IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

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CHAD KASPEREIT,	\$
Individually and on behalf	S
of all others similarly situated,	Š
•	S Civil Action No. CIV-18-117-C
Plaintiff,	Š
	\$
v.	§ JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
	\$
CONTINENTAL RESOURCES, INC.	S COLLECTIVE ACTION
	§ PURSUANT TO 29 U.S.C. § 216(b)
Defendant.	S
	Š

ORIGINAL COLLECTIVE ACTION COMPLAINT

Chad Kaspereit ("Plaintiff" or "Kaspereit") brings this action individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated (hereinafter "Plaintiff and the Putative Class Members") who worked for Continental Resources, Inc. ("Continental") and were paid a salary but no overtime from three years preceding the filing of the Original Complaint through the final disposition of this matter, seeking all available relief, including compensation, liquidated damages, attorneys' fees, and costs, pursuant the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA"), 29 U.S.C. §§ 201, et seq.

I. OVERVIEW

- 1. This is a collective action to recover overtime wages brought pursuant to the FLSA.
- 2. Plaintiff and the Putative Class Members are those similarly situated persons who worked for Continental at any time from February 7, 2015 through the final disposition

of this matter, and were paid a salary, but did not receive overtime for all hours worked over forty (40) in each workweek.

- 3. Plaintiff and the Putative Class Members routinely work (and worked) in excess of forty (40) hours per workweek, Plaintiff and the Putative Class Members were not paid overtime of at least one and one-half their regular rates for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per workweek.
- 4. The decision by Continental not to pay overtime compensation to Plaintiff and the Putative Class Members was neither reasonable nor in good faith.
- 5. Continental knowingly and deliberately failed to compensate Plaintiff and the Putative Class Members overtime of at least one and one-half their regular rates for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per workweek.
- 6. Plaintiff and the Putative Class Members did not and currently do not perform work that meets the definition of exempt work under the FLSA. Specifically, Plaintiff and the Putative Class Members performed routine and manual labor type job duties in the oilfield.
- 7. Plaintiff and the Putative Class Members therefore seek to recover all unpaid overtime and other damages owed under the FLSA as a collective action pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

¹ All exemptions are to be narrowly construed and the burden of proof to establish them lies with the employer. *Lederman v. Frontier Fire Protection, Inc.*, 685 F.3d 1151, 1156 (10th Cir. 2012).

8. Plaintiff prays that all similarly situated workers (Putative Class Members) be notified of the pendency of this action to apprise them of their rights and provide them an opportunity to opt-in to this lawsuit.

II. THE PARTIES

- 9. Plaintiff Chad Kaspereit worked for Continental within the meaning of the FLSA within this judicial district and within the relevant three-year period. Plaintiff Kaspereit did not receive overtime compensation for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per workweek.²
- 10. The Putative Class Members include those current and former oilfield workers who worked for Continental at any time since February 7, 2015 and have been subjected to the same illegal pay system under which Plaintiff Kaspereit worked and was paid.
- 11. Continental Resources, Inc. ("Defendant" or "Continental") is an Oklahoma for-profit corporation, having its principal place of business in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Continental may be served through its registered agent for service: The Corporation Company, 1833 South Morgan Road, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73128.

III. JURISDICTION & VENUE

- 12. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the FLSA claim pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 as this is an action arising under 29 U.S.C. §§ 201 et. seq.
- 13. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Continental because the cause of action arose within this District as a result of Continental's conduct within this District.

² The written consent of Chad Kaspereit is attached hereto as Exhibit "A."

- 14. Venue is proper in the Western District of Oklahoma because this is a judicial district where a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred.
- 15. Specifically, Continental maintains its principal place of business in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, which is located within this District.
 - 16. Venue is therefore proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391.

IV. ADDITIONAL FACTS

- 17. Continental is one of the top ten independent oil producers in the "U.S. Lower 48 and a leader in America's energy renaissance."³
- 18. Based in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Continental is the largest leaseholder and one of the largest producers in the Bakken oil field in North Dakota and Montana.⁴
- 19. Continental currently operates in six states across the country: Oklahoma, Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming.⁵
- 20. To provide their services, Continental employed numerous Completion Supervisors who were paid a salary and no overtime—including Plaintiff and the individuals that make up the putative or potential class. While exact job titles may differ, these workers were subjected to the same or similar illegal pay practices for similar work in the oilfield.
- 21. Plaintiff Kaspereit worked for Continental as a Completion Supervisor/Foreman from approximately June 2011 through December 2016.

³ <u>http://www.contres.com/about.</u>

⁴ *Id*.

⁵ <u>http://www.contres.com/operations</u>.

- 22. As a Completion Supervisor/Foreman, Plaintiff Kaspereit was tasked with overseeing completion operations at the well site after the drilling phase had concluded. As such, he ensured that the contractors and their employees providing services at the well site were in compliance with all of Continental's policies and procedures.
- 23. Continental paid Plaintiff and the Putative Class Members a weekly salary that was intended to compensate them for a forty-hour work week, but remained the same regardless of the actual number of hours worked each week.
- 24. Specifically, Plaintiff Kaspereit was paid approximately \$2,700.00 per week but did not receive overtime compensation for any hours worked over forty (40) each workweek.
- 25. Plaintiff and the Putative Class Members regularly worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week. Specifically, Plaintiff and the Putative Class Members often worked over one hundred (100) hours a week.
- 26. Although it is well-known that blue-collar workers like Plaintiff and the Putative Class Members are <u>not</u> exempt from overtime, Continental did not pay Plaintiff and the Putative Class Members the additional overtime premium required by the FLSA for hours worked in excess of forty (40) in a workweek.
- 27. Plaintiff and the Putative Class Members' primary job duties included performing daily checklists, assisting with the preparation of equipment, and performing other oilfield related functions on various job sites.
- 28. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff and the Putative Class Members would conduct their day-to-day activities within mandatory and designed parameters and in accordance with pre-determined operational plans created by Continental and/or its clients.

- 29. Upon further information and belief, Plaintiff and the Putative Class Members' daily and weekly activities were routine and largely governed by standardized plans, procedures, and checklists created by Continental and/or its clients.
- 30. Virtually every job function was pre-determined by Continental and/or its clients, including the tools to use at a job site, the schedule of work, and related work duties. Plaintiff and the Putative Class Members were prohibited from varying their job duties outside of the predetermined parameters.
- 31. Moreover, Plaintiff and the Putative Class Members' job functions were primarily routine and manual labor in nature, requiring little to no official training, much less a college education or other advanced degree.
- 32. Indeed, Plaintiff and the Putative Class Members are blue-collar workers. They rely on their hands, physical skills, and energy to perform manual and routine labor in the oilfield.
- 33. Plaintiff and the Putative Class Members' duties did not (and currently do not) include managerial responsibilities or the exercise of independent discretion or judgment.
- 34. Plaintiff and the Putative Class Members did not (and currently do not) have the authority to hire or fire other Continental employees, and they were not (and currently are not) responsible for making hiring or firing recommendations.
- 35. Moreover, Plaintiff and the Putative Class Members did not (and currently do not) supervise two or more Continental employees.
- 36. The FLSA mandates that overtime be paid at one and one-half times an employee's regular rate of pay.

- 37. Continental did not pay any overtime at all for work in excess of forty (40) hours per week.
- 38. Accordingly, Continental's pay policies and practices violated (and continue to violate) the FLSA.

V. CAUSES OF ACTION

COUNT ONE(Collective Action Alleging FLSA Violations)

A. FLSA COVERAGE

- 39. All previous paragraphs are incorporated as though fully set forth herein.
- 40. The FLSA Collective is defined as:

ALL COMPLETION SUPERVISORS/FOREMEN WHO WORKED FOR CONTINENTAL RESOURCES, INC., AT ANY TIME FROM FEBRUARY 7, 2015 THROUGH THE FINAL DISPOSITION OF THIS CASE, AND WERE PAID A SALARY BUT DID NOT RECEIVE OVERTIME FOR HOURS WORKED OVER FORTY IN ANY WORKWEEK ("FLSA Collective" or "FLSA Collective Members").

- 41. At all times hereinafter mentioned, Continental has been an employer within the meaning of Section 3(d) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(d).
- 42. At all times hereinafter mentioned, Continental has been an enterprise within the meaning of Section 3(r) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(r).
- 43. At all times hereinafter mentioned, Continental has been an enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of Section 3(s)(1) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(s)(1), in that said enterprise has had employees engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, or employees handling, selling, or otherwise working on goods or materials that have been moved in or produced for commerce

by any person, or in any closely related process or occupation directly essential to the production thereof, and in that those enterprises have had, and have, an annual gross volume of sales made or business done of not less than \$500,000.00 (exclusive of excise taxes at the retail level which are separately stated).

- 44. During the respective periods of Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective Members' employment by Continental, these individuals provided services for Continental that involved interstate commerce for purposes of the FLSA.
- 45. In performing the operations hereinabove described, Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective Members were engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of §§ 203(b), 203(i), 203(j), 206(a), and 207(a) of the FLSA. 29 U.S.C. §§ 203(b), 203(j), 203(j), 206(a), 207(a).
- 46. Specifically, Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective Members are (or were) <u>non-exempt</u> employees who worked for Continental and were engaged in oilfield services that were directly essential to the production of goods for Continental and related oil and gas exploration and production companies. 29 U.S.C. § 203(j).
- 47. At all times hereinafter mentioned, Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective Members are (or were) individual employees who were engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce as required by 29 U.S.C. §§ 206-207.
- 48. In violating the FLSA, Continental acted willfully, without a good faith basis and with reckless disregard of applicable federal law.
- 49. The proposed collective of similarly situated employees, i.e. putative collective members sought to be certified pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), is defined in Paragraph 40.

50. The precise size and identity of the proposed class should be ascertainable from the business records, tax records, and/or employee or personnel records of Continental.

B. FAILURE TO PAY WAGES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FLSA

- 51. All previous paragraphs are incorporated as though fully set forth herein.
- 52. Continental violated provisions of Sections 7 and 15 of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 207, and 215(a)(2) by employing individuals in an enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of the FLSA for workweeks longer than forty (40) hours without compensating such employees for hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week at rates at least one and one-half times the regular rates.
- 53. Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective Members have suffered damages and continue to suffer damages as a result of Continental's acts or omissions as described herein; though Continental is in possession and control of necessary documents and information from which Plaintiff would be able to precisely calculate damages.
- 54. Moreover, Continental knowingly, willfully and in reckless disregard carried out its illegal pattern of failing to pay Plaintiff and other similarly situated employees overtime compensation. 29 U.S.C. § 255(a).
- 55. Continental knew or should have known its pay practices were in violation of the FLSA.
- 56. Continental is a sophisticated party and employer, and therefore knew (or should have known) its policies were in violation of the FLSA.
- 57. Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective Members, on the other hand, are (and were) unsophisticated laborers who trusted Continental to pay overtime in accordance with the law.

- 58. The decision and practice by Continental to not pay overtime was neither reasonable nor in good faith.
- 59. Accordingly, Plaintiff and the Putative Class Members are entitled to overtime wages for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) in a workweek pursuant to the FLSA in an amount equal to one-and-a-half times their regular rate of pay, plus liquidated damages, attorneys' fees and costs.

C. FLSA COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 60. All previous paragraphs are incorporated as though fully set forth herein.
- 61. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), this collective claim is made on behalf of all those who are (or were) similarly situated to Plaintiff Kaspereit.
- 62. Other similarly situated employees have been victimized by Continental's patterns, practices, and policies, which are in willful violation of the FLSA.
 - 63. The FLSA Collective Members are defined in Paragraph 40.
- 64. Continental's failure to pay any overtime compensation results from generally applicable policies and practices, and does not depend on the personal circumstances of the individual FLSA Collective Members.
- 65. Thus, Plaintiff's experiences are typical of the experiences of the FLSA Collective Members.
- 66. The specific job titles or precise job requirements of the various FLSA Collective Members does not prevent collective treatment.

- 67. All of the FLSA Collective Members—regardless of their specific job titles, precise job requirements, rates of pay, or job locations—are entitled to be properly compensated for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per workweek.
- 68. Although the issues of damages may be individual in character, there is no detraction from the common nucleus of liability facts. Indeed, the FLSA Collective Members are blue-collar oilfield workers entitled to overtime after forty (40) hours in a week.
- 69. Continental has employed a substantial number of similarly situated workers since February 7, 2015. Upon information and belief, these workers are geographically dispersed, residing and working in locations across the United States. Because these workers do not have fixed work locations, they may work in different states across the country in the course of a given year.
- 70. Absent a collective action, many members of the proposed FLSA collective likely will not obtain redress of their injuries and Continental will retain the proceeds of its rampant violations.
- 71. Moreover, individual litigation would be unduly burdensome to the judicial system. Concentrating the litigation in one forum will promote judicial economy and parity among the claims of the individual members of the classes and provide for judicial consistency.
- 72. Accordingly, the FLSA collective of similarly situated plaintiffs should be certified as defined as in Paragraph 40 and notice should be promptly sent.

VI. RELIEF SOUGHT

Plaintiff respectfully prays for judgment against Continental as follows:

- a. For an Order recognizing this proceeding as a collective action pursuant to Section 216(b) of the FLSA, certifying the FLSA Collective as defined in Paragraph 40 and requiring Continental to provide the names, addresses, e-mail addresses, telephone numbers, and social security numbers of all potential collective action members;
- b. For an Order approving the form and content of a notice to be sent to all potential FLSA Collective Members advising them of the pendency of this litigation and of their rights with respect thereto;
- c. For an Order awarding Plaintiff (and those FLSA Collective Members who have joined in the suit) back wages that have been improperly withheld;
- d. For an Order pursuant to Section 16(b) of the FLSA finding Continental liable for unpaid back wages due to Plaintiff (and those FLSA Collective Members who have joined in the suit), for liquidated damages equal in amount to the unpaid compensation found due to Plaintiff (and those FLSA Collective Members who have joined in the suit);
 - e. For an Order awarding Plaintiff the costs and expenses of this action;
 - f. For an Order awarding Plaintiff his attorneys' fees;
- g. For an Order awarding pre-judgment and post-judgment interest at the highest rates allowed by law;
 - h. For an Order awarding Plaintiff a service award as permitted by law;
- i. For an Order compelling the accounting of the books and records of Continental, at Continental's own expense;

- j. For an Order providing for injunctive relief prohibiting Continental from engaging in future violations of the FLSA, and requiring Continental to comply with such laws going forward; and
- k. For an Order granting such other and further relief as may be necessary and appropriate.

Date: February 7, 2018 Respectfully submitted,

ANDERSON2X, PLLC

By: <u>/s/ Clif Alexander</u>

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Facsimile: (405) 917-5405

Attorneys in Charge for Plaintiff and the Putative Class Members

Original Collective Action Complaint

CONSENT TO JOIN WAGE CLAIM

Print 1	Chad Kaspereit Name:
1.	I hereby consent to participate in a collective action lawsuit against CONTINENTAL RESOURCES, INC. to pursue my claims of unpaid overtime during the time that I worked with the company.
2.	I understand that this lawsuit is brought under the Fair Labor Standards Act, and consent to be bound by the Court's decision.
3.	I designate the law firm and attorneys at ANDERSON2X, PLLC as my attorneys to prosecute my wage claims.
4.	I intend to pursue my claim individually, unless and until the Court certifies this case as a collective action. I agree to serve as the Class Representative if the Court so approves. If someone else serves as the Class Representative, then I designate the Class Representative(s) as my agents to make decisions on my behalf concerning the litigation, the method and manner of conducting the litigation, the entering of an agreement with the Plaintiffs' counsel concerning attorneys' fees and costs, and all other matters pertaining to this lawsuit.

5. I authorize the law firm and attorneys at ANDERSON2X, PLLC to use this consent to file my claim in a separate lawsuit, class/collective action, or arbitration against the

Feb 7, 2018 _____ Date: _____

company.

Signature: Chad Kaspereit (Feb 7, 2018)

JS 44 (Rev. 12/12)

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.)

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JS 44 Reverse (Rev. 12/12)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
 - (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below. United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box. Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

 Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the six boxes.
 - Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
 - Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
 - Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing
 - Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date. Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
 - Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.
- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.

 Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.

 Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Continental Resources Owes Unpaid Overtime</u>, <u>Lawsuit Claims</u>