FILED
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT ARKANSAS

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS WESTERN DIVISION

MAY 17 2017

JAMES W. MCCORMACK, CLERK By: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLAINTIFF** 

TAYLOR PETTY, Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated

VS.

No. 4:17-cv- 331- JM

JAL CHEMICAL CO., INC., d/b/a TEPH SEAL

DEFENDANT

## ORIGINAL COMPLAINT—CLASS ACTION

COMES NOW Plaintiff Taylor Petty ("Plaintiff") by and through his attorneys Dominique King and Josh Sanford of Sanford Law Firm, PLLC, and for his Original Complaint–Class Action ("Complaint") against JAL Chemical Co., Inc., d/b/a Teph Seal ("Defendant"), he does hereby state and allege as follows:

## I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENTS

- 1. This is an action brought by Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, against Defendant for violations of the overtime provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201, et seq. (the "FLSA"), and the Arkansas Minimum Wage Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 11-4-201, et seq. (the "AMWA").

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individuals proper overtime compensation under the FLSA and under the AMWA within

the applicable statutory limitations period.

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas has

subject matter jurisdiction over this suit under the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because

this suit raises federal questions under the FLSA.

4. This Complaint also alleges AMWA violations, which arise out of the same

set of operative facts as the federal cause of action herein alleged; accordingly, this state

cause of action would be expected to be tried with the federal claim in a single judicial

proceeding. This Court has pendent jurisdiction over Plaintiff's AMWA claim pursuant to

28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).

5. A substantial part of the acts complained of herein were committed and had

their principal effect against Plaintiff, within the Western Division of the Eastern District of

Arkansas; therefore, venue is proper within this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391.

III. THE PARTIES

6. Plaintiff Taylor Petty ("Plaintiff") is an individual and resident of Jacksonville,

Arkansas.

7. JAL Chemical Co., Inc., is a foreign for-profit corporation.

8. The registered agent of JAL Chemical Co., Inc., is listed as The Corporation

Company, 124 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 1900, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201.

9. Upon information and belief, Defendant operates in Arkansas and various

other states as a business centered on automotive detailing.

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10. Defendant has a website (www.tephseal.com) which states its business, while located in Orlando, Florida, serves car dealerships in several states, including Arkansas. The website gives the company's central address as 5615 Old Winter Garden Road, Orlando, Florida, 32811.

## IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges all the preceding paragraphs of this
   Complaint as if fully set forth in this section.
  - 12. At all relevant times, Defendant employed four or more employees.
- 13. For some time during each of the three calendar years preceding the filing of this Complaint, Defendant employed several employees to operate an automotive detailing delivery service operation in Arkansas.
- 14. Defendant's annual gross volume of sales made or business done was not less than \$500,000.00 (exclusive of excise taxes at the retail level that are separately stated) during each of the calendar years during the relevant time.
- 15. Plaintiff performed the duties of an automotive detailing technician for Defendant for several months during the preceding 3 years.
- 16. Defendant directly hired Plaintiff, paid him wages and benefits, controlled his work schedule, duties, protocols, applications, assignments and employment conditions, and kept at least some records regarding his employment.
  - 17. Defendant is a covered employer under the FLSA.
  - 18. Defendant is a covered employer under the AMWA.
  - 19. Plaintiff is a covered employee under the FLSA.
  - 20. Plaintiff is a covered employee under the AMWA.

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21. Defendant paid Plaintiff hourly wages for his work.

22. Plaintiff performed his duties for more than forty hours in at least one

workweek during his employment with Defendant.

23. Plaintiff regularly performed his duties for more than forty hours per week.

24. Defendant did not pay Plaintiff a lawful overtime premium for all hours that

Plaintiff worked over forty hours per week in any workweek.

25. Defendant required Plaintiff to work several hours each day before clocking

in.

26. On average, Plaintiff worked 12 hours per day but was only paid for 8 hours

per day. Defendant thus failed to pay Plaintiff for all hours worked.

27. Defendant employed other individuals, including other technicians, who

were paid an hourly wage; who worked more than forty hours in any workweek; who were

not paid an overtime premium for all hours worked over forty per week; and whose work

involved driving, riding in, working on, and/or handling vehicles weighing less than 10,001

pounds on a weekly basis.

28. Defendant knew or should have known of its obligation to pay Plaintiff and

other hourly-paid individuals one and one-half times their regular rate for all hours worked

over forty per week.

V. LEGAL ALLEGATIONS

29. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges all the preceding paragraphs of this

Complaint as if fully set forth in this section.

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A. FLSA Overtime Violations

30. 29 U.S.C. § 207 requires employers to pay employees one and one-half

times the employee's regular rate for all hours that the employee works in excess of forty

per week. 29 U.S.C.S. § 207 (LEXIS 2013).

31. Defendant failed to pay Plaintiff at a rate of one and one-half times his

regular rate for all hours worked over forty (40) hours per week.

32. Defendant required Plaintiff to work several hours each day before clocking

in.

33. On average, Plaintiff worked 12 hours per day but was only paid for 8 hours

per day. Defendant thus failed to pay Plaintiff for all hours worked.

34. Defendant knew or should have known of their obligation to pay Plaintiff at

a rate of one and one-half times their regular rate for all hours worked over forty (40)

hours per week.

35. By reason of the unlawful acts alleged herein, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff

for unpaid overtime wages, liquidated damages, pre-judgment interest, costs, and a

reasonable attorney's fee as provided by the FLSA.

B. AMWA Overtime Violations

36. Arkansas Code Annotated § 11-4-211 requires employers to pay

employees one and one-half times the employee's regular rate for all hours that the

employee works in excess of forty (40) per week.

37. Defendant failed to pay Plaintiff at a rate of one and one-half times their

regular rate for all hours worked over forty (40) hours per week.

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38. Defendant required Plaintiff to work several hours each day before clocking

in.

39. On average, Plaintiff worked 12 hours per day but was only paid for 8 hours

per day. Defendant thus failed to pay Plaintiff for all hours worked.

40. Defendant knew or should have known of their obligation to pay Plaintiff at

a rate of one and one-half times their regular rate for all hours worked over forty (40)

hours per week.

41. By reason of the unlawful acts alleged herein, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff

for unpaid overtime wages, liquidated damages, pre-judgment interest, costs, and a

reasonable attorney's fee as provided by the AMWA.

VI. REPRESENTATIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS

A. FLSA § 216(b) Class

42. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges all previous paragraphs of this Complaint as

though fully incorporated in this section.

44. Plaintiff brings his claim for relief for violation of the FLSA as a collective

action pursuant to Section 16(b) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), on behalf of all persons

who were, are or will be employed by Defendant as similarly situated employees at any

time within the applicable statute of limitations period, who are entitled to payment of the

following types of damages:

i. Wages for the first forty (40) hours worked each week;

ii. Overtime premiums for all hours worked for Defendant in excess of forty

(40) hours in any week;

Liquidated damages; and

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iv. Costs of this action, including attorney's fees.

45. The proposed class of opt-in Plaintiffs in this case is preliminarily defined as

follows:

Each and every individual who worked as an automotive detailing technician on Defendant's behalf during the three years preceding the

filing of the Original Complaint.

46. The proposed FLSA class members are similarly situated in that they share

these traits:

i. They performed the same or similar job duties;

ii. They were subject to Defendant's common policy of failing to properly pay

overtime-rate wages for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week.

iii. They were subject to numerous other common policies and practices

including but not limited to the uniform policy of only paying employees for 8 hours of work

per day as well as requiring employees to clock in and clock out, such that the system

only showed employees as working 8 hours per day.

B. AMWA Rule 23 Class

47. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges all previous paragraphs of this Complaint as

though fully incorporated in this section.

48. Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated who were

employed by Defendant within the State of Arkansas, brings this claim for relief for

violation of the AMWA as a class action pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil

Procedure.

49. Plaintiff proposes to represent a liability class of individuals defined as

follows:

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Each and every individual who worked as an automotive detailing technician on Defendant's behalf in Arkansas during the three years

preceding the filing of the Original Complaint.

50. Upon information and belief, there are more than forty (40) persons in the

proposed class. Therefore, the proposed class is so numerous that joinder of all members

is impracticable.

51. Common questions of law and fact relate to all of the proposed liability class

members, such as these:

i. Whether Defendant's policy of failing to properly pay overtime wages to

members of the proposed class who worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week was

unlawful under the AMWA;

ii. Whether Defendant paid the members of the proposed class one and one-

half times their regular wages for hours worked over forty (40) in each week in accordance

with the AMWA.

52. The above common guestions of law and fact predominate over any

questions affecting only Plaintiff, and a class action is superior to other available methods

for fairly and efficiently adjudicating the controversy.

53. The class members have no interest in individually controlling the

prosecution of separate actions because the policy of the AMWA provides a bright-line

rule for protecting all non-exempt employees as a class. To wit: "It is declared to be the

public policy of the State of Arkansas to establish minimum wages for workers in order to

safeguard their health, efficiency, and general well-being and to protect them as well as

their employers from the effects of serious and unfair competition resulting from wage

levels detrimental to their health, efficiency and well-being." Ark. Code Ann. § 11-4-202.

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To that end, all non-exempted employees must be paid for time worked over forty (40)

hours per week at a rate of one and one-half times their regular rate. Ark. Code Ann. §

11-4-211.

54. At the time of the filing of this Complaint, neither Plaintiff nor Plaintiff's

counsel know of any litigation already begun by any members of the proposed class

concerning the allegations in this complaint.

No undue or extraordinary difficulties are likely to be encountered in the 55.

management of this class action.

The claims of Plaintiff are typical of the claims of the proposed liability class 56.

in that Plaintiff and all others in the proposed liability class will claim that they were subject

to the Defendant's corporate policy of not paying for all hours worked, they were entitled

to minimum wages and overtime, and that Defendant failed to pay minimum wages and

overtime.

Plaintiff and his counsel will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the 57.

class.

58. Plaintiff's counsel are competent to litigate Rule 23 class actions and other

complex litigation matters, including wage and hour cases like this one.

VII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, premises considered, Plaintiff Taylor Petty respectfully prays that

Defendant be summoned to appear and to answer herein and for declaratory relief and

damages as follows:

A declaratory judgment that Defendant's practices alleged herein violate the Α.

FLSA, the AMWA, and their relating regulations;

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- B. Judgment for damages for all unpaid wages and overtime compensation under the FLSA, the AMWA, and their relating regulations;
  - Judgment for liquidated damages pursuant to the FLSA and the AMWA;
  - D. Certification of and notice to the classes alleged above;
- E. An order directing Defendant to pay Plaintiff prejudgment interest, a reasonable attorney's fee and all costs connected with this action; and
- F. Such other and further relief as this Court may deem necessary, just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

TAYLOR PETTY, Individually and on behalf of All Others Similarly Situated, PLAINTIFF

SANFORD LAW FIRM, PLLC ONE FINANCIAL CENTER 650 SOUTH SHACKLEFORD, SUITE 411 LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72211 TELEPHONE: (501) 221-0088 FACSIMILE: (888) 787-2040

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JS 44 (Rev. 08/16)

CIVIL COVER SHEET 4:17-cv-331-JM

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				DEFENDANTS				
TAYLOR PETTY, Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated				JAL CHEMICAL CO., INC.				
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff PULASKI				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant				
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)					
				NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.				
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Dominique King and Josh Sanford; Sanford Law Firm, PLLC, 650				Attorneys (If Known)				
Shackleford, Suite 411, L			South					
dominique@sanfordlawfi								
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)			III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff (For Diversity Cases Only) and One Box for Defendant)					
☐ 1 U.S. Government   3 Federal Question				PTF DEF PTF DEF				
Plaintiff	(U.S. Government Not a Party)		Citizen of This State					
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)			Citizen of Another State				
				Citizen or Subject of a				
IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)  Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.								
CONTRACT  110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY	RTS PERSONAL INJUR		DRFEITURE/PENALTY 25 Drug Related Seizure		AL 28 USC 158	OTHER STATUTES  ☐ 375 False Claims Act	
☐ 120 Marine	☐ 310 Airplane	☐ 365 Personal Injury -		of Property 21 USC 881	☐ 423 Withd	rawal	☐ 376 Qui Tam (31 USC	
☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument	☐ 315 Airplane Product Liability	Product Liability  367 Health Care/	☐ 69	□ 690 Other		SC 157	3729(a))  ☐ 400 State Reapportionment	
☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment	☐ 320 Assault, Libel &	Pharmaceutical				TY RIGHTS	☐ 410 Antitrust	
& Enforcement of Judgment  151 Medicare Act	Slander  ☐ 330 Federal Employers'	Personal Injury Product Liability			<ul> <li>□ 820 Copyr</li> <li>□ 830 Patent</li> </ul>		☐ 430 Banks and Banking ☐ 450 Commerce	
☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans	Liability  ☐ 340 Marine	☐ 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product			□ 840 Trade	mark	☐ 460 Deportation ☐ 470 Racketeer Influenced and	
(Excludes Veterans)	☐ 345 Marine Product	Liability		LABOR		SECURITY	Corrupt Organizations	
☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	Liability  350 Motor Vehicle	PERSONAL PROPER  370 Other Fraud	RTY   25 71	0 Fair Labor Standards Act	☐ 861 HIA (☐ 862 Black		□ 480 Consumer Credit □ 490 Cable/Sat TV	
☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits	☐ 355 Motor Vehicle	☐ 371 Truth in Lending	<b>-</b> 72	20 Labor/Management	☐ 863 DIW	C/DIWW (405(g))	☐ 850 Securities/Commodities/	
☐ 190 Other Contract ☐ 195 Contract Product Liability	Product Liability  360 Other Personal	☐ 380 Other Personal Property Damage	O 74	Relations 40 Railway Labor Act	□ 864 SSID □ 865 RSI (4		Exchange  890 Other Statutory Actions	
☐ 196 Franchise	Injury  ☐ 362 Personal Injury -	☐ 385 Property Damage Product Liability	O 75	51 Family and Medical Leave Act			☐ 891 Agricultural Acts ☐ 893 Environmental Matters	
	Medical Malpractice	•		00 Other Labor Litigation			☐ 895 Freedom of Information	
REAL PROPERTY  ☐ 210 Land Condemnation	CIVIL RIGHTS  ☐ 440 Other Civil Rights	PRISONER PETITION Habeas Corpus:	<b>15</b> 0 79	1 Employee Retirement Income Security Act		L TAX SUITS (U.S. Plaintiff	Act  896 Arbitration	
220 Foreclosure	☐ 441 Voting	☐ 463 Alien Detainee		•		fendant)	□ 899 Administrative Procedure	
☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment☐ 240 Torts to Land☐	☐ 442 Employment ☐ 443 Housing/	☐ 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence	,		□ 871 IRS— 26 US	-Third Party SC 7609	Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision	
<ul><li>245 Tort Product Liability</li><li>290 All Other Real Property</li></ul>	Accommodations  445 Amer. w/Disabilities -	☐ 530 General ☐ 535 Death Penalty	<u> </u>	IMMIGRATION			☐ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	
270 7th Outer Real Property	Employment	Other:		52 Naturalization Application			Suite Suitates	
	446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other	<ul><li>540 Mandamus &amp; Oth</li><li>550 Civil Rights</li></ul>	er   346	55 Other Immigration Actions				
	☐ 448 Education	☐ 555 Prison Condition☐ 560 Civil Detainee -						
		Conditions of						
V ODICIN	L	Confinement					<u> </u>	
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)  X1 Original								
(specify) Transfer Direct File  Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):								
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	ON 29 U.S.C. 201 et Brief description of ca Unpaid Overtime							
VII. REQUESTED IN CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION DEMAND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:								
COMPLAINT:	,	JURY DEMAND:						
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY (See instructions): JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER								
DATE JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER  SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD								
05/17/2017	(X)	Distantion of Al	(					
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY								
RECEIPT # AM	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE		MAG. JUI	OGE	

JS 44 Reverse (Rev. 08/16)

cases.)

### 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
- 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 there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven 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 date.

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 – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.

Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statue.

- 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: Former Employee Details Unpaid Wage Allegations Against JAL Chemical