

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

**JOSHUA TOUSIGNANT and  
HEATHER WELSCH, individually and on  
behalf of all those similarly situated,** )  
)  
)  
**Plaintiffs,** )  
)  
**v.** )  
)  
**SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC USA, INC.,** )  
)  
**Defendant.** )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**Case No.:**

**COLLECTIVE ACTION COMPLAINT**

Plaintiffs Joshua Tousignant and Heather Welsh (collectively “Plaintiffs”), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, by and through undersigned counsel, allege as follows:

**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

1. This is an action under the Fair Labor Standards Act (“FLSA”), 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), brought by Plaintiffs against Defendant Schneider Electric USA, Inc. (“Defendant” or “Schneider Electric”), for failing to pay Plaintiffs overtime wages owed in violation of the FLSA. At all times relevant to this action, Defendant failed to pay overtime compensation at a rate of one and one-half their regular hourly rate of pay due to Plaintiffs for all hours worked over forty in a workweek. Plaintiffs seek to recover unpaid overtime compensation, liquidated damages, interest, attorneys’ fees and costs, and all other relief to which they are entitled.

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

2. This Court has federal question jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because Plaintiffs have asserted a claim pursuant to the FLSA.

3. Venue is proper in this Court because Defendant resides in this District.

**PARTIES**

***Plaintiffs***

4. Plaintiff Joshua Tousignant is an adult resident of Gun Barrel City, Texas. From approximately July 2017 through February 2018, Mr. Tousignant worked as a warehouse associate for Defendant at Defendant's warehouse located in Athens, Texas and was not paid overtime compensation at a rate of one and one-half times his regular hourly rate for all hours he worked in excess of 40 each workweek.

5. Plaintiff Heather Welsch is an adult resident of Kemp, Texas. From approximately July 2017 through the present, Ms. Welsch worked as a warehouse associate for Defendant at Defendant's warehouse located in Athens, Texas and was not paid overtime compensation at a rate of one and one-half times her regular hourly rate for all hours she worked in excess of 40 each workweek.

6. At all relevant times, as an employee of Defendant, Plaintiffs were engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce as described in 29 U.S.C. §§ 206 and 207.

***Defendant***

7. Defendant Schneider Electric USA Inc. is Delaware corporation with its headquarters located in Andover, Massachusetts. Schneider Electric is a global specialist in energy management and automation.

8. At all relevant times, Schneider Electric was an "enterprise engaged in commerce or the production of goods for commerce" within the meaning of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(s).

9. At all relevant times, Schneider Electric has employed two or more persons, including Plaintiffs, “engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce,” as defined in § 203(s)(1)(A)(i).

10. At all relevant times, Schneider Electric achieved annual gross sales made or business done of not less than \$500,000.00 in accordance with § 203(s)(1)(A)(ii).

11. Defendant issued paychecks to Plaintiffs and all similarly situated employees during their employment.

12. Defendant directed the work of Plaintiffs and similarly situated employees and benefited from work performed that Defendant suffered or permitted from them.

13. Defendant did not pay Plaintiffs and similarly situated employees overtime wages at a rate of one and one-half times their regular hourly rate of pay for all hours they worked for Defendant’s benefit in excess of 40 hours in a workweek.

### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

14. Plaintiffs worked for Defendant as warehouse associates. Plaintiffs’ primary duty was to “pick” products that had been ordered from the warehouse using a forklift.

15. At all relevant times, Plaintiffs were classified by Defendant as non-exempt under the FLSA, but were not paid overtime at a rate of one and one-half times their regular hourly rate of pay for all hours worked over 40 in a workweek.

16. Defendant tracked Plaintiffs’ hours worked by requiring them to clock in and out on a time clock.

17. During the relevant time period, Plaintiffs and other warehouse associates regularly worked more than 40 hours per week and were not paid overtime pay at a rate of one and one-half times their regular hourly rate of pay for hours worked over 40 in a workweek.

18. Through its unlawful actions, Defendant has deprived warehouse associates of overtime wages owed to them.

19. Defendant acted willfully in failing to pay overtime compensation to warehouse associates at one and one-half their regular hourly rate of pay for all hours worked over 40 in a workweek. Defendant knew or should have known that warehouse associates, who were classified as non-exempt, were required to be paid overtime compensation at a rate of one and one-half times their regular hourly rate of pay for all hours worked over 40 in a workweek.

### **COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

20. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), Plaintiffs bring their FLSA claims on behalf of all similarly situated individuals who have worked for Defendant in the United States as warehouse associates (however titled), have not received overtime wages at a rate of one and one-half times their regular hourly rate of pay owed to them during the three-year period prior to the filing of the Complaint, and who may choose to “opt in” to this case under the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

21. The claims under the FLSA meet the requirements for collective action certification set forth in 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

22. Schneider Electric has engaged in a widespread pattern and practice of violating the FLSA, as detailed in this Complaint.

23. All potential opt-in plaintiffs are similarly situated as to these claims, because they all were employed by Schneider Electric as warehouse associates, primarily performed the same or similar job duties, were not paid overtime wages at a rate of one and one-half times their regular hourly rate of pay for hours over 40 worked in a workweek, and Schneider

Electric's compensation practices are uniform as to all potential plaintiffs and result in the alleged violation of the FLSA.

### **EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES**

24. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), Plaintiffs consent to sue as plaintiffs under the Fair Labor Standards Act. Mr. Tousignant's and Ms. Welsch's consent to sue forms are attached to this Complaint as "Exhibit 1."

### **COUNT I - FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT**

25. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference Paragraphs 1-24 as if alleged fully herein.

26. As set forth above, Defendant's failure to pay overtime compensation to employees who have worked for Defendant as warehouse associates and have not received overtime wages at a rate of one and one-half times their regular hourly rate of pay owed to them during the three-year period preceding the filing of this Complaint violates the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 207. This claim is brought by the named Plaintiffs on behalf of themselves and all other similarly situated employees pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

27. Defendant's failure to pay Plaintiffs and similarly situated employees in accordance with the requirements of Section 207 of the FLSA was in willful disregard of the overtime wage compensation requirements of the FLSA.

28. Plaintiffs seek unpaid overtime compensation in an amount to be determined, as well as an equal amount of liquidated damages or pre-judgment and post-judgment interest, and attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

### **JURY DEMAND**

29. Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury on all of their claims.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs request that the Court grant the following relief:

- A. Authorization to notify similarly situated employees of their right to opt in to this action under 29 U.S.C. § 216(b);
- B. An award of all damages for unpaid wages and compensation that are due to the named Plaintiffs and all similarly situated employees under the FLSA;
- C. An award of liquidated damages pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b);
- D. A finding that Defendant's violations of the FLSA have been willful and that, therefore, the statute of limitations for the FLSA claim is three years;
- E. Attorneys' fees and costs;
- F. Pre- and post-interest; and
- G. Any other relief to which the named plaintiffs and similarly situated individuals may be entitled.

Dated: March 7, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Sergei Lemberg*  
Sergei Lemberg, Esq.  
Tamra Givens, Esq. (to be admitted  
*pro hac vice*)  
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*Attorney for Plaintiffs*

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

JOSHUA TOUSIGNANT and HEATHER WELSCH, individually and on behalf of all those similarly situated

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

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Lemberg Law, LLC. 43 Danbury Road, 3rd floor Wilton, Connecticut 06897; (203) 653-2250

DEFENDANTS

SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC USA, INC.,

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant County of Essex (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, CIVIL RIGHTS, TORTS, 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): Fair Labor Standards, 29 U.S.C. 201, et seq

Brief description of cause: Failure to pay Overtime Wages

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

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

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER

DATE 03/07/2018 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD /s/ Sergei Lemberg

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # AMOUNT APPLYING IFP JUDGE MAG. JUDGE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

1. Title of case (name of first party on each side only) Tousignant v. Schneider Electric USA, Inc.

2. Category in which the case belongs based upon the numbered nature of suit code listed on the civil cover sheet. (See local rule 40.1(a)(1)).

- I. 410, 441, 470, 535, 830\*, 835\*, 891, 893, 895, R.23, REGARDLESS OF NATURE OF SUIT.
- II. 110, 130, 140, 160, 190, 196, 230, 240, 290,320,362, 370, 371, 380, 430, 440, 442, 443, 445, 446, 448, 710, 720, 740, 790, 820\*, 840\*, 850, 870, 871.
- III. 120, 150, 151, 152, 153, 195, 210, 220, 245, 310, 315, 330, 340, 345, 350, 355, 360, 365, 367, 368, 375, 376, 385, 400, 422, 423, 450, 460, 462, 463, 465, 480, 490, 510, 530, 540, 550, 555, 625, 690, 751, 791, 861-865, 890, 896, 899, 950.

\*Also complete AO 120 or AO 121. for patent, trademark or copyright cases.

3. Title and number, if any, of related cases. (See local rule 40.1(g)). If more than one prior related case has been filed in this district please indicate the title and number of the first filed case in this court.

4. Has a prior action between the same parties and based on the same claim ever been filed in this court?

YES  NO

5. Does the complaint in this case question the constitutionality of an act of congress affecting the public interest? (See 28 USC §2403)

YES  NO

If so, is the U.S.A. or an officer, agent or employee of the U.S. a party?

YES  NO

6. Is this case required to be heard and determined by a district court of three judges pursuant to title 28 USC §2284?

YES  NO

7. Do all of the parties in this action, excluding governmental agencies of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ("governmental agencies"), residing in Massachusetts reside in the same division? - (See Local Rule 40.1(d)).

YES  NO

A. If yes, in which division do all of the non-governmental parties reside?

Eastern Division  Central Division  Western Division

B. If no, in which division do the majority of the plaintiffs or the only parties, excluding governmental agencies, residing in Massachusetts reside?

Eastern Division  Central Division  Western Division

8. If filing a Notice of Removal - are there any motions pending in the state court requiring the attention of this Court? (If yes, submit a separate sheet identifying the motions)

YES  NO

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

ATTORNEY'S NAME Sergei Lemberg

ADDRESS Lemberg Law, LLC. 43 Danbury Road Wilton, Connecticut 06897

TELEPHONE NO. (203) 653-2250



# ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: [Warehouse Workers Claim Schneider Electric Refused to Pay Proper OT](#)

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