# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 2818 JUL 20 PIFOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA TAMPA DIVISION

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Civil Action No. 8:18-6v-0177-T-30-MAP
COMPLAINT
(Jury Trial Demanded)
)

Plaintiffs Timothy Hesseman, Colton Williams, and Robert Vantassell, both individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated individuals, by way of his Complaint in the above-captioned matter, make the following allegations contained herein:

### I. NATURE OF CLAIMS

1. This action is brought individually and as a collective action for unpaid minimum wages, overtime compensation, liquidated damages, and other relief under

the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq. ("FLSA"). The collective action provisions under the FLSA provide for opt-in class participation.

### II. PARTIES, JURISDICTION, AND VENUE

- 2. Plaintiff Timothy Hesseman is a citizen and resident of Grovetown, Georgia, and was employed by Defendants as a cable installation technician in Georgia from 2016 until approximately June 2018.
- 3. Plaintiff Colton Williams is a citizen and resident of Grovetown, Georgia, and was employed by Defendants as a cable installation technician in Georgia from approximately August 2017 to March 2018.
- 4. Plaintiff Robert Vantassell is a citizen and resident of Thomson, Georgia, and was employed by Defendants as a cable installation technician in Georgia from approximately June 2017 to December 2017.
- 5. Defendant Cable Television Installation & Service, LLC ("CTIS") is a limited liability company with its principal place of business in Tampa, Florida and doing business in numerous locations across the country, including Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida. On information and belief, CTIS is an enterprise with over \$500,000 in annual revenues.
  - 6. Defendant Calvin F. Muller is a managing member of CTIS. On

information and belief, he has, at all relevant times, exercised control over the operations of CTIS.

- 7. Defendant Jeffrey D. Salter is a managing member of CTIS. On information and belief, he has, at all relevant times, exercised control over the operations of CTIS.
- 8. Defendant Michael A. Soros is a managing member of CTIS. On information and belief, he has, at all relevant times, exercised control over the operations of CTIS.
- 9. Plaintiffs bring this action individually and as an opt-in, collective action pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), on behalf of a class of all employees who worked as cable installation technicians at any of Defendants' locations in the United States at any time within the three years prior to joining this lawsuit.
- 10. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331, as this action is brought under 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).
- 11. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because Defendant's principal place of business is within this judicial district.

### **COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

12. Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of themselves and all other similarly situated employees of Defendants. Plaintiffs' written consent forms are

#### attached hereto as Exhibit A.

- 13. Plaintiffs and those similarly situated were employed by Defendants to perform cable television installation and repair services.
- 14. Plaintiffs performed their work out of a CTIS warehouse in Augusta, Georgia, where they reported to work each morning.
- 15. Plaintiffs and those similarly situated were paid a piece rate wage for each job performed.
- 16. In many weeks, the technicians' total piece rate pay for the week was less than the federal minimum wage for each hour worked in the pay period. For example, during the week ending March 6, 2018, Plaintiff Hesseman worked more than forty hours and was paid only \$203.89 in non-overtime compensation; thus, Defendants failed to pay him the minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour.
- 17. Plaintiffs and those similarly situated routinely worked six or seven days per week, often over 60 hours per week. For example, Plaintiff Hesseman worked, on average, more than fifty hours per week during July and August of 2017.
- 18. Technicians received some pay designated as "overtime" wages for their hours worked over forty per week, but this amount was less than the amount owed under the FLSA because it was often based on an hourly rate that was less than the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour. This occurred when Plaintiff

Hesseman worked more than forty hours in the week ending March 6, 2018, and his overtime pay was based on a regular hourly rate that was less than the statutory minimum. There were also instances in which Defendants did not pay Plaintiffs and other technicians their full overtime wages due under the FLSA because they failed to calculate the overtime rate based on the technicians' actual compensation including, specifically, a so-called "production bonus" which was not figured into the overtime rate.

- 19. In addition, Defendants also maintained a policy of deducting significant amounts from Plaintiffs' and other technicians weekly wages through "backcharges" for damaged or broken equipment, missing tools, and failed quality control audits.
- 20. These backcharges were labelled as a "loan repay" on the technicians' paystubs, but Plaintiffs and other technicians had not received any "loans" from their employer.
- 21. In many weeks, these wage deductions brought Plaintiffs' and other technicians' regular hourly rate below the minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour, and brought their overtime wages below the full overtime compensation required by the FLSA (one and one-half times the regular hourly rate, or the minimum wage, for hours over 40 per week).

- 22. For example, during the week ending August 17, 2017, Defendants deducted \$42.49 from Plaintiff Hesseman's pay through an unauthorized "backcharge," which lowered the amount of his overtime wages below what was due under the FLSA. Plaintiff Williams had hundreds of dollars deducted from his pay over the course of several weeks because a customer stole Defendants' drill that he had used to perform a job at the customer's home, and these deductions reduced his hourly pay and overtime pay below what was owed under the FLSA. In addition, during the week ending April 12, 2018, CTIS deducted \$41.45 from Plaintiff Williams' pay for an unlawful "backcharge," resulting in him earning less than the required \$7.25 minimum wage for each hour worked.
- 23. Defendants also failed to compensate Plaintiffs and the other technicians for all hours worked. For example, there were times when Plaintiffs and other technicians were assigned to perform jobs out of town, and Defendants did not record all hours that they worked. Defendants also failed to accurately record the times that Plaintiffs and technicians ended their work each day.
- 24. Specifically, there were many days when Plaintiffs and other technicians were required to return to the CTIS warehouse at the end of their workday after their last job had been "closed out." CTIS's policy was that the technicians' workday ended at the time that their last job was "closed out," and as a

result CTIS failed to record the technicians' time spent working when they travelled to Defendants' warehouse in the evenings and working at the warehouse at the end of the workday.

25. CTIS also had a policy of altering the times that technicians "closed out" their last jobs of the day, which also resulted in under-recording the amount of time worked by Plaintiffs and other technicians each day. By not paying Plaintiffs and other technicians for all time worked, their pay was frequently less than the minimum wage for all hours actually worked in a week, and less that the FLSA required overtime compensation.

### **COUNT I**

# (Fair Labor Standards Act-Failure to Pay Minimum Wage) (Individual and Collective Action)

- 26. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each and every allegation of Paragraphs 1-15 as if restated herein verbatim.
- 27. Defendant CTIS is an "employer" for purposes of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 203(s).
- 28. Defendants Muller, Salter, and Soros are employers for purposes of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 203(d).

- 29. Plaintiffs and the members of the Plaintiff class are covered employees under the FLSA because they were involved in interstate commerce on a regular basis during their employment with Defendants.
- 30. Plaintiffs and the members of the Plaintiff class were employees of Defendants for purposes of the Fair Labor Standards Act during all times relevant to this Complaint.
- 31. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and the members of the Plaintiff class an hourly rate of at least the minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour for each and every hour worked, as required by Section 6(a)(1)(C) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 206(a)(1)(C).
- 32. The failure of Defendants to compensate Plaintiffs and the members of the Plaintiff class at least minimum wage was knowing, willful, intentional, and done in bad faith. Plaintiffs and the members of the Plaintiff class are also entitled to liquidated damages equal to the amount of unpaid minimum wages due to them under the FLSA, pursuant to section 16(b) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).
- 33. Plaintiffs and those similarly situated are also entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in prosecuting this action, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

### **COUNT II**

# (Fair Labor Standards Act-Failure to Pay Overtime Wages) (Individual and Collective Action)

- 34. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each and every allegation of Paragraphs 1-23 as if restated herein verbatim.
- 35. Plaintiffs and the members of the Plaintiff class routinely worked in excess of forty (40) hours per workweek for Defendants.
- 36. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and the members of the Plaintiff class at the rate of one-and-a-half times their regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty hours weekly as required by section 7(a) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 207(a).
- 37. Plaintiffs and the members of the Plaintiff class are entitled to back wages at the rate of one-and-a-half times their regular rate of pay for all overtime hours worked in excess of forty hours per week, pursuant to section 16(b) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).
- 38. The failure of Defendants to compensate Plaintiffs and the members of the Plaintiff class for overtime work as required by the FLSA was knowing, willful, intentional, and done in bad faith.
  - 39. Plaintiffs and the members of the Plaintiff class are also entitled to

liquidated damages equal to the amount of unpaid overtime compensation due to them under the FLSA, pursuant to section 16(b) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

Plaintiffs and those similarly situated are also entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in prosecuting this action, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

WHEREFORE, having fully set forth their allegations against Defendants, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court enter judgment for the following relief:

- a. An order authorizing the sending of appropriate notice to current and former employees of Defendants who are potential members of the collective action under the Fair Labor Standards Act;
- b. A declaratory judgment that Defendants have willfully and in bad faith violated the minimum wage and overtime compensation provisions of the FLSA, and have deprived Plaintiffs and the members of the Plaintiff class of their rights to such compensation;
- c. An order requiring Defendants to provide a complete and accurate accounting of all the minimum wages and overtime compensation to which Plaintiffs and the members of the Plaintiff class are entitled;
- d. An award of monetary damages to Plaintiffs and the members of the Plaintiff class in the form of back pay for unpaid minimum wages and

overtime compensation due, together with liquidated damages in an equal amount;

- e. Injunctive relief ordering Defendants to amend their wage and hour policies to comply with applicable laws;
- f. Pre-judgment interest;
- g. Attorneys' fees and costs; and
- h. Such further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: July 19, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

s/Eric Lindstrom

Eric Lindstrom
FL Bar No. 104778
EGAN, LEV, LINDSTROM & SIWICA,
P.A.

Post Office Box 2231 Orlando, FL 32802 (407) 422-1400 (office) (407) 422-3658 (facsimile) elindstrom@eganlev.com

Harold Lichten, <u>Pro Hac Vice</u> Forthcoming Matthew Thomson, <u>Pro Hac Vice</u> Forthcoming LICHTEN & LISS-RIORDAN, P.C. 729 Boylston St., Suite 2000 Boston, MA 02116 (617) 994-5800 (office) (617) 994-5801 (facsimile) hlichten@llrlaw.com

mthomson@llrlaw.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff

JS 44 (Rev. 06/17)

#### **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

Eli EU

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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Timothy Hesseman, Colton Williams, and Robert Vantassell individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated individuals,

- (b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Columbia County, GA (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)
- (c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Eric Lindstrom, EGAN, LEV, LINDSTROM & SIWICA, P.A. 1617 NW 16th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32627

#### **DEFENDANTS**

Cable Television Installation & Service: LLC Galvin F. Muller, Jeffrey D. Salter, Michael A. Soros

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Hillsborough

(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in O	ne Box Only)	III. CITIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)
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IV. NATURE OF SUIT	(Place an "X" in One Box On	dy)			of Suit Code Descriptions.
CONTRACT	Introduction that the transfer	RTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
O 110 insurance	PERSONAL INJURY	PERSONAL INJURY	1 625 Drug Related Seizure	1 422 Appeal 28 USC 158	375 False Claims Act
120 Marine	☐ 310 Airplane	CJ 365 Personal Injury -	of Property 21 USC 881	423 Withdrawal	☐ 376 Qui Tam (31 USC
☐ 130 Miller Act	☐ 315 Airplane Product	Product Liability	(7 690 Other	28 USC 157	3729(a))
140 Negotiable Instrument	Liability	13 367 Health Care/			400 State Reapportionment
☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment	☐ 320 Assault, Libel &	Pharmaceutical		PROPERTY RIGHTS	1 410 Antitrust
& Enforcement of Judgment		Personal Injury	:	☐ 820 Copyrights ☐ 830 Patent	430 Banks and Banking     450 Commerce
☐ 151 Medicare Act ☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted	☐ 330 Federal Employers' Liability	Product Liability  368 Asbestos Personal	Í	835 Patent - Abbreviated	460 Deportation
Student Loans	O 340 Marine	Injury Product		New Drug Application	O 470 Racketeer Influenced and
(Excludes Veterans)	345 Marine Product	Liability		☐ 840 Trademark	Corrupt Organizations
☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment	Liability	PERSONAL PROPER	LABOR	SOCIALISECURITY	480 Consumer Credit
of Veteran's Benefits	350 Motor Vehicle	370 Other Fraud	₹ 710 Fair Labor Standards	Ø 861 HIA (1395M)	☐ 490 Cable/Sat TV
160 Stockholders' Suits	355 Motor Vehicle	7 371 Truth in Lending	Act	☐ 862 Black Lung (923)	850 Securities/Commodities/
190 Other Contract	Product Liability	7 380 Other Personal	720 Labor/Management	863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	Exchange
195 Contract Product Liability	360 Other Personal	Property Damage	Relations	864 SSID Title XVI	890 Other Statutory Actions     891 Agricultural Acts
☐ 196 Franchise	Injury  362 Personal Injury -	385 Property Damage Product Liability	740 Railway Labor Act 751 Family and Medical	☐ 865 RSI (405(g))	893 Environmental Matters
	Medical Malpractice	Product Liability	Leave Act		895 Freedom of Information
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITION		FEDERAL TAX SUITS	Act
1 210 Land Condemnation	440 Other Civil Rights	Habeas Corpus:	791 Employee Retirement	370 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff	1 896 Arbitration
220 Foreclosure	O 441 Voting	463 Alien Detainee	Income Security Act	or Defendant)	☐ 899 Administrative Procedure
230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	☐ 442 Employment	O 510 Motions to Vacate		371 IRS—Third Party	Act/Review or Appeal of
240 Torts to Land	1 443 Housing/	Sentence		26 USC 7609	Agency Decision
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	Cite the U.S. Civil Sta	tute under which you an	filing (Do not cite jurisdictional state		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq. Brief description of cause:					
(1) failure to pay minimum wage; (2) failure to pay overtime wages					
COMPLAINT: UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. JURY DEMAND: Yes ONo					
VIII. RELATED CASE(S)					
TWO A BANK (See instructions):					
IF ANY JUDGE JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER					
DATE		SIGNATURE OF ATT	ORNEY OF RECORD		
07/19/2018		-for	- Eric Lindsfr	em.	
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		• • •	= Control		
RECEIPT # AN	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP	JUDGE	MAG. JUE	OGE

# **OPT-IN CONSENT FORM**

Timothy Hesseman v. Cable Television Installation Services, Inc., Case. No						
Complete and return to:	Harold L. Lichten, Esq. Lichten & Liss-Riordan, P.C. 729 Boylston St., Suite 2000 Boston, MA 02116 Fax: (617) 994-5801 scleary@llrlaw.com					
Name:Timothy Hesseman						
Address:						
City	State_	Zip				
Telephone:						
E-Mail:						
	CONSENT TO JOIN COLLECTIVE ACTION Pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b)					
1. I have been employed as technician for CTIS. I consent and agree to pursue my claims for unpaid wages in connection with the above-referenced lawsuit arising out my employment.						
2. I was employed as a technician for CTIS from approximately 06012016 to 06012018 (dates). During the time, there have been weeks where I did not earn the minimum wage required by law and/or when I was not paid all overtime wages due under the law.						
3. During the time that I was employed as a technician for CTIS, I was dispatched out of a warehouse located in Augusta, Georgia (city, state).						
4. I understand that this lawsuit is brought under the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. 29 U.S.C. § 201, et seq. I hereby consent, agree, and "opt in" to become a plaintiff herein and to be bound by any judgment by the Court or any settlement of this action. I hereby designate the law firm of Lichten & Liss-Riordan, P.C. to represent me for all purposes in this action.						
6. I also designate the named plaintiff(s) in this action, the collective action representatives, as my agents to make decisions on my behalf concerning the litigation, including the method and manner of conducting this litigation, entering into settlement agreements, entering into an agreement with Plaintiffs' Counsel concerning attorneys' fees and costs (with the understanding that Plaintiffs' Counsel are being paid on a contingency fee basis, which means that if there is no recovery, there will be no attorneys' fees), and all other matters pertaining to this lawsuit.						
Signature: Timethy Hea	oeman	Date: 06/28/2018				

# OPT-IN CONSENT FORM

<b>Timothy Hesseman</b>	v. Cable Television Installat	ation Services, Inc., Case. No	
Complete and return to:	Harold L. Lichten, Esq. Lichten & Liss-Riordan, 729 Boylston St., Suite & Boston, MA 02116 Fax: (617) 994-5801 scleary@llrlaw.com	ı, P.C.	
Name: Colton Williams			
Address:	<u> </u>		
City	State	Zip_	
Telephone:			
E-Mail:			
I have been employed as     I was employed as     March 30 2018 (dates). Dur	ection with the above-references a technician for CTIS from ring the time, there have bee		ıt.
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29 U.S.C. § 201, et seq. to be bound by any judgm	I hereby consent, agree, and nent by the Court or any sett	er the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C nd "opt in" to become a plaintiff herein ar ttlement of this action. I hereby designat sent me for all purposes in this action.	nd
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Signature: Colton Wi	lliams	Date:	

# OPT-IN CONSENT FORM

Timothy Hesseman v. Cable Television Installation Services, Inc., Case. No.					
Complete and return to:	Harold L. Lichten, Esq. Lichten & Liss-Riordan, P.C. 729 Boylston St., Suite 2000 Boston, MA 02116 Fax: (617) 994-5801 scleary@llrlaw.com				
Name: Robert Richard Vantassell					
Address:					
City	State	Zip Zip			
Telephone:					
E-Mail:					
	ONSENT TO JOIN COLLECTIVE the Fair Labor Standards Act				
1. I have been employed for unpaid wages in connecti	d as technician for CTIS. I cor on with the above-referenced	nsent and agree to pursue my claims lawsuit arising out my employment.			
2. I was employed as a technician for CTIS from approximately June 2017 to December 2017 (dates). During the time, there have been weeks where I did not earn the minimum wage required by law and/or when I was not paid all overtime wages due under the law.					
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Signature: Robert Richard Va	utavorll	Date:			

# **ClassAction.org**

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Cable Television Installation & Service Hit with Wage and Hour Lawsuit</u>