HANG AND ASSOCIATES, PLLC KELI LIU (KL 9008) 136-18 39th Ave. Suite 1003 Flushing, NY 11355

Tel: (718) 353-8588 Fax: (718) 353-6288

Attorneys for the Plaintiff, proposed FLSA Collective and

Potential Rule 23 Class Plaintiffs

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

JIAN CHEN on behalf of himself and

others similarly situated

Plaintiff,

ACTION & F.R.C.P. 23 CLASS
ACTION

NEW CHINA ROYAL EXPRESS INC. d/b/a CHINA ROYAL, YI HUA ZHENG, YU LIN ZHENG

v.

COMPLAINT

29 U.S.C. § 216(b) COLLECTIVE

Defendants,

Plaintiff Jian Chen (hereafter referred to as "Plaintiff"), on behalf of himself and other similarly situated, by and through his attorneys, Hang & Associates, PLLC, hereby brings this complaint against Defendants New China Royal Express Inc. d/b/a China Royal, Yi Hua Zheng, and Yu Lin Zheng (collectively as "Defendants") and alleges as follows:

INTRODUCTION

- 1. This action is brought by Plaintiff, on behalf of himself as well as other employees similarly situated, against Defendants for alleged violations of the Federal Labor Standards Act, ("FLSA") 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq. and of the New Jersey State Wage and Hour Law, NJSA§34:11-56 etseq ("NJWHL"), arising from Defendants' various willful and unlawful employment policies, patterns and/or practices.
- 2. Upon information and belief, Defendants have willfully and intentionally committed widespread violations of the FLSA and NJWHL by engaging in a pattern and practice of

- failing to pay its employees, including Plaintiff, minimum wage and overtime compensation for all hours worked over forty (40) each workweek.
- Defendants refused to record all of the time that Plaintiff and similarly situated employed by Corporate Defendants work or worked, including work done in excess of forty hours each week.
- 4. Plaintiff alleges pursuant to the FLSA, that he is entitled to recover from the Defendants: (1) unpaid overtime wages, (2) liquidated damages, (3) prejudgment and post-judgment interest; and/or (4) attorneys' fees and costs.
- 5. Plaintiff further alleges pursuant to New Jersey State Wage and Hour Law ("NJWHL") that he is entitled to recover from the Defendants: (1) unpaid overtime compensation, (2) liquidated damages equal to the sum of unpaid unpaid overtime compensation, (3) prejudgment interest. (4) post-judgment interest, and (5) attorney's fees and costs.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 6. This Court has original federal question jurisdiction over this controversy under 29 U.S.C. §216(b), 28 U.S.C. § 1331, and has supplemental jurisdiction over the New Jersey State Law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).
- 7. Venue is proper in the District of New Jersey pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and (c), because Defendants conduct business in this District, and the acts and omissions giving rise to the claims herein alleged took place in this District.

PLAINTIFF

8. From December 20, 2014 to August 2, 2015, Plaintiff Jian Chen was employed by New China Royal Express Inc. d/b/a China Royal located at 115 West Westfield Avenue, Roselle Park, NJ 07204 as a delivery worker.

DEFENDANTS

Corporate Defendants

- Defendant New China Royal Express Inc. is a domestic business corporation organized under the laws of the State of New Jersey with a principal business address at 115 West Westfield Avenue, Roselle Park, NJ 07204.
- 10. Upon information and belief, New China Royal Express Inc. is a business engaged in interstate commerce that has gross sales in excess of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) per year.
- 11. Upon information and belief New China Royal Express Inc. purchased and handled goods moved in interstate commerce.

Owner/ Operator Defendants

- 15 Owner/ Operator Defendant Yi Hua Zheng acted intentionally and maliciously and is an employer pursuant to FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §203d, and regulations promulgated thereunder, 29 C.F.R. §791.2, NJWHL §34:11-4.1 and the regulations thereunder.
- 16. Upon information and belief, Yi Hua Zheng determined the wages and compensation of the employees of Defendants, including Plaintiff, and established work schedules and work load of the employees, maintained employee records, and had the authority to hire and fire employees.
- 17. Owner/ Operator Defendant Yu Lin Zheng acted intentionally and maliciously and is an employer pursuant to FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §203d, and regulations promulgated thereunder, 29 C.F.R. §791.2, NJWHL §34:11-4.1 and the regulations thereunder.
- 18. Upon information and belief, Yu Lin Zheng determined the wages and compensation of the employees of Defendants, including Plaintiff, and established work schedules and work load

- of the employees, maintained employee records, and had the authority to hire and fire employees.
- 19. Plaintiff has fulfilled all conditions precedent to the institution of this action and/or conditions have been waived.

FLSA COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS

20. Plaintiff brings this action individually and on behalf of all other and former non-exempted waiters, waitresses, servers, busboys, kitchen staff, and delivery workers who have been or were employed by the Defendants for up to the last three (3) years, through entry of judgment in this case (the "Collective Action Period") and whom were not compensated at least the hourly minimum wage and/or overtime compensation for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week (the "Collective Action Members").

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 21. Plaintiff brings his NJWHL claims pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure ("F.R.C.P.") Rule 23, on behalf of all non-exempt personnel employed by Defendants on or after the date that is two (2) years before the filing of the Complaint in this case as defined herein (the "Class Period").
- 22. All said persons, including Plaintiff, are referred to herein as the "Class."
- 23. The Class members are readily ascertainable. The number and identity of the Class members are determinable from the records of Defendants. The hours assigned and worked, the positions held, and the rate of pay for each Class Member is also determinable from Defendants' records. For purpose of notice and other purposes related to this action, their names and addresses are readily available from Defendants. Notice can be provided by means permissible under said F.R.C.P 23.

Numerosity

24. The proposed Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable, and the disposition of their claims as a class will benefit the parties and the Court. Although the precise number of such persons is unknown, and the facts on which the calculation of the number is presently within the sole control of the Defendants, upon information and belief, there are more than forty (40) members of the class.

Commonality

- 25. There are questions of law and fact common to the Class which predominate over any questions affecting only individual class members, including:
 - a. Whether Defendant employed Plaintiff and the Class within the meaning of the NJWHL;
 - b. Whether Plaintiff and Class members are paid at least the minimum wage for each hour worked under the NJWHL;
 - c. Whether Plaintiff and Class members are entitled to and paid overtime under the NJWHL;
 - d. Whether Defendants maintained policy, pattern and/or practice of failing to provide requisite statutory meal periods;
 - e. Whether Defendants provided a Time of Hire Notice detailing rates of pay and payday at the start of Plaintiff and the Rule 23 Class's start of employment and/or or timely thereafter;
 - f. At what common rate, or rates subject to common method of calculation was and is Defendants required to pay the Class members for their work;

Typicality

26. Plaintiff's claims are typical of those claims which could be alleged by any member of the Class, and the relief sought is typical of the relief that would be sought by each member of the Class in separate actions. All the Class members were subject to the same corporate practices of Defendants, as alleged herein, of failing to pay overtime compensation.

Defendants' corporate wide policies and practices affected all Class members similarly, and Defendants benefited from the same type of unfair and/ or wrongful acts as to each Class member. Plaintiff and other Class members sustained similar losses, injuries and damages arising from the same unlawful policies, practices and procedures.

Adequacy

27. Plaintiff is able to fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class and have no interests antagonistic to the Class. Plaintiff is represented by attorneys who are experienced and competent representing Plaintiff in both class action and wage and hour employment litigation cases.

Superiority

28. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy, particularly in the context of wage and hour litigation where individual Class members lack the financial resources to vigorously prosecute a lawsuit against corporate defendants. Class action treatment will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently, and without the unnecessary duplication of efforts and expenses that numerous individual actions engender. Because the losses, injuries, and damages suffered by each of the individual Class members are small in the sense pertinent to a class action analysis, the expenses and burden of individual

litigation would make it extremely difficult or impossible for the individual Class members to redress the wrongs done to them. Further, important public interests will be served by addressing the matter as a class action. The adjudication of individual litigation claims would result in a great expenditure of Court and public resources; however, treating the claims as a class action would result in a significant saving of these costs. The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Class would create a risk of inconsistent and/or varying adjudications with respect to the individual members of the Class, establishing incompatible standards of conduct for Defendants and resulting in the impairment of class members' rights and the disposition of their interests through actions to which they were not parties. The issues in this action can be decided by means of common, class-wide proof. In addition, if appropriate, the Court can, and is empowered to, fashion methods to efficiently manage this action as a class action.

29. Upon information and belief, Defendants and other employers throughout the state violate the NJWHL. Current employees are often afraid to assert their rights out of fear of direct or indirect retaliation. Former employees are fearful of bringing claims because doing so can harm their employment, future employment, and future efforts to secure employment. Class actions provide class members who are not named in the complaint a degree of anonymity which allows for the vindication of their rights while eliminating or reducing these risks.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

30. At all relevant times, Defendants knowingly and willfully failed to pay Plaintiff his lawfully owed wage, at least the lawful overtime compensation of one and one half times (1.5x) his regular rate of pay for all hours worked over forty (40) in a given workweek.

- 31. While employed by Defendants, Plaintiff was not exempted under federal and state laws requiring employers to pay employees overtime.
- 32. Defendants failed to keep full and accurate records of Plaintiff's hours and wages.
- 33. Throughout his employment, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants to work as a delivery worker at their Chinese restaurant located at 115 West Westfield Avenue, Roselle Park, NJ 07204.
- 34. Plaintiff worked six days a week with Monday off on the following schedule: 11:00 am to 10:45 pm without break for eleven hours and forty-five minutes (10.75) on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday; 11:00 am to 11:15 pm without break for twelve hours and fifteen minutes (12.25) on Friday; 10:00 am to 11:15 pm without break for thirteen hours and fifteen minutes (13.25) on Saturday; 12:00 am to 10:45 pm without break for ten hours and forty-five minutes (10.75) on Sunday. Plaintiff therefore worked about seventy-one and a half (71.5) hours weekly.
- 35. Throughout his employment, Plaintiff was paid at a fixed rate of \$2000.00 per month regardless of the actual hours he worked.
- 36. Under the FLSA, the Plaintiff is entitled to a credit for expenses for tools of trade.
- 37. The governing test regarding the "tools of the trade" is stated in the pertinent Department of Labor regulations: "if it is a requirement of the employer that the employee must provide tools of the trade which will be used in or are specifically required for the performance of the employer's particular work, there would be a violation of the Act in any workweek when the cost of such tools purchased by the employee cuts into the minimum or overtime wages required to be paid him under the Act" 29 C.F.R. § 531.35.

- 38. Defendants knowingly and willfully operated their business with a policy of not reimbursing Plaintiff for expenses incurred in relation to tools of the trade used by Plaintiff in order to deliver food to customers of Defendants. Specifically, Plaintiff was never reimbursed for expenses related to making deliveries including \$400.00 per month on gas and \$200.00 per month on maintenance.
- 39. Plaintiff was not required to punch time cards or otherwise to track his work hours.
- 40. Plaintiff was not compensated at least at one-and-one-half of the minimum wage or his calculated hourly wage, whichever is greater, for all hours worked above forty (40) in each workweek.

STATEMENT OF CLAIMS

COUNT I.

[Violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act— Overtime Wage Brought on behalf of the Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective]

- 41. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 42. The FLSA provides that no employer engaged in commerce shall employ a covered employee for a work week longer than forty (40) hours unless such employee receives compensation for employment in excess of forty (40) hours at a rate not less than one and one-half times the regular rate at which he or she is employed, or one and one-half times the minimum wage, whichever is greater. 29 USC §207(a).
- 43. The FLSA provides that any employer who violates the provisions of 29 U.S.C. §207 shall be liable to the employees affected in the amount of their unpaid overtime compensation, and in an additional equal amount as liquidated damages. 29 USC §216(b).

- 44. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective their overtime pay violated the FLSA.
- 45. At all relevant times, Defendants had, and continue to have, a policy of practice of refusing to pay overtime compensation at the statutory rate of time and a half to Plaintiff and Collective Action Members for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per workweek, which violated and continues to violate the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§201, *et seq.*, including 29 U.S.C. §§207(a)(1) and 215(a).
- 46. The FLSA and supporting regulations required employers to notify employees of employment law requires employers to notify employment law requirements. 29 C.F.R. §516.4.
- 47. Defendants willfully failed to notify Plaintiff and FLSA Collective of the requirements of the employment laws in order to facilitate their exploitation of Plaintiff's and FLSA Collectives' labor.
- 48. Defendants knowingly and willfully disregarded the provisions of the FLSA as evidenced by their failure to compensate Plaintiff and Collective Class Members the statutory overtime rate of time and one half for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) per week when they knew or should have known such was due and that failing to do so would financially injure Plaintiff and Collective Action members.

COUNT II.

<u>[Violation of New Jersey Labor Law—</u> <u>Overtime Pay Brought on behalf of Plaintiff and Rule 23 Class]</u>

49. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

- 50. At all relevant times, Defendants had a policy and practice of refusing to pay the overtime compensation to Plaintiff at one and one half times the hourly rate the Plaintiff and the class are entitled to.
- 51. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff was not in good faith.
- 52. By failing to pay Plaintiff and the class, the Plaintiffs and Class Members are entitled to recover from Defendants their full unpaid overtime pay, damages for unreasonably delayed payment of wages, liquidated damages, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs and disbursement of the action pursuant to NJWHL §§34:11-56a et seq.

COUNT III.

[Violation of Fair Labor Standards Act — Failure to Reimburse for Expenses relating to Tools of Trade Brought on Behalf of Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective]

- 53. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 54. At all relevant times, Defendants had a policy and practice of refusing to reimburse Plaintiff for expenses incurred in relation to tools of the trade used by the Plaintiff and the Collective Class in order to deliver food to customers of Defendants.
- 55. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff for expenses incurred in relation to tools of the trade, that is, Plaintiff was required to spend approximately \$400.00 per month in gas, and \$200 per month in maintenance in order to perform deliveries.
- 56. Defendants knowingly and willfully disregarded the provisions of the FLSA as evidenced by their failure to reimburse Plaintiff and Collective Class Members the expenses incurred in relation to tools of the trade used by Plaintiff when they knew or should have known such was due and that failing to do so would financially injure Plaintiff and Collective Class members.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself, and the FLSA Collective Plaintiffs and Rule 23 Class, respectfully requests that this Court enter a judgment providing the following relief:

- a) Authorizing Plaintiff at the earliest possible time to give notice of this collective action, or that the Court issue such notice, to all persons who are presently, or have up through the extent allowable under the statute of limitations and including the date of issuance of court-supervised notice, been employed by Defendants as non-exempt employees. Such notice shall inform them that the civil notice has been filed, of the nature of the action, of their right to join this lawsuit if they believe they were denied premium overtime wages;
- b) Certification of this case as a collective action pursuant to FLSA;
- c) Issuance of notice pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) to all similarly situated members of the FLSA opt-in class, apprising them of the pendency of this action, and permitting them to assert timely FLSA claims and state claims in this action by filing individual Consent to Sue forms pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), and appointing Plaintiff and his counsel to represent the Collective Action Members;
- A declaratory judgment that the practices complained of herein are unlawful under FLSA and NJWHL;
- e) An injunction against Corporate Defendants, its officers, agents, successors, employees, representatives and any and all persons acting in concert with them as provided by law, from engaging in each of unlawful practices and policies set forth herein;
- f) An award of unpaid overtime wages due under FLSA and NJWHL plus compensatory and liquidated damages;

g) An award of liquidated and/or punitive damages as a result of Defendants' knowing and

willful failure to pay overtime compensation pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216;

h) An award of liquidated and/ or punitive damages as a result of Defendants' willful

failure to overtime compensation, pursuant to the NJWHL;

i) An award of unpaid reimbursements related to tools of trade due under FLSA plus

compensatory and liquidated damages;

j) An award of costs and expenses of this action together with reasonable attorneys' and

expert fees pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b) and NJWHL;

k) The cost and disbursements of this action;

1) An award of prejudgment and post-judgment fees; and

m) Such other and further legal and equitable relief as this Court deems necessary, just,

and proper.

Dated: Flushing, New York

November 22, 2016

Respectfully Submitted,

HANG & ASSOCIATES, PLLC

Attorneys for Plaintiff, Proposed FLSA

Collective and Potential Rule 23 Class

/s/ _ Keli Liu _

Keli Liu (#KL 9008)

136-18 39th Ave. Suite 1003

Flushing, NY 11355

Tel: (718) 353-8588

Fax: (718) 353-6288

1 ux. (710) 333 020

Email: kliu@hanglaw.com

CONSENT TO SUE UNDER FEDERAL FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

I am an employee currently or formerly employed by New China Royal Express, Yi Hua Zheng, Yu Lin Zheng and/or related entities. I consent to be a plaintiff in an action to collect unpaid wages. I agree that I am bound by the terms of the Contingent Fee Retainer signed by the named plaintiff in this case.

Full Legal Name (Print)

Signature

Plate

Pate

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provided by local rules of cour purpose of initiating the civil d	 t. This form, approved by the 	he Judicial Conference of th	he United States in September	1974, is required for the use of	the Clerk of Court for the	
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS JIAN CHEN			DEFENDANTS NEW CHINA ROYAL EXPRESS INC. d/b/a CHINA ROYAL, YI HUA ZHENG, YU LIN ZHENG			
(b) County of Residence o	f First Listed Plaintiff CAXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA	Queens County, NY	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Union County, NJ (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.			
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, HANG AND ASSOCIATE Keli LIU (KL 9008) Jian HANG (JH 4042) * to	ES, PLLC		Attorneys (If K	(nown)		
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	ICTION (Place an "X" in O	One Box Only)	I. CITIZENSHIP OF P	PRINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintig	
U.S. Government Plaintiff ✓ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)		Not a Party)	(For Diversity Cases Only) PTF DEF Citizen of This State 1 1 1 Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State			
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	3		Citizen of Another State			
			Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	1 3	□ 6 □ 6	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT						
CONTRACT		ORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
□ 110 Insurance □ 120 Marine □ 130 Miller Act □ 140 Negotiable Instrument □ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment □ 151 Medicare Act □ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) □ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits □ 160 Stockholders' Suits □ 190 Other Contract □ 195 Contract Product Liability □ 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY □ 210 Land Condemnation □ 220 Foreclosure □ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment □ 240 Torts to Land □ 245 Tort Product Liability □ 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS 440 Other Civil Rights 441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommodations 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other 448 Education	PERSONAL INJURY 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Other 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee -	□ 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 □ 690 Other LABOR ▼ 710 Fair Labor Standards Act □ 720 Labor/Management Relations □ 740 Railway Labor Act □ 751 Family and Medical Leave Act □ 790 Other Labor Litigation □ 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION □ 462 Naturalization Application □ 465 Other Immigration Actions	□ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 423 Withdrawal	□ 375 False Claims Act □ 400 State Reapportionment □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations □ 480 Consumer Credit □ 490 Cable/Sat TV □ 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange □ 890 Other Statutory Actions □ 891 Agricultural Acts □ 893 Environmental Matters □ 895 Freedom of Information Act □ 896 Arbitration □ 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" i ▼ 1 Original □ 2 Re	**	Conditions of Confinement Remanded from 2	Reinstated or	erred from	ict	
	ate Court	Appellate Court	Reopened Anothe (specify	er District Litigation		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	ON 29 U.S.C. §216(b) Brief description of ca), 28 U.S.C. § 1331	iling (Do not cite jurisdictional sta	tutes unless diversity):		
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	II. REQUESTED IN		DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: X Yes		
VIII. RELATED CASI	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER		
DATE	SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD					
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY						
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- **I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- **II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.

 United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.

United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.

Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)

- **III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- **IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- **V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the six boxes.

Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date. Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.

- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.

 Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction. Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>China Royal Restaurant Hit with FLSA Class Action</u>