

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

BARTLEY M. MULLEN, JR., individually
and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

DINE BRANDS GLOBAL, INC.;
APPLEBEE'S INTERNATIONAL, INC.;
APPLEBEE'S RESTAURANTS LLC; and
APPLEBEE'S FRANCHISOR LLC,

Defendants.

Case No.

NATIONWIDE CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, Bartley M. Mullen, Jr. ("Plaintiff"), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, brings this nationwide class action against Dine Brands Global, Inc., Applebee's International, Inc., Applebee's Restaurants LLC, and Applebee's Franchisor LLC (collectively, "Defendants") for declaratory and injunctive relief, attorneys' fees, expenses and costs pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12181 *et seq.* (the "ADA") and its implementing regulations, averring as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. Plaintiff brings this civil rights class action on behalf of all others similarly situated against Defendants for violations of Title III of the ADA and its implementing regulations in connection with Defendants' failure to provide and ensure equal access for individuals with mobility disabilities who patronize Defendants' Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar[®] and Applebee's Grill[®] restaurants ("Defendants' Properties" or "Defendants' Restaurants").

2. Despite passage of the ADA more than twenty-five years ago, to this date, Defendants' Properties are not fully accessible to persons with mobility disabilities. Defendants

have discriminated, and continue to discriminate, against Plaintiff, and all others who are similarly situated, by denying full and equal access to, and full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and accommodations at Defendants' Restaurants by failing to provide accessible dining areas and failing to remove architectural barriers, where such removal is readily achievable.

3. Defendants have also failed to make reasonable modifications to their policies, practices, and procedures that are necessary to provide their goods, services, facilities, and accommodations to individuals with mobility disabilities. By failing to undertake efforts to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated or otherwise treated differently than other individuals, Defendants subject Plaintiff and those similarly situated to discrimination, exclusion, and unequal treatment in violation of the ADA.

4. Defendants fail to provide individuals with mobility disabilities the most integrated setting appropriate for them within its restaurants by providing unequal, different, and separate benefits and by segregating and separating individuals with disabilities from individuals without disabilities. Specifically, Defendants fail to provide individuals with mobility disabilities the opportunity to choose the type of table to sit at and where to sit in a dining area through the placement, orientation, and use of inaccessible dining surfaces, thereby providing Plaintiff and those similarly situated the opportunity to participate in and benefit from Defendants' goods, services, facilities, and accommodations in a manner that is not equal to the experience that is afforded to other individuals without disabilities.

5. Defendants will continue discriminating unabated unless and until enjoined as Plaintiff requests. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks declaratory and injunctive relief pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12188(a)(2) and 28 C.F.R. § 36.504(a), enjoining Defendants from continuing their

discriminatory conduct, including an order directing Defendants to make readily achievable alterations to their facilities to remove physical barriers to access and make its facilities fully accessible to and independently usable by people with disabilities to the extent required by the ADA; an order requiring Defendants to make all reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures necessary to afford all offered goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations to individuals with disabilities on a full and equal basis; and a declaration determining that Defendants' policies and practices of discrimination result in a violation of Title III of the ADA and its implementing regulations; an award of attorneys' fees, expenses, and costs associated with pursuit of this litigation; and any other such relief that this Court deems just and proper.

PURPOSES OF THE ADA

6. Congress passed the ADA, in part, because it found that “historically, society has tended to isolate and segregate individuals with disabilities, and such forms of discrimination... continue to be a serious and pervasive social problem.” 42 U.S.C. § 12101(a)(2).

7. Congress also found that “individuals with disabilities continually encounter various forms of discrimination, including outright intentional exclusion, the discriminatory effects of architectural, transportation, and communication barriers, overprotective rules and policies, failure to make modifications to existing facilities and practices, exclusionary qualification standards and criteria, segregation, and relegation to lesser services, programs, activities, benefits, jobs, or other opportunities”. 42 U.S.C. § 12101(a)(5)

8. When the ADA was signed into law by President George H.W. Bush, he declared: “Together, we must remove the physical barriers we have created and the social barriers that we

have accepted. For ours will never be a truly prosperous nation until all within it prosper.”¹

9. For more than twenty-five years, the ADA has been the central civil rights law protecting people with disabilities, a group of Americans who are too often overlooked and undervalued. Like other civil rights laws, the purpose of the ADA is clear: the eradication of discrimination. As one legal scholar explained: “A single step in front of a store may not immediately call to mind images of Lester Maddox standing in the door of his restaurant to keep blacks out. But in a crucial respect they are the same, for a step can exclude a person who uses a wheelchair just as surely as a no-blacks-allowed rule can exclude a class of people.” Samuel Bagenstos, *The Perversity of Limited Civil Rights Remedies: The Case of “Abusive” ADA Litigation*, 54 UCLA L. Rev. 1, 23 (2006).

10. Title III of the ADA and its implementing regulations broadly protects the rights of individuals with disabilities to independently and equally access places of public accommodation.

11. The Supplementary Information to 28 C.F.R. § 36 explains, among other things: “Some of the most frequently cited qualitative benefits of increased access are the increase in one’s personal sense of dignity that arises from increased access and the decrease in possibly humiliating incidents due to accessibility barriers. Struggling [to use non-accessible facility] all negatively affect[s] a person’s sense of independence and can lead to humiliating accidents, derisive comments, or embarrassment. These humiliations, together with feelings of being stigmatized as different or inferior from being relegated to use other, less comfortable or pleasant elements of a facility . . . all have a negative impact on persons with disabilities.”

¹ EEOC.gov, Remarks of President George Bush at the Signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, available at: https://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/history/35th/videos/ada_signing_text.html

THE ADA AND ACCESSIBLE DINING SURFACES

12. Title III of the ADA requires that “[n]o individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of any place of public accommodation by any person who owns, leases (or leases to), or operates a place of public accommodation.” 42 U.S.C. § 12182(a).

13. Discrimination on the basis of disability can occur, generally, through a denial of the opportunity to participate in or benefit from goods, services, facilities, or accommodations (42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(1)(A)(i)); or from affording goods, services, facilities, or accommodations that are not equal to those afforded to other individuals (42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(1)(A)(ii)); or from providing goods, services, facilities, or accommodations that are separate from those provided to other individuals (42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(1)(A)(iii)).

14. Public accommodations are required to provide their goods, services, facilities, and accommodations “in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of the individual.” 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(1)(B).

15. The Department of Justice defines the “most integrated setting” as “a setting that enables individuals with disabilities to interact with non-disabled persons to the fullest extent possible.”²

16. In line with the ADA’s integration requirement, the ADA also requires public accommodations to design and construct facilities to be readily accessible to, and independently usable by, individuals with disabilities – in other words, a facility’s access and usability must be “ready” for an individual with a disability. 42 U.S.C. § 12183(a)(1).

² https://www.ada.gov/olmstead/q&a_olmstead.htm

17. When a facility is altered in a manner that affects or could affect its usability, the facility must be made readily accessible to individuals with disabilities to the maximum extent feasible. 42 U.S.C. § 12183(a)(2).

18. The Department of Justice, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12186(b), has promulgated the ADA Accessibility Guidelines (“ADAAG”) in implementing Title III of the ADA. There are two active ADAAGs that set forth the technical structural requirements that a public accommodation must meet in order to be “readily accessible”: the 1991 ADAAG Standards, 28 C.F.R. § pt. 36, App. D (“1991 Standards”), and the 2010 ADAAG Standards, 36 C.F.R. § pt. 1191, App. D (“2010 Standards”).

19. Facilities that are newly constructed or altered must comply with either the 1991 Standards or the 2010 Standards. 28 C.F.R. § 36.406 establishes the circumstances that determine which ADAAG applies to newly constructed and altered facilities subject to 28 C.F.R. §§ 36.401 or 36.402: (1) newly constructed and altered facilities shall comply with the 1991 Standards if the date when the last application for a building permit is before September 15, 2010, or if no permit is required, if the start of physical construction or alterations occurs before September 15, 2010 (28 C.F.R. § 36.406(a)(1)); (2) newly constructed and altered facilities shall comply either with the 1991 Standards or with the 2010 Standards if the date when the last application for a building permit is on or after September 15, 2010, and before March 15, 2012, or if no permit is required, if the start of physical construction or alterations occurs on or after September 15, 2010, and before March 15, 2012 (28 C.F.R. § 36.406(a)(2)); and (3) newly constructed and altered facilities shall comply with the 2010 Standards if the date when the last application for a building permit is on or after March 15, 2012, or if no permit is required, if the start of physical construction or alterations occurs on or after March 15, 2012 (28 C.F.R. § 36.406(a)(3)).

20. The 1991 Standards set forth express requirements for restaurants with respect to the accessibility of dining counter surfaces. Specifically, “Where food or drink is served at counters exceeding 34 in (865 mm) in height for consumption by customers seated on stools or standing at the counter, a portion of the main counter which is 60 in (1525 mm) in length minimum shall be provided in compliance with 4.32 or service shall be available at accessible tables in the same area.” 1991 Standards § 5.2.

21. The dining surface accessibility requirement was modified in the 2010 Standards to provide: “Where dining surfaces are provided for the consumption of food or drink, *at least 5 percent* of the seating spaces and standing spaces at the dining surface shall comply with 902.” 2010 Standards § 226.1 (emphasis added). The 2010 Standards no longer provides an exception if service is available at accessible tables in the same area as an inaccessible dining surface.

22. Section 902 provides that the top of a dining surface shall be 28 inches minimum and 34 inches maximum above the floor, and provide a clear floor space positioned for a forward approach with appropriate knee and toe clearance. 2010 Standards §§ 902.2-3.

23. Further, dining surfaces that are required to comply with Section 902 “shall be dispersed throughout the space or facility containing dining surfaces. . . .” 2010 Standards § 226.2.

24. “Dining surfaces” explicitly includes “bars, tables, lunch counters, and booths.” 2010 Standards § 902.1 - Advisory.

25. When discriminatory architectural conditions exist within a public accommodation’s facility, the ADA directs that a “public accommodation *shall* remove architectural barriers in existing facilities . . . where such removal is readily achievable, i.e., easily accomplishable and able to be carried out without much difficulty or expense.” 28 C.F.R. §

36.304(b) (emphasis added); *see also* 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv) (the failure to remove architectural barriers, where such removal is readily achievable, constitutes discrimination).

26. In addition to tangible barrier removal requirements as well as physical design, construction, and alteration requirements, the ADA requires reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures when necessary to afford goods, services, facilities, or accommodations to individuals with disabilities, unless the public accommodation can demonstrate that making such modifications would fundamentally alter their nature. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(ii).

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

27. The claims alleged arise under Title III such that this Court's jurisdiction is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 42 U.S.C. § 12188.

28. Personal jurisdiction exists for Defendants because Defendants own, operate, lease and/or control multiple restaurants located in Pennsylvania.

29. Venue in this District is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because this is the judicial district in which a substantial part of the acts and omissions giving rise to Plaintiff's claims occurred.

PARTIES

30. Plaintiff Bartley M. Mullen, Jr., at all times relevant hereto, is and was a resident of Beaver, Pennsylvania.

31. Plaintiff, as a result of a mobility disability, uses a wheelchair for mobility and is therefore a member of a protected class under the ADA, 42 U.S.C. § 12102(2), and the regulations implementing the ADA set forth at 28 C.F.R. §§ 36.101 *et seq.*

32. Plaintiff is a tester in this litigation and a consumer who wishes to access Defendants' goods and services. *See, e.g., Nanni v. Aberdeen Marketplace, Inc.*, 878 F.3d 447,

457 (4th Cir. 2017); *Civil Rights Educ. & Enf't Ctr. v. Hosp. Props. Tr.*, 867 F.3d 1093, 1102 (9th Cir. 2017); *Colo. Cross Disability Coal. v. Abercrombie & Fitch Co.*, 765 F.3d 1205, 1211-12 (10th Cir. 2014); *Houston v. Marod Supermarkets, Inc.*, 733 F.3d 1323, 1334 (11th Cir. 2013); *see also Havens Realty Corp. v. Coleman*, 455 U.S. 363, 372-74 (1982).

33. Defendant Dine Brands Global, Inc. is a Delaware Corporation headquartered at 450 North Brand Boulevard, Glendale, California, doing business as Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar[®] and Applebee's[®].

34. Defendant Applebee's International, Inc. is a subsidiary of Defendant Dine Brands Global, Inc., and is a Delaware corporation headquartered, on information and belief, at 450 North Brand Boulevard, Glendale, California.

35. Defendant Applebee's Restaurants LLC is a subsidiary of Defendant Dine Brands Global, Inc., and is a Delaware limited liability company headquartered, on information and belief, at 450 North Brand Boulevard, Glendale, California.

36. Defendant Applebee's Franchisor LLC is a subsidiary of Defendant Dine Brands Global, Inc., and is a Delaware limited liability company headquartered, on information and belief, at 450 North Brand Boulevard, Glendale, California.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS AND PLAINTIFF'S EXPERIENCE

37. Defendants own, operate, lease and/or control Applebee's restaurants throughout Pennsylvania and the United States.

38. As part of these operations, Defendants serve food and/or drinks at a bar area in each restaurant.

39. Within the applicable limitations period, Plaintiff patronized Defendants' Restaurant located at Steubenville Pike, 6570 PA-60, Pittsburgh, PA 15205.

40. Plaintiff desired to be served at the restaurant's bar dining area, and more specifically, desired to be served at and use the bar-top dining surface; however, Defendants have failed to provide accessible seating at the bar-counter dining surface for Plaintiff and others similarly situated to utilize.

41. The restaurant also did not have accessible seating in the bar's lounge area.

42. On Plaintiff's behalf, an investigation of multiple locations owned, operated, leased and/or controlled by Defendants confirmed that, in addition to the restaurant identified above, other Applebee's restaurants in Pennsylvania and throughout the United States also have a bar dining surface that is not accessible to patrons who use wheelchairs or scooters for mobility, and do not provide for accessible seating in the same area as the bar. The configuration and design of Defendants' Restaurants follows a mandatory common design and construction plan and all of Defendants' Restaurants have the same inaccessible features identified in this Complaint. Defendants' inaccessible restaurants include but are not limited to:

- A. Steubenville Pike, 6570 PA-60, Pittsburgh, PA 15205;
- B. 3944 Broadhead Road, Monaca, PA 15061;
- C. 4801 McKnight Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15237;
- D. 525 Grandview Crossing Dr, Gibsonia, PA 15044;
- E. 3440 William Penn Hwy, Pittsburgh, PA 15235;
- F. 2101 Greentree Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15220;
- G. 1601 S Braddock Ave, Pittsburgh, PA, 15218;
- H. 2045 Lebanon Church Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15122;
- I. 1050 Village Cntr. Dr., Tarentum, PA 15084;
- J. 1685 PA 228, Cranberry Twp, PA 16066;

- K. 1004 Trinity Cir., Washington, PA 15301;
- L. 2024 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA 95825;
- M. 9105 E Stockton Blvd, Elk Grove, CA 95624;
- N. 3447 Donnel Dr., Forestville, MD 20747;
- O. 14400 Weaver Lake Road, Maple Grove, MN 55311;
- P. 3500 Vicksburg Lane N, Suite 100, Plymouth, MN 55447;
- Q. 8312 MN 7, St. Louis Park, MN 55426;
- R. 8588 Blaine Ave, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076;
- S. 1893 W Highway 36, Roseville, MN 55113;
- T. 7901 ½ Southtown Center, Bloomington, MN 55420;
- U. 8380 E Point Douglas Rd S, Cottage Grove, MN 55016;
- V. 21753 South Diamond Lake Rd, Rogers, MN 55374;
- W. 18891 Freeport Street NW, Elk River, MN 55330;
- X. 9386 Deegan Ave, Monticello, MN 55362;
- Y. 1006 Hwy 55, Buffalo, MN 55313;
- Z. 2000 Vermillion Street, Hastings, MN 55033;
- AA. 320 Apache Mall, Rochester, MN 55902; and
- BB. 3794 Marketplace Drive, Rochester, MN 55901.

43. Defendants' policy and practice of failing to provide individuals with mobility disabilities accessible dining surfaces or accessible seating in its bar dining areas is discriminatory, segregationist, and in violation of the ADA.

44. Though Plaintiff is serving as a tester in this case, Plaintiff would like to patronize Defendants' Restaurants in the future and be served at the bar; however, the lack of accessible

seating at the bar's dining surface has, and does, deter Plaintiff from patronizing Defendants' Restaurants.

45. Plaintiff intends to continue to test Defendants' Restaurants.

46. Plaintiff has been, and in the absence of an injunction will continue to be, injured by Defendants' policy and practice of failing to provide accessible dining areas to persons with disabilities.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

47. Plaintiff brings this action under Rule 23(a) and (b)(2) of the federal rules of civil procedure and on behalf of herself and the following class:

All individuals who use wheelchairs or scooters for mobility and who have been, or in the future will be, denied the full and equal enjoyment of bar counter dining services offered to patrons at Defendants' Restaurants located within the United States because of the lack of accessible bar counter dining surface seating at those restaurants.

48. Numerosity: The class described above is so numerous that joinder of all individual members in one action would be impracticable. The disposition of the individual claims of the respective class members through this class action will benefit both the parties and the Court, and will facilitate judicial economy.

49. Typicality: Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the members of the class. The claims of Plaintiff and members of the class are based on the same legal theories and arise from the same unlawful conduct.

50. Common Questions of Fact and Law: There is a well-defined community of interest and common questions of fact and law affecting members of the class in that they all have been and/or are being denied their civil rights to full and equal access to, and use and enjoyment of, Defendants' goods, services and facilities due to the discriminatory conduct described above.

51. Adequacy of Representation: Plaintiff is an adequate representative of the class because her interests do not conflict with the interests of the members of the class. Plaintiff will fairly, adequately, and vigorously represent and protect the interests of the members of the class and has no interests antagonistic to the members of the class. Plaintiff has retained counsel who are competent and experienced in the prosecution of class action litigation, generally, and who possess specific expertise in the context of class litigation under the ADA.

52. Class certification is appropriate pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2) because Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the class, making appropriate both declaratory and injunctive relief with respect to Plaintiff and the class as a whole.

CAUSE OF ACTION

Violations of 42 U.S.C. §§ 12181, et seq.

53. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in the previous paragraphs.

54. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the defined putative class of individuals similarly situated.

55. Plaintiff is an individual with a mobility disability and uses a wheelchair for mobility. Plaintiff, accordingly, is an individual with a disability pursuant to the ADA, in that Plaintiff suffers a physical impairment substantially limiting one or more major life activities. 42 U.S.C. § 12102(1)(A); 28 C.F.R. § 36.105.

56. Defendants, a restaurant business, are a public accommodation under the ADA. 42 U.S.C. § 12181(7).

Failure to Provide an Accessible Facility

57. The ADA prohibits designing and constructing facilities for first occupancy after January 16, 1993 that are not readily accessible to, and independently usable by, individuals with disabilities when it is structurally practicable to do so. 42 U.S.C. § 12183(a)(1).

58. The ADA also requires that facilities altered in a manner that affects or could affect its usability must be made readily accessible to individuals with disabilities to the maximum extent feasible. 42 U.S.C. § 12183(a)(2).

59. Defendants provide a bar counter dining surface in their restaurant, at which they provide service of food and drink for customer consumption.

60. For Defendants' Restaurants that were required to be constructed in compliance with the 1991 Standards, Defendants' bar counter does not comply with the 1991 Standards, because:

- a. The counter exceeds 34 inches in height;
- b. Defendants do not provide a portion of the main counter which is 60 inches in length that complies with Section 4.32 of the 1991 Standards; and
- c. Defendants do not provide service at accessible tables in the same area as the bar counter dining surface.

61. For Defendants' Restaurants that were required to be constructed in compliance with the 2010 Standards, Defendants' bar counter does not comply with the 2010 Standards, because it does not provide for five percent of the seating spaces and standing spaces at the bar counter that comply with Section 902 of the 2010 Standards; indeed, none of the seating and/or standing spaces at the bar counter comply with Section 902.

Failure to Remove Architectural Barriers

62. The ADA prohibits failing to remove architectural barriers that are structural in nature in existing facilities where such removal is readily achievable. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv).

63. Defendants have the financial resources to remove the architectural barriers at issue – namely, the inaccessible bar counter – and such removal is and was readily achievable for Defendants.

64. Defendants have possessed sufficient control and authority to remove the architectural barriers and modify their dining surfaces to comply with the 2010 Standards, but Defendants have not removed such impediments and have not modified their dining surfaces. Instead, Defendants have intentionally maintained their restaurants to be inaccessible and have refrained from making alterations to comply with the Standards.

Denial of “Full and Equal” Enjoyment and Use

65. Title III of the ADA prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of any place of public accommodation by any person who owns, leases (or leases to), or operates a place of public accommodation. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(a).

66. Defendants discriminated and continue to discriminate against Plaintiff and others similarly situated by denying “full and equal” enjoyment and use of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations of Defendants’ Restaurants during Plaintiff’s visit and each incidence of deterrence.

Failure to Provide the Most Integrated Setting

67. Public accommodations are required to provide their goods, services, facilities, and accommodations “in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of the individual.” 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(1)(B).

68. Defendants have failed to provide the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of Plaintiff and those similarly situated by limiting the areas and options for where Plaintiff may choose to eat, resulting in a setting that segregates and separates individuals with mobility disabilities, preventing them from interacting with non-disabled individuals to the fullest extent possible.

Failure to Modify Existing Policies, Practices, and Procedures

69. By failing to provide accessible dining surfaces, Defendants have engaged, directly, or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements, in illegal disability discrimination by failing to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures where necessary to afford services, privileges, advantages, or accommodations to individuals with mobility disabilities.

70. Defendants have no policy, practice, or procedure, or else Defendants failed to create, implement, and maintain policies, practices, and procedures, to ensure individuals with mobility disabilities are not denied the opportunity to have the same dining experience at their restaurants as individuals without disabilities, resulting in a denial of the opportunity for individuals with mobility disabilities to have full and equal access to all of the goods, services, privileges, advantages, and accommodations that make up Defendants’ Restaurants.

71. Defendants have no policy, practice, or procedure, or else Defendants failed to create, implement, and maintain policies, practices, and procedures, to ensure compliance at Defendants' Properties with ADA barrier removal requirements.

72. Defendants have further failed to create, implement, and maintain policies, practices, and procedures to comply with ADA building design regulations and standards.

73. A reasonable modification in the policies, practices, and procedures described above will not fundamentally alter the nature of Defendants' goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations.

74. Defendants' ongoing and continuing violations of Title III have caused, and, in the absence of an injunction, will continue to cause harm to Plaintiff and those similarly situated.

75. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12188 and the remedies, procedures and rights set forth and incorporated therein, Plaintiff requests relief as set forth below.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests judgment as follows:

a. A Declaratory Judgment that at the commencement of this action Defendants were in violation of the specific requirements of Title III of the ADA described above, and the relevant implementing regulations of the ADA, in that Defendants failed to take action reasonably calculated to ensure that Defendants' bar counter dining surfaces were fully accessible to, and independently usable by, individuals with mobility disabilities;

b. A permanent injunction pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12188(a)(2) and 28 CFR § 36.504(a) which directs Defendants to take all steps necessary to bring their bar counter dining surfaces into full compliance with the requirements set forth in the ADA, and its implementing regulations, so that those bar counter dining surfaces are fully accessible to, and independently

usable by, individuals with disabilities, and which further directs that the Court shall retain jurisdiction for a period to be determined to ensure that Defendants have adopted and is following an institutional policy that will in fact cause Defendants to remain fully in compliance with the law.

- c. An Order certifying the proposed class, naming Plaintiff as the representative of the class, and designating counsel for Plaintiff as class counsel;
- d. Payment of costs and reasonable attorneys' fees as provided for by law; and
- e. Such other additional or alternative relief as the Court finds just and proper.

Dated: February 22, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ R. Bruce Carlson

R. Bruce Carlson
Kelly K. Iverson
Bryan A. Fox
**CARLSON LYNCH SWEET
KILPELA & CARPENTER LLP**
1133 Penn Avenue, 5th Floor
Pittsburgh PA, 15222
(412) 322-9243 (Tel.)
bcarlson@carlsonlynch.com
kiverson@carlsonlynch.com
bfox@carlsonlynch.com

Patrick W. Michenfelder (#024207X)
Chad Thronset (#0261191X)
THRONSET MICHENFELDER, LLC
Cornerstone Building
One Central Avenue West, Suite 203
St. Michael, MN 55376
Tel: (763) 515-6110
Fax: (763) 226-2515
pat@thronsetlaw.com
chad@thronsetlaw.com
(Pro Hac Vice Application Forthcoming)

Attorneys for Plaintiff

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

BARTLEY M. MULLEN, JR., individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Beaver (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Carlson Lynch Sweet Kilpela & Carpenter LLP, 1133 Penn Avenue, 5th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 Phone: 412-322-9243

DEFENDANTS

DINE BRANDS GLOBAL, INC.; APPLEBEE'S INTERNATIONAL, INC.; APPLEBEE'S RESTAURANTS LLC; and APPLEBEE'S FRANCHISOR LLC

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

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

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff, 2 U.S. Government Defendant, 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party), 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

Table with columns for Plaintiff (PTF) and Defendant (DEF) citizenship: Citizen of This State, Citizen of Another State, Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country, Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State, Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State, Foreign Nation.

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Large table with categories: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, TORTS, CIVIL RIGHTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES.

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 Original Proceeding, 2 Removed from State Court, 3 Remanded from Appellate Court, 4 Reinstated or Reopened, 5 Transferred from Another District (specify), 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer, 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq. Brief description of cause: Public accommodation violation

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. DEMAND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions): JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER

DATE 02/22/2019 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD /s/ R. Bruce Carlson

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # AMOUNT APPLYING IFP JUDGE MAG. JUDGE

JS 44A REVISED June, 2009
IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA
THIS CASE DESIGNATION SHEET MUST BE COMPLETED

PART A

This case belongs on the (Erie Johnstown Pittsburgh) calendar.

1. **ERIE CALENDAR** - If cause of action arose in the counties of Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, McKean, Venang or Warren, OR any plaintiff or defendant resides in one of said counties.
2. **JOHNSTOWN CALENDAR** - If cause of action arose in the counties of Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Clearfield or Somerset OR any plaintiff or defendant resides in one of said counties.
3. Complete if on **ERIE CALENDAR**: I certify that the cause of action arose in _____ County and that the _____ resides in _____ County.
4. Complete if on **JOHNSTOWN CALENDAR**: I certify that the cause of action arose in _____ County and that the _____ resides in _____ County.

PART B (You are to check ONE of the following)

1. This case is related to Number _____ . Short Caption _____
2. This case is not related to a pending or terminated case.

DEFINITIONS OF RELATED CASES:

CIVIL: Civil cases are deemed related when a case filed relates to property included in another suit or involves the same issues of fact or it grows out of the same transactions as another suit or involves the validity or infringement of a patent involved in another suit

EMINENT DOMAIN: Cases in contiguous closely located groups and in common ownership groups which will lend themselves to consolidation for trial shall be deemed related.

HABEAS CORPUS & CIVIL RIGHTS: All habeas corpus petitions filed by the same individual shall be deemed related. All pro se Civil Rights actions by the same individual shall be deemed related.

PART C

I. CIVIL CATEGORY (Select the applicable category).

1. Antitrust and Securities Act Cases
2. Labor-Management Relations
3. Habeas corpus
4. Civil Rights
5. Patent, Copyright, and Trademark
6. Eminent Domain
7. All other federal question cases
8. All personal and property damage tort cases, including maritime, FELA, Jones Act, Motor vehicle, products liability, assault, defamation, malicious prosecution, and false arrest
9. Insurance indemnity, contract and other diversity cases.
10. Government Collection Cases (shall include HEW Student Loans (Education), V A Overpayment, Overpayment of Social Security, Enlistment Overpayment (Army, Navy, etc.), HUD Loans, GAO Loans (Misc. Types), Mortgage Foreclosures, SBA Loans, Civil Penalties and Coal Mine Penalty and Reclamation Fees.)

I certify that to the best of my knowledge the entries on this Case Designation Sheet are true and correct

/s/ R. Bruce Carlson

Date: 2/22/2019

ATTORNEY AT LAW

NOTE: ALL SECTIONS OF BOTH FORMS MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE CASE CAN BE PROCESSED.

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

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Western District of Pennsylvania

BARTLEY M. MULLEN, JR., individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff(s)

v.

DINE BRANDS GLOBAL, INC.; APPLEBEE'S INTERNATIONAL, INC.; APPLEBEE'S RESTAURANTS LLC; and APPLEBEE'S FRANCHISOR LLC,

Defendant(s)

Civil Action No.

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) DINE BRANDS GLOBAL, INC. c/o Corporation Service Company 251 Little Falls Drive Wilmington, DE 19808

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are: Carlson Lynch Sweet Kilpela & Carpenter LLP 1133 Penn Avenue, 5th Floor Pittsburgh, PA 15222

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

CLERK OF COURT

Date: _____

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. _____

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

This summons for *(name of individual and title, if any)* _____
was received by me on *(date)* _____.

I personally served the summons on the individual at *(place)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____; or

I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* _____
_____, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,
on *(date)* _____, and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

I served the summons on *(name of individual)* _____, who is
designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____; or

I returned the summons unexecuted because _____; or

Other *(specify)*:

My fees are \$ _____ for travel and \$ _____ for services, for a total of \$ _____ 0.00 _____.

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: _____

Server's signature

Printed name and title

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

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

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Western District of Pennsylvania

BARTLEY M. MULLEN, JR., individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff(s)

v.

DINE BRANDS GLOBAL, INC.; APPLEBEE'S INTERNATIONAL, INC.; APPLEBEE'S RESTAURANTS LLC; and APPLEBEE'S FRANCHISOR LLC,

Defendant(s)

Civil Action No.

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) APPLEBEE'S INTERNATIONAL, INC. c/o Corporation Service Company 251 Little Falls Drive Wilmington, DE 19808

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are: Carlson Lynch Sweet Kilpela & Carpenter LLP 1133 Penn Avenue, 5th Floor Pittsburgh, PA 15222

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

CLERK OF COURT

Date: _____

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. _____

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

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was received by me on *(date)* _____.

I personally served the summons on the individual at *(place)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____ ; or

I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* _____
_____, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,
on *(date)* _____, and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

I served the summons on *(name of individual)* _____, who is
designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____ ; or

I returned the summons unexecuted because _____ ; or

Other *(specify)*:

My fees are \$ _____ for travel and \$ _____ for services, for a total of \$ _____ 0.00 _____.

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: _____

Server's signature

Printed name and title

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

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

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Western District of Pennsylvania

BARTLEY M. MULLEN, JR., individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff(s)

v.

DINE BRANDS GLOBAL, INC.; APPLEBEE'S INTERNATIONAL, INC.; APPLEBEE'S RESTAURANTS LLC; and APPLEBEE'S FRANCHISOR LLC,

Defendant(s)

Civil Action No.

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) APPLEBEE'S RESTAURANTS LLC c/o Corporation Service Company 251 Little Falls Drive Wilmington, DE 19808

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are: Carlson Lynch Sweet Kilpela & Carpenter LLP 1133 Penn Avenue, 5th Floor Pittsburgh, PA 15222

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

CLERK OF COURT

Date: _____

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. _____

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

This summons for *(name of individual and title, if any)* _____
was received by me on *(date)* _____.

I personally served the summons on the individual at *(place)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____; or

I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* _____
_____, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,
on *(date)* _____, and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

I served the summons on *(name of individual)* _____, who is
designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____; or

I returned the summons unexecuted because _____; or

Other *(specify)*:

My fees are \$ _____ for travel and \$ _____ for services, for a total of \$ _____ 0.00 _____.

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: _____

Server's signature

Printed name and title

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

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

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Western District of Pennsylvania

BARTLEY M. MULLEN, JR., individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff(s)

v.

DINE BRANDS GLOBAL, INC.; APPLEBEE'S INTERNATIONAL, INC.; APPLEBEE'S RESTAURANTS LLC; and APPLEBEE'S FRANCHISOR LLC,

Defendant(s)

Civil Action No.

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) APPLEBEE'S FRANCHISOR LLC, c/o Corporation Service Company 251 Little Falls Drive Wilmington, DE 19808

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are: Carlson Lynch Sweet Kilpela & Carpenter LLP 1133 Penn Avenue, 5th Floor Pittsburgh, PA 15222

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

CLERK OF COURT

Date: _____

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. _____

PROOF OF SERVICE

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_____, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,
on *(date)* _____, and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

I served the summons on *(name of individual)* _____, who is
designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____ ; or

I returned the summons unexecuted because _____ ; or

Other *(specify)*: _____

My fees are \$ _____ for travel and \$ _____ for services, for a total of \$ _____ 0.00 _____.

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: _____

Server's signature

Printed name and title

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: [Applebee's Hit with ADA Class Action Over Allegedly Inaccessible Seating in Bar Areas](#)
