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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

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AZAEL GOMEZ SALGADO, *individually
and on behalf of others similarly situated,*

Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT

-against-

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

276-43 GOURMET GROCERY INC. (D/B/A
LUCKY STAR CAFE), MAX MICHAEL,
GEORGE MAXEMOSS, NAGI ZAKA
FANOUS, and MAGED M. MOURIS,

ECF Case

Defendants.

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Plaintiff Azael Gomez Salgado (“Plaintiff Gomez” or “Mr. Gomez”), 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 276-43 Gourmet Grocery Inc. (d/b/a Lucky Star Café), (“Defendant Corporation”), Max Michael, George Maxemoss, Nagi Zaka Fanous, and Maged M. Mouris, (“Individual Defendants”), (collectively, “Defendants”), alleges as follows:

NATURE OF ACTION

1. Plaintiff Gomez is a former employee of Defendants 276-43 Gourmet Grocery Inc. (d/b/a Lucky Star Café), Max Michael, George Maxemoss, Nagi Zaka Fanous, and Maged M. Mouris.
2. Defendants own, operate, or control a café, located at 250 West 43rd Street, New York, New York 10036 under the name “Lucky Star Cafe”.

3. Upon information and belief, individual Defendants Max Michael, George Maxemoss, Nagi Zaka Fanous, and Maged M. Mouris, serve or served as owners, managers, principals, or agents of Defendant Corporation and, through this corporate entity, operate or operated the café as a joint or unified enterprise.

4. Plaintiff Gomez was an employee of Defendants.

5. Plaintiff Gomez was employed as a food preparer and delivery worker at the café located at 250 West 43rd Street, New York, New York 10036.

6. Plaintiff Gomez was ostensibly employed as a delivery worker. However, he was required to spend a considerable part of his work day performing non-tipped duties, including but not limited to sweeping and mopping, preparing food, and stocking and accommodating deliveries hereafter the (“non-tipped duties”).

7. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Plaintiff Gomez 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.

8. Rather, Defendants failed to maintain accurate recordkeeping of the hours worked, failed to pay Plaintiff Gomez appropriately for any hours worked, either at the straight rate of pay or for any additional overtime premium.

9. Further, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff Gomez the required “spread of hours” pay for any day in which he had to work over 10 hours a day.

10. Defendants employed and accounted for Plaintiff Gomez as a delivery worker in their payroll, but in actuality his duties required a significant amount of time spent performing non-tipped duties alleged above.

11. However, under both the FLSA and NYLL, Defendants were not entitled to take a tip credit because Plaintiff Gomez's non-tipped duties exceeded 20% of each workday, or 2 hours per day, whichever is less in each day. 12 N.Y. C.R.R. §146.

12. Upon information and belief, Defendants employed the policy and practice of disguising Plaintiff Gomez's actual duties in payroll records by designating him as a delivery worker instead of a non-tipped employee. This allowed Defendants to avoid paying Plaintiff Gomez at the minimum wage rate.

13. Defendants' conduct extended beyond Plaintiff Gomez to all other similarly situated employees.

14. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendants maintained a policy and practice of requiring Plaintiff Gomez 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.

15. Plaintiff Gomez 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.

16. Plaintiff Gomez 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

17. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question) and the FLSA, and supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff Gomez’s state law claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).

18. 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 a cafe located in this district. Further, Plaintiff Gomez was employed by Defendants in this district.

PARTIES

Plaintiff

19. Plaintiff Azael Gomez Salgado (“Plaintiff Gomez” or “Mr. Gomez”) is an adult individual residing in Queens County, New York.

20. Plaintiff Gomez was employed by Defendants at Lucky Star Cafe from approximately August 17, 2015 until on or about June 2017 and from approximately September 2017 until on or about April 26, 2018.

21. Plaintiff Gomez 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

22. At all relevant times, Defendants own, operate, or control a cafe, located at 250 West 43rd Street, New York, New York 10036 under the name “Lucky Star Cafe”.

23. Upon information and belief, 276-43 Gourmet Grocery Inc. (d/b/a Lucky Star Cafe) 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 250 West 43rd Street, New York, New York 10036.

24. Defendant Max Michael is an individual engaging (or who was engaged) in business in this judicial district during the relevant time period. Defendant Max Michael is sued individually in his capacity as owner, officer and/or agent of Defendant Corporation. Defendant Max Michael 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 Gomez, establishes the schedules of the employees, maintains employee records, and has the authority to hire and fire employees.

25. Defendant George Maxemoss is an individual engaging (or who was engaged) in business in this judicial district during the relevant time period. Defendant George Maxemoss is sued individually in his capacity as owner, officer and/or agent of Defendant Corporation. Defendant George Maxemoss 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 Gomez, establishes the schedules of the employees, maintains employee records, and has the authority to hire and fire employees.

26. Defendant Nagi Zaka Fanous is an individual engaging (or who was engaged) in business in this judicial district during the relevant time period. Defendant Nagi Zaka Fanous is sued individually in his capacity as owner, officer and/or agent of Defendant Corporation. Defendant Nagi

Zaka Fanous 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 Gomez, establishes the schedules of the employees, maintains employee records, and has the authority to hire and fire employees.

27. Defendant Maged M. Mouris is an individual engaging (or who was engaged) in business in this judicial district during the relevant time period. Defendant Maged M. Mouris is sued individually in his capacity as owner, officer and/or agent of Defendant Corporation. Defendant Maged M. Mouris 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 Gomez, establishes the schedules of the employees, maintains employee records, and has the authority to hire and fire employees.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

Defendants Constitute Joint Employers

28. Defendants operate a cafe located in the Midtown West section of Manhattan in New York City.

29. Individual Defendants, Max Michael, George Maxemoss, Nagi Zaka Fanous, and Maged M. Mouris, possess operational control over Defendant Corporation, possess ownership interests in Defendant Corporation, and control significant functions of Defendant Corporation.

30. 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.

31. Each Defendant possessed substantial control over Plaintiff Gomez's (and other similarly situated employees') working conditions, and over the policies and practices with respect to the employment and compensation of Plaintiff Gomez, and all similarly situated individuals, referred to herein.

32. Defendants jointly employed Plaintiff Gomez (and all similarly situated employees) and are Plaintiff Gomez's (and all similarly situated employees') employers within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. 201 *et seq.* and the NYLL.

33. In the alternative, Defendants constitute a single employer of Plaintiff Gomez and/or similarly situated individuals.

34. Upon information and belief, Individual Defendants Max Michael, George Maxemoss, Nagi Zaka Fanous, and Maged M. Mouris 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 this corporation 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.

35. At all relevant times, Defendants were Plaintiff Gomez's employers within the meaning of the FLSA and New York Labor Law. Defendants had the power to hire and fire Plaintiff Gomez, controlled the terms and conditions of employment, and determined the rate and method of any compensation in exchange for Plaintiff Gomez's services.

36. In each year from 2015 to 2018, 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).

37. 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 café on a daily basis are goods produced outside of the State of New York.

Individual Plaintiff

38. Plaintiff Gomez is a former employee of Defendants who was employed as a food preparer and ostensibly as a delivery worker. However, he spent over 20% of each shift performing the non-tipped duties described above.

39. Plaintiff Gomez seeks to represent a class of similarly situated individuals under 29 U.S.C. 216(b).

Plaintiff Azael Gomez Salgado

40. Plaintiff Gomez was employed by Defendants from approximately August 17, 2015 until on or about June 2017 and from approximately September 2017 until on or about April 26, 2018.

41. Defendants employed Plaintiff Gomez as a food preparer and ostensibly as a delivery worker.

42. However, Plaintiff Gomez was also required to spend a significant portion of his work day performing the non-tipped duties described above.

43. Although Plaintiff Gomez ostensibly was employed as a delivery worker, he spent over 20% of each day performing non-tipped work throughout his employment with Defendants.

44. Plaintiff Gomez regularly handled goods in interstate commerce, such as food and other supplies produced outside the State of New York.

45. Plaintiff Gomez's work duties required neither discretion nor independent judgment.

46. Throughout his employment with Defendants, Plaintiff Gomez regularly worked in excess of 40 hours per week.

47. From approximately August 17, 2015 until on or about February 2016, Plaintiff Gomez worked from approximately 7:00 a.m. until on or about 4:00 p.m., four days per week and from approximately 7:00 a.m. until on or about 7:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m., two days per week (typically 60 to 60.25 hours per week).

48. From approximately February 2016 until on or about July 2016, Plaintiff Gomez worked from approximately 7:00 a.m. until on or about 7:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m., six days a week (typically 72 to 72.5 hours per week).

49. From approximately July 2016 until on or about June 2017 and from approximately September 2017 until on or about April 26, 2018, Plaintiff Gomez worked from approximately 7:00

a.m. until on or about 4:00 p.m., four days a week and from approximately 7:00 a.m. until on or about 7:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m., two days a week (typically 60 to 60.25 hours per week).

50. Throughout his entire employment, Defendants paid Plaintiff Gomez his wages in cash.

51. From approximately August 17, 2015 until on or about March 2017, Defendants paid Plaintiff Gomez \$9.00 per hour.

52. From approximately March 2017 until on or about April 26, 2018, Defendants paid Plaintiff Gomez \$9.50 per hour.

53. Plaintiff Gomez's pay did not vary even when he was required to stay later or work a longer day than his usual schedule.

54. For example, Defendants deducted 30 minutes from Plaintiff Gomez's pay if he arrived a few minutes late, and deducted 1 hour from his pay if he arrived 30 or more minutes late.

55. Plaintiff Gomez was never notified by Defendants that his tips were being included as an offset for wages.

56. Defendants did not account for these tips in any daily or weekly accounting of Plaintiff Gomez's wages.

57. Plaintiff Gomez 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.

58. Instead, defendants wrote down Plaintiff Gomez's arrival and departure time into a notebook; however, if he arrived a few minutes late, they wrote down that he arrived 30 minutes late, and if he arrived 30 or more minutes late, they wrote down that he arrived one hour late.

59. Defendants took improper and illegal deductions from Plaintiff Gomez's wages; specifically, defendants deducted approximately \$200 from Plaintiff Gomez's pay to punish him for not giving at least one week's notice prior to leaving the café for an extended period of time.

60. No notification, either in the form of posted notices or other means, was ever given to Plaintiff Gomez regarding overtime and wages under the FLSA and NYLL.

61. Defendants did not provide Plaintiff Gomez an accurate statement of wages, as required by NYLL 195(3).

62. Defendants did not give any notice to Plaintiff Gomez, in English and in Spanish (Plaintiff Gomez's primary language), of his rate of pay, employer's regular pay day, and such other information as required by NYLL §195(1).

63. Defendants required Plaintiff Gomez to purchase "tools of the trade" with his own funds—including one bicycle, bicycle maintenance per year, and a helmet.

Defendants' General Employment Practices

64. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendants maintained a policy and practice of requiring Plaintiff Gomez (and all similarly situated employees) to work in excess of 40 hours a week without paying them appropriate minimum wage, spread of hours pay, and overtime compensation as required by federal and state laws.

65. Plaintiff Gomez 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.

66. Defendants' pay practices resulted in Plaintiff Gomez not receiving payment for all his hours worked, and resulting in Plaintiff Gomez's effective rate of pay falling below the required minimum wage rate.

67. Defendants habitually required Plaintiff Gomez to work additional hours beyond his regular shifts but did not provide him with any additional compensation.

68. Defendants required Plaintiff Gomez and all other delivery workers to perform general non-tipped tasks in addition to their primary duties as delivery workers.

69. Plaintiff Gomez and all similarly situated employees, ostensibly were employed as tipped employees by Defendants, although their actual duties included a significant amount of time spent performing non-tipped duties.

70. Plaintiff Gomez and all other tipped workers were paid at a rate that was below minimum wage by Defendants.

71. However, under state law, Defendants were not entitled to a tip credit because the tipped worker's and Plaintiff Gomez's non-tipped duties exceeded 20% of each workday (or 2 hours a day, whichever is less) (12 N.Y.C.R.R. § 146).

72. New York State regulations provide that an employee cannot be classified as a tipped employee on any day in which he or she has been assigned to work in an occupation in which tips are not customarily received. (12 N.Y.C.R.R. §§137-3.3 and 137-3.4). Similarly, under federal regulation 29 C.F.R. §531.56(e), an employer may not take a tip credit for any employee time if that time is devoted to a non-tipped occupation.

73. Plaintiff Gomez's duties were not incidental to his occupation as a tipped worker, but instead constituted entirely unrelated general cafe work with duties, including the non-tipped duties described above.

74. In violation of federal and state law as codified above, Defendants classified Plaintiff Gomez and other tipped workers as tipped employees, and paid them at a rate that was below

minimum wage when they should have classified them as non-tipped employees and paid them at the minimum wage rate.

75. Defendants failed to inform Plaintiff Gomez who received tips that Defendants intended to take a deduction against Plaintiff Gomez's earned wages for tip income, as required by the NYLL before any deduction may be taken.

76. Defendants failed to inform Plaintiff Gomez who received tips, that his tips were being credited towards the payment of the minimum wage.

77. Defendants failed to maintain a record of tips earned by Plaintiff Gomez who worked as a delivery worker for the tips he received.

78. Defendants willfully disregarded and purposefully evaded recordkeeping requirements of the FLSA and NYLL by failing to maintain accurate and complete timesheets and payroll records.

79. Plaintiff Gomez was paid his wages in cash.

80. 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.

81. Upon information and belief, these practices by Defendants were done willfully to disguise the actual number of hours Plaintiff Gomez (and similarly situated individuals) worked, and to avoid paying Plaintiff Gomez properly for his full hours worked.

82. 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.

83. Defendants' unlawful conduct was intentional, willful, in bad faith, and caused significant damages to Plaintiff Gomez and other similarly situated former workers.

84. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff Gomez 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).

85. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff Gomez 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

86. Plaintiff Gomez 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").

87. At all relevant times, Plaintiff Gomez 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.

88. The claims of Plaintiff Gomez stated herein are similar to those of the other employees.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF THE MINIMUM WAGE PROVISIONS OF THE FLSA

89. Plaintiff Gomez repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

90. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were Plaintiff Gomez'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 Gomez (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.

91. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were engaged in commerce or in an industry or activity affecting commerce.

92. Defendants constitute an enterprise within the meaning of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 203 (r-s).

93. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff Gomez (and the FLSA Class members) at the applicable minimum hourly rate, in violation of 29 U.S.C. § 206(a).

94. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff Gomez (and the FLSA Class members) at the applicable minimum hourly rate was willful within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 255(a).

95. Plaintiff Gomez (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

96. Plaintiff Gomez repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

97. Defendants, in violation of 29 U.S.C. § 207(a)(1), failed to pay Plaintiff Gomez (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.

98. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff Gomez (and the FLSA Class members), overtime compensation was willful within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 255(a).

99. Plaintiff Gomez (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

100. Plaintiff Gomez repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

101. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were Plaintiff Gomez's employers within the meaning of the N.Y. Lab. Law §§ 2 and 651. Defendants had the power to hire and fire Plaintiff Gomez, controlled the terms and conditions of his employment, and determined the rates and methods of any compensation in exchange for his employment.

102. Defendants, in violation of NYLL § 652(1) and the supporting regulations of the New York State Department of Labor, paid Plaintiff Gomez less than the minimum wage.

103. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff Gomez the minimum wage was willful within the meaning of N.Y. Lab. Law § 663.

104. Plaintiff Gomez 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

105. Plaintiff Gomez repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

106. 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 Gomez 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.

107. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff Gomez overtime compensation was willful within the meaning of N.Y. Lab. Law § 663.

108. Plaintiff Gomez 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

109. Plaintiff Gomez repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

110. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff Gomez one additional hour's pay at the basic minimum wage rate before allowances for each day Plaintiff Gomez's spread of hours exceeded ten hours in violation of NYLL §§ 650 *et seq.* and 12 N.Y.C.R.R. §§ 146-1.6.

111. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff Gomez an additional hour's pay for each day Plaintiff Gomez's spread of hours exceeded ten hours was willful within the meaning of NYLL § 663.

112. Plaintiff Gomez 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

113. Plaintiff Gomez repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

114. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff Gomez with a written notice, in English and in Spanish (Plaintiff Gomez'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).

115. Defendants are liable to Plaintiff Gomez 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**

116. Plaintiff Gomez repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

117. With each payment of wages, Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff Gomez 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).

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

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION

RECOVERY OF EQUIPMENT COSTS

119. Plaintiff Gomez repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

120. Defendants required Plaintiff Gomez to pay, without reimbursement, the costs and expenses for purchasing and maintaining equipment and "tools of the trade" required to perform his job, further reducing his wages in violation of the FLSA and NYLL. 29 U.S.C. § 206(a); 29 C.F.R. § 531.35; N.Y. Lab. Law §§ 193 and 198-b.

121. Plaintiff Gomez was damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION

UNLAWFUL DEDUCTIONS FROM WAGES IN VIOLATION

OF THE NEW YORK LABOR LAW

121. Plaintiff Gomez repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

122. At all relevant times, Defendants were Plaintiff Gomez's employers within the meaning of the N.Y. Lab. Law §§ 2 and 651.

123. Defendants made unlawful deductions from Plaintiff Gomez's wages including, but not limited to, deductions for not giving at least one week notice prior to taking a leave of absence.

124. The deductions made from Plaintiff Gomez's wages were not authorized or required by law.

125. Through their knowing and intentional efforts to take unauthorized deductions from Plaintiff Gomez's wages, Defendants willfully violated NYLL, Article 6, §§ 190 *et seq.*, and supporting New York State regulations.

126. Plaintiff Gomez was damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

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

(a) Designating this action as a collective action and 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 Gomez 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 Gomez 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 Gomez'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 Gomez and the FLSA Class members;

(f) Awarding Plaintiff Gomez 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 Gomez 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 Gomez;

(i) Declaring that Defendants violated the overtime wage provisions of, and rules and orders promulgated under, the NYLL as to Plaintiff Gomez;

(j) Declaring that Defendants violated the spread-of-hours requirements of the NYLL and supporting regulations as to Plaintiff Gomez;

(k) Declaring that Defendants violated the notice and recordkeeping requirements of the NYLL with respect to Plaintiff Gomez's compensation, hours, wages and any deductions or credits taken against wages;

(l) Declaring that Defendants' violations of the New York Labor Law and the Spread of Hours Wage Order were willful as to Plaintiff Gomez;

(m) Awarding Plaintiff Gomez 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

(n) Awarding Plaintiff Gomez damages for Defendants' violation of the NYLL notice and recordkeeping provisions, pursuant to NYLL §§198(1-b), 198(1-d);

(o) Awarding Plaintiff Gomez 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);

(p) Awarding Plaintiff Gomez and the FLSA Class members pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as applicable;

(q) Awarding Plaintiff Gomez and the FLSA Class members the expenses incurred in this action, including costs and attorneys' fees;

(r) 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

(s) All such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

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

Dated: New York, New York

May 2, 2018

MICHAEL FAILLACE & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

By: /s/ Michael Faillace
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Faillace@employmentcompliance.com

April 26, 2018

BY HAND

TO: Clerk of Court,

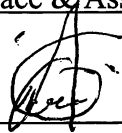
I hereby consent to join this lawsuit as a party plaintiff.

(Yo, por medio de este documento, doy mi consentimiento para formar parte de la demanda como uno de los demandantes.)

Name / Nombre: Azael Gomez Salgado

Legal Representative / Abogado: Michael Faillace & Associates, P.C.

Signature / Firma:



Date / Fecha: 26 de abril de 2018

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: [Lucky Star Café Berated Over Potential Wage and Hour Violations](#)
