

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
Miami Division

CASE NO.

MARIA T. AGUERO, on behalf of herself and  
all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

HOTEL CONNECTIONS INC.,  
a Florida corporation,

Defendant.

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**COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff, MARIA T. AGUERO, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, sues  
Defendant, HOTEL CONNECTIONS INC., and states as follows:

1. Plaintiff, MARIA T. AGUERO, is a former employee of Defendant, HOTEL CONNECTIONS INC., and brings this action on behalf of herself and all other employees and former employees of Defendant similarly situated to her for compensation and other relief under the Fair Labor Standards Act, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 201, et seq.

2. Plaintiff, MARIA T. AGUERO, is a resident of Miami-Dade County, Florida, and within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court.

3. HOTEL CONNECTIONS INC. is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida, doing business in Miami-Dade County, Florida, and within the jurisdiction of this Court.

4. This action is brought to recover from Defendant, HOTEL CONNECTIONS INC., unpaid overtime wages, as well as an additional amount in liquidated damages, costs, and

reasonable attorney's fees under the provisions of Title 29 U.S.C. §201 et. seq., and specifically under the provisions of 29 U.S.C. §216(b).

5. Jurisdiction is conferred on this Court by Title 28 U.S.C. § 1337, and by Title 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

6. Defendant, HOTEL CONNECTIONS INC., was, at all times pertinent to this Complaint, engaged in interstate commerce. At all times pertinent to this Complaint, Defendant, HOTEL CONNECTIONS INC., owned and operated a company that provides crew accommodations management to the travel industry.

7. It is believed that the gross annual revenue of Defendant, HOTEL CONNECTIONS INC., was at all times material hereto in excess of \$500,000 per annum.

8. By reason of the foregoing, Defendant, HOTEL CONNECTIONS INC., 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 Act, 29 U.S.C. §203(r) and 203(s).

9. Plaintiff, MARIA T. AGUERO, was employed by Defendant, HOTEL CONNECTIONS INC., as an account representative. By reason of such employment Plaintiff, MARIA T. AGUERO, was employed by an enterprise engaged in commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §§ 206(a) and 207(a). The work performed by Plaintiff was directly essential to the business activities in interstate commerce by Defendant, HOTEL CONNECTIONS INC., which was directly essential to the business performed by Defendant. Plaintiff, by virtue of her activities, was engaged in commerce.

10. The additional persons who may become Plaintiffs in this action are hourly and/or improperly salaried employees and/or former employees of Defendant who are and were subject to the payroll practices and procedures described in Paragraphs 11 and 12 and who were not paid time and one-half their regular rate of pay for all overtime hours worked.

11. At all times material hereto, Defendant failed to comply with the Act, in that Plaintiff performed services for Defendant, but no provision was made by Defendant to properly compensate Plaintiff time and one-half for hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per work week.

12. Plaintiff's employment with Defendant provided for compensation on an improperly salaried basis. Plaintiff was not paid time and one-half their regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) per work week.

13. In the course of her employment with Defendant, Plaintiff, and all other similarly situated employees, worked the number of hours required of them, but were not paid time and one-half their regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per work week.

14. The records, if any, concerning the number of hours actually worked by Plaintiff and all other similarly situated employees and former employees and the compensation actually paid to such employees are in the possession, custody, and control of Defendant.

**COUNT I**  
**RECOVERY OF OVERTIME WAGES**

15. Plaintiff readopts and realleges all of the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 14 above, as if fully set forth herein.

16. Plaintiff, MARIA T. AGUERO, is entitled to be paid time and one-half her regular rate of pay for each hour worked in excess of forty (40) per work week. All similarly situated employees are similarly owed their overtime rate for each overtime hour they worked and were not properly paid.

17. Plaintiff, and all those similarly situated to her, have suffered damages plus incurring costs and reasonable attorney's fees by reason of the said intentional, willful and

unlawful acts of Defendant HOTEL CONNECTIONS INC.

18. Defendant, HOTEL CONNECTIONS INC.'s, failure to pay Plaintiff and all those similarly situated to her in accordance with the Act was not based on reasonable grounds and was not in good faith.

19. As a result of Defendant, HOTEL CONNECTIONS INC.'s, lack of good faith and reasonable grounds in disregarding the Act, Plaintiff and all those similarly situated to her are entitled to liquidated damages in an amount equal to unpaid wages.

WHEREFORE, for all work weeks beginning on or after November 1, 2013, Plaintiff and those similarly situated to her who have or will opt into this action, demand judgment against Defendant HOTEL CONNECTIONS INC. for the wages and overtime compensation due them for the hours worked by them for which they have not been properly compensated, liquidated damages and reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit, and for all proper relief including prejudgment interest.

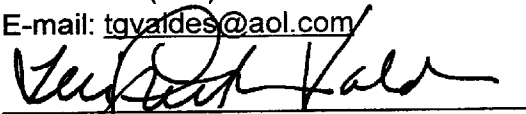
**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, MARIA T. AGUERO, submits this demand for jury trial for all issues triable of right by a jury pursuant to Rule 38, Fed. R. Civ. P.

Respectfully Submitted,

TERI GUTTMAN VALDES LLC  
Counsel for Plaintiff  
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E-mail: [tgvaldes@aol.com](mailto:tgvaldes@aol.com)

Dated November 13, 2016

  
Teri Guttman Valdes  
Florida Bar No. 0010741

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.**

**I. (a) PLAINTIFFS** Maria T. Aguero, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated **DEFENDANTS** Hotel Connections, Inc.

**(b)** County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff **Miami-Dade** County of Residence of First Listed Defendant  
 (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

**(c)** Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) **Teri Guttman Valdes, Esq.**  
 TERI GUTTMAN VALDES LLC Attorneys (If Known)

**(d)** Check County Where Action Arose:  MIAMI-DADE  MONROE  BROWARD  PALM BEACH  MARTIN  ST. LUCIE  INDIAN RIVER  OKEECHOBEE  HIGHLANDS

**II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION** (Place an "X" in One Box Only) **III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES** (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)	Citizen of This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 PTF	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 DEF	Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 PTF	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 DEF
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 U.S. Government Defendant	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 PTF	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 DEF	Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 PTF	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 DEF
		Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 PTF	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 DEF	Foreign Nation	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 PTF	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 DEF

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

<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance	<input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane	<input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine	<input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157	<input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729 (a))
<input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander	<input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability		<input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment
<input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument	<input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent	<input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust
<input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment	<input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine	<input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending	<input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations	<input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark	<input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking
<input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage	<input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff)	<input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce
<input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans)	<input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923)	<input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud	<input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation	<input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	<input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations
<input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits	<input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury	<input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending	<input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI	<input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit
<input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice	<input type="checkbox"/> 378 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability		<input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))	<input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV
<input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights	<input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 866 Securities/Commodities/Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> 495 Securities/Commodities/Exchange
<input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting	<input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud		<input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)	<input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions
<b>REAL PROPERTY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending	<b>LABOR</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts
<input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation	<input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations	<input type="checkbox"/> 378 Other Personal Property Damage	<input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)	<input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters
<input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure	<input type="checkbox"/> 444 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> 378 Other Personal Property Damage	<input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations	<input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	<input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 378 Other Personal Property Damage	<input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act		<input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration
<input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land	<input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	<input type="checkbox"/> 378 Other Personal Property Damage	<input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act	<b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision
<input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability		<input type="checkbox"/> 378 Other Personal Property Damage	<input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation	<input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)	<input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
<input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property		<input type="checkbox"/> 378 Other Personal Property Damage	<input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	

**V. ORIGIN** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)  
 1 Original Proceeding  2 Removed from State Court  3 Re-filed (See VI below)  4 Reinstated or Reopened  5 Transferred from another district (specify)  6 Multidistrict Litigation Transfer  7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment  8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File  9 Remanded from Appellate Court

**VI. RELATED/RE-FILED CASE(S)** (See instructions): a) Re-filed Case  YES  NO b) Related Cases  YES  NO  
**JUDGE:** **DOCKET NUMBER:**

**VII. CAUSE OF ACTION** Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and Write a Brief Statement of Cause (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):  
 29 USC 201, et seq, Fair Labor Standards act - overtime  
 LENGTH OF TRIAL via 3 days estimated (for both sides to try entire case)

**VIII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:**  CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23 **DEMAND \$** CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:  
**JURY DEMAND:**  Yes  No

ABOVE INFORMATION IS TRUE & CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE  
 DATE: 11/13/16 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD: [Signature]

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**  
 RECEIPT # AMOUNT IFP JUDGE MAG JUDGE

**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.C.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; federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)

**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 the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerks in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.

**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.

Refiled (3) Attach copy of Order for Dismissal of Previous case. Also complete VI.

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. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.

Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment. (7) Check this box for an appeal from a magistrate judge's decision.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (8) Check this box if remanded from Appellate Court.

**VI. Related/Refiled Cases.** This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases or re-filed cases. Insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judges name for such cases.

**VII. 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

**VIII. 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 dollar amount (in thousands of dollars) 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.

**Date and Attorney Signature.** Date and sign the civil cover sheet.



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:

**Print**

**Save As...**

**Reset**



# ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: [Class Action Claims Hotel Connections Inc. Failed to Pay OT Wages](#)

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