MICHAEL FAILLACE & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 60 East 42nd Street, Suite 4510 New York, New York 10165 Telephone: (212) 317-1200 Facsimile: (212) 317-1620

Attorneys for Plaintiff

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

SERVANDO GARCIA VILLEGAS, individually and on behalf of others similarly situated,

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff,

-against-

COLLECTIVE ACTION UNDER 29 U.S.C. § 216(b)

PCPG LLC (D/B/A VITE VINOSTERIA), CARMELO BENNICI, PINUCCIO URAS, GERMAN RIZZO, and PIETRO MOLENDINI, **ECF Case**

Defendants.	
X	

Plaintiff Servando Garcia Villegas ("Plaintiff Garcia" or "Mr. Garcia"), individually and on behalf of others similarly situated, by and through his attorneys, Michael Faillace & Associates, P.C., upon his knowledge and belief, and as against PCPG LLC (d/b/a Vite Vinosteria), ("Defendant Corporation"), Carmelo Bennici, Pinuccio Uras, German Rizzo, and Pietro Molendini, ("Individual Defendants"), (collectively, "Defendants"), alleges as follows:

NATURE OF ACTION

- 1. Plaintiff Garcia is a former employee of Defendants PCPG LLC (d/b/a Vite Vinosteria), Carmelo Bennici, Pinuccio Uras, German Rizzo, and Pietro Molendini.
- 2. Defendants own, operate, or control an Italian restaurant, located at 31-05 34th Street, Astoria, New York 11106.

- 3. Upon information and belief, individual Defendants Carmelo Bennici, Pinuccio Uras, German Rizzo, and Pietro Molendini, serve or served as owners, managers, principals, or agents of Defendant Corporation and, through this corporate entity, operate or operated the Italian restaurant as a joint or unified enterprise.
 - 4. Plaintiff Garcia was an employee of Defendants.
- 5. Plaintiff Garcia was employed as a dishwasher and food preparer at the Italian restaurant located at 31-05 34th Street, Astoria, New York 11106.
- 6. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Plaintiff Garcia worked for Defendants in excess of 40 hours per week, without appropriate minimum wage, overtime, and spread of hours compensation for the hours that he worked.
- 7. Rather, Defendants failed to maintain accurate recordkeeping of the hours worked, failed to pay Plaintiff Garcia appropriately for any hours worked, either at the straight rate of pay or for any additional overtime premium.
- 8. Further, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff Garcia the required "spread of hours" pay for any day in which he had to work over 10 hours a day.
- 9. Furthermore, Defendants repeatedly failed to pay Plaintiff Garcia wages on a timely basis.
- 10. Defendants' conduct extended beyond Plaintiff Garcia to all other similarly situated employees.
- 11. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendants maintained a policy and practice of requiring Plaintiff Garcia and other employees to work in excess of forty (40) hours per week without providing the minimum wage and overtime compensation required by federal and state law and regulations.

- 12. Plaintiff Garcia now brings this action on behalf of himself, and other similarly situated individuals, for unpaid minimum and overtime wages pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq. ("FLSA"), and for violations of the N.Y. Labor Law §§ 190 et seq. and 650 et seq. (the "NYLL"), and the "spread of hours" and overtime wage orders of the New York Commissioner of Labor codified at N.Y. COMP. CODES R. & REGS. tit. 12, § 146-1.6 (herein the "Spread of Hours Wage Order"), including applicable liquidated damages, interest, attorneys' fees and costs.
- 13. Plaintiff Garcia seeks certification of this action as a collective action on behalf of himself, individually, and all other similarly situated employees and former employees of Defendants pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 14. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question) and the FLSA, and supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff Garcia's state law claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).
- 15. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and (c) because all, or a substantial portion of, the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this district, Defendants maintain their corporate headquarters and offices within this district, and Defendants operate an Italian restaurant located in this district. Further, Plaintiff Garcia was employed by Defendants in this district.

PARTIES

Plaintiff

16. Plaintiff Servando Garcia Villegas ("Plaintiff Garcia" or "Mr. Garcia") is an adult individual residing in Queens County, New York.

- 17. Plaintiff Garcia was employed by Defendants at Vite Vinosteria from approximately October 2015 until on or about June 2017.
- 18. Plaintiff Garcia consents to being a party plaintiff pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), and brings these claims based upon the allegations herein as a representative party of a prospective class of similarly situated individuals under 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

Defendants

- 19. At all relevant times, Defendants own, operate, or control an Italian restaurant, located at 31-05 34th Street, Astoria, New York 11106.
- 20. Upon information and belief, PCPG LLC (d/b/a Vite Vinosteria) is a domestic corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York. Upon information and belief, it maintains its principal place of business at 31-05 34th Street, Astoria, New York 11106.
- 21. Defendant Carmelo Bennici is an individual engaging (or who was engaged) in business in this judicial district during the relevant time period. Defendant Carmelo Bennici is sued individually in his capacity as owner, officer and/or agent of Defendant Corporation. Defendant Carmelo Bennici possesses operational control over Defendant Corporation, an ownership interest in Defendant Corporation, and controls significant functions of Defendant Corporation. He determines the wages and compensation of the employees of Defendants, including Plaintiff Garcia, establishes the schedules of the employees, maintains employee records, and has the authority to hire and fire employees.
- 22. Defendant Pinuccio Uras is an individual engaging (or who was engaged) in business in this judicial district during the relevant time period. Defendant Pinuccio Uras is sued individually in his capacity as owner, officer and/or agent of Defendant Corporation. Defendant

Pinuccio Uras possesses operational control over Defendant Corporation, an ownership interest in Defendant Corporation, and controls significant functions of Defendant Corporation. He determines the wages and compensation of the employees of Defendants, including Plaintiff Garcia, establishes the schedules of the employees, maintains employee records, and has the authority to hire and fire employees.

- 23. Defendant German Rizzo is an individual engaging (or who was engaged) in business in this judicial district during the relevant time period. Defendant German Rizzo is sued individually in his capacity as owner, officer and/or agent of Defendant Corporation. Defendant German Rizzo possesses operational control over Defendant Corporation, an ownership interest in Defendant Corporation, and controls significant functions of Defendant Corporation. He determines the wages and compensation of the employees of Defendants, including Plaintiff Garcia, establishes the schedules of the employees, maintains employee records, and has the authority to hire and fire employees.
- 24. Defendant Pietro Molendini is an individual engaging (or who was engaged) in business in this judicial district during the relevant time period. Defendant Pietro Molendini is sued individually in his capacity as owner, officer and/or agent of Defendant Corporation. Defendant Pietro Molendini possesses operational control over Defendant Corporation, an ownership interest in Defendant Corporation, and controls significant functions of Defendant Corporation. He determines the wages and compensation of the employees of Defendants, including Plaintiff Garcia, establishes the schedules of the employees, maintains employee records, and has the authority to hire and fire employees.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

Defendants Constitute Joint Employers

- 25. Defendants operate an Italian restaurant located in the Astoria section of Queens in New York City.
- 26. Individual Defendants, Carmelo Bennici, Pinuccio Uras, German Rizzo, and Pietro Molendini, possess operational control over Defendant Corporation, possess ownership interests in Defendant Corporation, and control significant functions of Defendant Corporation.
- 27. Defendants are associated and joint employers, act in the interest of each other with respect to employees, pay employees by the same method, and share control over the employees.
- 28. Each Defendant possessed substantial control over Plaintiff Garcia's (and other similarly situated employees') working conditions, and over the policies and practices with respect to the employment and compensation of Plaintiff Garcia, and all similarly situated individuals, referred to herein.
- 29. Defendants jointly employed Plaintiff Garcia (and all similarly situated employees) and are Plaintiff Garcia's (and all similarly situated employees') employers within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. 201 *et seq.* and the NYLL.
- 30. In the alternative, Defendants constitute a single employer of Plaintiff Garcia and/or similarly situated individuals.
- 31. Upon information and belief, Individual Defendants Carmelo Bennici, Pinuccio Uras, German Rizzo, and Pietro Molendini operate Defendant Corporation as either an alter ego of themselves and/or fail to operate Defendant Corporation as an entity legally separate and apart from themselves, by among other things:

- a) failing to adhere to the corporate formalities necessary to operate Defendant Corporation as a Corporation,
- b) defectively forming or maintaining the corporate entity of Defendant Corporation,
 by, amongst other things, failing to hold annual meetings or maintaining appropriate corporate records,
- c) transferring assets and debts freely as between all Defendants,
- d) operating Defendant Corporation for their own benefit as the sole or majority shareholders,
- e) operating Defendant Corporation for their own benefit and maintaining control over it as a closed Corporation,
- f) intermingling assets and debts of their own with Defendant Corporation,
- g) diminishing and/or transferring assets of Defendant Corporation to avoid full liability as necessary to protect their own interests, and
- h) Other actions evincing a failure to adhere to the corporate form.
- 32. At all relevant times, Defendants were Plaintiff Garcia's employers within the meaning of the FLSA and New York Labor Law. Defendants had the power to hire and fire Plaintiff Garcia, controlled the terms and conditions of employment, and determined the rate and method of any compensation in exchange for Plaintiff Garcia's services.
- 33. In each year from 2015 to 2017, Defendants, both separately and jointly, had a gross annual volume of sales of not less than \$500,000 (exclusive of excise taxes at the retail level that are separately stated).

34. In addition, upon information and belief, Defendants and/or their enterprise were directly engaged in interstate commerce. As an example, numerous items that were used in the Italian restaurant on a daily basis are goods produced outside of the State of New York.

Individual Plaintiff

- 35. Plaintiff Garcia is a former employee of Defendants who was employed as a dishwasher and food preparer.
- 36. Plaintiff Garcia seeks to represent a class of similarly situated individuals under 29 U.S.C. 216(b).

Plaintiff Servando Garcia Villegas

- 37. Plaintiff Garcia was employed by Defendants from approximately October 2015 until on or about June 2017.
 - 38. Defendants employed Plaintiff Garcia as a dishwasher and food preparer.
- 39. Plaintiff Garcia regularly handled goods in interstate commerce, such as food and other supplies produced outside the State of New York.
 - 40. Plaintiff Garcia's work duties required neither discretion nor independent judgment.
- 41. Throughout his employment with Defendants, Plaintiff Garcia regularly worked in excess of 40 hours per week.
- 42. From approximately October 2015 until on or about June 2017, Plaintiff Garcia worked a range of 75 to 85 hours per week, six to seven days a week.
- 43. Throughout his entire employment, Defendants paid Plaintiff Garcia his wages in a combination of business check and personal check.
- 44. From approximately October 2015 until on or about December 2015, Defendants paid Plaintiff Garcia \$8.00 per hour.

- 45. From approximately January 2016 until on or about December 2016, Defendants paid Plaintiff Garcia \$9.00 per hour.
- 46. From approximately January 2017 until on or about June 2017, Defendants paid Plaintiff Garcia \$11.00 per hour.
- 47. Plaintiff Garcia's pay did not vary even when he was required to stay later or work a longer day than his usual schedule.
- 48. For example, Defendants required Plaintiff Garcia to work an additional 30 minutes past his scheduled departure time every day, and did not pay him for the additional time he worked.
 - 49. Defendants never granted Plaintiff Garcia any breaks or meal periods of any kind.
- 50. Plaintiff Garcia was not required to keep track of his time, nor to his knowledge, did the Defendants utilize any time tracking device such as punch cards, that accurately reflected his actual hours worked.
- 51. No notification, either in the form of posted notices or other means, was ever given to Plaintiff Garcia regarding overtime and wages under the FLSA and NYLL.
- 52. Defendants did not provide Plaintiff Garcia an accurate statement of wages, as required by NYLL 195(3).
- 53. In fact, Defendants adjusted Plaintiff Garcia's paystubs so that they reflected inaccurate wages and hours worked.
- 54. Defendants did not give any notice to Plaintiff Garcia, in English and in Spanish (Plaintiff Garcia's primary language), of his rate of pay, employer's regular pay day, and such other information as required by NYLL §195(1).

Defendants' General Employment Practices

- 55. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendants maintained a policy and practice of requiring Plaintiff Garcia (and all similarly situated employees) to work in excess of 40 hours a week without paying him appropriate minimum wage, spread of hours pay, and overtime compensation as required by federal and state laws.
- 56. Plaintiff Garcia was a victim of Defendants' common policy and practices which violate his rights under the FLSA and New York Labor Law by, *inter alia*, not paying him the wages he was owed for the hours he worked.
- 57. Defendants' pay practices resulted in Plaintiff Garcia not receiving payment for all his hours worked, and resulting in Plaintiff Garcia's effective rate of pay falling below the required minimum wage rate.
- 58. Defendants habitually required Plaintiff Garcia to work additional hours beyond his regular shifts but did not provide him with any additional compensation.
- 59. Defendants willfully disregarded and purposefully evaded recordkeeping requirements of the FLSA and NYLL by failing to maintain accurate and complete timesheets and payroll records.
- 60. Defendants' time keeping system did not reflect the actual hours that Plaintiff Garcia worked.
- 61. Defendants paid Plaintiff Garcia his wages in a combination of business and personal checks.
- 62. Defendants failed to post at the workplace, or otherwise provide to employees, the required postings or notices to employees regarding the applicable wage and hour requirements of the FLSA and NYLL.

- 63. Upon information and belief, these practices by Defendants were done willfully to disguise the actual number of hours Plaintiff Garcia (and similarly situated individuals) worked, and to avoid paying Plaintiff Garcia properly for his full hours worked.
- 64. Defendants engaged in their unlawful conduct pursuant to a corporate policy of minimizing labor costs and denying employees compensation by knowingly violating the FLSA and NYLL.
- 65. Defendants' unlawful conduct was intentional, willful, in bad faith, and caused significant damages to Plaintiff Garcia and other similarly situated former workers.
- 66. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff Garcia and other employees with accurate wage statements at the time of their payment of wages, containing: the dates of work covered by that payment of wages; name of employee; name of employer; address and phone number of employer; rate or rates of pay and basis thereof, whether paid by the hour, shift, day, week, salary, piece, commission, or other; gross wages; deductions; allowances, if any, claimed as part of the minimum wage; net wages; the regular hourly rate or rates of pay; the overtime rate or rates of pay; the number of regular hours worked; and the number of overtime hours worked, as required by NYLL §195(3).
- 67. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff Garcia and other employees, at the time of hiring and on or before February 1 of each subsequent year, a statement in English and the employees' primary language, containing: the rate or rates of pay and basis thereof, whether paid by the hour, shift, day, week, salary, piece, commission, or other; allowances, if any, claimed as part of the minimum wage, including tip, meal, or lodging allowances; the regular pay day designated by the employer; the name of the employer; any "doing business as" names used by the employer; the physical address of the employer's main office or principal place of business, and a

mailing address if different; and the telephone number of the employer, as required by New York Labor Law §195(1).

FLSA COLLECTIVE ACTION CLAIMS

- 68. Plaintiff Garcia brings his FLSA minimum wage, overtime compensation, and liquidated damages claims as a collective action pursuant to FLSA Section 16(b), 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), on behalf of all similarly situated persons (the "FLSA Class members"), i.e., persons who are or were employed by Defendants or any of them, on or after the date that is three years before the filing of the complaint in this case (the "FLSA Class Period").
- 69. At all relevant times, Plaintiff Garcia and other members of the FLSA Class were similarly situated in that they had substantially similar job requirements and pay provisions, and have been subject to Defendants' common practices, policies, programs, procedures, protocols and plans including willfully failing and refusing to pay them the required minimum wage, overtime pay at a one and one-half their regular rates for work in excess of forty (40) hours per workweek under the FLSA, and willfully failing to keep records required by the FLSA.
- 70. The claims of Plaintiff Garcia stated herein are similar to those of the other employees.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF THE MINIMUM WAGE PROVISIONS OF THE FLSA

- 71. Plaintiff Garcia repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.
- 72. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were Plaintiff Garcia's employers within the meaning of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 203(d). Defendants had the power to hire and fire Plaintiff Garcia (and the FLSA Class Members), controlled the terms and

conditions of their employment, and determined the rate and method of any compensation in exchange for their employment.

- 73. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were engaged in commerce or in an industry or activity affecting commerce.
- 74. Defendants constitute an enterprise within the meaning of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 203 (r-s).
- 75. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff Garcia (and the FLSA Class members) at the applicable minimum hourly rate, in violation of 29 U.S.C. § 206(a).
- 76. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff Garcia (and the FLSA Class members) at the applicable minimum hourly rate was willful within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 255(a).
- 77. Plaintiff Garcia (and the FLSA Class members) were damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF THE OVERTIME PROVISIONS OF THE FLSA

- 78. Plaintiff Garcia repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.
- 79. Defendants, in violation of 29 U.S.C. § 207(a)(1), failed to pay Plaintiff Garcia (and the FLSA Class members) overtime compensation at a rate of one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for each hour worked in excess of forty hours in a work week.
- 80. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff Garcia (and the FLSA Class members), overtime compensation was willful within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 255(a).
- 81. Plaintiff Garcia (and the FLSA Class members) were damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF THE NEW YORK MINIMUM WAGE ACT

- 82. Plaintiff Garcia repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.
- 83. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were Plaintiff Garcia's employers within the meaning of the N.Y. Lab. Law §§ 2 and 651. Defendants had the power to hire and fire Plaintiff Garcia, controlled the terms and conditions of his employment, and determined the rates and methods of any compensation in exchange for his employment.
- 84. Defendants, in violation of NYLL § 652(1) and the supporting regulations of the New York State Department of Labor, paid Plaintiff Garcia less than the minimum wage.
- 85. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff Garcia the minimum wage was willful within the meaning of N.Y. Lab. Law § 663.
 - 86. Plaintiff Garcia was damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF THE OVERTIME PROVISIONS

OF THE NEW YORK STATE LABOR LAW

- 87. Plaintiff Garcia repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.
- 88. Defendants, in violation of N.Y. Lab. Law § 190 *et seq.*, and supporting regulations of the New York State Department of Labor, failed to pay Plaintiff Garcia overtime compensation at rates of one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for each hour worked in excess of forty hours in a work week.

- 89. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff Garcia overtime compensation was willful within the meaning of N.Y. Lab. Law § 663.
 - 90. Plaintiff Garcia was damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF THE SPREAD OF HOURS WAGE ORDER

OF THE NEW YORK COMMISSIONER OF LABOR

- 91. Plaintiff Garcia repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.
- 92. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff Garcia one additional hour's pay at the basic minimum wage rate before allowances for each day Plaintiff Garcia's spread of hours exceeded ten hours in violation of NYLL §§ 650 *et seq.* and 12 N.Y.C.R.R. §§ 146-1.6.
- 93. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff Garcia an additional hour's pay for each day Plaintiff Garcia's spread of hours exceeded ten hours was willful within the meaning of NYLL § 663.
 - 94. Plaintiff Garcia was damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF THE NOTICE AND RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEW YORK LABOR LAW

- 95. Plaintiff Garcia repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.
- 96. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff Garcia with a written notice, in English and in Spanish (Plaintiff Garcia's primary language), containing: the rate or rates of pay and basis thereof, whether paid by the hour, shift, day, week, salary, piece, commission, or other; allowances, if any,

claimed as part of the minimum wage, including tip, meal, or lodging allowances; the regular pay day designated by the employer; the name of the employer; any "doing business as" names used by the employer; the physical address of the employer's main office or principal place of business, and a mailing address if different; and the telephone number of the employer, as required by NYLL §195(1).

97. Defendants are liable to Plaintiff Garcia in the amount of \$5,000, together with costs and attorneys' fees.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF THE WAGE STATEMENT PROVISIONS

OF THE NEW YORK LABOR LAW

- 98. Plaintiff Garcia repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.
- 99. With each payment of wages, Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff Garcia with an accurate statement listing each of the following: the dates of work covered by that payment of wages; name of employee; name of employer; address and phone number of employer; rate or rates of pay and basis thereof, whether paid by the hour, shift, day, week, salary, piece, commission, or other; gross wages; deductions; allowances, if any, claimed as part of the minimum wage; net wages; the regular hourly rate or rates of pay; the overtime rate or rates of pay; the number of regular hours worked; and the number of overtime hours worked, as required by NYLL 195(3).
- 100. Defendants are liable to Plaintiff Garcia in the amount of \$5,000, together with costs and attorneys' fees.

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF THE TIMELY PAYMENT PROVISIONS

OF THE NEW YORK LABOR LAW

- 101. Plaintiff Garcia repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though set forth fully herein.
- 102. Defendants did not pay Plaintiff Garcia on a regular weekly basis, in violation of NYLL §191.
 - 103. Defendants are liable to Plaintiff Garcia in an amount to be determined at trial.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Garcia respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment against Defendants by:

- (a) Designating this action as a collective action Hand authorizing prompt issuance of notice pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) to all putative class members apprising them of the pendency of this action, and permitting them to promptly file consents to be Plaintiffs in the FLSA claims in this action;
- (b) Declaring that Defendants violated the minimum wage provisions of, and associated rules and regulations under, the FLSA as to Plaintiff Garcia and the FLSA Class members;
- (c) Declaring that Defendants violated the overtime wage provisions of, and associated rules and regulations under, the FLSA as to Plaintiff Garcia and the FLSA Class members;
- (d) Declaring that Defendants violated the recordkeeping requirements of, and associated rules and regulations under, the FLSA with respect to Plaintiff Garcia's and the FLSA Class members' compensation, hours, wages, and any deductions or credits taken against wages;

- (e) Declaring that Defendants' violations of the provisions of the FLSA were willful as to Plaintiff Garcia and the FLSA Class members;
- (f) Awarding Plaintiff Garcia and the FLSA Class members damages for the amount of unpaid minimum wage, overtime compensation, and damages for any improper deductions or credits taken against wages under the FLSA as applicable;
- (g) Awarding Plaintiff Garcia and the FLSA Class members liquidated damages in an amount equal to 100% of his damages for the amount of unpaid minimum wage and overtime compensation, and damages for any improper deductions or credits taken against wages under the FLSA as applicable pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b);
- (h) Declaring that Defendants violated the minimum wage provisions of, and rules and orders promulgated under, the NYLL as to Plaintiff Garcia;
- (i) Declaring that Defendants violated the overtime wage provisions of, and rules and orders promulgated under, the NYLL as to Plaintiff Garcia;
- (j) Declaring that Defendants violated the spread-of-hours requirements of the NYLL and supporting regulations as to Plaintiff Garcia;
- (k) Declaring that Defendants violated the timely payment provisions of the NYLL as to Plaintiff Garcia;
- (l) Declaring that Defendants violated the notice and recordkeeping requirements of the NYLL with respect to Plaintiff Garcia's compensation, hours, wages and any deductions or credits taken against wages;
- (m) Declaring that Defendants' violations of the New York Labor Law and the spread of hours wage order were willful as to Plaintiff Garcia;
 - (n) Awarding Plaintiff Garcia damages for the amount of unpaid minimum wage and

overtime compensation, and for any improper deductions or credits taken against wages, as well as awarding spread of hours pay under the NYLL as applicable

- (o) Awarding Plaintiff Garcia damages for Defendants' violation of the NYLL notice and recordkeeping provisions, pursuant to NYLL §§198(1-b), 198(1-d);
- (p) Awarding Plaintiff Garcia liquidated damages in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the total amount of minimum wage, overtime compensation, and spread of hours pay shown to be owed pursuant to NYLL § 663 as applicable; and liquidated damages pursuant to NYLL § 198(3);
- (q) Awarding Plaintiff Garcia and the FLSA Class members pre-judgment and postjudgment interest as applicable;
- (r) Awarding Plaintiff Garcia and the FLSA Class members the expenses incurred in this action, including costs and attorneys' fees;
- (s) Providing that if any amounts remain unpaid upon the expiration of ninety days following issuance of judgment, or ninety days after expiration of the time to appeal and no appeal is then pending, whichever is later, the total amount of judgment shall automatically increase by fifteen percent, as required by NYLL § 198(4); and
 - (t) All such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff Garcia demands a trial by jury on all issues triable by a jury.

Dated: New York, New York April 26, 2018

MICHAEL FAILLACE & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

By: /s/ Michael Faillace

Michael Faillace [MF-8436] 60 East 42nd Street, Suite 4510 New York, New York 10165 Telephone: (212) 317-1200

Facsimile: (212) 317-1620 Attorneys for Plaintiff

Michael Faillace & Associates, P.C.

Employment and Litigation Attorneys

60 E 42nd Street, Suite 4510 New York, New York 10165

Signature / Firma:

Date / Fecha:

Telephone: (212) 317-1200 Facsimile: (212) 317-1620

New York, New York 10165	Facsimile: (212
Faillace@employmentcompliance.com	
BY HAND	April 20, 2018
TO: Clerk of Court,	
I hereby consent to join this lawsuit as a p (Yo, por medio de este documento, doy demanda como uno de los demandantes	mi consentimiento para formar parte de la
Name / Nombre:	Servando Garcia Villegas
Legal Representative / Abogado:	Michael Faillace & Associates, P.C.

20 de abril de 2018

JS 44 (Rev. 1/2013) Case 1:18-cv-02484 Document 1 VEIR 04/26/18 Page 1 of 2 PageID #: 22

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.)

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(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Queens (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)					(IN U.S. P.	LAINTIFF CASES OF ON CASES, USE TH	,	
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A Michael A. Faillace. Michael A. Faillace. Michael A Suite 4510 New York, NY 10165				Attorneys (If Known)				
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place on "Y" in O	ne Roy Only)	ш ст	TIZENSHIP OF P	PRINCIPA	I. PARTIES	Place an "X" in One Box for	r Plaintif
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IV. NATURE OF SUIT		orts	E	ORFEITURE/PENALTY	I DAN	KRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTE	C.
□ 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 &	PERSONAL INJUR 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage 385 Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITIO! Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Oth 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	Y	5 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 0 Other LABOR 0 Fair Labor Standards Act 0 Labor/Management Relations 0 Railway Labor Act 1 Family and Medical Leave Act 0 Other Labor Litigation 1 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION 2 Naturalization Application 5 Other Immigration Actions	422 Appe 423 With 28 U PROPEI 820 Copy 830 Pater 840 Trade 862 Black 863 DIW 864 SSID 865 RSI (FEDER/ 870 Taxe or D. 871 IRS—26 U	al 28 USC 158 drawal (SC 157 RTY RIGHTS rrights at emark SECURITY (1395ff) c Lung (923) C/DIWW (405(g)) Title XVI (405(g)) AL TAX SUITS s (U.S. Plaintiff efendant)	□ 375 False Claims Act □ 400 State Reapportionm □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influence □ Corrupt Organizati □ 480 Consumer Credit □ 490 Cable/Sat TV □ 850 Securities/Commod □ Exchange □ 890 Other Statutory Act □ 891 Agricultural Acts □ 893 Environmental Mat □ 895 Freedom of Inform Act □ 896 Arbitration □ 899 Administrative Pro Act/Review or App Agency Decision □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	ed and ons dities/ etions tters nation occdure
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only) 1 Original Proceeding 2 Removed from State Court 3 Remanded from Appellate Court 4 Reopened 5 Transferred from Another District (specify) VI. CAUSE OF ACTION Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): Plaintiff seeks unpaid overtime wages pursuant to The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq. Brief description of cause: unpaid overtime wages								
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	UNDER RULE 2	IS A CLASS ACTION 3, F.R.Cv.P.	N D	EMAND \$		HECK YES only in the control of the	if demanded in complaint Yes No	t:
VIII. RELATED CASE IF ANY	(See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCKE	T NUMBER		
DATE 04/26/2018 FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		signature of at /s/ Michael Fail		OF RECORD				
	AOI INT	ADDI VINC IED		ШОСЕ		MAC HIE	YCE	

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 Michael	Faillage counsel for Plaintiff do hereby certify that the above cantioned civil action is
ineligibl	Faiilace, counsel for Plaintiff, do hereby certify that the above captioned civil action is the 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)
provides to because the same judg case: (A)	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) hat "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 ne cases arise from the same transactions or events, a substantial saving of judicial resources is likely to result from assigning both cases to the eand 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 involves identical legal issues, or (B) involves the same parties." Rule 50.3.1 (c) further provides that "Presumptively, and subject to the power to determine otherwise pursuant to paragraph (d), civil cases shall not be deemed to be "related" unless both cases are still pending before the
	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? NO
	b) Did the events or omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in the Eastern District? Yes
Suffolk (nswer 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 County, or, in an interpleader action, does the claimant (or a majority of the claimants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau k County? N/A
	(Note: A corporation shall be considered a resident of the County in which it has the most significant contacts).
	BAR ADMISSION
I am curr	rently admitted in the Eastern District of New York and currently a member in good standing of the bar of this court. Yes No
Are you	currently the subject of any disciplinary action (s) in this or any other state or federal court? Yes (If yes, please explain) No
•	the accuracy of all information provided above.
Signatur	e:_/s/ Michael Faillace

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern District of New York

SERVANDO GARCIA VILLEGAS, individually and on behalf of others similarly situated,)))			
Plaintiff(s)				
v.	Civil Action No.			
PCPG LLC (D/B/A VITE VINOSTERIA), CARMELO BENNICI, PINUCCIO URAS, GERMAN RIZZO, and PIETRO MOLENDINI,)))			
Defendant(s))			
SUMMONS II	N A CIVIL ACTION			
To: (Defendant's name and address) PCPG LLC 31-05 34th Street Astoria, New York 11106				
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 A. Faillace MICHAEL FAILLACE & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 60 East 42nd Street, Suite 4510 New York, New York 10165				
If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be You also must file your answer or motion with the court.	be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.			
	CLERK OF COURT			
Date:				
	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk			

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

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 ra	This summons for (no ceived by me on (date)	ame of individual and title, if a	ny)	
was re	cerved by the on (aate)		·	
	☐ I personally serve	ed the summons on the inc	lividual at (place)	
			on (date)	; or
	☐ I left the summon	s at the individual's reside	ence or usual place of abode with (name)	
			, a person of suitable age and discretion who res	sides there,
	on (date)	, and mailed a	copy to the individual's last known address; or	
	☐ I served the sumn	nons on (name of individual)		, who is
	designated by law to	accept service of process	s on behalf of (name of organization)	
			on (date)	; or
	☐ I returned the sum	nmons unexecuted becaus	e	; or
	☐ Other (<i>specify</i>):			
	My fees are \$	for travel and S	\$ for services, for a total of \$	0.00
	I declare under penal	Ity of perjury that this info	ormation is true.	
Date:		_		
			Server's signature	
		_	Printed name and title	
		-	Server's address	

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

Print Save As... Reset

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern District of New York

Eastern District of New Tork				
SERVANDO GARCIA VILLEGAS, individually and on behalf of others similarly situated,)))			
Plaintiff(s))			
v.	Civil Action No.			
PCPG LLC (D/B/A VITE VINOSTERIA), CARMELO BENNICI, PINUCCIO URAS, GERMAN RIZZO, and PIETRO MOLENDINI,)))			
Defendant(s))			
Defondant(0)	,			
SUMMONS IN	N A CIVIL ACTION			
To: (Defendant's name and address) Carmelo Bennici 31-05 34th Street Astoria, New York 11106				
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 A. Faillace MiCHAEL FAILLACE & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 60 East 42nd Street, Suite 4510 New York, New York 10165				
If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be You also must file your answer or motion with the court.	e entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.			
	CLERK OF COURT			
Date:				
	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk			

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

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	☐ I personally serve	ed the summons on the inc	lividual at (place)	
			on (date)	; or
	☐ I left the summon	s at the individual's reside	ence or usual place of abode with (name)	
			, a person of suitable age and discretion who res	sides there,
	on (date)	, and mailed a	copy to the individual's last known address; or	
	☐ I served the sumn	nons on (name of individual)		, who is
	designated by law to	accept service of process	s on behalf of (name of organization)	
			on (date)	; or
	☐ I returned the sum	nmons unexecuted becaus	e	; or
	☐ Other (<i>specify</i>):			
	My fees are \$	for travel and S	\$ for services, for a total of \$	0.00
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Date:		_		
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		_	Printed name and title	
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Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern District of New York

Eastern District of New Tork				
SERVANDO GARCIA VILLEGAS, individually and on behalf of others similarly situated,)))			
Plaintiff(s))			
V.	Civil Action No.			
)			
PCPG LLC (D/B/A VITE VINOSTERIA), CARMELO BENNICI, PINUCCIO URAS, GERMAN RIZZO, and PIETRO MOLENDINI,)))			
Defendant(s))			
D Gendam(s)	,			
SUMMONS IN	N A CIVIL ACTION			
To: (Defendant's name and address) Pinuccio Uras 31-05 34th Street Astoria, New York 11106				
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 A. Faillace MICHAEL FAILLACE & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 60 East 42nd Street, Suite 4510 New York, New York 10165				
You also must file your answer or motion with the court.	e entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.			
	CLERK OF COURT			
D 4				
Date:	Signature of Clark on Domite Clark			
	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk			

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No.

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was re	cerved by the on (aate)		·	
	☐ I personally serve	ed the summons on the inc	lividual at (place)	
			on (date)	; or
	☐ I left the summon	s at the individual's reside	ence or usual place of abode with (name)	
			, a person of suitable age and discretion who res	sides there,
	on (date)	, and mailed a	copy to the individual's last known address; or	
	☐ I served the sumn	nons on (name of individual)		, who is
	designated by law to	accept service of process	s on behalf of (name of organization)	
			on (date)	; or
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Date:		_		
			Server's signature	
		_	Printed name and title	
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Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern District of New York

Eustern District	, of New York		
SERVANDO GARCIA VILLEGAS, individually and on behalf of others similarly situated,)))		
Plaintiff(s))		
	Civil Action No.		
V.) Civil Action No.		
PCPG LLC (D/B/A VITE VINOSTERIA), CARMELO BENNICI, PINUCCIO URAS, GERMAN RIZZO, and PIETRO MOLENDINI,)))		
Defendant(s)	,)		
_ 	,		
SUMMONS IN A	A CIVIL ACTION		
To: (Defendant's name and address) German Rizzo 31-05 34th Street Astoria, New York 11106			
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 A. Faillace MICHAEL FAILLACE & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 60 East 42nd Street, Suite 4510 New York, New York 10165			
If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be ex You also must file your answer or motion with the court.	ntered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.		
	CLERK OF COURT		
Date:			
<u></u>	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk		
	Signature of Clerk of Deputy Clerk		

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No.

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was rec	This summons for (n ceived by me on (date)	ame of individual and title, if an			
	☐ I personally serve	ed the summons on the ind			
			on (date)	; or	
	☐ I left the summon	as at the individual's reside	ence or usual place of abode with (name)		
		,	a person of suitable age and discretion v	who resides the	ere,
	on (date)	, and mailed a	copy to the individual's last known addre	ess; or	
	☐ I served the summ	nons on (name of individual)			, who is
	designated by law to	o accept service of process	on behalf of (name of organization)		_
			on (date)	; or	
	☐ I returned the sun	nmons unexecuted because	>		; or
	☐ Other (specify):				
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a tota	ıl of \$0	0.00 .
	I declare under pena	lty of perjury that this info	rmation is true.		
Date:					
			Server's signature		
		_	Printed name and title		
		_	Server's address		

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern District of New York

SERVANDO GARCIA VILLEGAS, individually and on behalf of others similarly situated, Plaintiff(s) v.))))) Civil Action No.				
PCPG LLC (D/B/A VITE VINOSTERIA), CARMELO BENNICI, PINUCCIO URAS, GERMAN RIZZO, and PIETRO MOLENDINI,))))				
Defendant(s)	,				
SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION					
To: (Defendant's name and address) Pietro Molendini 31-05 34th Street Astoria, New York 11106					
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 A. Faillace MICHAEL FAILLACE & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 60 East 42nd Street, Suite 4510 New York, New York 10165					
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.

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	☐ I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with (name)					
	, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,					
	on (date)	, and mailed a	copy to the individual's last known address; or			
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	designated by law to	accept service of process	s on behalf of (name of organization)			
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	☐ Other (<i>specify</i>):					
	My fees are \$	for travel and S	\$ for services, for a total of \$	0.00		
	I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.					
Date:		_				
	Server's signature					
		_	Printed name and title			
		-	Server's address			

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

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ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: Former Vite Vinosteria Employee Claims Restaurant Refused Workers Proper Pay