Ariadne Panagopoulou (AP-2202) 1 Pardalis & Nohavicka, LLP 950 Third Avenue, 25<sup>th</sup> Floor 2 New York, NY 10022 3 Telephone: (718) 777-0400 Facsimile: (718) 777-0599 4 Attorneys for Plaintiff 5 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 6 EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK 7 Bablu Husen, individually and on behalf of 8 all other employees similarly situated, 9 FLSA COLLECTIVE ACTION Plaintiff, **COMPLAINT** 10 11 -V-12 Sagar Food USA Inc d/b/a Sagar Chinese, Sagar Chinese, Inc. d/b/a Sagar Chinese, 13 Shamiur Rahman, and Afruja Akter July, 14 jointly and severally, 15 Defendants. 16 17 NATURE OF THE ACTION 18 1. Plaintiff Bablu Husen ("Plaintiff"), brings this action under the Fair Labor 19 Standards Act ("FLSA"), 29 U.S.C. §§ 201 et. seq. on behalf of himself and others similarly 20 situated, in order to remedy Defendants' wrongful withholding of Plaintiff's earned wages and 21 overtime compensation. Plaintiff also brings these claims under New York Labor Law 22 23 ("NYLL"), Article 6, §§ 190 et. seq., and Article 19, §§ 650 et. seq., as well as the supporting 24 New York State Department of Labor Regulations for violations of minimum wage and 25 overtime wage requirements, spread-of-hours pay, unlawful retention of gratuities, and notice 26 and record-keeping requirements. 27 2. Defendants engaged in their unlawful conduct pursuant to a corporate policy of 28

minimizing labor costs and denying employees compensation by knowingly violating the FLSA and NYLL. Defendants' conduct extended beyond the Plaintiff to all other similarly situated employees. Plaintiff seeks certification of this action as a collective action on behalf of themselves individually and those other similarly situated employees and former employees of Defendants pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

#### Federal Question Jurisdiction and Supplemental Jurisdiction

3. This Court has original subject matter jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because the civil action herein arises under the laws of the United States, namely, the Fair Labor Standards Act and 29 U.S.C. §§ 201 *et seq*. Additionally, this Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff's state law claims under 28 U.S.C. §1367(a).

#### Personal Jurisdiction

4. This Court may properly maintain personal jurisdiction over Defendants under Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure because Defendants' contacts with this state and this judicial district are sufficient for exercise of jurisdiction over Defendants so as to comply with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

#### Venue

5. Venue is proper in the Eastern District of New York under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 (b) (1) and (2) because Defendants conduct business in this judicial district and because a substantial part of the acts or omissions giving rise to the claims set forth herein occurred in this judicial district.

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#### THE PARTIES

#### Plaintiff:

- 6. <u>Plaintiff Bablu Husen</u> is an adult individual residing in the State of New York, County of Kings.
- 7. During the relevant time period, Plaintiff was a covered employee within the meaning of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(e) and the NYLL § 190, employed by Defendants, Sagar Food USA Inc, Sagar Chinese, Inc., Shamiur Rahman, and Afruja Akter July (collectively "Defendants") and performed work in New York.
- 8. Plaintiff consented in writing to be a party to the FLSA claims in this action, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b), and his consent form is attached hereto.

#### **Defendants:**

- 9. <u>Sagar Food USA Inc d/b/a Sagar Chinese</u> (hereinafter "Sagar Food") is a domestic business corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of New York, formed on June 25, 2012.
- 10. Sagar Food USA Inc operates a Chinese restaurant with the name "Sagar Chinese", located at 87-47 Homelawn Street, Jamaica, NY 11432.
- 11. At all relevant times, Sagar Food employed about 18-20 employees, was open seven days per week and serviced well over 200 guests per day.
- 12. At all relevant times, Sagar Food maintained control, oversight, and direction over the Plaintiff, including timekeeping, payroll, and other employment practices that applied to him.
- 13. At all relevant times, Sagar Food was an employer engaged in interstate commerce and/or the production of goods for commerce, within the meaning of the FLSA, 29

interstate commerce, such as food and food ingredients manufactured out of state, particularly

in China and India, and distributed in New York and employed numerous individuals who

volume of sales made, or business done, was not less than Five Hundred Thousand Dollars

At all relevant times, Sagar Food used goods and materials produced in

At all relevant times, Plaintiff was employed by Sagar Food within the meaning

Upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Sagar Food's annual gross

U.S.C. §§ 206(a) and 207(a) and employed Plaintiff within the meaning of the FLSA.

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of the NYLL §§ 2 and 651.

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(\$500,000.00) exclusive of separate retail excise taxes, within the meaning of the FLSA, 29 12 U.S.C. § 203(s)(1)(A)(ii). 14 17. Sagar Chinese, Inc. d/b/a Sagar Chinese (hereinafter "Sagar Chinese") is a domestic business corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of New York, 16 formed on January 17, 2008.

handled these goods and materials. See Exhibit A.

- 18. Sagar Chinese operates a Chinese restaurant with the name "Sagar Chinese", located at 74-19 37th Ave, Jackson Heights, NY 11372.
- 19. At all relevant times, Sagar Chinese employed about 20 employees, was open seven days per week and serviced well over 250 guests per day.
- 20. At all relevant times, Sagar Chinese maintained control, oversight, and direction over the Plaintiff, including timekeeping, payroll, and other employment practices that applied to him.
- 21. At all relevant times, Sagar Chinese was an employer engaged in interstate commerce and/or the production of goods for commerce, within the meaning of the FLSA, 29

U.S.C. §§ 206(a) and 207(a) and employed Plaintiff within the meaning of the FLSA.

- 22. At all relevant times, Sagar Chinese used goods and materials produced in interstate commerce, such as food and food ingredients manufactured out of state, particularly in China and India, and distributed in New York and employed numerous individuals who handled these goods and materials. *See* Exhibit A.
- 23. At all relevant times, Plaintiff was employed by Sagar Chinese within the meaning of the NYLL §§ 2 and 651.
- 24. Upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Sagar Chinese's annual gross volume of sales made, or business done, was not less than Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) exclusive of separate retail excise taxes, within the meaning of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(s)(1)(A)(ii).
- 25. <u>Shamiur Rahman</u> ("Rahman"), was, at all relevant times throughout Plaintiff's employment, owner, principal, authorized operator, manager, shareholder and/or agent of the two Corporate Defendants.
- 26. At all relevant times throughout Plaintiff's employment, Rahman had the discretionary power to create and enforce personnel decisions on behalf of both Corporate Defendants, including but not limited to: hiring and terminating employees; setting and authorizing issuance of wages; maintaining employee records; setting employees' schedules; instructing, supervising and training employees; and otherwise controlling the terms and conditions for the Plaintiff while he was employed by Defendants.
- 27. Upon information and belief, Rahman set and/or approved the Corporate Defendants' payroll policies, including the unlawful practices complained of herein, which were communicated to Plaintiff by Defendant July. Further, Rahman had the power and

authority to stop the violations complained herein and failed to do so.

- 28. Upon information and belief, Rahman hired Defendant Afruja Akter July as a manager.
- 29. Rahman was actively involved in the day-to-day operations of both Corporate Defendants and frequently attended both restaurants to oversee the work of Plaintiff and other employees. *See* Exhibit A.
- 30. Accordingly, Defendant Rahman was a "covered employer" within the meaning of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(d) and regulations thereunder, 29 C.F.R. § 791.2, and the NYLL § 2, and is jointly and severally liable, in his individual capacity, for the unpaid wages and other damages sought herein.
- 31. <u>Afruja Akter July</u> ("July"), was, at all relevant times throughout Plaintiff's employment, owner, principal, authorized operator, manager, shareholder and/or agent of the two Corporate Defendants.
- 32. At all relevant times throughout Plaintiff's employment, July had the discretionary power to create and enforce personnel decisions on behalf of both Corporate Defendants, including but not limited to: hiring and terminating employees; setting and authorizing issuance of wages; maintaining employee records; setting employees' schedules; instructing, supervising and training employees; and otherwise controlling the terms and conditions for the Plaintiff while he was employed by Defendants.
- 33. Specifically, July functioned as the day-to-day general manager of the Corporate Defendants. July hired the Plaintiff, supervised and trained him, paid him, in accordance with Defendant Rahman's instructions, assigned him his day-to-day duties, and eventually terminated his employment.

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34. Accordingly, Defendant July was a "covered employer" within the meaning of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(d) and regulations thereunder, 29 C.F.R. § 791.2, and the NYLL § 2, and is jointly and severally liable, in her individual capacity, for the unpaid wages and other damages sought herein.

#### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

#### Plaintiff's Work for Defendants

- 35. Plaintiff was formerly employed by Defendants from in or around June 2017 to in or around October 30, 2018, and worked at their two restaurants located at 87-47 Homelawn Street, Jamaica, NY 11432, and 74-19 37th Ave, Jackson Heights, NY 11372.
- 36. Plaintiff was ostensibly hired as a server; however, he spent approximately two to three hours per shift performing non-tipped occupations such as watering plants, carrying buckets of food and food ingredients to and from the two restaurants, taking out the garbage, and cleaning and wiping floors, including bathroom floors.
- 37. Plaintiff regularly handled goods in interstate commerce throughout the course of his employment with Defendants, such as food, food ingredients and drinks, produced or manufactured out of state and distributed in New York.
- 38. During the first week of his employment, Plaintiff worked approximately 60 hours. Plaintiff was not paid at all for his work; instead, Defendants claimed that this was a "training" period and that Plaintiff was not entitled to compensation.
- 39. Thereafter, from June 2017 to in or around February 2018, Plaintiff worked approximately 66 hours per week. Plaintiff typically worked six days per week, from Tuesday to Sunday, from 12:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Plaintiff typically took a 20-30 minute lunch break each day.

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seven da	ys pe	r week,	from 12	2:00 p.r	n. to	11:30	p.m.,	with	a 20	-30 n	ninute	lunch	break	each
day. <i>See</i>	e.g. E	Exhibit	<b>B</b> time o	clock re	ceipt s	showi	ng a t	otal of	153	.45 h	ours v	vorked	l for th	ie two
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- 41. Plaintiff worked at both of Defendants' restaurants according to Defendants' instructions and needs. Plaintiff was primarily stationed at the Jamaica location; however, he worked principally at the Jackson Heights location from in or around February to March 2018, since the Jamaica location was undergoing renovations.
- 42. Throughout the duration of his employment, Plaintiff did not have any supervisory authority nor did he exercise discretion or independent judgment with respect to matters of significance.
- 43. Plaintiff never had any managerial duties, such as hiring and firing employees, doing payroll and setting employees' hours of work.

#### **Plaintiff's Remuneration**

- 44. Following his initial "training period" whereby Plaintiff was not paid at all, Plaintiff received \$3.00 per hour for all his hours worked during the time period of June 2017 to November 2017.
- 45. In or around December 2017, Plaintiff's pay increased to \$4.00 per hour for all his hours worked.
- 46. In or around April 2018, Plaintiff's pay increased to \$5.00 per hour for all his hours worked. This rate remained the same until the end of his employment.
  - 47. For the example for the two week period of 7/30/2018 8/12/2018, when

(153.45 \* \$5.00 = \$767.25). See Exhibit B.
48. Initially, Plaintiff received his pay in cash. In or around December 2017,
Plaintiff started receiving his pay either in check, or a combination of cash and check.

Plaintiff worked a total of 153.45 hours, Plaintiff was paid a total gross amount of \$767.25

- 49. Plaintiff received his pay bi-weekly; however, frequently his pay was received late and checks bounced.
- 50. Throughout his employment, Plaintiff also received approximately \$15.00 to \$30.00 in tips per day. However, the tips received were never enough to bring his overall weekly wages above minimum wage.
- 51. Plaintiff was required to input all his gratuities in a tip pool shared by all tipped employees. Defendant July, the restaurants' manager, took 50% of all tips in the tip pool, before the tips were distributed to the tipped employees, including Plaintiff.

#### **Defendants' Unlawful Corporate Practices**

- 52. Defendants repeatedly paid Plaintiff at a rate, which was below the statutory minimum wage. *See* e.g. **Exhibit B**.
- 53. Defendants repeatedly suffered or permitted Plaintiff to work in excess of forty (40) hours per week without paying him the appropriate premium overtime pay of one and one-half times the statutory minimum wage. *See* e.g. **Exhibit B**.
- 54. Defendants never provided Plaintiff with an extra hour's pay at minimum wage during all the occasions in which the duration of his shift exceeded 10 hours per day. *See* e.g. **Exhibit B**.
- 55. Defendant July unlawfully retained Plaintiff's and other employees' gratuities from a tip pool which was intended to compensate the tipped employees.

- 56. Defendants willfully disregarded and purposefully evaded record-keeping requirements of the FLSA and NYLL by failing to maintain accurate and complete timesheets and payroll records. Defendants also failed to establish and maintain accurate tip records showing the amount, shares and daily log of tips collected by each employee at each position.
- 57. On November 17, 2016, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York entered judgment against Defendants Sagar Chinese, Inc. and Shamiur Rahman, as a result of their unlawful wage and hour practices. *See Rosales v. Sagar Chinese, Inc. et. al.*, 1:15-cv-06392-ENV-RER (EDNY 11/17/2016). Remarkably, Defendants, instead of correcting their unlawful wage and hour violations by paying their employees properly, they created fictional pay stubs for employees, including Plaintiff, in order to mask those violations.
- 58. The pay stubs given to Plaintiff intentionally grossly understated his hours of work.
- 59. For example, for the two week period of 7/30/2018 8/12/2018, when Plaintiff worked a total of 153.45 hours (Exhibit B), Plaintiff received a pay stub stating that he purportedly only worked for 59.80 hours and purportedly received an hourly rate of \$10.00 for all his hours worked, which was false. *See* **Exhibit C**.
- 60. Plaintiff was not provided with a wage notice at the time of hire or at any point thereafter.
- 61. Upon information and belief, while Defendants employed Plaintiff, they failed to post notices explaining the minimum and overtime wage rights of employees under the FLSA and NYLL and failed to inform Plaintiff of such rights.
- 62. Plaintiff has personal knowledge of other employees of Defendants who are similarly situated and who also worked hours for which they were not paid minimum and

overtime wages.

#### Defendants were joint employers of Plaintiff and/or a single integrated employer

- 63. At all relevant times, Individual and Corporate Defendants were joint employers of Plaintiff and the Collective Action Members, acted in the interest of each other with respect to Plaintiff's and other employees' remuneration, and had common policies and practices as to wages and hours, pursuant to 29 C.F.R. § 791.2 and NYLL § 2. Factors indicating joint employment include:
  - a. Corporate Defendants all suffered or permitted Plaintiff to work.
  - b. Each of the Defendants acted directly or indirectly in the interest of one another in relation to Plaintiff and similarly situated employees.
  - c. Defendants each have an economic interest in the locations in which Plaintiff and similarly situated employees worked.
  - d. Defendants all simultaneously benefitted from Plaintiff's work.
  - e. Defendants each had either functional and/or formal control over the terms and conditions of work of Plaintiff and similarly situated employees.
  - f. Plaintiff and similarly situated employees performed work integral to each Corporate Defendant's operation.
- 64. In the alternative, all Defendants functioned together as a single integrated employer of Plaintiff within the meaning of the FLSA and NYLL.
- 65. Upon information and belief, Corporate Defendants Sagar Food USA Inc and Sagar Chinese, Inc. are related entities and operate together as a single integrated enterprise. Specifically, both are owned, managed, and operated by the same core team of individuals, including Defendants Shamiur Rahman, and Afruja Akter July.

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- 66. Both Sagar Food USA Inc and Sagar Chinese, Inc. do business as "Sagar Chinese" and both corporations have designated the same location, namely 87-47 Homelawn Street, Jamaica Hills, New York, 11432, as the place for service of process upon them.
- 67. Furthermore, both "Sagar Chinese" locations, along with a location in Bellerose, are considered and publicly hold themselves as "branches" of the same establishment and advertise themselves under a unified website, namely https://sagarchinese.com/. See Exhibit A. The three branches are also referred to as "the Renowned Sagar Chinese Restaurant." Id. The three branches also utilize an identical food menu, newsletter for customers, and customer list. Id.
- 68. The operations of both Sagar Food USA Inc and Sagar Chinese, Inc. are intermingled and they employ the same personnel, including the Plaintiff in this action. Upon information and belief, managers and supervisors of each Corporate Defendant were, at all relevant times, considered, accounted for and publicly held out themselves as managers and supervisors of both Corporate Defendants. Individual Defendants, as well as, all other owners, principals, managers, and agents of each Corporate Defendant had the authority to hire, fire, train and discipline personnel in both Corporate Defendants
- 69. Upon information and belief, all non-exempt employees at both Corporate Defendants perform the same job duties, are subject to the same employment policies and practices, and are directed by Defendants to shift locations in accordance with the Defendants' needs. In particular, Plaintiff was instructed to work at either location of "Sagar Chinese" in accordance with their needs. Plaintiff worked similar hours and received the same rate of pay irrespective of which location he was working from.

70. Accordingly, all non-exempt employees working at any one Corporate Defendant at a particular instance were simultaneously considered and accounted for as employees of both Corporate Defendants collectively.

71. Upon information and belief, both Corporate Defendants operated under an agreement whereby they would treat all their employees, including Plaintiff, as a pool of workers available to all of them.

#### **COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

72. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §§ 203, 206, 207, and 216(b), Plaintiff brings his First and Second causes of action as a collective action under the FLSA on behalf of himself and the following collective:

All persons employed by Defendants at any time from November 23, 2015 to the present day (the "Collective Action Period") who worked as tipped employees, and other non-exempt employees of the Defendants (the "Collective Action Members").

- 73. A collective action appropriate in these circumstance because Plaintiff and the Collective Action Members are similarly situated, in that they were all subject to Defendants' illegal policies of failing to pay wages at or above the statutory minimum and failing to pay overtime wages for all hours worked above 40 hours per week.
- 74. Plaintiff and the Collective Action Members have substantially similar job duties and are paid pursuant to a similar, if not the same, payment structure.
- 75. The claims of the Plaintiff stated herein are similar to those of the other employees.

#### FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

## Fair Labor Standards Act – Violation of Minimum Wage Requirements (Brought on Behalf of Plaintiff and the Collective Action Members)

- 76. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and the Collective Action Members, realleges and incorporates by reference all allegations made in all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 77. Defendants, at all relevant times, paid Plaintiff and the Collective Action Members in amounts below the applicable statutory minimum wage for their hours worked, in violation of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 206.
- 78. Defendants did not even pay Plaintiff and the Collective Action Members at a lower tip-credited rate allowed for food service employees.
- 79. Defendants' unlawful conduct, as described in this Complaint, has been willful and intentional. Defendants were aware, or should have been aware, that the practices described in this Complaint were unlawful. Accordingly, a three-year statute of limitations applies pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 255(a).
- 80. As a result of the Defendants' violations of the FLSA, Plaintiff and the Collective Action Members have suffered damages by being denied wages at or exceeding the statutory minimum in accordance with the FLSA in amounts to be determined at trial and are thus entitled to recovery of such amounts, liquidated damages, attorneys' fees, costs, and other compensation pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216 (b).

#### SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Fair Labor Standards Act – Unpaid Overtime Wages (Brought on Behalf of Plaintiff and the Collective Action Members)

81. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and the Collective Action Members, realleges and

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incorporates by reference all allegations made in all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

- 82. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and the Collective Action Members overtime wages for all hours worked above 40 hours per week thereby violating the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 207(a)(1) at a rate of one and one half times their regular rate of pay, but under no circumstances, below one and one half times the statutory minimum wage.
- 83. Defendants' unlawful conduct, as described in this Complaint, has been willful and intentional. Defendants were aware, or should have been aware, that the practices described in this Complaint were unlawful. Accordingly, a three-year statute of limitations applies pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 255(a).
- 84. As a result of the Defendants' violations of the FLSA, Plaintiff and the Collective Action Members have been deprived of overtime compensation and other wages in amounts to be determined at trial, and are thus entitled to recovery of such amounts, liquidated damages, attorneys' fees, costs, and other compensation pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216 (b).

#### THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

#### New York Labor Law – Violation of Minimum Wage Requirements

- 85. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 86. Defendants, at all relevant times, paid Plaintiff less than the applicable statutory minimum wage for his hours worked in violation of NYLL § 652 and the supporting New York State Department of Labor regulations, including 12 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 146-1.2.
- 87. Defendants did not even pay Plaintiff and the Collective Action Members at a lower tip-credited rate allowed for food service employees.

- 88. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff the minimum wage lacked a good faith basis within the meaning of NYLL § 663.
- 89. Due to Defendants' violations of the NYLL, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants his unpaid minimum wages, liquidated damages as provided for by the NYLL, reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and pre-judgment and post-judgment interest, pursuant to NYLL § 198 (1-a).

#### FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

#### New York Labor Law - Unpaid Overtime Wages

- 56. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
- 57. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff overtime wages for all hours worked above 40 hours per week thereby violating the NYLL §§ 190 *et seq.* and the New York State Department of Labor regulations, 12 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 146-1.4.
- 58. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff overtime compensation lacked a good faith basis within meaning of NYLL § 663.
- 59. Due to Defendants' violations of the NYLL, Plaintiff is entitled to recovery of their unpaid overtime wages, liquidated damages as provided for by the NYLL, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of the action, pre-judgment and post-judgment interest, pursuant to NYLL § 198 (1-a).

#### **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### New York Labor Law – Unpaid Spread-of-Hours Pay

90. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.

- 91. Defendants have failed to pay Plaintiff spread-of-hours compensation of one hour's pay at the basic minimum hourly wage rate for each day during which the interval between the beginning and end of Plaintiff's shift exceeded ten (10) hours, as defined by the New York State Department of Labor regulations, 12 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 146-1.6.
- 92. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff spread-of hours compensation lacked a good faith basis within the meaning of NYLL § 663.
- 93. Due to Defendants' violations of the NYLL, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants his unpaid spread-of-hours pay, liquidated damages as provided for by the NYLL, attorneys' fees, costs, and pre-judgment and post-judgment interest, pursuant to NYLL § 198 (1-a).

#### SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

#### New York Labor Law - Failure to Provide Wage Statements

- 94. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
- 95. Defendants have failed to provide Plaintiff with wage statements throughout his employment listing, *inter alia*, his regular and overtime hours of work, his correct rate of pay, and the basis of pay, in violation of NYLL § 195(3). Instead, Defendants either did not provide Plaintiff with any pay stubs, or provided him with fictional paystubs that did not accurately reflect all his hours of work and the correct rate of pay.
- 96. Due to Defendants' violations of the NYLL, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants' statutory damages of Two Hundred and Fifty dollars (\$250) per workday that the violation occurred, up to a maximum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000), pursuant to NYLL § 198 (1-d).

#### SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

#### New York Labor Law – Failure to Provide Notice at Time of Hiring

- 97. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
- 98. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff at the time of hiring or at any point thereafter, a notice containing the rate of pay and basis thereof, whether paid by the hour, shift, day, week, salary, piece, commission, or other; the regular pay day designated by the employer; the physical address of the employer's main office or principal place of business; the telephone number of the employer, and anything otherwise required by law, in violation of NYLL § 195(1).
- 99. Due to Defendants' violations of the NYLL § 195(1), Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants statutory damages of Fifty dollars (\$50) per workday that the violation occurred, up to a maximum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) pursuant to NYLL § 198 (1-b).

#### **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### New York Labor Law- Unlawful Withholding of Gratuities

- 100. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
- 101. Defendant July unlawfully retained 50% of all gratuities collected by the tip pool from which Plaintiff and other employees participated in violation of NYLL Article 6, § 196-d and 12 N.Y.C.R.R. §§146-2.15 and 146-2.18.
- 102. As a result of Defendants' continuous and willful violations of the NYLL § 196-d and the supporting New York State Department of Labor Regulations, 12 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 146 *et seq.*, Plaintiff is entitled to damages for the value of the misappropriated gratuities, liquidated

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damages as provided for by NYLL § 198(1-a), reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and prejudgment and post-judgment interest.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff seeks the following relief:

- 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 collective action members, apprising them of the pendency of this action, and permitting them promptly to file consents to be Plaintiff in the FLSA claims in this action;
- B. Issuance of a declaratory judgment that the practices complained of in this Complaint are unlawful under the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §§ 201 et seq., New York Labor Law, Article 6, §§ 190 et seq., and supporting New York State Department of Labor regulations;
- C. Unpaid minimum and overtime wages under the FLSA and an additional and equal amount as liquidated damages pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) and the supporting United States Department of Labor regulations;
- D. Unpaid minimum and overtime wages, spread-of-hours pay, and unlawfully withheld gratuities under the NYLL, and an additional and equal amount as liquidated damages pursuant to NYLL §198(1-a) and § 663(1);
- E. Civil penalties of One Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$1,100.00) for each of Defendants' willful and repeated violations of the FLSA pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b);
- F. A permanent injunction requiring Defendants to pay all statutorily required wages pursuant to the FLSA and NYLL;

- G. If liquidated damages pursuant to FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) are not awarded, an award of pre-judgment interest pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1961;
- H. An award of statutory damages for Defendants' failure to provide Plaintiff with wage notices at the time of their respective hiring, or at any point thereafter, pursuant to NYLL § 198 (1-b);
- I. An award of statutory damages for Defendants' failure to provide Plaintiff with wage statements pursuant to NYLL § 198 (1-d);
- J. An award of pre-judgment interest of nine per cent per annum (9%) pursuant to the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules §§ 5001-5004;
- K. An award of post-judgment interest pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1961 and/or the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules § 5003;
- L. An award of attorney's fees, costs, and further expenses up to Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), and NYLL §§ 198 and 663(1);
  - M. Such other relief as this Court shall deem just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York November 23, 2018

Respectfully submitted,
PARDALIS& NOHAVICKA, LLP

By: /s/Ariadne Panagopoulou
Ariadne Panagopoulou (AP-2202)
Attorneys for Plaintiff
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New York, New York 10022
Tel: 718.777.0400 | Fax: 718.777.0599

Email: ari@pnlawyers.com

1 consent to be a party plaintiff in a lawsuit against Sagar Chinese and/or related entities and individuals in order to seek redress for violations of Fair Labor Standards Act, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), and the New York Labor Law. 1 hereby designate Pardalis & Nohavicka LLP to represent me in such a lawsuit.

Dated: 11/	5/2018		
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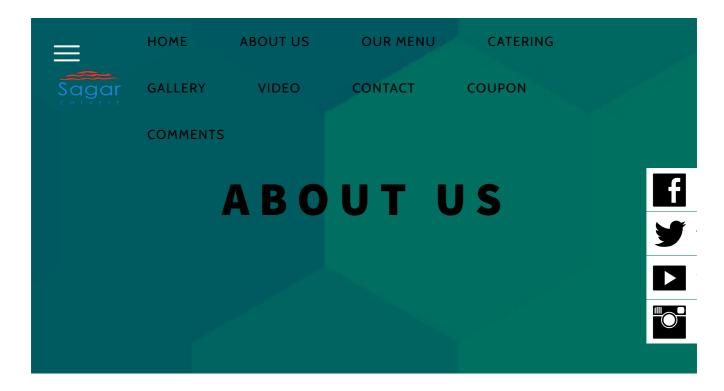
# EXHIBIT A



OUR STORY



1 of 15 21/11/2018, 4:48 PM



Welcome to the Renowned Sagar Chinese Restaurant. New York's finest traditional Halal spicy Chinese food blended with Bangladeshi, Indian and Pakistani flavor. Sagar Chinese set in beautiful contemporary surroundings. Combining passion, pride and energy Sagar Desi Chinese restaurant has gained an unique position in New York's dining environment.

One of the greatest culinary crossroads, with all the bold and unique flavors of the Indian ansub-continent and Chinese blended to bring you what we call the Sagar Chinese experience. The menu incorporates both traditional classic flavors and original dishes that apply eastern flavors with a western twist. We also cater for weddings, functions and parties for a truly memorable meal. Chinese is located at the heart of New York and is a great place where you can enjoy authentic spicy Chinese food for little. No matter whether it's a quick lunch, family get to gather or even a romantic dinner Sagar Deshi Chinese is the place you need to be for truly an unforgettable experience, unprecedented quality and unassuming prices.

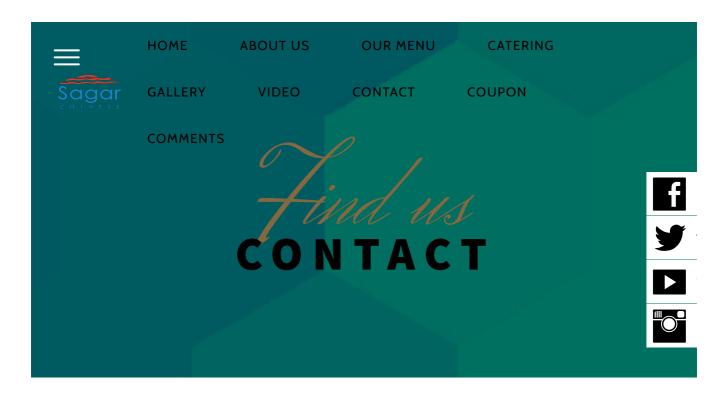
1 of 3 21/11/2018, 4:59 PM

Sagar Chinese restaurant is going to be a third generation restaurant aiming to serve freshest, healthful delicious food to the New York's all community. Sagar Chinese restaurant dishes are Halal not in name but also authenticable from the slaughtering to cooking. Shamiur Rahman is the pioneer to introduce halal spicy Chinese food in the New York.

He has been trained in his family restaurant business from the age of 15. He gained the all cooking and knowledge of the food industry in his 20 years long experience. Creating a unique menu, Shamiur adapted and created classic Bangladeshi and Indian style Chinese dishes and also developed many new recipes mingling by classical and modern recipes. His continuing research and development on finger liking Asian fusion recipes will be introduced more in the future.

Health is a #1 concern while dining. Enjoy the Sagar Chinese delicious dishes. As we are concern of the Halal ingredients at same time we are also concern on organic ingredients that will fit to your health. Sagar Chinese is committed to provide the most freshest, healthful delicious dishes so that you can keep your health fit and come to enjoy the food in our restaurant again and again.

2 of 3 21/11/2018, 4:59 PM



## JAMAICA BRANCH

87-47 Homelawn Street

Jamaica, NY 11432

Phone: 718-657-3333, 718-657-3334

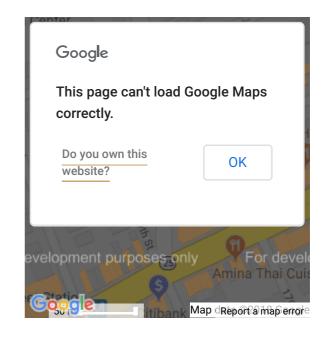
#### **Business Hours**

Sunday-Thursday: Noon – 10.00pm

Friday-Saturday: Noon – 10.30pm

FOLLOW US

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1 of 3 21/11/2018, 5:02 PM

\*

## **BELLEROSE BRANCH**

f

252-05 Union Tpke Bellerose, NY 11426

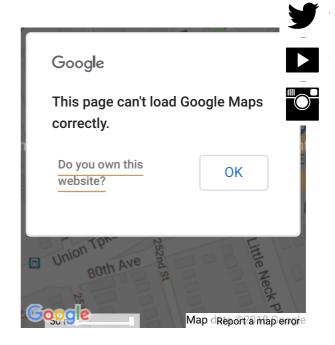
Phone: 718 343 4444, 718 343 4448

#### **Business Hours**

Sunday-Thursday: Noon – 10.00pm Friday-Saturday: Noon – 10.30pm

FOLLOW US

f t



\*

## JACKSON HEIGHTS BRANCH

74-19 37th Ave

Jackson Heights NY 11372

Phone: 718-505-1002, 718-505-1071

#### **Business Hours**

Sunday-Thursday: Noon – 10.00pm Friday-Saturday: Noon – 10.30pm

2 of 3 21/11/2018, 5:02 PM

#### **FOLLOW US**

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#### ABOUT SAGAR CHINESE

Welcome to the Renowned Sagar Chinese Restaurant. New York's finest traditional Halal spicy Chinese food blended with Bangladeshi, Indian and Pakistani flavor. Sagar Chinese set in beautiful contemporary surroundings. Combining passion, pride and energy Sagar Desi Chinese restaurant has gained an unique position in New York's dining environment.

# NEWSLETTER Your Email (required)

#### FOLLOW US





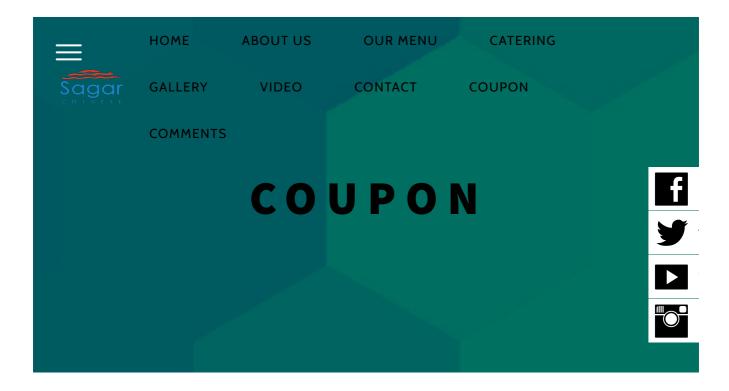




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BLOG REVIEW FREE PARKING? HOW ARE WE DOING?

3 of 3 21/11/2018, 5:02 PM

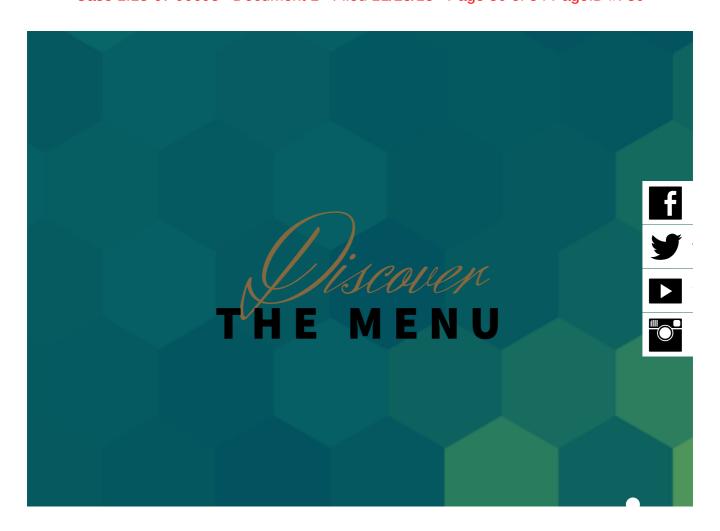


# TO RECIEVE COUPON PLEASE JOIN OUR CUSTOMER LIST

#### WE KEEP YOUR INFO CONFIDENTIAL

*	First Name (required)	*
	Last Name (required)	
	Mailing Address (required)	

1 of 3 21/11/2018, 5:09 PM



Manchurian Sauce: soy sauce, black pepper, fresh ginger and garlic. Masala Sauce: variety of Indian spices, chili, onion, fresh ginger and garlic. Sagar Sizzling Sauce: red chili, Indian spices, butter, fresh garlic. Homemade Sauce: oyster sauce, red whole chili, sugar and lemon juice. Sweet & Sour: chili sauce, lemon juice, sugar and black pepper.

### **APPETIZER**

FRIED RICE

LOLLY POP \$8.95
CHICKEN\*
Spicy pulled back wings and fried, served with Creamy sauce

SAGAR FRIED RICE \$9.95
(CHICKEN OR
VEGETABLE)
Basmati rice Stir-fried with long beans

4 of 15 21/11/2018, 4:48 PM

## **EXHIBIT B**

## Case 1:18-cv-06693 Document 1 Filed 11/23/18 Page 32 of 34 PageID #: 32

the second control of	
Job Title:	Hourly serve
7/30/2018 - 8/12/2018	
	Hours
2016-07-30 05:08 PM - 12:01 AM Normal Time Card >	
2018-07-31 12:04 F 11:12 PM Normal Time Card > :	11.15
2018-08-01 11:57 NM - 11:24 PM Normal Time Card > :	11.45
2018-08-02 12:01 PM - 11:52 PM Normal Time Card > :	11.85
Z018-08-03 12:54 PM - 11:02 PM Normal Time Card > :	10.15
2018-36-04 11:56 AM - 11:07 PM Normal Time Card > :	11.20
2018-08-05 11:55 AM - 11:31 PM Normal Time Card > :	11.60
2018-08-06 11:49 AM - 11:27 PM Normal Time Card > :	11.65
2018-08-07 11:46 AM - 11:40 PM Normal Time Card > :	11.90
2018-08-08 11:56 AM - 11:04 PM Normal Time Card > :	11.15
2018-08-09 12:19 PM - 11:13 PW Normal Time Card > :	10.90
2018-08-10 01:05 PM - 11:11 PM Normal Time Card > :	10.10
2018-08-11 11:57 AM - 12:01 AM Normal Time Card > :	12.05
2018-08-12 11:51 AM - 11:15 PM Normal Time Card > :	11.40
>>>>> REGULAR PAY: \$40 TOTAL OVER TIME HOURS: 7 >>>>> OVER TIME PAY: \$36 TOTAL DOUBLE TIME HOURS: 5 >>>> DOUBLE TIME PAY: \$57 TOTAL TIPS REPORTED: \$57	30.00 00.00 73.45 67.25 0.00
TUTAL HOURS WORKED: 15	7.25 3.45 5.00 0.00

# EXHIBIT C

1854				V-T-D	393.57		:-	485.62	539 40	
ATE 8		STD. WITH-HOLDINGS	AMOUNT	47.49		=	58.60			
	PAY PERIOD CHECK DATE 07/30/18 - 08/12/18 08/15/18		STD. WI	DESC.	Ssec				NET CHECK	State: NY, 0
	PAY PERIOD	30/18 - 08/1	DUCTIONS AMOUNT IRAI ANCE	DALANCE	1650.00			1650.00		Sta
1306 2561	0.		120	- NOOME	168.00			168.00		
WWW COAPUCHECKS.COM, 888 388 5581	SSEC. NO.	012-81-1414	DESC		4698.00 Cash Tips 1650.00				= 11	Federal:0
			Y-T-D		4698.00 1650.00			6348.00		Exemptions/Allowances:
		-	GS AMOUNT	000	168.00			766.00		Exemptions,
SAGAR FOOD USA INC		BABLU HUSEN	EARNINGS DESC.	Dog MIV	Cash Tips					Exempt
		B)	RATE					TOTAL		Taxable Marital Status: Exempt
SA	20		HOURS	29 80				2		Taxable Ma

JS 44 (Rev. 11/15)

#### CIVIL COVER SHEET

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

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS Bablu Husen, individual situated,	ly and on behalf of all	other employees sin	DEFENDANTS Sagar Food USA Inc d/b/a Sagar Chinese, Sagar Chinese, Inc. d/b/a Sagar Chinese, Shamiur Rahman, and Afruja Akter July, jointly and severally.								
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Kings				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant							
	EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF C			(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)							
	The second secon					NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.					
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Pardalis & Nohavicka, L 950 3rd Ave, Floor 25	Address, and Telephone Numb LP T. 212-21	<sup>er)</sup> 3-8511		Attorneys (If Known)	)						
New York, NY 10022											
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in e	One Box Only)	III. CI	TIZENSHIP OF F	PRINC	IPAL PARTII	ES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintig				
☐ 1 U.S. Government	→ 3 Federal Question			(For Diversity Cases Only)			and One Box for Defendant)				
Plaintiff	(U.S. Government	Not a Party)	Citize		TF DE	1 Incorporated o	PTF DEF Principal Place				
2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizensi	hip of Parties in Item III)	Citize	en of Another State	J 2 🗆	2 Incorporated a	nd Principal Place 5 5 5				
		5 340 0000000000000000000000000000000000		en or Subject of a	J 3 🗇	3 Foreign Nation					
IV. NATURE OF SUI	Γ (Place an "X" in One Box O	nlv)	10	reigh Country							
CONTRACT		ORTS	FC	DRFEITURE/PENALTY		BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES				
☐ 110 Insurance ☐ 120 Marine	PERSONAL INJURY	PERSONAL INJURY	□ 62	5 Drug Related Seizure	□ 422 /	Appeal 28 USC 158	☐ 375 False Claims Act				
130 Miller Act	☐ 310 Airplane ☐ 315 Airplane Product	☐ 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability	7 60	of Property 21 USC 881 0 Other		Withdrawal	☐ 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) ☐ 400 State Reapportionment				
☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument	Liability	☐ 367 Health Care/	1500	o other		28 USC 157					
□ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment	☐ 320 Assault, Libel & Slander	Pharmaceutical				PERTY RIGHTS	☐ 410 Antitrust				
☐ 151 Medicare Act	☐ 330 Federal Employers'	Personal Injury Product Liability			□ 820 C	Copyrights	☐ 430 Banks and Banking				
☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted	Liability	☐ 368 Asbestos Personal				ratent Frademark	☐ 450 Commerce ☐ 460 Deportation				
Student Loans (Excludes Veterans)	☐ 340 Marine ☐ 345 Marine Product	Injury Product					470 Racketeer Influenced and				
☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment	Liability	Liability PERSONAL PROPERT	FY 71	LABOR 0 Fair Labor Standards		HAL SECURITY HIA (1395ff)	Corrupt Organizations				
of Veteran's Benefits	☐ 350 Motor Vehicle	370 Other Fraud		Act	□ 862 E	Black Lung (923)	<ul> <li>□ 480 Consumer Credit</li> <li>□ 490 Cable/Sat TV</li> </ul>				
<ul> <li>☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits</li> <li>☐ 190 Other Contract</li> </ul>	☐ 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability	371 Truth in Lending	☐ 72	0 Labor/Management	□ 863 I	DIWC/DIWW (405(g	))   850 Securities/Commodities/				
☐ 195 Contract Product Liability	☐ 360 Other Personal	☐ 380 Other Personal Property Damage	O 74	Relations 0 Railway Labor Act		SSID Title XVI RSI (405(g))	Exchange				
☐ 196 Franchise	Injury	☐ 385 Property Damage		1 Family and Medical	L5 005 1	(31 (403(g))	☐ 890 Other Statutory Actions ☐ 891 Agricultural Acts				
	☐ 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	Product Liability	7.70	Leave Act			☐ 893 Environmental Matters				
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITIONS	S 79	0 Other Labor Litigation 1 Employee Retirement	FED	ERAL TAX SUITS	☐ 895 Freedom of Information Act				
210 Land Condemnation	☐ 440 Other Civil Rights	Habeas Corpus:		Income Security Act	The second second second	Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff	☐ 896 Arbitration				
☐ 220 Foreclosure ☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	☐ 441 Voting ☐ 442 Employment	☐ 463 Alien Detainee				or Defendant)	☐ 899 Administrative Procedure				
☐ 240 Torts to Land	443 Housing/	☐ 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence				RS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	Act/Review or Appeal of				
245 Tort Product Liability	Accommodations	☐ 530 General			1 4	20 030 7009	Agency Decision  950 Constitutionality of				
☐ 290 All Other Real Property	445 Amer, w/Disabilities -	☐ 535 Death Penalty		IMMIGRATION			State Statutes				
	Employment  446 Amer. w/Disabilities -	Other:  540 Mandamus & Other	D 462	Naturalization Application Other Immigration	1						
	Other	☐ 550 Civil Rights		Actions							
	☐ 448 Education	☐ 555 Prison Condition ☐ 560 Civil Detainee -									
		Conditions of									
		Confinement			1						
		Remanded from Appellate Court	4 Reins	stated or	erred fron						
		tute under which you are ards Act, 29 U.S.C. §	1.000000001	(specify)	)		OII.				
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	Brief description of ca										
VII DEQUECTED IN											
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	UNDER RULE 2	IS A CLASS ACTION 3, F.R.Cv.P.		EMAND \$ 300,000.00		CHECK YES on JURY DEMAN	lly if demanded in complaint: D:				
VIII. RELATED CASE											
DATE DATE	(See instructions):	JUDGE			DOC	KET NUMBER					
11/21/2018		signature of atto									
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		and a same	3-200	10.75 M							
RECEIPT # AN	10UNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE		garrananan e	HIDOE				
11 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1		ALL LING IFF		JUDGE		MAG. J	UDUE				

## Case 1:18-cv-06693 Document 1-1 Filed 11/23/18 Page 2 of 2 PageID #: 36 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. Case is Eligible for Arbitration I Ariadne Panagopoulou , counsel for , do hereby certify that the above captioned civil action is ineligible for compulsory arbitration for the following reason(s) monetary damages sought are in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs. the complaint seeks injunctive relief, the matter is otherwise ineligible for the following reason DISCLOSURE STATEMENT - FEDERAL RULES CIVIL PROCEDURE 7.1 Identify any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation that owns 10% or more or its stocks: RELATED CASE STATEMENT (Section VIII on the Front of this Form) Please list all cases that are arguably related pursuant to Division of Business Rule 50.3.1 in Section VIII on the front of this form. Rule 50.3.1 (a) provides that "A civil case is "related" to another civil case for purposes of this guideline when, because of the similarity of facts and legal issues or because the cases arise from the same transactions or events, a substantial saving of judicial resources is likely to result from assigning both cases to the same judge and magistrate judge." Rule 50.3.1 (b) provides that " A civil case shall not be deemed "related" to another civil case merely because the civil case: (A) involves identical legal issues, or (B) involves the same parties." Rule 50.3.1 (c) further provides that "Presumptively, and subject to the power of a judge to determine otherwise pursuant to paragraph (d), civil cases shall not be deemed to be "related" unless both cases are still pending before the court." NY-E DIVISION OF BUSINESS RULE 50.1(d)(2) 1.) Is the civil action being filed in the Eastern District removed from a New York State Court located in Nassau or Suffolk County? Yes No 2.) 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? Yes 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 c) If this is a Fair Debt Collection Practice Act case, specify the County in which the offending communication was If your answer to question 2 (b) is "No," does the defendant (or a majority of the defendants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or Suffolk County, or, in an interpleader action, does the claimant (or a majority of the claimants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or Suffolk County?

Yes

No Suffolk County? (Note: A corporation shall be considered a resident of the County in which it has the most significant contacts). BAR ADMISSION I am currently admitted in the Eastern District of New York and currently a member in good standing of the bar of this court. 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 I certify the accuracy of all information provided above. Signature:

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern District of New York

<del></del>						
Bablu Husen, individually and on behalf of all other employees similarly situated,	) ) )					
Plaintiff(s)	)					
Fiamily(s)	)					
V.	Civil Action No.					
Sagar Food USA Inc d/b/a Sagar Chinese, Sagar Chinese, Inc. d/b/a Sagar Chinese, Shamiur Rahman, and Afruja Akter July, jointly and severally,	) ) ) )					
Defendant(s)	)					
2 Gendam (v)	,					
SUMMONS IN	NA CIVIL ACTION					
To: (Defendant's name and address) Sagar Food USA Inc d/b/a Sagar Chinese, Inc. d/b/a Shamiur Rahman Afruja Akter July 87-47 Homelawn Street Jamaica, NY 11432						
A lawsuit has been filed against you.						
are the United States or a United States agency, or an offi	P,					
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.						
	DOUGLAS C. PALMER CLERK OF COURT					
Date:						
	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk					

## **ClassAction.org**

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Sagar Chinese Eateries Accused of Wage Abuses in Ex-Server's Lawsuit</u>