1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	JAMES M. FINBERG (SBN 114850) EVE CERVANTEZ (SBN 164709) Altshuler Berzon LLP 177 Post Street, Suite 300 San Francisco, California 94108 Telephone: (415) 421-7151 Facsimile: (415) 362-8064 jfinberg@altber.com ecervantez@altber.com  JOSEPH M. SELLERS PHOEBE M. WOLFE (Will apply for Pro Hac Vice admission) Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC 1100 New York Ave NW, Fifth Floor Washington, D.C. 20005 Telephone: (202) 408-4600 Facsimile: (202) 408-4699 jsellers@cohenmilstein.com		
10	pwolfe@cohenmilstein.com		
11	[Additional attorneys listed on next page]		
12			
13 14	Attorneys for Plaintiffs JUSTINA JONG and AMINA SALGADO, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated		
15	·	THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
16	COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO		
17			
18	JUSTINA JONG and AMINA SALGADO individually and on behalf of all others	Case No.:	
19	similarly situated,	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT	
	Plaintiffs,	1. Violation of California Equal Pay Act, as amended (Labor Code §§ 1197.5, 1194.5)	
20	V.	2. Violations of the Fair Employment and Housing Act, as amended (Government Code)	
21	APPLE INC.,	12900 et seq.)	
22	Defendant.	3. Unfair and Unlawful Business Practices (Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 et seq.)	
23		4. Failure to Pay All Wages Due to Discharged and Quitting Employees (Labor Code §§ 201-	
24		203, 1194.5) 5. Declaratory Judgment (C.C.P. § 1060 <i>et seq.</i> )	
25		6. Penalties under the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698-	
26		2699.5) 7. Hostile work environment and failure to	
27		accommodate for Plaintiff Jong	
28		JURY TRIAL DEMANDED	

1	ADAM T. KLEIN CHAUNIQUA YOUNG
2	CHAUNIQUA YOUNG (Will apply for Pro Hac Vice admission) Outten & Golden LLP 685 Third Ave, 25 <sup>th</sup> Floor New York, New York 10017 Telephone: (646) 825-9822 atk@outtengolden.com cyoung@outtengolden.com
3	New York, New York 10017
4	atk@outtengolden.com
5	
6	Attorneys for Plaintiffs JUSTINA JONG and AMINA SALGADO on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated
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	COMPLAINT

COMPLAINT

 Plaintiffs Justina Jong and Amina Salgado (collectively "Plaintiffs"), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, allege as follows:

#### **INTRODUCTION**

- 1. Plaintiffs bring this class action on behalf of themselves and on behalf of a class defined as all women employed by Defendant Apple Inc. ("Apple" or "Defendant") in California at any time during the time period beginning four years prior to the filing of this Complaint through the date of trial in this action ("Class Period") in its Engineering, Marketing, and AppleCare divisions ("Covered Positions").
- 2. Throughout the Class Period and throughout California, Apple has discriminated against its female employees by systematically paying them lower wage rates than Apple pays to male employees performing substantially similar work under similar working conditions, in violation of the California Equal Pay Act, Cal. Labor Code § 1197.5, as amended. Apple's failure to pay women and men equal wages for performing substantially similar work is not justified by any lawful reason.
- 3. Prior to the Fall of 2017, Apple asked job applicants for information about their prior pay and used that information to set starting salaries at Apple. That policy or practice led to women being paid less than men for substantially similar work. Apple knew or should have known of this pay disparity, yet took no action to remedy the inequality. Apple's failure to pay female employees the same wage rates paid to male employees for substantially similar work was willful.
- 4. Since at least January 2018, Apple has asked job applicants to provide their pay expectations. Pay expectations are highly correlated with prior pay; studies show that persons asked for pay expectations generally provide a number slightly higher than the pay at their current or last job. Apple's policy or practice of collecting information about pay expectations and using that information to set starting salary has had the effect of perpetuating past pay disparities and paying women less than men performing substantially similar work.
- 5. Additionally, Apple's performance evaluation system is biased against women because for scored categories such as teamwork and leadership, men are rewarded and women are penalized for the same behaviors. Because performance evaluation scores have a relationship to

bonuses, Restricted Stock Units (RSUs), and pay increases at Apple, Apple's biased performance evaluation system has a disparate impact on women.

- 6. Apple also has a policy or practice of selecting individuals who have "talent" and compensating those persons more highly than other employees. Apple's practice of selecting persons with "talent" is biased against women because among persons with similar levels of talent, more men are identified as having talent. This practice has a disparate impact on women, causing them to be paid less than men with similar skills, experience, responsibility, and performance.
- 7. As a result of Apple's discriminatory and unlawful pay policies and/or practices, Plaintiffs and putative Class Members have been denied fair compensation for work performed during the Class Period and are entitled to compensation due, interest thereon, and liquidated damages, plus interest. In addition to monetary relief, Plaintiffs also seek declaratory and injunctive relief. Plaintiffs seek all legal and equitable relief available under the California Equal Pay Act, California Labor Code § 1197.5; the Fair Employment and Housing Act, Government Code § 12900 *et seq.*; California Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.*; and the California Private Attorneys' General Act of 2004, California Labor Code § 2698 *et seq.*

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 8. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter because Defendant is a corporation that maintains its headquarters in California, is licensed to do business in California, regularly conducts business in California, and committed and continues to commit the unlawful acts alleged herein in California.
- 9. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to California Government Code § 12965(c)(3) because the unlawful acts alleged herein occurred and continue to occur in San Francisco County. Cal. Gov't Code § 12965(c)(4); *Brown v. Super. Ct.*, 37 Cal.3d 477, 484-85 (1984).

#### **PARTIES**

10. Plaintiff Justina Jong is a woman who has been employed by Apple in California from approximately June 2013 through the present. Since joining Apple, Ms. Jong has held various

roles on the Worldwide Developer Relations/App Review team within the Retail and Marketing division, including as a Sales Specialist, Mobile Technician, Language Specialist, Team Lead, and Customer/Technical Training Instructor. Ms. Jong, who is bilingual in English and Mandarin, has successfully performed her work in these roles, including leading cross-functional teams that improve the App Review experience for global app developers. When Ms. Jong was hired by Apple, Apple had a policy of asking new hires about their prior salary. Apple offered Ms. Jong essentially the same base salary that she had received at her prior job. Ms. Jong has been paid less at Apple than men performing substantially similar work. Ms. Jong was also sexually harassed by a co-worker at Apple, forced to work in a hostile work environment next to the co-worker who had harassed her, and denied accommodations to be transferred to other teams. Ms. Jong works in Apple's Sunnyvale office.

- and has worked for Apple as an Area Manager in the AppleCare division, the Early Careers

  Program, the Career Services Programs, and Investigation Operations. She is currently working on
  a temporary assignment with the People Team as a Development Manager for the AppleCare
  division. Ms. Salgado was paid less than men performing substantially similar work while
  employed by Apple, about which she complained to Apple a number of times. Apple conducted an
  internal investigation after one of those complaints, but did not raise Ms. Salgado's compensation.

  After Ms. Salgado complained again that she was paid less than men performing substantially
  similar work, Apple retained a third-party firm to conduct an investigation. The third party's
  investigation concluded that, in fact, Ms. Salgado was paid less than men performing substantially
  similar work. As a result of the third-party investigation, in late 2023, Apple increased Ms.
  Salgado's compensation prospectively, but failed and refused to pay Ms. Salgado back pay for the
  years during which she was paid less than men performing substantially similar work. Ms. Salgado
  works remotely for Apple in the Sacramento area, near its Elk Grove office.
- 12. Defendant Apple Inc. is a corporation that develops and sells computer and phonerelated products and services. Apple's headquarters are located at One Apple Parkway in Cupertino, California 95014. Apple also maintains a corporate office building at 235 Second Street

in San Francisco, California 94105. Apple employs over 90,000 people, including over 12,000 women in its Engineering, Marketing, and AppleCare divisions.

#### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 13. Throughout the Class Period and throughout California, Apple has maintained and continues to maintain a centrally determined and uniformly applied policy and/or practice of paying its female employees in Covered Positions less than male employees for substantially similar work, when viewed as a composite of skill, effort, and responsibility, and performed under similar working conditions. Additionally, upon information and belief, Apple systematically paid women lower compensation than men with similar education and experience and assigned women to lower salary levels based (through the Fall of 2017) on women's lower prior pay and later (after the Fall of 2017) women's lower pay expectations (which studies establish are highly correlated with prior pay).
- 14. Throughout the Class Period, all compensation decisions concerning Apple's California employees have been and continue to be subject to approval by Apple's central administrative officers based in its headquarters in Cupertino and its corporate offices in San Francisco. These officers have maintained centralized control over employees' terms and conditions of employment, including, without limitation, hiring, job and location assignment, career progression, promotion, and compensation policies, practices, and procedures. Salary increases are dictated by payroll budgets established by executives in Apple's Cupertino and San Francisco offices and must be approved by central management.
- 15. Throughout the Class Period, Apple's compensation policies and practices have been and continue to be centrally determined and applied in the same manner to all of Apple's employees who report to California offices, whether they work in person or remotely. Officers based in Apple's San Francisco and Cupertino offices maintained these compensation policies or practices that entrenched a wage gap between male and female Apple employees performing substantially similar work.

- 16. Regardless of the California offices to which they report, and whether employees work remotely or in person, Apple employees with the same job titles employed in its Engineering, Marketing, and AppleCare divisions have performed, from the beginning of the Class Period through the present, substantially similar work, when viewed as a composite of skill, effort, and responsibility, and performed under similar working conditions. Throughout the Class Period, Apple has paid women in the Covered Positions, including the two named Plaintiffs, less than men in the same job position and level.
- 17. Apple's reliance on prior pay and pay expectations to set starting salaries caused it to unlawfully fail to pay women equal compensation to men for substantially similar work. Upon information and belief, until late 2017, Apple relied on prior salary (i.e., pay at jobs before an employee started to work for Apple) to set salaries for new hires and to determine the compensation level into which to place each new hire. Apple's use of prior compensation to set starting compensation for its employees perpetuated historic pay disparities between men and women and resulted in men receiving higher starting salaries than women, even when those men and women are hired into the same job position and perform substantially similar work.
- 18. Upon information and belief, since at least January 2018, Apple has asked job applicants to provide their pay expectations. Pay expectations are highly correlated with prior pay; studies show that persons asked for pay expectations generally provide an amount slightly higher than the pay at their current or last job position. Apple's policy or practice of collecting information about pay expectations and using that information to set starting salaries had a disparate impact on women.
- 19. Raises at Apple perpetuate and widen the gender pay gap because they are based on a percentage of the employees' existing Apple base salary—so the longer a woman works at Apple, the larger the gap in compensation she receives compared to similarly situated men, even men performing substantially equal or similar work in the same job position.
- 20. Apple's performance evaluation system is biased against women because for scored categories such as teamwork and leadership, men are rewarded and women are penalized for the same behaviors. Because performance evaluation scores have a relationship to bonuses, RSUs, and

pay increases at Apple, Apple's biased performance evaluation system has a disparate impact on women.

- 21. Apple has a policy or practice of selecting individuals who have "talent" and compensating those persons more highly than other employees. Apple's practice of selecting persons with "talent" is biased against women and has a disparate impact on women, causing them to be paid less than men with similar skills, experience, responsibility, and performance.
- 22. Apple is required to maintain records of the wage rates, job classifications, and other terms and conditions of employment of all employees throughout California as well as employees who work remotely from out of state for whom decisions about their pay are made in California. Accordingly, at all relevant times, Apple has known or should have known of the substantial pay disparities between its female employees in Covered Positions and male employees in Covered Positions performing substantially similar work, yet Apple has taken no action to equalize men and women's pay for equal or substantially similar work. Apple's failure to pay female employees the same compensation paid to male employees for equal or substantially similar work has been and is willful.
- 23. As a result of Apple's unlawful pay policies and/or practices, Plaintiffs and putative Class Members have been denied compensation legally owed to them for work performed during the Class Period and are entitled to wages and other compensation due, interest thereon, and liquidated damages. In addition to damages, Plaintiffs also seek declaratory and injunctive relief.

#### **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

24. Plaintiffs bring their first, second, third, and fifth causes of action on behalf of themselves and on behalf of the following proposed class ("Class"):

All women employed by Apple in California in its Engineering, AppleCare, and Marketing divisions at any time during the time period beginning four years prior to the filing of the Complaint through the date of trial in this action.

25. This action is appropriately suited for a class action because:

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- a. The proposed Class is numerous and ascertainable. The proposed Class includes more than 12,000 current and former female Apple employees in California. Joinder of all Class Members would be impractical.
- b. This action involves questions of law and fact common to Plaintiffs and all Class Members which predominate over any individual issues, including but not limited to: (a) whether Apple has had a systemic policy and/or practice, from the beginning of the Class Period through the present, of paying its female employees at wage rates lower than those paid to its male employees performing substantially similar work, when viewed as a composite of skill, effort, and responsibility, and performed under similar conditions; (b) whether Apple's systemic policy and/or practice of paying its female employees at wage rates lower than those paid to their male counterparts violates the California Equal Pay Act, as amended, Cal. Labor Code § 1197.5; (c) whether Apple's systemic policy and/or practice of paying its female employees at wage rates lower than those paid to their male counterparts was willful; (d) whether Apple had a policy or practice of using prior pay and later pay expectations to set starting salary; (e) whether Apple's policy and practice of using prior pay and later pay expectations to set starting salary had a disparate impact on women; (f) whether Apple's performance evaluation system is biased against women and has disparate impact on women; and (g) whether Apple's policy or practice of paying more compensation to persons whom it selects as having particular "talent" is biased against women and has a disparate impact on women. These common questions of law and fact predominate over any questions affecting only individual Class Members in this action.
- c. Plaintiffs Jong's, and Salgado's claims are typical of putative Class Members' claims because they are women who were employed by Apple in California during the Class Period in one or more of the Covered Positions, and, on information and belief, were paid less than male employees for substantially similar work. They both worked at Apple when Apple had a policy or practice of using prior pay and later pay expectations to set starting salaries. They were both subject to Apple's performance evaluation system. They were both impacted by Apple's policy of paying more compensation to certain employees identified as having "talent," and neither of them were so identified.

- d. Plaintiffs Jong and Salgado are able to fairly and adequately protect the interests of all members of the class because it is in Plaintiffs' best interests to prosecute the claims alleged herein to obtain full compensation due to the Class for all work performed, and to obtain injunctive relief to protect the Class from further discriminatory wage rates going forward. Plaintiffs have selected counsel who have the requisite resources and ability to prosecute this case as a class action and are experienced labor and employment attorneys who have successfully litigated other cases involving similar issues, including in class actions.
- e. This suit is properly maintained as a class action under C.C.P. § 382 because Apple has implemented an unlawful wage rate scheme that is generally applicable to the Class and has adopted policies or practices that have a disparate impact on women, making it appropriate to issue final injunctive relief and corresponding declaratory relief with respect to the Class as a whole. This suit is also properly maintained as a class action because the common questions of law and fact predominate over any questions affecting only individual members of the class. For all these and other reasons, a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy set forth herein.

#### FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Violations of the California Equal Pay Act, as amended Cal. Labor Code §§ 1197.5, 1194.5 (Brought by All Plaintiffs on Behalf of Themselves and the Proposed Class)

- 26. Plaintiffs hereby re-allege and incorporate by reference all allegations in each and every preceding paragraph as if fully set forth herein.
- 27. Throughout the Class Period, Apple has discriminated against Plaintiffs and all Class Members in violation of California Labor Code § 1197.5 by paying its female employees at wage rates less than the wage rates it has paid and pays to its male employees for substantially similar work, when viewed as a composite of skill, effort, and responsibility, and performed under similar working conditions.
- 28. Apple's failure to pay women and men equal wages for performing substantially equal or similar work is not justified by any lawful reason.

- 29. Apple has willfully violated California Labor Code § 1197.5 by intentionally, knowingly, and deliberately paying women less than men for substantially similar work throughout the Class Period.
- 30. As a result of Apple's conduct, violation of California Labor Code § 1197.5, and/or Apple's willful discrimination, Plaintiffs Jong and Salgado and Class Members have suffered and will continue to suffer harm, including but not limited to lost earnings, lost benefits, and other financial loss, as well as non-economic damages.
- 31. Plaintiffs Jong and Salgado and Class Members are therefore entitled to all legal and equitable remedies available under law, including wages due, interest thereon, and liquidated damages.

#### **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

# Discrimination Based on Sex in Violation of FEHA Cal. Gov't Code § 12900 et seq. (Brought by All Plaintiffs on Behalf of Themselves and the Proposed Class)

- 32. Plaintiffs hereby re-allege and incorporate by reference all allegations in each and every preceding paragraph as if fully set forth herein.
- 33. Prior to the Fall of 2017, Apple asked job applicants for information about their prior pay and used that information to set starting salaries at Apple. That policy or practice had a disparate impact on women. Apple knew or should have known of this pay disparity between its female and male employees performing substantially similar work, yet Apple took no action to equalize men and women's pay for substantially similar work. Apple's failure to pay female employees the same wage rates paid to male employees for substantially similar work was willful.
- 34. Since at least January 2018, Apple has asked job applicants to provide their pay expectations. Pay expectations are highly correlated with prior pay; studies show that persons asked for pay expectations generally provide a number slightly higher than the pay at their current or last job position. Apple's policy and practice of collecting information about pay expectations and using that information to set starting salary has had a disparate impact on women.

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35. Apple's performance evaluation system is biased against women. Because performance evaluation scores have a relationship to bonuses, RSUs, and pay increases at Apple, Apple's biased performance evaluation system has a disparate impact on women.

- Apple has a policy or practice of selecting individuals who have "talent" and those persons more highly than other employees. Apple's practice of selecting talent" is biased against women and has disparate impact against women, causing d less than men with similar skills, experience, responsibility, and performance.
- As a result of Apple's discriminatory and unlawful pay policies and/or practices, Class Members have been denied fair wages for all work performed during the and are entitled to wages due, interest thereon, and liquidated damages, plus interest. In addition to damages, Plaintiffs also seek declaratory and injunctive relief enjoining Apple from continuing to pay women less than men for substantially similar work.
- 38. Plaintiffs Jong and Salgado have both filed charges of discrimination with the California Civil Rights Department and have all received Right to Sue letters from the California Civil Rights Department.
- 39. Plaintiffs Jong and Salgado and Class Members are entitled to legal and equitable relief for Apple's violations of the Fair Employment and Housing Act.

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#### THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

**Violations of California's Unfair Competition Law** Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 et seq. (Brought by All Plaintiffs on Behalf of Themselves and the Proposed Class)

- 40. Plaintiffs hereby re-allege and incorporate by reference all allegations in each and every preceding paragraph as if fully set forth herein.
- 41. Apple's policies and/or practices of (a) paying female employees less than male employees for substantially similar work performed, (b) adopting and implementing compensation policies and practices that have a disparate impact on women, and (c) failing to timely pay female employees who are discharged or who quit all wages earned and due constitute business practices

because Apple's acts and omissions as alleged herein have been done repeatedly over a significant period of time, and in a systematic manner, to the detriment of Plaintiffs and Class Members.

- 42. Apple's acts and omissions, as alleged herein, violate the California Equal Pay Act, as amended, Labor Code § 1197.5, the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, and California Labor Code §§ 201, 202, and 203, and therefore constitute unlawful business practices prohibited by Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq*.
- business practices prohibited by Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.* Apple's business practices of (a) paying women less than men for substantially similar work, (b) adopting and implementing compensation policies and practices that have a disparate impact on women, and (c) failing to timely pay female employees who are discharged or who quit all wages earned and due causes harm to Plaintiffs and Class Members that outweighs any reason Apple may have for doing so. Apple's business practices as alleged herein are also immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous, and offensive to the established public policies of ensuring women and men are paid equally for performing substantially similar work, as reflected in both the California Equal Pay Act, Cal. Labor Code § 1197.5, and the federal Equal Pay Act, 29 U.S.C. § 206(d), and of ensuring women are not discriminated against in the workplace, as reflected in both the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, Cal. Gov't Code § 12940 *et seq.*, and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq.*.
- 44. As a result of its unlawful and/or unfair business practices, Apple has reaped and continues to reap unfair and illegal profits at the expense of Plaintiffs and Class Members.

  Accordingly, Apple should be disgorged of its illegal profits, and Plaintiffs and Class Members are entitled to restitution with interest of such ill-gotten profits in an amount according to proof at the time of trial.
- 45. Apple's unlawful and/or unfair business practices entitle Plaintiffs and Class Members to preliminary and permanent injunctive relief and other equitable relief available under law for violations of the Unfair Competition Law.

#### FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Failure to Pay All Wages Due to Discharged and Quitting Employees
Cal. Labor Code §§ 201-203, 1194.5
(On Behalf of Members of the Plaintiff Class who Separated from Apple During the Class
Period)

- 46. Plaintiffs hereby re-allege and incorporate by reference all allegations in each and every preceding paragraph as if fully set forth herein.
- 47. Pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 201, 202, and 203, Apple is required to pay all earned and unpaid wages to an employee who is discharged or quits. California Labor Code § 201 mandates that if an employer discharges an employee, the employee's wages accrued and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately. California Labor Code § 202 mandates that if an employee quits, the employee's wages accrued and unpaid at the time of quitting are due and payable no later than 72 hours after the employee quits his or her employment, unless the employee provided at least 72 hours of notice of his or her intention to quit, in which case the wages are due immediately at the time of quitting. Class Members who separated from Apple during the Class Period were not paid all wages due when they separated from Apple.
- 48. California Labor Code § 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to pay in accordance with California Labor Code §§ 201 and 202 any wages of an employee who is discharged or who quits, the employer is liable for waiting time penalties in the form of continued compensation to the employee at the same rate for up to 30 workdays.
- 49. By paying Class Members lower wages than wages paid to their male counterparts for performing substantially similar work, Apple has willfully failed and continues to fail, in violation of Labor Code §§ 201 and 202, respectively, to pay all accrued wages due to Class Members who have been discharged or who have quit during the class period.
- 50. As a result of Apple's unlawful actions and omissions, former employee Class Members who separated from Apple during the class period are entitled to all available statutory penalties, including the waiting time penalties provided in California Labor Code § 203, together with interest thereon, as well as other available remedies.

#### FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

### Declaratory Judgment Cal. C.C.P. § 1060 et seq.

#### (Brought by All Plaintiffs on Behalf of Themselves and the Proposed Class)

- 51. Plaintiffs hereby re-allege and incorporate by reference all allegations in each and every preceding paragraph as if fully set forth herein.
- 52. An actual controversy has arisen and now exists between the parties relating to the legal rights and duties of the parties as set forth above, for which Plaintiffs desire a declaration of rights and other relief available pursuant to the California Declaratory Judgment Act, C.C.P. § 1060 *et seq.*
- 53. A declaratory judgment is necessary and proper in that Plaintiffs contend that Apple has committed and continues to commit the violations set forth above and, on information and belief, Apple will deny that it has done so and/or will continue to commit such acts.

#### **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

# Representative Action for Civil Penalties Cal. Labor Code §§ 2698-2699.5 Peleof Thomas Lucy All Similarly Acquires

## (Brought by Plaintiffs on Behalf of Themselves, All Similarly Aggrieved Current and Former Apple Employees, and the State)

- 54. Plaintiffs hereby re-allege and incorporate by reference all allegations in each and every preceding paragraph as if fully set forth herein.
- 55. Plaintiffs Jong and Salgado are each an "aggrieved employee" within the meaning of California Labor Code § 2699(c), and are each a proper representative to bring a civil action on behalf of herself and other current and former employees of Apple pursuant to the procedures specified in California Labor Code § 2699.3, because Plaintiffs Jong and Salgado were employed by Apple and the alleged violations of California Labor Code §§ 201-203 and 1197.5 were committed by Apple against them.
- 56. Pursuant to the California Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA"), Labor Code §§ 2698-2699.5, Plaintiffs seek to recover civil penalties in the amount of \$100 for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial violation, and \$200 for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation of California Labor Code § 1197.5 as alleged herein.

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pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699(g)(1).

Plaintiffs are also entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs

58. Pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699.3, Plaintiffs Jong and Salgado gave written notice by online filing with the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and by certified mail to Apple of the specific provisions of the California Labor Code alleged to have been violated, including the facts and theories to support the alleged violations. More than sixty-five (65) calendar days have passed since the postmark date of Plaintiffs' notice letter, and the LWDA has not provided notice to Plaintiffs that it intends to investigate the alleged violations. Plaintiffs have therefore complied with the prerequisites set forth in California Labor Code § 2699.3 for commencing a representative action under PAGA.

#### **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

Cal. Gov. Code §§ 12900, etc.
Fair Employment and Housing Act
(Sexual Harassment, Hostile Work Environment, and Failure to Accommodate on Behalf of
Plaintiff Jong)

- 59. From 2015 through 2022, Ms. Jong was sexually harassed and subjected to a hostile environment.
- 60. In one incident, on or about January 11, 2019, Blaine Weilert, a senior member of the Talent Development Team, touched Ms. Jong's body in a sexually suggestive manner without her consent.
- 61. On or about January 11, 2019, Ms. Jong submitted an internal sexual harassment complaint against Mr. Weilert to Terry Barwegan, then a Manager with the Talent Development team. Approximately two weeks after reporting the incident, Mike Gillaspie, Human Resources Representative, informed Ms. Jong that the investigation had concluded. Mr. Gillaspie claimed that Mr. Weilert had admitted to the actions, displayed remorse for the behavior, and was being disciplined accordingly.
- 62. Nevertheless, Ms. Jong was required to continue to work with Mr. Weilert, which caused her profound emotional distress and mental anguish, including anxiety, depression, insomnia, and PTSD. To try to escape working with Mr. Weilert, she was forced to transfer from

the Talent Development Team to the Content and Communication Team, where she had to take on tasks that she was not hired or trained for and continue to work with Blaine Weilert on different projects.

- 63. In August 2019, Blaine Weilert was promoted to manager of the Talent Development team.
- 64. On or about March 23, 2022, David Foote, a Worldwide Developer Relations/App Review Support Manager at Apple, announced that Blaine Weilert would be sitting adjacent to Ms. Jong in Apple's offices. Working alongside someone who had sexually harassed Ms. Jong and touched her against her will created a hostile work environment. Ms. Jong immediately emailed Mr. Foote requesting not to sit directly next to Mr. Weilert. She explained how the situation exacerbated her disability due to previously being sexually harassed by Mr. Weilert.
- 65. In a video call on or about March 24, 2022, Mr. Foote questioned Ms. Jong's willingness to perform her job and collaborate with Mr. Weilert and the team. He also advised her to be "professional, respectful, and collaborative" in working with him and alongside Mr. Weilert.
- 66. On or about March 25, 2022, Mr. Foote responded to Ms. Jong's email and stated that he would get back to her regarding her request to not sit directly next to Mr. Weilert.
- 67. On March 28, 2022, Ms. Jong was forced to take a medical leave of absence due to the ongoing hostile work environment. After that time, Apple refused to grant Ms. Jong's request to transfer to a different team away from the managers and human resources representatives who supported and promoted Mr. Weilert while refusing to protect or accommodate Ms. Jong.
- 68. When Mr. Weilert left Ms. Jong's old team in May 2023, Ms. Jong rejoined Apple from medical leave and returned to her prior team, but continued to suffer from PTSD from having been sexually harassed when working on that team.
  - 69. As a result of these actions by Apple, Ms. Jong's career at Apple has stalled.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated, respectfully pray for relief against Apple as follows:

- 70. For an order certifying this action as a class action;
- 71. For an order appointing Plaintiffs Jong and Salgado as Class Representatives, and appointing Plaintiffs' counsel as Class Counsel;
- 72. For all wages due pursuant to California Labor Code § 1197.5(h) in an amount to be ascertained at trial;
  - 73. For liquidated damages pursuant to California Labor Code § 1197.5(h);
- 74. For prejudgment interest on unpaid wages at a rate of 10% per annum pursuant to California Labor Code §1197.5(h) and California Civil Code §§ 3287-3288, and/or any other applicable provision providing for prejudgment interest;
- 75. For statutory and civil penalties according to proof, including but not limited to all waiting time penalties authorized by California Labor Code § 203 and all penalties authorized by California Labor Code § 2699(f)(2);
  - 76. For declaratory relief;
- 77. For restitution of all monies due to Plaintiffs and Class Members, as well as disgorgement of Apple's profits from its unlawful and/or unfair business practices;
- 78. For preliminary and permanent injunctive relief enjoining Apple from violating California Labor Code § 1197.5 by paying its female employees lower wage rates than those paid to their male counterparts for substantially similar work or from violating the Fair Employment and Housing Act through the adoption and implementation of policies and practices that have disparate impact or from violating the Unfair Competition Law by engaging in the unfair and unlawful business practices complained of herein;
- 79. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 1197.5(h) and 2699(g)(1), California Code of Civil Procedure §1021.5, and/or any other applicable provision providing for attorneys' fees and costs; and
  - 80. For such further relief that the Court may deem just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES M. FINBERG

EVE CERVANTEZ Altshuler Berzon LLP By: \_ James M. Finberg JOSEPH M. SELLERS PHOEBE M. WOLFE Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC ADAM T. KLEIN CHAUNIQUA YOUNG Outten & Golden LLP Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the Proposed Class 

1	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL	
2	Plaintiffs Justina Jong and Amina Salgado on behalf of themselves and all others similarly	
3	situated, hereby demand a jury trial with respect to all issues triable of right by jury.	
4		Respectfully submitted,
5	Dated: June 13, 2024	JAMES M. FINBERG
6		EVE CERVANTEZ Altshuler Berzon LLP
7		Antonare Berzon EDI
8		Jagu M. Ling
9		By:
10		James M. Finberg
11 12		JOSEPH M. SELLERS PHOEBE M. WOLFE Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC
13		ADAM T. KLEIN
14		CHAUNIQUA YOUNG Outten & Golden, LLP
15		Attorneys for Plaintiffs and Proposed Class
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