IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE GREENEVILLE DIVISION

JARED COGBURN, individually, and on behalf of all other similarly situated employees,

Plaintiffs,

Case No.____

v.

U.S. SECURITY ASSOCIATES, INC.

Defendant.

JURY DEMANDED

FLSA COLLECTIVE ACTION

COLLECTIVE ACTION COMPLAINT

COMES NOW THE PLAINTIFF, JARED COGBURN, individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated, and files this Complaint against U.S. SECURITY ASSOCIATES, INC. He shows:

I. JURISDICTION & VENUE

- 1. This case arises under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq.
- The Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938,
 U.S.C. § 216(b) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over the Plaintiff's state law claims.
- 3. Venue also lies in this Eastern District of Tennessee, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391, because the Defendant is an entity doing business in this district, and a substantial part of the alleged events or omissions giving rise to this action occurred in this district.

II. <u>PARTIES</u>

- 4. Plaintiff Jared Cogburn is an adult resident of the state of Tennessee. Plaintiff was employed by Defendant as a security guard from approximately November 2016, until approximately January 19, 2017. During his employment with Defendant, Plaintiff was a covered employee under the FLSA.
- 5. Accordingly, the named Plaintiff worked for Defendant within both the two and three year statute of limitations periods under the FLSA.
- 6. In addition to the named Plaintiff, Defendant employs and has employed other similarly situated employees.
- Defendant is a corporate entity doing business in the Eastern District of Tennessee. Plaintiff may be served with process through its registered agent, CT Corporation System, 800 Gay Street, Suite 2021, Knoxville Tennessee, 37929.
- 8. Upon information and belief, at all times, the wage and hour and all related employee compensation policies of Defendant are and were centrally and collectively dictated, controlled, and ratified.

III. FACTUAL BASIS FOR SUIT

- 9. This is a collective action under the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq.* ("FLSA"), brought on behalf of all persons who, at any time during the past three years and up until the date of entry of judgment are or were employed by Defendant at HSN in Greenville, Tennessee, and who were worked off-the-clock without receiving compensation for all of the hours worked.
- 10. The collective action claims are for unpaid straight time and overtime compensation,

liquidated damages, interest, and attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 207, 216(b) and Tennessee law.

- 11. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and other similarly situated employees as authorized under 29 U.S.C. § 216(b). Plaintiff's consent to be a party to this collective action pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b) is attached to the Complaint.
- Plaintiff worked as a security guard for Defendant at Home Shopping Network ("HSN") at 1915 Snapps Ferry Rd, Greeneville, TN 37745.
- Plaintiff was regularly and repeatedly worked "off the clock," thereby allowing Defendant to avoid paying Plaintiff proper compensation for all hours worked.
- Likewise, other similarly situated employees were regularly and repeatedly worked "off the clock."
- 15. Specifically, Defendant regularly suffered or permitted Plaintiff to perform compensable work without compensation, including prior to the start of Plaintiff's scheduled shifts, and after the conclusion of Plaintiff's scheduled shifts.
- 16. Plaintiff and similarly situated employees were required to manually keep their own time records.
- 17. However, Plaintiff and similarly situated employees were not permitted to record the *actual* time they arrived to work and left work. Rather, Defendant required that the incoming guard (whose shift was beginning) and the outgoing guard (whose shift was ending) record identical shift start and shift stop times.
- 18. In other words, the outgoing guard was required to record for pay purposes that his work ended at the precise time that the incoming guard recorded beginning work.

- 19. In reality, Defendant instructs its employees to arrive to work fifteen (15) to twenty (20) minutes before the start of their scheduled shift to engage in "shift change" procedures.
- 20. During this work time prior to the start of employees' scheduled shifts, they would perform work, including but not limited to, shift updates, pass down logs, and bills of lading.
- 21. However, Plaintiff and similarly situated employees were not allowed to record the time they actually began working. Employees were given strict instructions to only write down the time of their scheduled shift on their time sheets. This was the rule, regardless of the time that Plaintiff *actually* arrived at work and began working.
- 22. Similarly, the duties of Plaintiff's job would regularly require him to stay at work later than his shift was scheduled to end. Nonetheless, Defendant would not allow Plaintiff to record any time for compensation purposes that was different from his scheduled shift time.
- 23. As a result, Plaintiff was regularly and repeatedly worked off the clock without proper straight time and/or overtime compensation.
- 24. Taken together, this uncompensated work caused Plaintiff to perform work in excess of forty (40) hours per week on a regular and repeated basis without proper overtime compensation.
- 25. These practices violate the provisions of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq.*, specifically §
 207(a)(1). As a result, Plaintiff and similarly situated employees have suffered lost wages.
- 26. Defendant knows and/or has reason to believe that Plaintiff and class members were worked off-the-clock without receiving compensation for all of the hours worked.
- 27. Even though Defendant knows that Plaintiff and class members worked off the clock,Defendant failed to compensate Plaintiff and class members for their work, electing instead

to accept the benefits of Plaintiff's and class members' uncompensated work.

- 28. Some evidence generally reflecting the number of uncompensated hours worked by each class member and the compensation rates for the relevant work periods is in the possession of Defendant. While Plaintiff is unable to state at this time the exact amount owing to the class, Plaintiff proposes to obtain such information by appropriate and focused discovery proceedings to be taken promptly in this action, and request that damages or restitution be awarded according to proof thus obtained and presented to the Court.
- 29. By failing to accurately record, report, and/or preserve records of hours worked by Plaintiff and similarly situated employees, Defendant has failed to make, keep, and preserve records with respect to each of its employees sufficient to determine their wages, hours, and other conditions and practice of employment, in violation of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 201, *et seq.*
- 30. When an employer fails to keep such time records, employees may establish the hours worked solely by their testimony and the burden of overcoming such testimony shifts to the employer.
- 31. Defendant's intentional failure to pay Plaintiff and other similarly situated employees all of their wages are willful violations of the FLSA within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 255(a), as Defendant knew, or showed reckless disregard for the fact that its compensation practices were in violation of these laws.
- 32. This action is maintainable as an "opt-in" collective action pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b) as to claims for straight time, overtime compensation, liquidated damages, interest, attorneys' fees and costs under the FLSA and Tennessee law. In addition to Plaintiff, numerous current and former employees of Defendant are similarly situated to Plaintiff

with regard to their wages and damages, in that they have been denied proper straight time and overtime compensation. Plaintiff is representative of those other current and former employees and is acting on behalf of their interests as well as Plaintiff's own interests in bringing this action. Those similarly situated employees are known to Defendant and are readily identifiable, and may be located through Defendant's records. These similarly situated employees may be readily notified of this action and allowed to "opt in" pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), for purposes of collectively adjudicating their claims for unpaid straight time, overtime compensation, liquidated damages, interest, attorneys' fees, and costs under the FLSA and Tennessee law.

V. CAUSES OF ACTION

- 33. The allegations set forth in the preceding paragraphs are incorporated herein and a jury is hereby demanded.
- 34. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and others similarly situated, brings the following cause of action against Defendant.
 - A. Willful violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938; and
 - B. Quantum Meruit/Unjust Enrichment.

VI. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, PLAINTIFF prays for the following relief:

A. An Order designating this action as an opt in collective action for claims under the FLSA and the Tennessee common law, and directing the issuance of notice pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b) for the federal and state claims of the class;

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- B. An Order appointing Plaintiff and Plaintiff's counsel to represent those individuals opting in to the collective action;
- C. A declaratory judgment that Defendant has willfully violated the FLSA and Tennessee common law;
- D. An award to Plaintiff and others similarly situated who opt into this action of damages in the amount of all applicable statutory and common law damages;
- E. An award to Plaintiff and others similarly situated who opt into this action of interest and liquidated damages in an amount equal to the compensation shown to be owed to them pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b);
- F. An award to Plaintiff and others similarly situated who opt into this action of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b); and
- G. An award of such other and further legal and equitable relief as may be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Michael L. Russell

Michael L. Russell #20268 Emily S. Emmons #33281 GILBERT RUSSELL McWHERTER SCOTT BOBBITT PLC 341 Cool Springs Boulevard, Suite 230 Franklin, TN 37067 Telephone: (615) 354-1144 Email: mrussell@gilbertfirm.com eemmons@gilbertfirm.com

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF AND ALL OTHERS SIMILARLY SITUATED

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FLSA Consent Form

I, Jared Cogburn, hereby give written consent under section 216(b) of the Fair Labor Standards Act to be a party plaintiff in an FLSA collective action against U.S. Security Associates and/or its agents, owners, parents, subsidiaries, or any other related entity.

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CIVIL COVER SHEET

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 JARED COGBURN, indivisituated employees,	vidually, and on behalf	of all other similarly	DEFENDANTS U.S. SECURITY A	SSOCIATES, INC.		
(b) County of Residence of (E)	of First Listed Plaintiff <u>G</u> CCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA	SREENE (SES)	NOTE: IN LAND CO	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.		
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A Gilbert Russell McWherte 341 Cool Springs Blvd., S (615) 354-1144	er Scott & Bobbitt PLC		Attorneys (If Known)			
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in O	ne Box Only)		RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff	
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	3 Federal Question (U.S. Government]	Not a Party)		IF DEF 1 □ 1 Incorporated <i>or</i> Pr of Business In T		
2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenshi	ip of Parties in Item III)		2 D 2 Incorporated and F of Business In A	Another State	
			Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	3 🗖 3 Foreign Nation		
IV. NATURE OF SUIT			EQDECITUDE/DENALTY	Click here for: <u>Nature of Su</u>		
CONTRACT 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 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY ☐ 310 Airplane ☐ 315 Airplane Product Liability ☐ 320 Assault, Libel &	RTS PERSONAL INJURY 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability 9 PERSONAL PROPERT 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Other 555 Prison Condition 550 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	FORFEITURE/PENALTY G25 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 G90 Other LABOR Y T10 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 Actions	BANKRUPTCY 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS 820 Copyrights 830 Patent 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY 861 HIA (1395ff) 862 Black Lung (923) 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) 864 SSID Title XVI 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	OTHER STATUTES 375 False Claims Act 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) 400 State Reapportionment 410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce 460 Deportation 70 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations 480 Consumer Credit 490 Cable/Sat TV 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange 890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts 895 Freedom of Information Act 896 Arbitration 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	
	moved from \Box 3 te Court	Appellate Court	(specify)	er District Litigation Transfer		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	DN 29 U.S.C. § 201 e Brief description of ca	et seq.	filing (Do not cite jurisdictional stat	tutes unless diversity):		
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS UNDER RULE 2	IS A CLASS ACTION	DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint: Yes □ No	
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER		
DATE 02/10/2017 FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		SIGNATURE OF ATTO S/Michael L. Rus				
RECEIPT # Case	a2i17-cv-00029	Documenta-2	Filed 02/10/17DGBP	age 1 of 2 Pagell	Dc#: 9	

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 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 there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: <u>Nature of Suit Code Descriptions</u>.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven 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 – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.

Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7.** Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statue.

- 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.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern District of Tennessee

JARED COGBURN, individually, and on behalf of all other similarly situated employees,

Plaintiff(s)

v.

Civil Action No.

U.S. SECURITY ASSOCIATES, INC.

Defendant(s)

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) U.S. SECURITY ASSOCIATES, INC. c/o Registered Agent C T CORPORATION SYSTEM 800 S. GAY STREET, STE. 2021 KNOXVILLE, TN 37929

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are: Michael L. Russell

Gilbert Russell McWherter Scott & Bobbitt PLC 341 Cool Springs Blvd., Suite 230 Franklin, TN 37067

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

CLERK OF COURT

Date:

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No.

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

was re	This summons for (nan ceived by me on (date)	ne of individual and title, if any)					
	□ I personally served	the summons on the individual	at (place)				
			on (date)	; or			
	□ I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with (<i>name</i>)						
	, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,						
	on (date), and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or						
		I served the summons on (name of individual) lesignated by law to accept service of process on behalf of (name of organization)					
	designated by law to a	accept service of process on ben	on (date)	; or			
	\Box I returned the summ	nons unexecuted because		; or			
	□ Other (<i>specify</i>):						
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00			
	I declare under penalty	y of perjury that this information	is true.				
Date:							
			Server's signature				
			Printed name and title				
			Server's address				

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>U.S. Security Associates Hit with Lawsuit Over FLSA Violations</u>