on those occasions, Google required Correa to sign an "exit certificate" (which is discussed below). On both occasions, Correa separated from Google voluntarily because the internship had ended. Correa did not separate from Google on these occasions because of conduct that is arguably protected or prohibited by the National Labor Relations Act. Correa was not arguably separated from Google on these occasions as a consequence of, or in connection with, a labor dispute.
- 24. In August 2015 Correa began work for Adecco and was assigned to work at Google as a Sales Coordinator and then Inside Sales Specialist. Correa was supervised and directed by both Google and Adecco during this time frame, both of whom acted as her joint employers. On or around July 7, 2016, Google and Adecco required Correa to sign Google's standard confidentiality agreement for contingent workers entitled: "Confidential Information and Invention Assignment Agreement for Non-Employee Workers." This confidentiality agreement is similar to that which Google requires its full-time employees to sign. This agreement also contains the "harassment release" discussed below.
  - 25. Google and Adecco concealed the existence of the July 7, 2016 confidentiality

agreement from Plaintiffs and only produced it to Plaintiffs' counsel on October 5, 2017.

- 26. In December 2016, Adecco and Google terminated Correa. Among other things, Google and Adecco terminated Correa because she is a Latina woman. Defendants also stated it was terminating her employment because she had informed someone outside of Google that she worked for Google (which she did) and for disclosing so-called "confidential information" (which was not confidential) to someone outside of Google. Google and/or Adecco did not terminate the white men who engaged in similar conduct.
- 27. Since her termination, Adecco has steadfastly refused to state why, exactly, Correa was terminated. It refuses to identify who decided to terminate her. The only written document produced by Adecco or Google concerning Correa's termination simply states Correa was "not a good fit."
- 28. Despite Correa's discovery requests, Adecco refuses to produce documents concerning Correa's termination.
- 29. Despite Plaintiffs' Labor Code and discovery requests, Google refuses to produce documents concerning Correa's December 2016 termination, claiming <u>all</u> such documents are "privileged." Google has not produced a privilege log.
- 30. Correa was not terminated for conduct that was arguably protected or prohibited by the National Labor Relations Act. Correa was not arguably terminated as a consequence of, or in connection with, a labor dispute.
- 31. Upon her termination in December 2016, Adecco required Correa to sign an "exit certificate." On information and belief (because this writing has been withheld by Defendants), this exit certificate required Correa to continue to abide by Adecco's and potentially Google's confidentiality agreements, policies, and practices.
- 32. Correa has no expectation of ever working for Google, Alphabet, or Adecco again. Among other things, Google and Alphabet refuse to rehire her ever again.
- 33. Correa is an "aggrieved employee" under PAGA. As a former employee who was not terminated in connection with a labor dispute or because of an unfair labor practice, she is inarguably outside the coverage of the NLRA with respect to Defendants.

#### Google and Alphabet

- 34. Defendant Google, Inc. is headquartered in Silicon Valley. It has offices in San Francisco. Google directly employs, at any given time, approximately 87,000 employees, including managers and supervisors undisputedly outside the jurisdiction of the NLRA. Google also employs an unknown number of contingent workers. On information and belief, there are thousands more former employees who continue to be subject to Google's unlawful agreements and policies. All of these individuals are aggrieved employees under PAGA.
- 35. Defendant Alphabet, Inc. is a publicly-traded corporation headquartered in Silicon Valley. It was founded in 2015 by the founders of Google as a holding company for Google and other companies owned by Alphabet. Alphabet and Google share directors and executives. They also share property. They share procedures and policies. On information and belief, Google and Alphabet exercise common control of labor relations.
- 36. Google and Alphabet constitute either joint employers of all Googlers, or they constitute a single employer or integrated enterprise. Both entities are liable for each of the PAGA violations alleged in this Fourth Amended Complaint (except as to those that are alleged solely against Adecco). Google and Alphabet are also the employers of its contingent workers, including those that are employed by Adecco.

#### Adecco

37. Adecco Group North America and Adecco USA Inc. (collectively "Adecco") are headquartered in Florida. Both employ contingent workers like Correa throughout California.

#### SUMMARY OF LEGAL VIOLATIONS

38. **First**, it is an unlawful business practice in California to require employees to sign, as a condition of employment, a Confidentiality Agreement or policy that restrains trade. California Business & Professions Code § 17200, California Business & Professions Code § 16600, and the Cartwright Act. Google and Adecco's "confidentiality agreements" unlawfully restrain trade because they prevent employees from effectively seeking new work. If they do find new work, these agreements and policies prohibit former employees from using or disclosing information that is not confidential as a matter of law. Among other things, the

agreements and policies prohibits employees from using all of the skills, knowledge, acquaintances, and the overall experience they obtained at Google or Adecco in their new employment. The agreements and policies also restrain the right of former employees to recruit their former colleagues using information that is not confidential as a matter of law.

- 39. Indeed, the Adecco Confidentiality Agreement and policies go even further. They prevent employees from working for an Adecco client without Adecco's permission, approaching an Adecco client about work, or contacting an Adecco client following the end of an assignment.
- 40. **Second,** California Labor Code § 96(k) expressly permits employees to engage in lawful conduct during non-work hours away from their employer's premises. This lawful conduct includes the exercise of constitutional rights such as freedom of speech and freedom to work. California Labor Code § 98.6(b) prohibits an employer from threatening to discharge employees who exercise their constitutional rights and/or engages in lawful conduct during non-work hours.
- 41. Google and Adecco threaten to discharge employees who exercise their constitutional rights by providing information to the press or otherwise exercising their freedom of speech rights under the California and United States Constitutions, as well as their rights under the Labor Code. Google and Adecco also threaten to discharge employees who disclose "confidential information" to prospective employers in furtherance of their right to economic liberty under the California and United States Constitutions. This is a violation of Labor Code § 98.6(b).
- 42. **Third,** in any contract or agreement that governs the use of trade secrets or confidential information, an employer must give employees notice that:
  - a. An individual shall not be held criminally or civilly liable under any Federal or State trade secret law for disclosure of a trade secret that is made in confidence to a Federal, State, or local government official . . . or to an attorney . . . for the purpose of reporting or investigating a suspected violation of the law. And

b. The use and disclosure of a trade secret to an attorney as it relates an anti-retaliation lawsuit is permitted. The trade secret may also be filed with a court in certain circumstances.

Federal Defend Trade Secrets Act § 7(b).

- 43. Google and Adecco do not include the required notices in their confidentiality agreements with employees. Instead, they inform employees that they cannot disclose "confidential information" to <a href="mayone">anyone</a> even to an attorney or the government. This is a violation of the Federal Defend Trade Secrets Act and California's Unfair Competition Law. Cal. Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq*.
- 44. **Fourth,** Rule 21F-17 of the Securities and Exchange Commission provides that "no person may take any action to impede an individual from communicating directly with the Commission staff about a possible securities law violation, including enforcing or threatening to enforce a confidentiality agreement . . . . with respect to such communications." Defendants' confidentiality agreements and policies unlawfully prohibit employees from reporting possible securities law violations to the SEC. This violates SEC Rule 21F-17 and California's Unfair Competition Law. Cal. Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq*.
- 45. **Fifth**, it is against public policy to prohibit current or former employees from providing evidence and information to an attorney representing shareholders about potential violations under the securities laws, as well as to an attorney or the government with respect to violations of state or federal false claims acts. Google's and Adecco's confidentiality agreements and confidentiality policies do just that. This violates California's Unfair Competition Law. Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq*.
- 46. **Sixth**, California Labor Code §§ 232(a) and (b) prohibit employers from requiring, as a condition of employment, that an employee refrain from disclosing the amount of his or her wages. Google's and Adecco's confidentiality policies (including Adecco's employee handbook) prohibit employees from disclosing the amount of their wages. This is a violation of Labor Code §§ 232(a) and (b). In addition to the policies, Adecco's confidentiality agreement also prohibits employees from disclosing information about and the amount of their wages.

- 47. **Seventh,** California Labor Code § 1197.5(k) (formerly Labor Code § 1197.5(j)) states that "an employer shall not prohibit an employee from disclosing the employee's own wages, discussing the wages of others, inquiring about another's wages, or aiding or encouraging any other employee to exercise his or her rights under this section." Google's and Adecco's confidentiality agreements and policies prohibit employees from engaging in any of these acts. This is a violation of Labor Code § 1197.5(j)/(k).
- 48. **Eighth,** California Labor Code § 232.5(a) and (b) prohibits employers from requiring, as a condition of employment, that an employee refrain from disclosing information about the employer's working conditions. Google and Adecco, through their unlawful confidentiality policies (and, where applicable, agreements), prohibit employees from disclosing this information. Indeed, Google and Adecco expressly declare that employment policies and agreements which concern working conditions are "confidential." This is a violation of Labor Code § 232.5.
- 49. **Ninth**, California Labor Code § 1102.5(a) states that an employer "shall not make, adopt, or enforce any rule, regulation or policy preventing an employee from disclosing information to a government or law enforcement agency . . . if the employee has reasonable cause to believe that the information discloses a violation [of the law]." Google's and Adecco's requirement that employees sign illegal confidentiality agreements violate this provision. Google's and Adecco's unlawful confidentiality policies (including the Adecco handbook) also prohibit disclosure of information to the government or a law enforcement agency of potential violations of the law. The agreements and policies thus violate Labor Code § 1102.5(a).
- 50. **Tenth**, California Labor Code § 1102.5(a) also states that an employer shall not make, adopt, or enforce any policy that prevents an employee from disclosing information to a person with authority over the employee, or to an employee who has the authority to investigate, discover, or correct the violation of law, if the employee has reasonable cause to believe that the information discloses a violation of the law. Defendants' unlawful policies restrict employees from reporting violations of the law internally. Googlers are prohibited from

communicating to other Googlers that a Google product may be dangerous or that Google's conduct is illegal. This is another violation of Labor Code § 1102.5(a).

51. **Eleventh**, California law prohibits requiring employees, as a condition of employment, to waive rights or claims. In the relevant time period, Google required all Googlers to agree, as a condition of employment, to waive their statutory rights to bring discrimination, harassment, and other claims. Adecco requires all its employees to agree, as a condition of employment, to waive their statutory rights and claims with respect to their participation in "social events and/or activities" and their use of a "GBike." Adecco also required its employees working at Google as contingent workers to agree to waive their statutory rights to bring discrimination, harassment, and other claims by requiring them to sign the Google harassment release.

#### **FACTS**

#### As to Google and Alphabet

#### **Google's Confidentiality Agreement**

- 52. On July 14, 2014, Google offered Doe a job. In his offer letter, Google stated: "as an employee of Google, it is likely that you will become knowledgeable about confidential, trade secret, and/or proprietary information related to the operations, products, and services of Google and its clients. To protect the interests of both Google and its clients, all employees are required to read and sign the enclosed At-Will Employment, Confidential Information, and Invention Assignment and Arbitration Agreement as a condition of employment with Google." ("The Confidentiality Agreement").
- 53. On October 8, 2013 Google offered Gudeman a job. Gudeman's offer letter contained the same language as Doe's with respect to the obligation to sign the Confidentiality Agreement.
- 54. In the spring of 2013, and again on February 11, 2014, Google offered Correa a job. Correa's offer letters contained the same language as Doe's with respect to the obligation to sign the Confidentiality Agreement. Correa was also required to sign the confidentiality agreement for temporary workers in or around July 2016.

- 55. Like all Googlers, Plaintiffs signed the Confidentiality Agreement. The Agreement defines "confidential information" to mean, "<u>without limitation</u>, any information in any form that relates to Google or Google's business that is not generally known," including "employee data." (Emphasis added).
- 56. The Agreement further requires Googlers, both during and after their employment, to "hold in strictest confidence and take all reasonable precautions to prevent any unauthorized use or disclosure of Google Confidential Information" and to "not (i) use Google information for any purpose other than for the benefit of Google in the scope of [the Googler's] employment, or (ii) disclose Google 'confidential information' to any third party without prior authorization." Moreover, the Agreement requires Googlers to agree that "all Google Confidential Information that [they] use or generate in connection with [their] employment belongs to Google (or third parties identified by Google)."
- 57. Google also makes clear that the failure to abide by its Confidentiality Agreement can lead to draconian results. Googlers must agree, as a condition of their employment, that any "unauthorized use or disclosure of Google 'Confidential Information' during my employment or after my employment may lead to disciplinary action, up to and including termination and/or legal action."
- 58. Google also prohibits employees from delivering to others information that does not even fall within Google's overly-broad definition of "confidential information." Upon termination, Googlers must agree to "not keep, recreate, or deliver to any other person or entity any documents and materials <u>pertaining to [their]</u> work at Google" (whether it is "confidential" under Google's overbroad definition or not).
- 59. The Confidentiality Agreement contains no geographic or time limitation. Rather, it lasts forever, and applies even after Googlers end their employment with Google.
- 60. The Agreement also requires Googlers to abide by Google's 'Confidential' Code of Conduct and all other Google's policies. Separately, Google also requires Googlers to agree, in writing, to its policies and practices throughout the course of their employment.

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Google's Policies, Guidelines and Practices

61. In addition, Google and Adecco's policies, guidelines, practices and enforcement conclusively establish that, according to Google, disclosure of any information pertaining to Google is never warranted and not permitted by law.

#### Google's "Confidential" Code of Conduct Policy

- 62. Google maintains a Code of Conduct policy that is for "internal purposes only." This "confidential' Code of Conduct policy states that "all documents, site pages, and resources that are linked here as well as the document as a whole are considered internal and confidential." Google's "confidential" Code of Conduct policy applies to all Googlers. Google states that the failure to follow the "confidential" Code of Conduct policy "can result in disciplinary action, including termination of employment."
- 63. The "confidential" Code of Conduct policy prohibits Googlers from disclosing "confidential information" [which means everything at Google] without authorization." The internal policy goes further and states that "it's also a bad idea to post your opinions or information about Google on the Internet, even if not confidential, unless you're authorized to do so as part of your job. . . . And never discuss the company with the press unless you've been explicitly authorized to do so by Corporate Communications."
- 64. The "confidential" Code of Conduct policy concludes by stating that Google expects "all Googlers to be guided by both the letter and the spirit of this Code."

#### **Data Classification Guidelines**

- 65. Plaintiffs, like all Googlers, are also subject to Google's Data Classification Guidelines. The Guidelines categorize Google information into three categories: "Need-to-Know," "Confidential," and "Public." A "Data Owner" is responsible for categorizing the information, and, at Google, "no information at Google is public by default."
- 66. Specifically, the Data Classification Guidelines state: "Everything we work on at Google all the data and information we create, details of what we do, how we operate, and our plans for the future is, at a minimum, Confidential. . . . Even if some elements of the information are known outside of Google or have been speculated about in public, it is

considered confidential until the Data Owner explicitly makes it public." Accordingly, <u>even</u> <u>public information is "confidential" at Google</u>. This information includes information about a Googler's compensation, his or her performance, and the persons with whom the Googler works (i.e., "team information").

#### **Employee Communication Policy**

- 67. In addition to requiring Googlers to keep all information about Google "confidential," Google places additional onerous restrictions on Googlers' freedom to speak.
- 68. Google's "Employee Communication Policy" states that if a Googler shares "confidential information" outside the company, they "may be terminated, held personally liable, or subject to prosecution." The policy goes on to state that "even if you didn't intend your personal observation to be public, if you violate your confidentiality obligations by disclosing non-public information outside of Google, you may be subject to legal action."
- 69. The Employee Communication Policy states that the vast majority of Googlers cannot speak about Google <u>at all</u>. Rather, "only authorized Googlers are permitted to talk about the company with the press, members of the investment community, partners, <u>or anyone else outside Google.</u>" Moreover, if an authorized Googler does mention Google outside of work, the Googler is permitted only to cite information from Google's "corporate blogs or social media accounts." Authorized Googlers are also permitted to repeat "approved talking points and metrics at go/keymessages."
- 70. Google not only prohibits employees from speaking about Google, it also prohibits employees from writing creative fiction. Among other things, Google's Employee Communication Policy prohibits employees from writing "a novel about someone working at a tech company in Silicon Valley" unless Google gives prior approval to both the book idea and the final draft.
- 71. In addition, the Employee Communication Policy prohibits Googlers from speaking with the press "without prior clearance from Google's communications team." Google's policy also is to prohibit Googlers from speaking with "any member of the investment community about the company." Because Google is a publicly-traded company, members of the

"investment community" include countless individuals. For example, anyone with a 401(k) plan is potentially a "member of the investment community."

72. Google's "Communications and Disclosure Policy" eliminates any ambiguity that might exist with respect to a Googler's ability to speak with the press or the general public. This policy states: "Our employees and members of our Board of Directors (other than our authorized spokespersons) should not respond, under any circumstances, to inquiries from the investment community [i.e., countless individuals] or the media unless specifically authorized to do so by an authorized spokesperson." Moreover, under Google's "Appropriate Conduct" policy, any speech that potentially "undermines the reputation of Google" can lead to termination of employment.

#### Google's Efforts to Prevent Whistleblowing

- 73. Google engages in a concerted effort to prevent both internal and external whistleblowing, even when employees have a reasonable basis for believing that Google is violating the law. Specifically, Google restricts what Googlers say internally in order to conceal potentially illegal conduct. It instructs employees in its training programs to do the following: "Don't send an e-mail that says 'I think we broke the law' or 'I think we violated this contract."" The training program also advises employees that they should not be candid when speaking with Google's attorneys about dangerous products or violations of the law. The program advises Googlers that some jurisdictions do not recognize the attorney-client privilege, and "[i]nside the U.S., government agencies often pressure companies to waive the privilege." Google advises Googlers that they "should write e-mails with the assumption that somebody outside of Google, who may not be friendly to us, will get to read it."
- 74. Indeed, a second training program entitled "You Said What?" specifically states that Googlers must "avoid communications that conclude, or appear to conclude, that Google or Googlers are acting 'illegally' or 'negligently,' have 'violated the law,' should or would be 'liable' for anything, or otherwise convey legal meaning." It other words, Googlers are prohibited from communicating concerns about illegal conduct within Google.
- 75. As an example, in Google's "You Said What?" training program, Google instructs Googlers to suppress information about dangerous products. Google also specifically advises

Googlers to delete paragraphs from emails that suggest there are serious flaws in Google technology, that Google may be sued, or that there may be product liability damages. Googlers are also instructed to delete written communications that suggest Google might have breached any contracts.

#### **Policies for Former Employees**

- 76. Google's unlawful policies even apply to ex-Googlers. As stated in Google's "Prepare to Leave Google" policy, Googlers "remain under the obligations of the Confidentiality Agreement that [they] signed when [they] joined Google. It is important that you do not retain or disclose any confidential or proprietary Google information including, but not limited to, information related to [Google's] products, business plans, customer lists, financial information, and information related to [the Googler's] work product."
- 77. This policy is further enforced by the "Exit Certification" that Google requires Googlers to sign upon termination. It states that "by signing this note, you further agree that you have followed the terms of the [Confidentiality Agreement]. . . . You agree that in compliance with the Agreement, you will adhere to your obligations to the Company, including those contained in Section 2 (Confidential Information)."

#### Google Vigorously Enforces Its Illegal Confidentiality Policies

78. Google enforces its unlawful policies through, among other things, employee training, internal investigations, a spying program, self-confessions, written and oral warnings, and the threat of termination and litigation.

#### **Employee Training**

- 79. In addition to the training programs set forth above, another training program states: "Let's be clear: Depending on the circumstances, [violating the Code of Conduct] could have significant consequences for you up to, and including, losing your job."
- 80. This program also states: "We share a lot of information at Google. You should treat <u>all information</u> at Google as confidential unless you know that it has been approved for public disclosure."
  - 81. This lesson is emphasized in yet another training program that states: "Google's

confidential information should never be shared outside the Company without proper authorization."

#### Stop Leaks

- 82. Another way Google enforces its illegal confidentiality policies is through its "Global Investigations Team," which is led by Brian Katz. This team's primary area of focus is "information security issues when a Google employee is suspected of being involved." This includes "unauthorized disclosure of 'confidential information' or intellectual property ('leaks')." The Global Investigations Team conducts "interviews with the subjects of investigations, as well as the victims and witnesses." It "provides recommendations regarding discipline for these infractions when requested." The Global Investigations Team also relies on "volunteers" to report other employees who might have disclosed any information about Google.
- 83. Google's Investigations Team is in charge of "Stopleaks," Google's company-wide effort to prevent the disclosure of any information about Google and enforce its illegal policies. According to Google, "non-malicious leaks happen when an employee shares information with an external person they trusted, and other times internal and confidential information is accidentally marked public. If you know you were inadvertently responsible for a leak, let us know quickly by emailing stopleaks@. We understand that mistakes happen!"
- 84. The Stopleaks program is managed through an internal website that includes a Chrome extension to facilitate the reporting of alleged "leaks" on the internet. Employees are required under Google policies to report "leaks" to Stopleaks. A referenced above, a violation of Google's policies can result in termination.
- 85. Under its "Stopleaks" program, after a Googler submits a leak report to the Stopleaks site, Google's "team of Stopleaks super sleuths investigate every leak. . . . The Stopleaks team researches the project/product that was leaked and aims to determine the leak's origin. From here, [the Stopleaks team] often liaise with other cross-functional Google teams that may contribute additional context to the investigation."
- 86. In addition to "leaks," Google also asks Googlers to file "suspicious activity reports," which Google states can include "strange things you observe or strange things that

happen to you – like someone asking you really detailed questions about your project or job."

87. The purpose of Google's "Stopleaks" program is to deter employees from asking questions (even of one another), or disclosing any information about Google in violation of their constitutional and statutory rights.

#### Other Communications and Threats of Termination

- 88. Google also enforces its illegal confidentiality policies with dire warnings and the threat of termination. A Google co-founder has assured Googlers in all hands meetings that anyone who "leaks" "confidential information" will soon be an ex-Googler. Google's attorneys and executives advise Googlers by email and orally that they will be terminated if they disclose "confidential information." Brian Katz assures Googlers by email and otherwise to "[b]e aware of the company information you share and with whom you share it. If you're considering sharing "confidential information" to a reporter or to anyone externally for the love of all that's Googley, please reconsider! Not only could it cost you your job, but it also betrays the values that makes us a community."
- 89. As detailed above, the alleged "values" that Katz and the Investigations Team contend make Google a community violate California law and infringe on Googlers' legal rights.

#### Google's Ineffective "Savings" Provisions

- 90. Google fully aware of the illegality of its Agreement and policies attempts to limit its liability through meaningless "savings" clauses that purport to create partial exceptions to the blanket prohibitions.
- 91. For example, contrary to its "confidential" Code of Conduct Policy, Google's "Employee Communication Policy" states that "[n]othing in this or other Google policies is intended to limit employees' rights to discuss with other employees the terms, wages, and working conditions of their employment, or communicate with a government agency regarding violations of the law, as warranted and as protected by the applicable law." Regardless of Google's alleged "intent," the plain language of the policies is to the contrary. Also, because this savings clause applies only to communications within Google, it is crystal clear that Google affirmatively intends to prohibit communications about wages and working conditions with those

outside Google. Moreover, this savings clause extends only to communications that are both "warranted" and "protected by applicable law." Despite this alleged "exception," Google's policies, training programs, and enforcement mechanisms all instruct employees that the disclosure of "confidential information" is never warranted. These policies, training programs, and enforcement mechanisms also make clear that – at Google – disclosure or use of "confidential information" is not permitted by law. Rather, any "unauthorized" disclosure is prohibited by law, and, as Google repeatedly explains to its workforce, can result in legal action, prosecution, and personal liability.

- 92. In September 2016, in apparent response to Plaintiff's letter to the Labor Workforce and Development Agency concerning Google's violations, and as a tacit admission that its Agreement and policies are illegal, Google quietly made a small amendment to an additional policy in which it purported to broaden Googlers' right to discuss pay, hours, or other terms of employment and to communicate with government agencies regarding violations of the law. Google did not inform Googlers of this amendment.
- 93. On information and belief, Google continues to threaten employees with discharge for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and freedom to work. Google continues to prohibit Googlers from speaking with lawyers or the press. Google continues to insist that Googlers refrain from plainly communicating with others that Google is violating the law or endangering consumers. Google continues to unlawfully restrain trade through its overbroad Confidentiality Agreement and policies.

#### The Secret Releases

#### The Harassment Release

- 94. In addition, and during the time frames relevant here, Google required all Googlers to sign an "Employee and Temporary Workers Adult Content Liability Release." (The "Harassment Release.") Doe, Gudeman, and Correa were all required to sign, and did sign, the Harassment Release. Both Google and Adecco required Correa to sign the harassment release through the July 2016 confidentiality agreement referenced above.
  - 95. Consistent with Google's confidentiality agreements and policies, Google declared 20 -

the Harassment Release a secret, stating in italicized letters near the top of the agreement that it was: "Confidential: For Google Employees and Temporary Workers on Assignment at Google Only."

- 96. The Harassment Release requires Googlers to agree that, during the course of their employment, they "may be exposed to 'sensitive adult content,' such as text, descriptions, graphics, pictures, and/or files commonly referred to as being 'adult' content."
- 97. The Harassment Release then requires all Googlers to "release Google Inc. and its subsidiaries and affiliates from any and all liability associated with having this material present in the work environment, including but not limited to claims of harassment, hostile work environment, and discrimination."
- 98. In other words, and during the relevant time frame, Google secretly required <u>all</u> Googlers to agree to preemptively release it, its subsidiaries, and its affiliates, from "any and all liability" that may in any way be 'associated with' the existence of sexual texts, emails, descriptions, graphics, pictures, or files in Google's workplace.

#### As to Adecco

#### Adecco's Confidentiality and Non-Compete Agreement

- 99. In or around August 2015, Adecco offered Correa employment. She was assigned to work for Google, an Adecco client.
- 100. As a condition of her employment, Adecco required Correa to sign an "Employee Acknowledgement and Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement ("Adecco Agreement"). On information and belief, Adecco requires all employees throughout California to sign the Adecco Agreement.
- 101. The Adecco Agreement declares essentially everything related to Correa's employment with Adecco "confidential." Under the Agreement, so called "confidential information" is "deemed to include <u>but is not limited to</u> information in any format . . . which Adecco and/or Client have not previously made available to the public." The Adecco Agreement does not contain the notice required by the Defend Trade Secrets Act.
  - 102. The Adecco Agreement further requires employees to agree that they "cannot

disseminate or disclose to any third party, or use for Employee's own benefit, any Confidential Information relating to the products, business, or affairs of Adecco or of Client which is in any way acquired during or by reason of Employee's employment with Client."

- 103. Adecco's Agreement also contains an express non-compete provision. It requires employees to agree that "he/she is not to accept any position with any Client or other entity where he/she is performing services as an Adecco employee without the prior written consent of Adecco."
- 104. The Adecco Agreement further requires its contingent workers to comply with the policies and procedures of Adecco and its clients during the course of their employment and forever after it. It states: "Employee agrees that his/her obligations hereunder shall continue beyond the termination of an assignment with a Client and/or termination of employment with Adecco. . . ."
- 105. Both Adecco and its clients have updated their policies within the relevant limitations periods, and have thus updated Correa's agreement.
  - 106. The Adecco Agreement contains no geographic or time limitation.

#### **Adecco Commitment Sheet**

- 107. Adecco also requires its temporary employees throughout California, including Correa, to sign a "Commitment Sheet." Correa signed this Commitment Sheet in August 2015.
- 108. This Commitment Sheet requires Adecco temporary employees to "abide by the policies and procedures contained in the Adecco Employee Handbook.
- 109. The Commitment Sheet also contains a non-disparagement clause that states: "During or after my employment with Adecco or any Client, I will not make any false or defamatory statements about Adecco or its Clients."
- 110. The Commitment Sheet also states that "[f]ailure to comply with these and other company policies and procedures may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination."

#### Adecco's Employee Handbook & Other Policies

111. Adecco also requires its temporary employees to maintain absolute confidentiality - 22 -

through its employee handbook.

- 112. For example, Adecco's employee handbook which sets forth working conditions and wage information is a secret. It states that "the information contained in this Employee Handbook is confidential and proprietary to Adecco. The information is for internal use only and may not be distributed outside of Adecco."
- 113. Adecco's handbook also prohibits its employees from revealing that they work for an Adecco client on their social media profiles. According to Adecco, this includes activity like:
- a. Revealing that you work for an Adecco client (such as on a LinkedIn page).
- b. Identifying yourself as an employee of an Adecco client (even though you are).
  - c. Tagging or referencing clients in status updates.
  - d. "Blogging" about clients (in any way).
- 114. In addition, Adecco prohibits its employees from sharing any so-called "sensitive information" related to work. This includes any "internal communications" or even the "identities of coworkers" or "disagreements or arguments with others."
- 115. The handbook also prohibits employees from "approach[ing] a client about full time employment." Rather, if an Adecco temporary employee has an interest in full time employment with a client, it must "let [your] Adecco representative know." Indeed, even after they leave a client's employ, Adecco's temporary employees "are prohibited from contacting Adecco's clients regarding the reasons for the assignment's completion."
- 116. Finally, the handbook makes clear that the failure to abide by Adecco or a client's policies and procedures including Adecco's "no contact policy" with respect to clients may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

#### The "Social Event Release"

117. Adecco also requires its employees to sign two additional releases as a condition of working for Google. Correa, as an Adecco employee, signed these releases in August of 2015.

- 118. Adecco's "Social Event Release" acknowledges that Adecco employees "may be invited to attend social events, activities, and/or functions hosted or promoted by Adecco and/or its Clients (in this case Google). This is true, and many of these events, activities, and functions occurred at Google or close to Google. Contingent workers are actively encouraged to participate in these events, activities, and functions.
- 119. Adecco requires Adecco employees to preemptively waive all rights they might have against Adecco or Google for anything "resulting from, caused by or arising out of participation in such social events, activities, and/or functions." Specifically, the release states:

I hereby waive any and all legal and/or equitable rights or claims that I may have to bring legal action against Adecco and/or its Clients for damages, costs, expenses or any of them incurred on account of any injury, illness, and/or death resulting from, caused by or arising out of participation in such social events, activities, or functions. Further, I release Adecco and/or its Clients from any and all claims, demands, actions, causes of action, damages, liabilities, judgments, costs, and expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees and court costs, of every kind and nature whatsoever incurred by me on account of any injury, illness and/or death resulting from, caused by, or arising out of participation in such social events, activities and/or functions whether caused by negligence or otherwise.

120. In other words, if an Adecco employee is harassed by her boss at a social event, she cannot bring a claim. If she is injured at social event (whether purposefully or otherwise), she cannot bring a claim.

#### "The GBike Release"

121. Finally, Google maintains on its campuses bicycles for Googlers to use (i.e., "GBikes"). The purpose of these bicycles is to permit Googlers to more efficiently travel between buildings on Google campuses in order to save time, thus allowing Googlers to work more efficiently. These bikes are used in the course and scope of employees' employment within the meaning of the workers compensation laws. For example, in California, any injury that occurs on an employer's premises is presumed to arise during the course and scope of an employee's employment.

122. Adecco, however, using language identical to that in its Social Events Waiver, requires its Google-based employees to waive any rights they may have to bring a claim arising from their use of a GBike.

#### The Harassment Release

123. As detailed above, Adecco also requires its employees working as contingent workers at Google to sign a Google confidentiality agreement that also contains the harassment release.

#### **Concealment of Records**

- 124. Plaintiffs' counsel, before filing suit, and as part of its ongoing investigation into this case, requested that Google and Adecco produce the following documents concerning Plaintiffs in accordance with the Labor Code:
- a. A copy of all documents identified in Labor Code § 1198.5 (i.e., a copy of the personnel records that the employer maintains relating to the employee's performance or to any grievance concerning the employee).
- b. A copy of records required to be produced under Labor Code § 226(b) (i.e., a copy of an employees' records "pertaining to their employment").
- c. A copy of all documents required to be produced under Labor Code § 432 (i.e., "if an employee or applicant signs any instrument relating to the obtaining or holding of employment, he shall be given a copy of the instrument upon request.")
- and were required to sign a number of documents as a condition of obtaining or holding employment with Google and Adecco, whether as an applicant or otherwise. Employees are required to "e-sign" these documents on a regular basis as part of training or the periodic review of policies, procedures, or other materials. As noted above, Google also requires its employees to sign "exit certificates" upon leaving Google's employ. Adecco does as well, and required that Correa sign such a document upon her termination.

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#### CAUSES OF ACTION

#### AS TO GOOGLE AND ALPHABET

#### **First Cause of Action**

#### PAGA (with reference to Labor Code § 432.5)

#### Illegal Restraint of Trade - Post-Employment

#### (As to Defendants Google and Alphabet (collectively Google))

- 131. Non-disclosure agreements and policies affect the State of California's interest in promoting commercial competition via the free flow of information. These agreements constitute a restraint on trade.
- 132. Google's confidentiality agreements and policies contain no geographic or time limitation.
- 133. As described above, Google requires employees to agree, in writing, to confidentiality agreements and confidentiality policies that unlawfully restrain trade by prohibiting the use of information that is not confidential as a matter of law. For example, the confidentiality agreements purport to prevent employees from using or disclosing all of the general skills, knowledge, acquaintances, and the overall experience they obtained at Google. The confidentiality agreements also purports to prevent employees from using or disclosing general business practices. The confidentiality agreements also purport to prevent employees from using or disclosing customer information that is readily available to competitors through normal competitive means. The confidentiality agreements and policies prohibit employees from using their knowledge of their own and other employees' working conditions and wages for purposes of competition, as permitted by Labor Code. The confidentiality agreements and policies violate California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200 et seq. through application of California Business & Professions Code § 16600 and the Cartwright Act.
- 134. Google knows or should know that their confidentiality agreements and policies violate the law.
- 135. Accordingly, Google imposes a term and condition of employment on all Googlers that they know are prohibited by law in violation of Labor Code § 432.5.

136. Under the Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA), the penalty for a violation of Labor Code § 432.5 "is one hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per period for the initial violation and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation."

137. Plaintiffs seek from Google and Alphabet separately, on behalf of themselves, the state of California, and all aggrieved employees, PAGA penalties as set forth above for each employee per pay period within the statutory time frame.

#### **Second Cause of Action**

#### PAGA (with reference to Labor Code § 432.5)

#### Illegal Restraint of Trade – Mobility of Employment

#### (As to Defendants Google and Alphabet (collectively Google))

- 138. As described above, Google requires employees to agree in writing to confidentiality agreements and policies that unlawfully restrain trade by prohibiting employees from speaking with prospective employers about information that is not confidential as a matter, about their work at Google, and about their wages and working conditions. Google also requires them to inform prospective employers of Google's restrictions on their employees' freedom to work. This is a violation of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200 *et seq.* (through application of the Business & Professions Code § 16600 and the Cartwright Act) and California Labor Code §§ 232, 232.5 and 1197.5(j)/(k). Google knows or should know that their confidentiality agreements and policies violate the law.
- 139. Accordingly, Google imposes a term and condition of employment on all Googlers that they know are prohibited by law in violation of Labor Code § 432.5.
- 140. Under the Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA), the penalty for a violation of Labor Code § 432.5 "is one hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per period for the initial violation and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation."

141. Plaintiffs seek from Google and Alphabet separately, on behalf of themselves, the State of California, and all aggrieved employees, PAGA penalties as set forth above for each employee per pay period within the statutory time frame.

#### **Third Cause of Action**

#### PAGA (with reference to Labor Code § 432.5)

### Illegal Prohibition on Whistleblowing – Communications with Outside Attorneys (As to Google and Alphabet (collectively Google))

- 142. Google requires employees to agree in writing to confidentiality agreements and confidentiality policies that unlawfully prohibit employees from disclosing to attorneys (whether representing an individual Googler or a lawyer representing shareholders or investigating misconduct) potential violations of the law. Google also refuses to provide the required notices to employees stating that employees are entitled to communicate even trade secrets to outside attorneys. This is a violation of public policy, the federal Defend Trade Secrets Act, and California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200 et seq. Defendants know or should know that their confidentiality agreements and policies violate the law.
- 143. Accordingly, Defendants impose a term and condition of employment on all Googlers that it knows is prohibited by law in violation of Labor Code § 432.5.
- 144. Under the Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA), the penalty for a violation of Labor Code § 432.5 "is one hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per period for the initial violation and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation."
- 145. Plaintiffs seeks from Google and Alphabet separately, on behalf of himself, the state of California, and all aggrieved employees, PAGA penalties as set forth above for each employee per pay period within the statutory time frame.

1	Fourth Cause of Action		
2	PAGA (with reference to Labor Code § 432.5)		
3	Illegal Prohibition on Whistleblowing – Communications with the Government		
4	(As to Google and Alphabet (collectively Google))		
5	146. As described above, Google requires employees to agree in writing to		
6	confidentiality agreements and policies that unlawfully prohibit employees from disclosing to the		
7	government potential violations of the law. Google also refuses to provide the required notices		
8	to employees stating they are entitled to communicate even trade secrets to the government. This		
9	is a violation of public policy, Rule 21F-17 of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the		
10	federal Defend Trade Secrets Act, California Business & Professions Code § 17200 et seq., and		
11	California Labor Code § 1102.5. Google is aware that their confidentiality agreements and		
12	policies violate the law.		
13	147. Accordingly, Google impose a term and condition of employment on all Googlers		
14	that they know or should know is prohibited by law in violation of Labor Code § 432.5.		
15	148. Under the Private Attorney General Act, the penalty for a violation of Labor Code		
16	§ 432.5 "is one hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per period for the initial		
17	violation and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each		
18	subsequent violation."		
19	149. Plaintiffs seek from Google and Alphabet separately, on behalf of themselves, the		
20	State of California, and all aggrieved employees, PAGA penalties as set forth above for each		
21	employee per pay period within the statutory time frame.		
22	Fifth Cause of Action		
23	PAGA (with reference to Labor Code § 1102.5(a))		
24	Illegal Prohibition on Whistleblowing – Communications with the Government		
25	(As to Google and Alphabet (collectively Google))		
26	150. As described above, Google has adopted and enforced agreements, policies and		
27	practices that prohibit employees from disclosing potential violations of the law to the		
28	government. These policies apply even when a Googler has reasonable cause to believe that the		

FIFTH AMENDED PAGA COMPLAINT

at-issue information discloses a violation of state or federal statute, or a violation of or noncompliance with a local, state, or federal rule or regulation. This is a violation of California Labor Code § 1102.5.

- 151. Under the Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA), the penalty for a violation of Labor Code § 1102.5 is both \$10,000 per violation and "one hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per period for the initial violation and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation."
- 152. Plaintiffs seeks from Google and Alphabet separately, on behalf of themselves, the State of California, and all aggrieved employees, PAGA penalties as set forth above for each employee per pay period within the statutory time frame.

#### **Sixth Cause of Action**

#### PAGA (with reference to Labor Code § 1102.5(a))

# Illegal Prohibition on Whistleblowing – Internal Communications (As to Google and Alphabet (collectively Google))

- 153. As described above, Google has adopted and enforced policies and practices that prohibit employees from disclosing potential violations of the law within Google. These policies apply even when a Googler has reasonable cause to believe that the at-issue information discloses a violation of state or federal statute, or a violation of or noncompliance with a local, state, or federal rule or regulation. Specifically, Googlers are instructed to <u>not</u> communicate with their managers and others about misconduct that may violate the law. Such communications must instead be deleted or never made. This is a violation of California Labor Code § 1102.5.
- 154. Under the Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA), the penalty for a violation of Labor Code § 1102.5 is both \$10,000 per violation and "one hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per period for the initial violation and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation."
- 155. Plaintiffs seek from Google and Alphabet separately, on behalf of themselves, the state of California, and all aggrieved employees, PAGA penalties as set forth above for each employee per pay period within the statutory time frame.

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#### **Seventh Cause of Action**

#### PAGA (with reference to Labor Code § 232.5)

#### Illegal Prohibition on Whistleblowing about Working Conditions

(As to Google and Alphabet (collectively Google))

- 156. As described above, Google requires employees, as a condition of employment, to refrain from disclosing information about Google's working conditions. This includes disclosure or whistleblowing concerning potentially illegal working conditions, such as unsafe or discriminatory employment practices. This is a violation of California Labor Code §§ 232.5(a) and (b).
- 157. Under the Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA), the penalty for a violation of Labor Code § 232.5 is "one hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per period for the initial violation and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation."
- 158. Plaintiffs seeks from Google and Alphabet separately, on behalf of themselves, the State of California, and all aggrieved employees, PAGA penalties as set forth above for each employee per pay period within the statutory time frame.

#### **Eighth Cause of Action**

#### PAGA (with reference to Labor Code § 232.5)

### Illegal Prohibition on Disclosure of Working Conditions in General (As to Google and Alphabet (collectively Google))

- 159. As described above, Google requires employees, as a condition of employment, to refrain from disclosing information about Google's and/or Adecco's working conditions. This is a violation of California Labor Code §§ 232.5(a) and (b).
- 160. Under the Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA), the penalty for a violation of Labor Code § 232.5 is "one hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per period for the initial violation and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation."

1	161. Plaintiffs seek from Google and Alphabet separately, on behalf of themselves, the		
2	State of California, and all of the aggrieved employees, PAGA penalties as set forth above for		
3	each employee per pay period within the statutory time frame.		
4	Ninth Cause of Action		
5	PAGA (with reference to Labor Code § 232)		
6	Illegal Prohibition on Whistleblowing about Wages		
7	(As to Google and Alphabet (collectively Google))		
8	162. As described above, Google requires employees, as a condition of employment, to		
9	refrain from disclosing information about the amount of his or her wages. This includes		
10	whistleblowing or the disclosure of information about Google's failure to pay appropriate		
11	amounts of overtime and other wages in accordance with the law. This is a violation of		
12	California Labor Code §§ 232(a) and (b).		
13	163. Under the Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA), the penalty for a violation of		
14	Labor Code § 232 is "one hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per period for the		
15	initial violation and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for		
16	each subsequent violation."		
17	164. Plaintiffs seeks from Google and Alphabet separately, on behalf of themselves,		
18	the State of California, and all of the aggrieved employees, PAGA penalties as set forth above		
19	for each employee per pay period within the statutory time frame.		
20	Tenth Cause of Action		
21	PAGA (with reference to Labor Code § 232)		
22	Illegal Prohibition on the Disclosure of Wages in General		
23	(As to Google and Alphabet (collectively Google))		
24	165. As described above, Google requires employees, as a condition of employment, to		
25	refrain from disclosing information about the amount of his or her wages in general. This is a		
26	violation of California Labor Code §§ 232(a) and (b).		
27	166. Under the Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA), the penalty for a violation of		
28	Labor Code § 232 is "one hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per period for the		

FIFTH AMENDED PAGA COMPLAINT

177. Plaintiffs seek from Google and Alphabet separately, on behalf of themselves, the state of California, and all of Google's aggrieved employees, PAGA penalties as set forth above for each employee per pay period within the statutory time frame.

#### **Fourteenth Cause of Action**

#### PAGA (with reference to Labor Code § 96(k))

#### Illegal Prohibition on Engaging in Lawful Conduct during Non-Work Hours

- 178. As described above, Google prohibits employees from engaging in lawful conduct during non-work hours. This lawful conduct includes the exercise of constitutional rights such as freedom of speech, freedom to speak the press, and economic liberty under both the California and federal constitutions. The lawful conduct also includes engaging in conduct protected by the Labor Code with respect to disclosing information about wages and working conditions and illegal conduct.
- 179. Under the Private Attorneys General Act, the penalty for a violation of Labor Code § 96(k) is "one hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per period for the initial violation and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation."
- 180. Plaintiffs seek from Google and Alphabet separately, on behalf of themselves, the state of California, and all aggrieved employees, PAGA penalties as set forth above for each employee per pay period within the statutory time frame.

#### **Fifteenth Cause of Action**

#### PAGA (with reference to Labor Code § 232.5)

#### (Regarding Working Conditions Set Forth in Policies)

#### (As to Google and Alphabet (collectively Google))

181. As described above, Google prohibits disclosing information about their working conditions by declaring its workplace policies "confidential" and "for internal use only." Indeed, and notwithstanding its inadequate cure efforts, Google even declares its Harassment Release "confidential." This is a violation of Labor Code §§ 232.5(a) and (b).

- a. Disclosing wage information for the purpose of seeking new work or negotiating a higher salary on an individual basis both during and following employment.
- c. Disclosing wage information post-employment for the purpose of recruiting employees from their former employer.
- b. Disclosing wage information for the purpose of whistleblowing to an attorney or to the government about illegal wage and hour practices.
- d. Disclosing wage information for other reasons having nothing to do with the National Labor Relations Act, including (but not limited to) assuring worried parents that they can afford to pay the rent.
- 191. None of the above examples evidences conduct that is arguably protected or prohibited by the National Labor Relations Act.
- 192. Plaintiff disputes that the Court's "crucial element" test for *Garmon* preemption is the correct one. Nevertheless, the Court can resolve whether Adecco's agreements and policies have the impact referenced above (whether in whole or in part), and thus violate Labor Code § 232.5, without deciding a "crucial element" of a claim arguably within the jurisdiction of the NLRB: I.e., whether the agreements or policies restrict current employees in the exercise of their § 7 rights under the National Labor Relations Act.
- 193. Plaintiff Correa thus seeks from Adecco, on behalf of herself, the state of California, and all of the aggrieved employees, PAGA penalties for each employee currently or formerly employed by Adecco in California, per pay period, within the statutory time frame.

#### **Nineteenth Cause of Action**

#### PAGA (with reference to Labor Code §§ 232.5)

#### (As To Adecco)

194. As described above, Adecco prohibits aggrieved employees, including Correa, throughout California from disclosing information about their working conditions to anyone. Among other things, Adecco's confidentiality agreements and policies prohibit current and former employees from, among other things:

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throughout California from reporting reasonably suspected violations of the law to the

As described above, Adecco prohibits aggrieved employees, including Correa,

- 41 -FIFTH AMENDED PAGA COMPLAINT

- 204. None of the above examples evidences conduct that is arguably protected or prohibited by the National Labor Relations Act.
- 205. Plaintiff disputes that the Court's "crucial element" test for *Garmon* preemption is the correct one. Nevertheless, the Court can resolve whether Adecco's writings have the impact referenced above (whether in whole or in part), and thus violate Labor Code § 432.5 without deciding a "crucial element" of a claim arguably within the jurisdiction of the NLRB: I.e., whether the agreements or policies restrict current employees in the exercise of their § 7 rights under the National Labor Relations Act.
- 206. Plaintiff Correa thus seeks from Adecco, on behalf of herself, the state of California, and all of the aggrieved employees, PAGA penalties for each employee also currently or formerly employed by Adecco in California, per pay period, within the statutory time frame.

#### **Twenty-Second Cause of Action**

## Unfair Competition - Business & Professions Code § 17200 (As To Adecco)

- 207. As described above, Adecco's agreements, policies, and practices with respect to its California-based temporary employees violate numerous laws and constitute unfair and unlawful business practices in violation of California Business & Professions Code § 17200 et seq.
  - 208. Plaintiff Correa remains subject to Adecco's unlawful agreements.
- 209. Plaintiff Correa seeks a public injunction against Adecco prohibiting it from enforcing its confidentiality agreement and other writings to the extent they are unlawful.
- 210. Plaintiff Correa further seeks an affirmative public injunction in which Adecco is required to inform all its former and current employees that it will not enforce its confidentiality agreements or other writings and that these former and current employees are permitted to (among other things):
  - a. Work for an Adecco client without seeking Adecco's permission.
- b. Approach an Adecco client about full time work without notifying
   Adecco.

FIFTH AMENDED PAGA COMPLAINT

FIFTH AMENDED PAGA COMPLAINT

1	PRAYER FOR RELIEF		
2	WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against Defendants as follows:		
3	1. Full and complete civil penalties for each separate violation of PAGA in		
4	accordanc	accordance with the Private Attorneys General Act.	
5	2.	Attorneys' fees and costs under	PAGA, CCP § 1021.5, or any other applicable
6	law or do	ctrine.	
7	3.	Interest on penalties.	
8	4.	A public injunction.	
9	5.	All other relief the Court deems	proper and just.
10			
11	Dated: N	November 21, 2017	BAKER CURTIS & SCHWARTZ, P.C.
12			By:
13			Chris Baker
14			Attorneys for Plaintiffs JOHN DOE, DAVID GUDEMAN
15			AND PAOLA CORREA
16			
17		JURY TRIA	L DEMANDED
18	Pla	aintiffs hereby demand a trial by jury.	
19	Dated: N	Tovember 21, 2017	BAKER CURTIS & SCHWARTZ, P.C.
20	Batea. 1	0 veinoer 21, 2017	DARLINEON TIS & SCHWANTZ, F.C.
21			By:
22			Chris Baker Attorneys for Plaintiffs
23			JOHN ĎOE, DAVID GUDEMAN AND PAOLA CORREA
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