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**JANITORS FILE CLASS ACTION TO HOLD ROSS STORES AND USM, INC.
ACCOUNTABLE FOR RAMPANT WAGE THEFT**

OAKLAND, CA—Three janitors filed a proposed class action in Alameda County Superior Court today against retail giant Ross Stores, Inc. (“Ross”) and leading janitorial contractor USM, Inc. (“USM”) to challenge systemic wage theft from janitors at Ross stores in California. They allege that Ross contracts with USM to clean Ross Dress for Less and dd’s DISCOUNTS stores in California at impossibly low cost. USM, in turn, subcontracts the work to small, fly-by-night subcontractors without providing enough money for the subcontractors to comply with wage and hour and other laws. As a result, the subcontractors routinely fail to pay the janitors who clean the stores the wages they are owed. The workers are represented by Goldstein, Borgen, Dardarian & Ho, Chavez & Gertler, Legal Aid of Marin and the Stanford Community Law Clinic.

The lawsuit brings claims under California Labor Code section 2810, which makes it illegal to contract for janitorial and other services without providing sufficient funding to allow the contractor to comply with all applicable laws. “This case seeks to enforce California law holding Ross and USM responsible for underfunding contracts such that the janitors who clean Ross’ stores aren’t paid even minimum wage for their hard work,” stated **Laura L. Ho, a partner with Goldstein, Borgen, Dardarian & Ho.**

Ross drew nearly \$10 billion in sales last year and USM, a subsidiary of Fortune 500 company EMCOR Group, Inc., boasts estimated 2013 revenues of \$6.5 billion.

Plaintiff Federico Vilchiz Vasquez, on the other hand, was not paid at all for more than two months of work cleaning a Ross Dress for Less in Livermore, California, because the janitorial subcontractor that hired him through a contract with USM lacked the funds to pay him. “Like so many other workers throughout California, I have worked hard cleaning Ross stores but have not been paid for my labor. I am a part of this case to fight for the fair wages we deserve and to prevent these injustices from happening in the future,” said Vilchiz.

Joanna Shalleck-Klein of Legal Aid of Marin said, “Vulnerable janitorial workers feel acutely every dollar they are shortchanged because the subcontractors lack the funds to pay them their

rightful wages. We hope to address the widespread abuses in these underfunded subcontracting arrangements by holding accountable the companies who control the purse strings.”

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Goldstein, Borgen, Dardarian & Ho (www.gbdhlegal.com)

Goldstein, Borgen, Dardarian & Ho (GBDH), is one of the oldest and most successful plaintiffs' public interest class action law firms in the country. GBDH represents individuals against large companies in complex, class and collective action lawsuits in the firm's three primary practice areas: employment discrimination, wage and hour violations, and disability access, as well as in other public interest areas. The firm is located in Oakland, California and has a national practice, litigating cases in federal and state courts throughout the country.

Chavez & Gertler (www.chavezgertler.com)

Chavez & Gertler LLP has been a leading national presence in the protection of consumer and individual rights for nearly 20 years. The firm has won significant settlements and trial verdicts on behalf of classes of consumers and individuals. Located in Mill Valley, California, Chavez & Gertler represents workers, consumers and whistleblowers in complex litigation, class actions, qui tam, and civil rights cases throughout the United States.

Legal Aid of Marin (www.legalaidmarin.org)

Since 1958, Legal Aid of Marin (LAM) has provided free civil legal services and outreach programs designed to address the needs of Marin County's residents in crisis. The organization's mission is to provide access to the civil justice system through quality legal services, encompassing practical solutions, to very low-income, vulnerable and otherwise underserved residents of Marin County. LAM's areas of focus include housing law (eviction defense and unhealthy living conditions), employment law (wage-and-hour and discrimination claims), family law, dependency, and consumer law.

Stanford Community Law Clinic (www.law.stanford.edu/organizations/clinics/community-law-clinic)

The Stanford Community Law Clinic (SCLC) provides free legal representation to low-income people of the peninsula in wage and hour, eviction, public benefits, and criminal record expungement cases. Part of the Mills Legal Clinic at Stanford Law School, SCLC offers hands-on training to law students and free legal services to people in its community.