CV 18 - 6044

Helen F. Dalton & Associates, P.C. Roman Avshalumov (RA 5508) 69-12 Austin Street Forest Hills, NY 11375 Telephone: 718-263-9591 FILED IN CLERK'S OFFICE U.S. DISTRICT COURT E.D.N.Y.

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BROOKLYN OFFICE

GLASSER, J.

KUO, M.J.

COLLECTIVE ACTION

COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X

ANTHONY CLARK, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

-against-

UPTOWN COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRIC, INC. and JONATHAN SMOKLER and DANIEL GREENBERG, as individuals,

Defendants. -----X

1. Plaintiff, ANTHONY CLARK, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff"), by his attorneys at Helen F. Dalton & Associates, P.C., alleges, upon personal knowledge as to himself and upon information and belief as to other matters, as follows:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

- 2. Plaintiff, ANTHONY CLARK, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, through undersigned counsel, brings this action against UPTOWN COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRIC, INC., and JONATHAN SMOKLER and DANIEL GREENBERG, as individuals, (hereinafter referred to as "Defendants"), to recover damages for egregious violations of state and federal wage and hour laws arising out of Plaintiffs' employment at UPTOWN COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRIC, INC., located at 55-40 44th Street, Maspeth, New York 11378.
- 3. As a result of the violations of Federal and New York State labor laws delineated below, Plaintiff seeks compensatory damages and liquidated damages in an amount

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exceeding \$100,000.00. Plaintiff also seeks interest, attorneys' fees, costs, and all other legal and equitable remedies this Court deems appropriate.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

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- 4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' federal claims pursuant to the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §216 and 28 U.S.C. §1331.
- This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1367.
- Venue is proper in the EASTERN District of New York pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(b) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this district.
- This Court is empowered to issue a declaratory judgment pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§2201 & 2202.

THE PARTIES

- Plaintiff ANTHONY CLARK residing at 5879 Schaeffer Street, Brooklyn, New York 11207, was employed by Defendants at UPTOWN COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRIC, INC. from in or around 2003 until in or around July 2018.
- Upon information and belief, Defendant, UPTOWN COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRIC, INC., is a corporation organized under the laws of New York with a principal executive office at 55-40 44th Street, Maspeth, New York 11378.
- Upon information and belief, Defendant, UPTOWN COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRIC, INC., is a corporation authorized to do business under the laws of New York.
- 11. Upon information and belief, Defendant JONATHAN SMOKLER owns and/or operates UPTOWN COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRIC, INC.
- 12. Upon information and belief, Defendant JONATHAN SMOKLER is the Chairman of the Board of UPTOWN COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRIC, INC.
- 13. Upon information and belief, Defendant JONATHAN SMOKLER is the Chief Executive Officer of UPTOWN COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRIC, INC.

14. Upon information and belief, Defendant JONATHAN SMOKLER is an agent of UPTOWN COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRIC, INC.

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- 15. Upon information and belief, Defendant JONATHAN SMOKLER has power over personnel decisions at UPTOWN COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRIC, INC.
- 16. Upon information and belief, Defendant JONATHAN SMOKLER has power over payroll decisions at UPTOWN COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRIC, INC.
- 17. Defendant JONATHAN SMOKLER has the power to hire and fire employees at UPTOWN COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRIC, INC., establish and pay their wages, set their work schedule, and maintains their employment records.
- 18. During all relevant times herein, Defendant JONATHAN SMOKLER was Plaintiff's employer within the meaning of the FLSA and NYLL.
- 19. Upon information and belief, Defendant DANIEL GREENBERG owns and/or operates UPTOWN COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRIC, INC.
- 20. Upon information and belief, Defendant DANIEL GREENBERG is the Chairman of the Board of UPTOWN COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRIC, INC.
- 21. Upon information and belief, Defendant DANIEL GREENBERG is the Chief Executive Officer of UPTOWN COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRIC, INC.
- 22. Upon information and belief, Defendant DANIEL GREENBERG is an agent of UPTOWN COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRIC, INC.
- 23. Upon information and belief, Defendant DANIEL GREENBERG has power over personnel decisions at UPTOWN COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRIC, INC.
- 24. Upon information and belief, Defendant DANIEL GREENBERG has power over payroll decisions at UPTOWN COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRIC, INC.
- 25. Defendant DANIEL GREENBERG has the power to hire and fire employees at UPTOWN COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRIC, INC., establish and pay their wages, set their work schedule, and maintains their employment records.
- 26. During all relevant times herein, Defendant DANIEL GREENBERG was Plaintiff's employer within the meaning of the FLSA and NYLL.
- 27. On information and belief, UPTOWN COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRIC, INC. is, at present and has been at all times relevant to the allegation in the complaint, an enterprise engaged in interstate commerce within the meaning of the FLSA in that the

entity (i) has had employees engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, and handle, sell or otherwise work on goods or material that have been moved in or produced for commerce by any person: and (ii) has had an annual gross volume of sales of not less than \$500,000.00.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

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- 28. Plaintiff ANTHONY CLARK was employed by Defendants at UPTOWN COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRIC, INC. from in or around 2003 until in or around July 2018.
- 29. During Plaintiff ANTHONY CLARK'S employment by Defendants at UPTOWN COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRIC, INC., Plaintiff's primary duties were as a technician and installer, and performing other miscellaneous duties from in or around 2003 until in or around July 2018.
- 30. Plaintiff ANTHONY CLARK was paid by Defendants approximately \$18.87 per hour for his first forty hours of work from in or around 2012 until in or around July 2018.
- 31. However, Plaintiff ANTHONY CLARK worked approximately sixty (60) or more hours per week at UPTOWN COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRIC, INC. from in or around 2012 until in or around July 2018.
- 32. Plaintiff ANTHONY CLARK was not compensated at all for the approximately twenty (20) hours of overtime each week that Plaintiff worked during his employment with Defendants.
- 33. Although Plaintiff ANTHONY CLARK worked approximately sixty (60) or more per week during his employment by Defendants, Defendants did not pay Plaintiff time and a half (1.5) for hours worked over forty (40), a blatant violation of the overtime provisions contained in the FLSA and NYLL.
- 34. Upon information and belief, Defendants willfully failed to post notices of the minimum wage and overtime wage requirements in a conspicuous place at the location of their employment as required by both the NYLL and the FLSA.
- 35. Upon information and belief, Defendants willfully failed to keep accurate payroll records as required by both NYLL and the FLSA.

36. As a result of these violations of Federal and New York State labor laws, Plaintiff seeks compensatory damages and liquidated damages in an amount exceeding \$100,000.00. Plaintiff also seeks interest, attorneys' fees, costs, and all other legal and equitable remedies this Court deems appropriate.

COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS

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- 37. Plaintiff bring this action on behalf of himself and other employees similarly situated as authorized under the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b). The employees similarly situated are the collective class.
- 38. Collective Class: All persons who are or have been employed by the Defendants as installers and technicians, or other similarly titled personnel with substantially similar job requirements and pay provisions, who were performing the same sort of functions for Defendants, other than the executive and management positions, who have been subject to Defendants' common practices, policies, programs, procedures, protocols and plans including willfully failing and refusing to pay required overtime wage compensation.
- 39. Upon information and belief, Defendants employed over 100 employees within the relevant time period who were subjected to similar payment structures.
- 40. Upon information and belief, Defendants suffered and permitted Plaintiff and the Collective Class to work more than forty hours per week without appropriate overtime compensation.
- 41. Defendants' unlawful conduct has been widespread, repeated, and consistent.
- 42. Upon information and belief, Defendants had knowledge that Plaintiff and the Collective Class performed work requiring overtime pay.
- 43. Defendants' conduct as set forth in this Complaint, was willful and in bad faith, and has caused significant damages to Plaintiff and the Collective Class.
- 44. Defendants are liable under the FLSA for failing to properly compensate Plaintiff and the Collective Class, and as such, notice should be sent to the Collective Class. There are numerous similarly situated current and former employees of Defendants who have been denied overtime pay in violation of the FLSA and NYLL, who would benefit from the issuance of a Court-supervised notice of the present lawsuit, and the

opportunity to join the present lawsuit. Those similarly situated employees are known to Defendants and are readily identifiable through Defendants' records.

- 45. The questions of law and fact common to the putative class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members.
- 46. The claims of Plaintiff are typical of the claims of the putative class.

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- 47. Plaintiff and his counsel will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the putative class.
- 48. A collective action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Overtime Wages Under The Fair Labor Standards Act

- 49. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
- 50. Plaintiff has consented in writing to be a party to this action, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b).
- 51. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff was engaged in commerce or the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §§206(a) and 207(a).
- 52. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were employers engaged in commerce or the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §§206(a) and 207(a).
- 53. Defendants willfully failed to pay Plaintiff overtime wages for hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week at a wage rate of one and a half (1.5) times the regular wage, to which Plaintiff was entitled under 29 U.S.C. §206(a) in violation of 29 U.S.C. §207(a)(1).
- 54. Defendants' violations of the FLSA as described in this Complaint have been willful and intentional. Defendants have not made a good effort to comply with the FLSA with respect to the compensation of the Plaintiff.
- 55. Due to Defendants' FLSA violations, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants, jointly and severally, his unpaid wages and an equal amount in the form of liquidated

damages, as well as reasonable attorneys fees and costs of the action, including interest, pursuant to the FLSA, specifically 29 U.S.C. §216(b).

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Overtime Wages Under New York Labor Law

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- 56. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
- 57. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants within the meaning of New York Labor Law §§2 and 651.
- 58. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff overtime wages for hours worked in excess of forty hours per week at a wage rate of one and a half (1.5) times the regular wage to which Plaintiff was entitled under New York Labor Law §652, in violation of 12 N.Y.C.R.R. 137-1.3.
- 59. Due to Defendants' New York Labor Law violations, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants, jointly and severally, his unpaid overtime wages and an amount equal to his unpaid overtime wages in the form of liquidated damages, as well as reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of the action, including interest in accordance with NY Labor Law §198(1-a).

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of the Notice and Recordkeeping Requirements of the New York Labor Law

- 60. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
- 61. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff with a written notice, in English and in Spanish (Plaintiff's primary language), of his rate of pay, regular pay day, and such other information as required by NYLL §195(1).
- 62. Defendants are liable to Plaintiff in the amount of \$5,000.00 each, together with costs and attorneys' fees.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of the Wage Statement Requirements of the New York Labor Law

- 63. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
- 64. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff with wage statements upon each payment of wages, as required by NYLL §195(3)
- 65. Defendants are liable to Plaintiff in the amount of \$5,000.00 each, together with costs and attorneys' fees.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, Plaintiffs respectfully request that judgment be granted:

- a. Declaring Defendants' conduct complained herein to be in violation of the Plaintiffs' rights under the FLSA, the New York Labor Law, and its regulations;
- b. Awarding Plaintiff unpaid overtime wages;

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- c. Awarding Plaintiff liquidated damages pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216 and New York Labor Law §§198(1-a), 663(1);
- d. Awarding Plaintiff prejudgment and post-judgment interest;
- e. Awarding Plaintiff the costs of this action together with reasonable attorneys' fees; and
- f. Awarding such and further relief as this court deems necessary and proper.

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

Pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all questions of fact raised by the complaint.

Dated: This <u>22</u>^M day of October 2018.

Roman Avshalumov, Esq. (RA 5508) Helen F. Dalton & Associates, PC 69-12 Austin Street Forest Hills, NY 11375 Telephone: 718-263-9591 Fax: 718-263-9598

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

ANTHONY CLARK, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

-against-

UPTOWN COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRIC, INC., and JONATHAN SMOKLER and DANIEL GREENBERG, as individuals,

Defendants.

SUMMONS & COMPLAINT

HELEN F. DALTON & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiffs 69-12 Austin Street Forest Hills, NY 11375 Phone (718) 263-9591 Fax (718) 263-9598

TO: UPTOWN COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRIC, INC. 55-40 44TH STREET MASPETH, NEW YORK 11378

JONATHAN SMOKLER 55-40 44TH STREET MASPETH, NEW YORK 11378

DANIEL GREENBERG 55-40 44TH STREET MASPETH, NEW YORK 11378 JS 44 (Rev. 1/20\$3)

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$\operatorname{CIVIL}\operatorname{COVERV}_{HEET} 8 - 6044$

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

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS ANTHONY CLARK, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,				DEFENDANTS UPTOWN COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRIC, INC., and JONATHAN SMOKER and DANIEL GREENBERG, as individuals			
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff KINGS				County of Residence	of First Listed Defendant	QUEENS	
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)					(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES		
	GLA	SSER, J.		NOTE: IN LAND CO THE TRACT	ONDEMNATION CASES, USE OF LAND INVOLVED.	THE LOCATION OF	
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A Helen F. Dalton & Associ	Address and Telephone Numbe	r)	1	Attorneys (If Known)			
69-12 Austin Street Forest Hills, NY 11375 (7	18) 263-9591	KUO, M.	J.	SU	JMMONS	ISSUED	
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in O	ne Box Only)		TIZENSHIP OF P (For Diversity Cases Only)	RINCIPAL PARTIES	G (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)	
I U.S. Government Plaintiff	3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)			PTF DEF PTF DEF Citizen of This State I I I Incorporated or Principal Place I 4 I 4 of Business In This State			
2 U.S. Government Defendant	4 Diversity (Indicate Citizensh)	ip of Parties in Item III)	Citize	en of Another State		Principal Place D 5 D 5 Another State	
				en or Subject of a reign Country	3 🗇 3 Foreign Nation	□ 6 □ 6	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT		ly) RTS	FC	RFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
110 Insurance PERSONAL INJURY 120 Marine 310 Airplane 130 Miller Act 315 Airplane Product 140 Negotiable Instrument Liability 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment Slander		PERSONAL INJURY 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury		5 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 0 Other	 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS 820 Copyrights 	 375 False Claims Act 400 State Reapportionment 410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce 460 Deportation 	
 151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) 	 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product 	Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability		LABOR	830 Patent 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY	 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations 480 Consumer Credit 490 Cable/Sat TV 	
 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise 	Liability 350 Motor Vehicle 9355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	PERSONAL PROPER O 370 Other Fraud 370 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage 385 Property Damage Product Liability	0 72 74 75	0 Fair Labor Standards Act 0 Labor/Management Relations 0 Railway Labor Act 1 Family and Medical Leave Act 0 Other Labor Litigation	 □ 861 HIA (1395ff) □ 862 Black Lung (923) □ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) □ 864 SSID Title XVI □ 865 RSI (405(g)) 	 \$50 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange \$90 Other Statutory Actions \$91 Agricultural Acts \$93 Environmental Matters \$95 Freedom of Information Act \$96 Arbitration 	
REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation	CIVIL RIGHTS 440 Other Civil Rights	PRISONER PETITIO Habeas Corpus:	<u>NS</u> [] 79	1 Employee Retirement Income Security Act	FEDERAL TAX SUITS 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff	899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of	
 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 	 441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ 	 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacato Sentence 		niconic becarty rec	or Defendant) 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	Agency Decision 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	
245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property	Accommodations Accommodations 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other 448 Education	 530 General 533 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Oth 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detaince - Conditions of Confinement 		IMMIGRATION 2 Naturalization Application 5 Other Immigration Actions	U.S.	FILED N CLERK'S OFFICE DISTRICT COURT E.D.N.Y. OCT 29 2018	
	moved from 🖸 3	1	J 4 Rein Reop	ened Anothe	a District Litigatio		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	Fair Labor Standa	ards Act	re filing (1	(specify) Do not cite jurisdictional stat			
, a chool of ACIA		iuse: r unpaid overtime w	vages				
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS UNDER RULE 2	IS A CLASS ACTION 3, F.R.Cv.P.	N D	EMAND \$	CHECK YES onl JURY DEMANI	y if demanded in complaint: D: X Yes □ No	
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions):				DOCKET NUMBER		
DATE JO/22/18		SIGNATURE OF AT	TORNEY	RECORD W			
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY RECEIPT # AN	40UNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE	MAG. JI	UDGE	
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EDNY Revision 1/2013 CERTIFICATION OF ARBITRATION ELIGIBILITY

Local Arbitration Rule 83.10 provides that with certain exceptions, actions seeking money damages only in an amount not in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs, are eligible for compulsory arbitration. The amount of damages is presumed to be below the threshold amount unless a certification to the contrary is filed.

I, _____, counsel for _____, do hereby certify that the above captioned civil action is ineligible for compulsory arbitration for the following reason(s):

- monetary damages sought are in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs,
- the complaint seeks injunctive relief,
- the matter is otherwise ineligible for the following reason

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT - FEDERAL RULES CIVIL PROCEDURE 7.1

Identify any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation that owns 10% or more or its stocks:

RELATED CASE STATEMENT (Section VIII on the Front of this Form)

Please list all cases that are arguably related pursuant to Division of Business Rule 50.3.1 in Section VIII on the front of this form. Rule 50.3.1 (a) provides that "A civil case is "related" to another civil case for purposes of this guideline when, because of the similarity of facts and legal issues or because the cases arise from the same transactions or events, a substantial saving of judicial resources is likely to result from assigning both cases to the same judge and magistrate judge." Rule 50.3.1 (b) provides that "A civil case shall not be deemed "related" to another civil case merely because the civil case: (A) involves identical legal issues, or (B) involves the same parties." Rule 50.3.1 (c) further provides that "Presumptively, and subject to the power of a judge to determine otherwise pursuant to paragraph (d), civil cases shall not be deemed to be "related" unless both cases are still pending before the court."

NY-E DIVISION OF BUSINESS RULE 50.1(d)(2)

- Is the civil action being filed in the Eastern District removed from a New York State Court located in Nassau or Suffolk County: NO
- If you answered "no" above:
 a) Did the events or omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in Nassau or Suffolk County?

b) Did the events of omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in the Eastern District? YES

If your answer to question 2 (b) is "No," does the defendant (or a majority of the defendants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or Suffolk County, or, in an interpleader action, does the claimant (or a majority of the claimants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or Suffolk County?

(Note: A corporation shall be considered a resident of the County in which it has the most significant contacts).

BAR ADMISSION

I am currently admitted in the Eastern District of New York and currently a member in good standing of the bar of this court.

Are you currently the subject of any disciplinary action (s) in this or any other state or federal court?

(If yes, please explain) \mathbf{X} Yes No

Attorney Bar Code: RA5508

I certify the accuracy of all information provided above.
Signature: Mallan Decon

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Uptown Communications & Electric Named in Unpaid Overtime Lawsuit</u>