IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

MARCO TOLLIFERREO

individually and on behalf of all

others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

CIVIL ACTION

NO:

v.

THE TJX COMPANIES, INC. and MARMAXX OPERATING CORP.,

Defendants

COLLECTIVE ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Marco Tolliferreo ("Plaintiff"), individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated current and former employees of Defendants, The TJX Companies, Inc. and Marmaxx Operating Corp., brings this action against Defendants for damages and other relief relating to violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq. ("FLSA"). Plaintiff states the following as his claims against Defendants:

I. OVERVIEW

1. Plaintiff brings claims to recover unpaid overtime compensation under § 216(b) of the FLSA. He brings these claims as a putative collective action, individually and on behalf of and all current or former Loss Prevention Investigators ("Investigators") employed by Defendants from three years prior to the time of filing to the present.

II. THE PARTIES

Plaintiff

- 2. Plaintiff Marco Tolliferreo is a citizen of the United States domiciled in the City of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania. Plaintiff has been employed by Defendants, specifically as a Loss Prevention Investigator, since approximately April 2013.
- 3. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), Plaintiff Tolliferreo consents in writing to be a party to the FLSA claims asserted. His consent form is attached as Exhibit A. As this case proceeds, it is likely other individuals will file consent forms and join as opt-in plaintiffs.
- 4. Plaintiff, and all those similarly situated, are or were individual employees engaged in commerce or in the production of goods or services for commerce as required by 29 U.S.C. § 207.

Defendant

- 5. Defendant The TJX Companies, Inc. is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business and headquarters located at 770 Cochituate Road, Framingham, Massachusetts 01701, and employs individuals in Pennsylvania and throughout the United States.
- 6. Defendant Marmaxx Operating Corp. is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business and headquarters located at 770 Cochituate Road, Framingham, Massachusetts 01701, and employs individuals in Pennsylvania and throughout the United States. Marmaxx does business under the assumed store names of Marshalls HomeGoods, Marshalls and T.J. Maxx HomeGoods.
- 7. Defendants are or have been an enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods or services for commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 203(s)(1), and,

upon information and belief, Defendants have had an annual gross volume of sales made or business done of not less than \$500,000 at all relevant times.

8. At all relevevant times, Defendants are, and have been, the employer of Plaintiff and those similarly situated within the meaning of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(d).

III. JURISDICTION

9. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331. Plaintiff's claims arise under § 207(a) of the FLSA. Additionally, this Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants, since Defendants conduct business in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

IV. VENUE

10. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) as Defendants conduct business within this District and a substantial part of the events giving rise the claims occurred in this District.

V. COLLECTIVE DEFINITION

11. The group of similarly situated employees sought to be certified under the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), as a collective action ("FLSA Collective") is defined as:

All current or former Loss Prevention Investigators employed by The TJX Companies, Inc. and/or Marmaxx Operating Corp., at any time since three years prior to filing this Complaint.

VI. FACTS

- 12. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the above paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 13. Plaintiff and those similarly situated are or were employed by Defendants as Investigators.

- 14. Defendants have suffered and permitted Plaintiff to regularly work more than forty (40) hours in a workweek. Upon information and belief, Defendants have also suffered and permitted the members of the FLSA Collective to work regularly work more than forty (40) hours in certain workweeks.
- 15. Plaintiff and those similarly situated were not compensated in accordance with the FLSA because they were not paid proper overtime wages for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per workweek. Specifically, rather than paying them 1.5 times their regular rate of pay for all hours worked over forty (40) in a workweek, Defendants classified Plaintiff and the other similarly situated Investigators as exempt salaried workers.
- 16. Defendants are aware, or should have been aware, that Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective were non-exempt and they performed work that required them to work overtime. Defendants assigned Plaintiff's work schedule and required Plaintiff and the other similarly situated Investigators to report their work hours via weekly timesheets, which routinely reflect overtime hours.
- 17. During his employment with Defendants, Plaintiff's hours have varied from week to week. However, Plaintiff routinely worked in excess of forty (40) hours in a workweek.
- 18. Upon information and belief, other similarly situated Investigators have recorded and submitted their hours on Defendants' standardized forms which reflected overtime hours.

VII. COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 19. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
 - 20. As mentioned above, the proposed FLSA Collective is defined as follows:

All current or former Loss Prevention Investigators employed by The TJX Companies, Inc. and/or Mirmaxx Operating Corp., at any time since three years prior to filing this Complaint.

- 21. Pursuant to the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 207, employers are generally required to pay overtime compensation at an hourly rate of 1.5 times an employee's regular rate of pay for hours worked over forty (40) in a workweek.
- 22. Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective have routinely worked in excess of forty (40) hours per workweek without receiving proper overtime compensation for their overtime hours worked.
- 23. As an example, in February, 2016, Plaintiff was part of an investigation in New Jersey which required him to conduct surveillance and other activities for up to twelve (12) hours a day. These long hours resulted in Plaintiff working in excess of forty (40) hours in a workweek during that time. Despite substantial hours of overtime and Plaintiff's non-exempt status, Defendants did not pay Plaintiff overtime wages in accordance with the FLSA.
- 24. Defendants have violated, and are violating, the provisions of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 207 and 215(a)(2), by not paying Investigators, like Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective, overtime as required by law.
- 25. Defendants were aware that they misclassified the Investigators as exempt and were not compensating them properly for overtime.
- 26. Defendants knowingly, willfully, or in reckless disregard of the law, maintained an illegal practice of failing to pay Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective proper overtime compensation for all hours worked over forty (40) in a workweek.
- 27. Defendants' failure to comply with the FLSA overtime protections caused Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective to suffer loss of wages and interest thereon.

28. Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective are entitled to unpaid overtime, liquidated damages, attorneys' fees and costs under the FLSA.

VIII. EQUITABLE TOLLING

- 29. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
- 30. In or about November, 2016, Defendants issued a letter to Plaintiff and all other Investigators claiming that there had been a change under the FLSA which required Defendants to start classifying Plaintiff and the other Investigators as non-exempt employees.
- 31. The letter, and accompanying FAQ's, was meant to deceive and mislead Plaintiff and the other Investigators into believing that the workers were previously exempt from FLSA protections and thus, not entitled to overtime wages.
- 32. Defendants knew or should have known that this companywide representation was false and merely intended to dissuade workers from investigating and pursuing compensation for unpaid wages.
- 33. Accordingly, the FLSA Collective is entitled to equitable tolling to preserve their FLSA claims.

RELIEF SOUGHT

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the proposed FLSA Collective, prays for relief as follows:

1. Permitting this case to proceed as a collective action under § 216(b) of the FLSA and ordering notice to the putative plaintiffs at the earliest opportunity to ensure their claims are not lost to the FLSA statute of limitations;

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- 2. Judgment that Plaintiff and those similarly situated are entitled to the overtime protections under the FLSA;
- 3. Judgment against Defendants for violation of the overtime provisions of the FLSA;
 - 4. Judgment that Defendants' violations of the FLSA were willful;
- 5. An award to Plaintiff and those similarly situated in the amount of unpaid overtime wages and liquidated damages;
 - 6. An award of any pre- and post-judgment interest;
 - 7. An award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs;
- 8. Leave to add additional plaintiffs by motion, the filing of written consent forms, or any other method approved by the Court;
 - 9. Equitable tolling for the FLSA claims; and
 - 10. Such further relief as may be necessary and appropriate.

Respectfully Submitted:

/s/ Kevin I. Lovitz

Kevin I. Lovitz

kevin@lovitzlaw.com

LOVITZ LAW FIRM

One Liberty Place

1650 Market Street

36th Floor

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

Telephone: (215) 735-1996

Facsimile: (267) 319-7943

Philip Bohrer (to be admitted *pro hac vice*)

phil@bohrerbrady.com

Scott E. Brady (to be admitted *pro hac vice*)

scott@bohrerbrady.com

BOHRER BRADY, LLC

8712 Jefferson Highway, Suite B

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809 Telephone: (225) 925-5297 Facsimile: (225) 231-7000

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF AND THE PUTATIVE FLSA COLLECTIVE

THE TJX COMPANIES, INC. AND MARMAXX OPERATING CORP. PLAINTIFF CONSENT FORM

- 1. I consent to make a claim under the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201, et seq. against my current/former employer, The TJX Companies, Inc. and Marmaxx Operating Corp., and any other related entities or affiliates ("Defendant"), to recover overtime pay.
- 2. I designate Lovitz Law Firm and Bohrer Brady, LLC as my attorneys to pursue my claims in this matter.
- 3. During the past three years, there were occasions when I worked over 40 hours per week for Defendant as a laborer, and did not receive proper compensation for my overtime hours worked.
- 4. If this case does not proceed collectively, then I also consent to join any subsequent action to assert these claims against Defendant and any other related entities or affiliates.

Information Below Will Be Redacted in Filings with the Court. Please Print or Type.

Address: 8/0 Delvieu

coeff Pa 19032 City, State Zip:

Best Phone Number(s): (247) 984-2012

Email: LOCHAMP68@

LOVITZ LAW FIRM

One Liberty Place, 1650 Market Street, 36th Floor, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

Fax: (267) 319-7943

Email: kevin@lovitzlaw.com



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provided by local rules of court purpose of initiating the ivild	This form, approved by the control of the control o	he Judicial Conference of TIONS ON NEXT PAGE O	of the Uni F THIS FO	ted States in September (PRM.)	1974, is required for the use of	the Clerk of Court for the		
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS	•			DEFENDANTS	3			
Marco Tolliferreo, individ	ually and on behalf of	all other similarly si	ituated	The TJX Compani	ies, Inc. and Marmaxx Op	perating Corp.		
(b) County of Residence of	f First Listed Plaintiff	DELAWARE		County of Residence	of/First Listed Defendant	MIDBLESEX		
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(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A	Address, and Telephone Numbe	r)		Attorneys (If Known)				
Lovitz Law Firm, P.C. 1650 Market Street, 36th	Fl., Phila., PA 19103	(215)735-1996						
1650 Market Street, 36th Fl., Phila., PA 19103 (215)735-1996 II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only) III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff								
☐ 1 U.S. Government	★ 3 Federal Question	70 Dos (113)		(For Diversity Cases Only)	TF DEF	and One Box for Defendant) PTF DEF		
Plaintiff	(U.S. Government	Not a Party)	Citize		1 1 Incorporated or Pr of Business In T	incipal Place 🔲 4 🗇 4		
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizensh.)	ip of Parties in Item III)	Citize	en of Another State	1 2			
	·	100000			3 G 3 Foreign Nation	□ 6 □ 6		
IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only) Foreign Country Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.								
□ 110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY	PERSONAL INJUR		DRFETTURE/PENALTY :: 5 Drug Related Seizure	BANKRUPTCY 422 Appeal 28 USC 158	OTHER STATUTES ☐ 375 False Claims Act		
☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act	☐ 310 Airplane ☐ 315 Airplane Product	365 Personal Injury - Product Liability		of Property 21 USC 881	 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 	376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a))		
 ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment 	Liability ☐ 320 Assault, Libel &	367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical			18 (10) 8 (8 (8 (8 (8 (8 (8 (8 (8 (8 (8 (8 (8 (☐ 400 State Reapportionment ☐ 410 Antitrust		
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☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans	Liability 340 Marine	☐ 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product		·	☐ 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application	☐ 460 Deportation ☐ 470 Racketeer Influenced and		
(Excludes Veterans) ☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment	345 Marine Product Liability	Liability PERSONAL PROPER	100	LABOR	☐ 840 Trademark	Corrupt Organizations 480 Consumer Credit		
of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits	☐ 350 Motor Vehicle ☐ 355 Motor Vehicle	☐ 370 Other Fraud ☐ 371 Truth in Lending		0 Fair Labor Standards	☐ 861 HIA (1395ff) ☐ 862 Black Lung (923)	490 Cable/Sat TV 859 Securities/Commodities/		
190 Other Contract	Product Liability	380 Other Personal	72	Act O Labor/Management	☐ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	Exchange		
☐ 195 Contract Product Liability ☐ 196 Franchise	Injury	Property Damage 385 Property Damage		Relations 0 Railway Labor Act	☐ 864 SSID Title XVI ☐ 865 RSI (405(g))	☐ 890 Other Statutory Actions ☐ 891 Agricultural Acts		
	☐ 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	Product Liability		1 Family and Medical Leave Act		☐ 893 Environmental Matters ☐ 895 Freedom of Information		
□ 210 Land Condemnation	☐ 440 Other Civil Rights	PRISONER PETITION Habeas Corpus:		0 Other Labor Litigation 1 Employee Retirement	FEDERAL TAX SUITS ☐ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff	Act ☐ 896 Arbitration		
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 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 	☐ 443 Housing/ Accommodations	Sentence 530 General			26 USC 7609	Agency Decision 950 Constitutionality of		
☐ 290 All Other Real Property	☐ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment	535 Death Penalty Other:	C 46	IMMIGRATION 2 Naturalization Application		State Statutes		
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Original 2 Removed from 3 Remanded from 4 Reinstated or 5 Transferred from 6 Multidistrict 8 Multidistrict Proceeding State Court Appellate Court Reopened Another District Litigation - Litigation -								
Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):								
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION 29 U.S.C § 201, et seq. Brief description of cause:								
FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT - Claim for unpaid overtime wages								
VII. REQUESTED IN CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION DEMAND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: COMPLAINT: 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 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD								
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY								
RECEIPT # AMOUNT - 5 2018 APPLYING IFP JUDGE MAG. JUDGE								

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT APPENDIX A

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICTOF PENNSYLVANIA — purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar.	DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the
purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar. Address of Paintiff: 810 Delview Drive Folcroft,	, PA 19032
Address of Defendant: 770 Cochituate Road, Fra	4 🔨
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Broomall,	PA
	(Use Reverse Side For Additional Space)
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?	Yes D NoZ
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:	
Case Number: Judge	Date Terminated:
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to a	any of the following guestions:
Is this case related to property included in an earlier nu	umbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow of action in this court?	out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated Yes No Yes
3 Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a	patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously
terminated action in this court?	Yes - No.
CIVIL: (Place ✓ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)	
	B. Diversity traindiction Conse
Federal Question Cases Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases: er Contracts 1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts
2. ☐ FELA	2. Airplane Personal Injury
3. U Jones Act-Personal Injury	3. Assault, Defamation
4. Antitrust	4. Marine Personal Injury
5. Patent	5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
6. Labor-Management Relations	6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify)
7. Civil Rights	7. Products Liability
_	
8. U Habeas Corpus	8. ☐ Products Liability — Asbestos 9. ☐ All other Diversity Cases
9. Securities Act(s) Cases	
10. U Social Security Review Cases 11. All other Federal Question Cases	(Please specify)
11(All other Federal Question Cases (Pease specify) 29 U.S.C § 201, et seq.	
	BITRATION CERTIFICATION (Check appropriate Category)
Kevin I. Lovitz, Esquire	
Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2)	, counsel of record do hereby certify:), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action casest and costs;
Relief other than monetary damages is sought.	
DATE: 1/5/8	70184
NOTE: A trial de novo will be a tri	Attorney I.D.# al by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.
I certifythat, to myknowledge, the within case is not releasept as noted above.	ated to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this co
18118	70184
DATE.	Attorney-at-Law Attorney I.D.#
JAN -5 2018	



IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

APPENDIX C

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

Marco Tolliferreo, individually and on beh similarly situated	alf of others :	CIVIL ACTION
v.		36
The TJX Companies, Inc. and Marmaxx O	•	NO.
In accordance with the Civil Justice plaintiff shall complete a case Ma of filing the complaint and serve a reverse side of this form.) In the estaid designation, that defendant serve on the plaintiff and all other the track to which that defendant SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLO	nagement Track Designation For copy on all defendants. (See § 1 vent that a defendant does not agr hall, with its first appearance, su parties, a case management track believes the case should be assig	m in all civil cases at the time :03 of the plan set forth on the ree with the plaintiff regarding bmit to the clerk of court and k designation form specifying ned.
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		torney-at-law
(Civ. 660) 7/95	O 18 A	ttorney for Marco Tolliferreo,



One Liberty Place 1650 Market Street 36th Floor Philadelphia, PA 19103

- P 215.735.1996
- F 267.319.7943
- E Kevin@LovitzLaw.com

KEVIN I. LOVITZ

WWW.LOVITZLAW.COM

January 5, 2018

Michael E. Kunz, Clerk of Court United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania Room 2609 U.S. Courthouse 601 Market Street Philadelphia, PA 19106

Marco Tolliferred, individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated

v. The TJX Companies, Inc. and Marmaxx Operating Corp.

Dear Mr. Kunz:

Enclosed please find an original and three (3) copies of Plaintiff's Complaint and Jury Demand. Please file the original and return the time-stamped copies in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope I have provided for your convenience. I have also enclosed this firm's check in the amount of \$400.00 to cover the cost of filing, and a .pdf version of the Complaint.

Thank you for your courtesies and cooperation.

Very truly yours,

KEVIN ILLOVITZ

KIL/dc Enclosure

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: T.J. Maxx/Marshalls Loss Prevention Investigator Seeks to Prevent Lost OT Wages