UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA FT. LAUDERDALE DIVISION

CASE NO.

OTIS JAMES WRIGHT, and all others similarly situated under 29

Plaintiff.

VS.

GRC LANDSCAPING II LLC, A/K/A GRC LANDSCAPING SERVICES, LLC a Florida Corporation, DEON BOTHA individually, DANIEL GOLDSTEIN individually, FRANK PERKINS individually

Defendants.

COMPLAINT

COMES NOW Plaintiff, OTIS JAMES WRIGHT, by and through his undersigned attorney, and hereby sues Defendants, GRC LANDSCAPING II LLC, A/K/A GRC LANDSCAPING SERVICES, LLC, a Florida Corporation (hereinafter "GRC"), and DEON BOTHA individually, DANIEL GOLDSTEIN individually, and FRANK PERKINS individually and as grounds alleges:

JURISDICTIONAL ALLEGATIONS

- 1. This is an action to recover monetary damages, liquidated damages, interests, costs and attorney's fees for willful violations of overtime pay under the laws of the United States, the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §§201-219) ("the FLSA").
- 2. Plaintiff is a resident of Broward County, Florida, within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court.

- 3. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331 because this action involves the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §§201, *et seq.*, a federal statute.
 - 4. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(c) and (d).
- 5. Defendant GRC is a Florida corporation which regularly conducted business within the Southern District of Florida by providing landscape services.
- 6. GRC is and, at all times pertinent to this Complaint, was engaged in interstate commerce. At all times pertinent to this Complaint, GRC operated as an organization which sells and/or markets and/or handles its services and/or goods and/or materials to customers from throughout the United States and also provides its services for goods sold and transported from across state lines of numerous other states, and GRC obtains and solicits funds from non-Florida sources, accepts funds from non-Florida sources, uses telephonic transmissions going over state lines to do its business, transmits funds outside the State of Florida, and otherwise regularly engages in interstate commerce, particularly with respect to its employees.
- 7. Upon information and belief, the annual gross revenue of GRC was at all times material hereto in excess of \$500,000.00 per annum. GRC had gross annual revenue in excess of \$500,000, for the year of 2015. GRC had gross annual revenue in excess of \$375,000, during the first three quarters of 2016. Upon information and belief, the gross annual revenue for GRC is expected to \$500,000.00 for the year of 2016.
- 8. By reason of the foregoing, GRC is and was, during all times hereafter mentioned, an enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce as defined in §3(r) and 3(s) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §203(r) and 203(s) and/or Plaintiff is within interstate commerce.
- 9. The individual Defendant, DEON BOTHA, is an "employer," as defined in 29 U.S.C. § 203(d), as he has operational control over the Defendant corporation and is directly

involved in decisions affecting employee compensation and hours worked by employees such as Plaintiff and opt-in plaintiffs. Defendant BOTHA controlled the purse strings for the corporate Defendant. Defendant BOTHA hired and fired employees, determined the rate of compensation and was responsible for ensuring that employees were paid the wages required by the FLSA.

- 10. The individual Defendant, DANIEL GOLDSTEIN, is an "employer," as defined in 29 U.S.C. § 203(d), as he has operational control over the Defendant corporation, controlled the purse strings for the corporate Defendant, and had the authority to hire and fire employees, determine their rate of compensation and was responsible for ensuring that employees were paid the wages required by the FLSA.
- 11. The individual Defendant, FRANK PERKINS, is an "employer," as defined in 29 U.S.C. § 203(d), as he has operational control over the Defendant corporation and is directly involved in decisions affecting employee compensation and hours worked by employees such as Plaintiff and opt-in plaintiffs. Defendant PERKINS controlled the purse strings for the corporate Defendant. Defendant PERKINS hired and fired employees, determined the rate of compensation and was responsible for ensuring that employees were paid the wages required by the FLSA.

COUNT I: UNPAID OVERTIME WAGES

- 12. Plaintiff re-alleges and re-avers paragraphs 1 through 11 as fully set forth herein.
- 13. Plaintiff was employed by the Defendants as a non-exempt laborer and driver.
- 14. Plaintiff was employed from on or about June 2, 2016 through November 10, 2016.
- 15. During the approximate period of June 2, 2016 through November 10, 2016 Plaintiff worked approximately 50 hours per week and was paid \$14/hr., less uniform deductions, for said work but was not paid the time and one-half overtime rate for each hour worked. Therefore, Plaintiff claims the halftime overtime rate for each hour worked.

- 16. Defendants were required to pay Plaintiff overtimes wages. Plaintiff was not paid overtime wages at a rate of time and one half, when he worked more than 40 hours per week.
- 17. The FLSA requires that employees be paid overtime hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours weekly at a rate of time-and-one-half the regular rate. At all times material hereto, Defendants failed to comply with Title 29 U.S.C. § 201-219 and 29 C.F.R. §516.2 and §516.4 et seq. in that Plaintiff performed services and worked in excess of the maximum hours provided by the FLSA but no provision was made by the Defendants to properly pay him at the rate of time and one-half for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) per workweek as provided in the FLSA.
- 18. Defendants knew and/or showed reckless disregard of the provisions of the FLSA concerning the payment of overtime wages as required by the Fair Labor Standards Act. Defendants were aware of Plaintiff's work schedule and further aware that Plaintiff was working more than 40 hours per week. Defendants were aware of Plaintiff's pay records and the rate that he was being paid for his hours. Despite Defendants' having knowledge of Plaintiff's hours and their failure to pay overtime wages, Defendants did not change its pay practices and continued to fail to pay Plaintiff, and those similarly situated, the overtime wages he was due.
- 19. The similarly situated individuals are those individuals whom were employed by the Defendants as laborers like the Plaintiff, and whom were not paid overtime wages.
- 20. Plaintiff has retained the law offices of the undersigned attorneys to represent him in this action and is entitled to award of reasonable attorney's fees.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests compensatory and liquidated damages, and reasonable attorney's fees and costs from Defendants, jointly and severally, pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act as cited above, to be proven at the time of trial for overtime owing from Plaintiff's entire employment period with Defendants, or as much as allowed by the Fair Labor Standards

Act, whichever is greater, along with court costs. In the event that Plaintiff does not recover liquidated damages, then Plaintiff will seek an award of prejudgment interest for the unpaid overtime, and any and all other relief which this Court deems reasonable under the circumstances.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff and those similarly-situated demands trial by jury of all issues triable as of right by jury.

Dated: November 10, 2016

Law Office of Daniel T. Feld, P.A. *Co-Counsel for Plaintiff* 2847 Hollywood Blvd.
Hollywood, Florida 33020
Tel: (305) 308 - 5619
Email: DanielFeld.Esq@gmail.com
/s Daniel T. Feld
Daniel T. Feld, Esq.
Florida Bar No. 37013

Mamane Law LLC

Co-counsel for Plaintiff

1150 Kane Concourse, Fourth Floor
Bay Harbor Islands, FL 33154

Telephone (305) 773 - 6661

E-mail: mamane@gmail.com

s/ Isaac Mamane

Isaac Mamane, Esq.

Florida Bar No. 44561

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.) NOTICE: Attorneys MUST Indicate All Re-filed Cases Below.

of initiating the civil docket shee	a. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON	NEXT TAGE OF THIS FORM.,	NOTICE: Attorneys WIUST	indicate An Re-incu Cases I	Clow.
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS OTIS JAMES WRIGHT			DEFENDANTS GRC Landscaping II, LLC, Deon Botha, Daniel Goldstein, Frank Perkins		
•	0 Kane Concourse, Fo	SES)	NOTE: Attorneys (If Known)	of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES O IN LAND CONDEMNATION C. THE TRACT OF LAND INVOL ³	ASES, USE THE LOCATION OF
(d) Check County Where Action		☐ MONROE ☑ BROWARD ☐] PALM BEACH ☐ MARTIN ☐ ST. LU	JCIE INDIAN RIVER OKEECHO	DBEE HIGHLANDS
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in	a One Box Only)	. CITIZENSHIP OF PF	RINCIPAL PARTIES (1	Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff)
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	✓ 3 Fede (U.S. Government N	ral Question Not a Party)	(For Diversity Cases Only) PT Citizen of This State		
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	_	ersity p of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State		rincipal Place 5 5
			Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	3	□ 6 □ 6
IV. NATURE OF SUIT	(Place an "X" in One Box On	ly)			
CONTRACT	TO	RTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 362 Personal Injury Med. Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS 440 Other Civil Rights 441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommodations 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other 448 Education	PERSONAL INJURY 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability	□ 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 □ 690 Other LABOR ▼ 710 Fair Labor Standards Act □ 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations □ 740 Railway Labor Act □ 751 Family and Medical Leave Act □ 790 Other Labor Litigation □ 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	422 Appeal 28 USC 158 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS 820 Copyrights 830 Patent 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY 861 HIA (1395ff) 862 Black Lung (923) 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) 864 SSID Title XVI 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)	375 False Claims Act 400 State Reapportionment 410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce 460 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations 480 Consumer Credit 490 Cable/Sat TV 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange 890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts 893 Environmental Matters 895 Freedom of Information Act 896 Arbitration 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
1 Original 2 Rem	n "X" in One Box Only) oved from □ 3 Re-file c Court VI belo	d (See ☐ 4 Reinstated on) Reopened	or 5 Transferred from another district (specify)	6 Multidistrict	Appeal to District Indge from 8 Remanded from Appellate Court Magistrate Indgment
VI. RELATED/ RE-FILED CASE(S)	a) Re-fit (See instructions): JUDGE	led Case □YES ☑ N	O b) Related Cases	□YES ☑ NO DOCKET NUMBER	
VII. CAUSE OF ACTIO	Cite the U.S. Civil Sta N unpaid overtime w LENGTH OF TRIAL	ages; FLSA	ling and Write a Brief Statemer for both sides to try entire case)	nt of Cause (Do not cite jurisdict	ional statutes unless diversity):
VIII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	☐ CHECK IF THIS UNDER F.R.C.P.	IS A CLASS ACTION 23	DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only i JURY DEMAND:	f demanded in complaint: ☐ Yes ☐ No
ABOVE INFORMATION IS TO	TRUE & CORRECT TO T		WLEDGE TORNEY OF RECORD		<u></u>
November 10, 2016		/s/ Isaac Ma	mane		
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY RECEIPT #	AMOUNT	IFP	JUDGE	MAG JUDGE	

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United States District Court

for the Southern District of Florida

OTIS JAMES WRIGHT, and others similarly-situated,

Plaintiff,

VS.

GRC LANDSCAPING II LLC, A/K/A GRC LANDSCAPING SERVICES, LLC a Florida Corporation, DEON BOTHA individually, DANIEL GOLDSTEIN individually, FRANK PERKINS individually

Defendants.

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To:

GRC LANDSCAPING II LLC, A/K/A GRC LANDSCAPING SERVICES, LLC Registered Agent: Deon Botha 7031 Vendura Court Parkland, Florida 33067

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:

MAMANE LAW LLC 1150 Kane Concourse, Fourth Floor Bay Harbor Islands, FL 33154

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

	CEDIMI OF COURT
Date:	
	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the Southern District of Florida

OTIS	JAMES	WRIGHT,	and	others
simila	rly-situate	ed,		

Plaintiff,

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To:

Deon Botha 7031 Vendura Court Parkland, Florida 33067

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:

MAMANE LAW LLC 1150 Kane Concourse, Fourth Floor Bay Harbor Islands, FL 33154

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.

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Date:	
	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the Southern District of Florida

OTIS JAMES WRIGHT, and others similarly-situated,

Plaintiff,

VS.

GRC LANDSCAPING II LLC, A/K/A GRC LANDSCAPING SERVICES, LLC a Florida Corporation, DEON BOTHA individually, DANIEL GOLDSTEIN individually, FRANK PERKINS individually

Defendants.

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To:

Daniel Goldstein 4100 N. Powerline Road, Suite T-1 Pompano Beach, Florida 33073

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:

MAMANE LAW LLC 1150 Kane Concourse, Fourth Floor Bay Harbor Islands, FL 33154

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

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the Southern District of Florida

OTIS JAMES WRIGHT, and others similarly-situated,

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Defendants.

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To:

Frank Perkins 9601 Riverside Drive Coral Springs, Florida 33071

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:

MAMANE LAW LLC 1150 Kane Concourse, Fourth Floor Bay Harbor Islands, FL 33154

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

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Class Action Says GRC Landscaping Services Failed to Pay Overtime</u>