UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF GEORGIA ATLANTA DIVISION

NIAL BENTON and HUTTON GRAHAM individually and on behalf of similarly	ſ, *	
situated persons,	*	Civil No
Plaintiffs,	*	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
V.	*	JUNI IRIAL DEMANDED
DELI MANAGEMENT, INC. d/b/a "JASON'S DELI,"	*	
V110 01 (0 BEB1,	*	
Defendant.	~ ~ ~ ~ ~	J.
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COLLECTIVE ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs Nial Benton and Hutton Graham, individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated delivery drivers, for their Collective Action Complaint against Defendant, allege as follows:

1. Upon information and belief, Defendant operates approximately 158 Jason's Deli restaurants in Georgia, Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin. Defendant employs delivery drivers who use their own automobiles to deliver food to and/or provide catering services for Defendant's customers. Instead of reimbursing its delivery drivers for the reasonably

approximate costs of the business use of their vehicles, Defendant uses a flawed method to determine reimbursement rates that provides such an unreasonably low rate beneath any reasonable approximation of the expenses they incur that the delivery drivers' unreimbursed expenses cause their wages to fall below the federal minimum wage during some or all workweeks.

2. Plaintiffs Nial Benton and Hutton Graham bring this lawsuit as a collective action under the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA"), 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq.*, to recover unpaid minimum wages owed to them and similarly situated delivery drivers employed by Defendant at its Jason's Deli restaurants.

Jurisdiction and Venue

- 3. The FLSA authorizes court actions by private parties to recover damages for violation of its wage and hour provisions. Jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' FLSA claim is based on 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question)
- 4. Venue in this District is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because Defendant operates Jason's Deli restaurants in this District and a substantial part of the events giving rise to the claim herein occurred in this District.

Parties

5. Defendant Deli Management, Inc. is a Texas corporation which, upon information and belief, operates a chain of approximately 158 Jason's Deli

restaurants, including restaurants located within the Atlanta Division of the Northern District of Georgia.

- 6. Plaintiff Nial Benton was employed by Defendant from about early 2013 to about August 2014 as a delivery driver at its Jason's Deli store in Tucker, Georgia. His consent to join form is attached hereto as "Exhibit 1."
- 7. Plaintiff Hutton Graham was employed by Defendant from about July 2012 to about July 2014 as a delivery driver at its Jason's Deli store in Alpharetta, Georgia. His consent to joint form is attached hereto as "Exhibit 2."

General Allegations

Defendant's Business

- 8. Upon information and belief, Defendant owns and operates approximately 158 Jason's Deli restaurants in Georgia, Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin.
- 9. Defendant employs delivery drivers who all have the same major job responsibilities: to deliver food to and/or provide catering services for its customers.

Defendant's Flawed Reimbursement Policy

- 10.Defendant requires its delivery drivers to maintain and pay for safe, legally-operable, and insured automobiles when delivering food and providing catering services to its customers.
- 11.Defendant's delivery drivers incur costs for gasoline, vehicle parts and fluids, repair and maintenance services, insurance, depreciation, and other expenses ("automobile expenses") while delivering food and providing catering services for the primary benefit of Defendant.
- 12.Defendant's delivery driver reimbursement policy reimburses delivery drivers on a per-delivery basis, but the equivalent per-mile reimbursement is far below the IRS business mileage reimbursement rate or any other reasonable approximation of the cost to own and operate a motor vehicle. This policy applies to all of Defendant's delivery drivers.
- 13. The result of Defendant's delivery driver reimbursement policy is a reimbursement of much less than a reasonable approximation of its delivery drivers' automobile expenses.
- 14.During the applicable FLSA limitations period, the IRS business mileage reimbursement rate has ranged between \$.535 and \$.575 per mile. Likewise, reputable companies that study the cost of owning and operating a motor vehicle and/or reasonable reimbursement rates, including the American Automobile

Association ("AAA"), have determined that the average cost of owning and operating a sedan ranged between \$.571 and \$.592 per mile between 2014 and 2016 for drivers who drive a sedan approximately 15,000 miles per year. These figures represent a reasonable approximation of the average cost of owning and operating a vehicle for use in restaurant delivery and catering.

15. The driving conditions associated with the restaurant delivery and catering business cause more frequent maintenance costs, higher costs due to repairs associated with driving, and more rapid depreciation from driving as much as, and in the manner of, a delivery driver. Defendant's delivery drivers further experience lower gas mileage and higher repair costs than the average driver used to determine the average cost of owning and operating a vehicle due to the nature of the delivery and catering business, including frequent starting and stopping of the engine, frequent braking, short routes as opposed to highway driving, and driving under time pressures.

16.Defendant's delivery driver reimbursement policy does not reimburse its delivery drivers for even their ongoing out-of-pocket expenses, much less other costs they incur to own and operate their vehicle, and thus Defendant uniformly fails to reimburse its delivery drivers at any reasonable approximation of the cost of owning and operating their vehicles for Defendant's benefit.

17.Defendant's systematic failure to adequately reimburse automobile expenses constitutes a "kickback" to Defendant such that the hourly wages it pays to Plaintiffs and Defendant's other delivery drivers are not paid free and clear of all outstanding obligations to Defendant.

18.Defendant fails to reasonably approximate the amount of its delivery drivers' automobile expenses to such an extent that its delivery drivers' net wages are diminished beneath the federal minimum wage requirements.

19.In sum, Defendant's delivery driver reimbursement policy and methodology fail to reflect the realities of delivery drivers' automobile expenses.

Defendant's Failure to Reasonably Reimburse Automobile Expenses Causes Minimum Wage Violations

- 20.Regardless of the precise amount of the per-mile reimbursement at any given point in time, Defendant's delivery driver reimbursement formula has resulted in an unreasonable underestimation of its delivery drivers' automobile expenses throughout the recovery period, causing systematic violations of the federal minimum wage.
- 21.Plaintiffs Benton and Graham were each paid \$7.25 per hour during their employment with Defendant.
- 22. The federal minimum wage has been \$7.25 per hour since July 24, 2009. http://www.dol.gov/whd/minwage/chart.htm.

- 23. During the applicable limitations period, Plaintiff Benton drove a 1995 Honda Accord, a 2014 Toyota Corolla and a 2014 Toyota Camry while delivering food and performing catering services for Defendant.
- 24. The per-delivery reimbursement rate at the store where Plaintiff Benton worked was approximately \$1.50 at the end of his employment.
- 25.During his employment with Defendant, Plaintiff Benton experienced an average round-trip delivery distance of approximately 7 round-trip miles per delivery or catering event.
- 26. Thus, Defendant's average effective reimbursement rate for Plaintiff Benton was approximately \$.21 per mile (\$1.50 per delivery or delivery / 7 miles per delivery or catering event).
- 27.During Plaintiff Benton's employment with Defendant, the lowest IRS business mileage reimbursement rate was \$.56 per mile, which reasonably approximates the automobile expenses incurred in performing delivering food to, and providing catering services for, Defendant's customers. Using that IRS rate as a reasonable approximation of Plaintiff Benton's automobile expenses, every mile driven on the job decreased his net wages by approximately \$.35 (\$.56 \$.21). Considering Plaintiff Benton's estimate of 7 average round-trip miles per catering

event or delivery, Defendant under-reimbursed him about \$2.45 per catering event or delivery (\$.35 x 7 miles).

28.Defendant did not ask Plaintiff Benton to track his actual automobile expenses, nor is he an expert in the field of calculating the cost of owning and operating an automobile and/or reasonable reimbursement rates. However, Plaintiff Benton's actual automobile expenses were at the very least \$.33 per mile based on the true cost of owning a car calculated by Edmunds.com for comparable vehicles and based on driving 15,000 miles per year. Using even this conservative underestimate of Plaintiff Benton's actual expenses, as opposed to the applicable IRS rate, every mile driven on the job decreased his net wages by about \$.14 (\$.35 - \$.21), or about \$.98 (\$.14 x 7 miles) per catering event or delivery.

29. During his employment by Defendant, Plaintiff Benton typically averaged approximately one catering event or delivery per hour.

30. Thus, depending on whether Defendant's reimbursement rate to the IRS rate or to a conservative under-estimate of Plaintiff Benton's actual expenses, Plaintiff Benton consistently "kicked back" to Defendant between approximately \$.98 and \$2.45 per hour, for an effective hourly wage rate of about \$4.80 (\$7.25 per hour - \$2.45 kickback) to \$6.27 (\$7.25 per hour - \$.98 kickback).

- 31.During the applicable limitations period, Plaintiff Graham drove a 2002 Nissan Maxima and a 2012 Ford Focus while delivering food and performing catering services for Defendant.
- 32. The per-delivery reimbursement rate at the store where Plaintiff Graham worked was approximately \$1.50 at the end of his employment.
- 33. During his employment with Defendant, Plaintiff Graham experienced an average round-trip delivery distance of approximately 7 round-trip miles per delivery or catering event.
- 34. Thus, Defendant's average effective reimbursement rate for Plaintiff Graham was approximately \$.19 per mile (\$1.25 per catering event or delivery / 7 miles per catering event or delivery).
- 35.During Plaintiff Graham's employment by Defendant and the applicable recovery period, the lowest IRS business mileage reimbursement rate was \$.56 per mile, which reasonably approximates the automobile expenses incurred in delivering food to, and providing catering services for, Defendant's customers. Using that IRS rate as a reasonable approximation of Plaintiff Graham's automobile expenses, every mile driven on the job decreased his net wages by approximately \$.37 (\$.56 \$.19). Considering Plaintiff Graham's estimate of 7 average round-trip miles per delivery

or catering event, Defendant under-reimbursed him about \$2.59 per delivery or catering event (\$.37 x 7 miles).

36.Defendant did not ask Plaintiff Graham to track his actual automobile expenses, nor is he an expert in the field of calculating the cost of owning and operating an automobile and/or reasonable reimbursement rates. However, Plaintiff Graham's actual automobile expenses were at the very least \$.32 per mile based on the true cost of owning a car calculated by Edmunds.com for comparable vehicles and based on driving 15,000 miles per year. Using even this conservative underestimate of Plaintiff Graham's actual expenses, as opposed to the applicable IRS rate, every mile driven on the job decreased his net wages by about \$.13 (\$.32 - \$.19), or about \$.91 (\$.13 x 7 miles) per delivery or catering event.

37. During his employment by Defendant, Plaintiff Graham typically averaged at least one delivery or catering event per hour.

38. Thus, depending on whether Defendant's reimbursement rate is compared to the IRS rate or to a conservative under-estimate of Plaintiff Graham's actual expenses, Plaintiff Graham consistently "kicked back" to Defendant between approximately \$.91 and \$2.59 per hour, for an effective hourly wage rate of about \$4.66 (\$7.25 per hour - \$2.59 kickback) to \$6.34 (\$7.25 per hour - \$.91 kickback).

39.All of Defendant's delivery drivers had similar experiences to those of Plaintiffs. They were subject to the same reimbursement policy; received the same reimbursements; incurred similar automobile expenses; completed deliveries and/or drives to catering events of similar distances and at similar frequencies; and were paid at or near the federal minimum wage before deducting unreimbursed business expenses.

40.Because Defendant paid its delivery drivers a gross hourly wage at or very close to the federal minimum wage, and because the delivery drivers incurred unreimbursed automobile expenses, the delivery drivers "kicked back" to Defendant an amount sufficient to cause minimum wage violations.

41. While the amount of Defendant's actual reimbursements per catering event or delivery may vary over time, Defendant is relying on the same flawed policy and methodology with respect to all delivery drivers at all of its Jason's Deli restaurants. Thus, although reimbursement amounts may differ somewhat by time, the amounts of under-reimbursements relative to automobile costs incurred are consistent between time.

42.Defendant's low reimbursement rates were a frequent complaint of at least some of Defendant's delivery drivers, including Plaintiffs, yet Defendant continued

to reimburse at a rate much less than any reasonable approximation of delivery drivers' automobile expenses.

43. The net effect of Defendant's flawed reimbursement policy is that it willfully fails to pay the federal minimum wage to its delivery drivers. Defendant thereby enjoys ill-gained profits at the expense of its employees.

Collective Action Allegations

44. Plaintiffs bring the FLSA claim as an "opt-in" collective action on behalf of similarly situated delivery drivers pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

45. The FLSA claims may be pursued by those who opt-in to this case under 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

46.Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf of other similarly situated employees, seek relief on a collective basis challenging Defendant's practice of failing to pay delivery drivers federal minimum wage. The number and identity of other plaintiffs yet to opt-in may be ascertained from Defendant's records, and potential opt-in plaintiffs may be notified of the pendency of this action via mail.

47. Plaintiffs and all of Defendant's delivery drivers are similarly situated in that:

a. They have worked as delivery drivers for Defendant delivering food to and/or providing catering services for Defendant's customers;

- b. They have delivered food to and/or provided catering services for Defendant's customers using automobiles not owned or maintained by Defendant;
- c. Defendant required them to maintain these automobiles in a safe, legallyoperable, and insured condition;
- d. They incurred costs for automobile expenses while delivering food and/or providing catering services for the primary benefit of Defendant;
- e. They were subject to similar driving conditions, automobile expenses, delivery distances, and delivery frequencies;
- f. They were subject to the same pay policies and practices of Defendant;
- g. They were subject to the same delivery driver reimbursement policy and amounts that under-estimate automobile expenses per mile, and thereby systematically deprived them of reasonably approximate reimbursements resulting in wages below the federal minimum wage in some or all workweeks;
- h. They were reimbursed the same amount per delivery or catering event; and
- i. They were paid at or near the federal minimum wage before deducting unreimbursed business expenses.

Count I: Violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938

- 48. Plaintiffs reassert and re-allege the allegations set forth above.
- 49.At all relevant times, Plaintiffs and all other similarly situated delivery drivers have been entitled to the rights, protections, and benefits provided under the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 201, *et seq*.
- 50.Section 13 of the FLSA, codified at 29 U.S.C. § 213, exempts certain categories of employees from federal minimum wage obligations, but none of the FLSA exemptions apply to Plaintiffs or other similarly situated delivery drivers.
- 51. The FLSA regulates, among other things, the payment of minimum wage by employers whose employees are engaged in interstate commerce, or engaged in the production of goods for commerce, or employed in an enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce. 29 U.S.C. § 206(a).
- 52.Defendant is subject to the FLSA's minimum wage requirements because it is an enterprise engaged in interstate commerce, and its employees are engaged in commerce.
- 53.Under Section 6 of the FLSA, codified at 29 U.S.C. § 206, employees have been entitled to be compensated at a rate of at least \$7.25 per hour since July 24, 2009.

- 54.As alleged herein, Defendant has reimbursed delivery drivers less than the reasonably approximate amount of their automobile expenses to such an extent that it diminishes these employees' wages beneath the federal minimum wage.
- 55.Defendant knew or should have known that its pay and reimbursement policies, practices and methodology result in failure to compensate delivery drivers at the federal minimum wage.
- 56.Defendant, pursuant to its policy and practice, violated the FLSA by refusing and failing to pay federal minimum wage to Plaintiffs and other similarly situated employees.
- 57.Plaintiffs and all similarly situated delivery drivers are victims of a uniform and employer-based compensation and reimbursement policy. This uniform policy, in violation of the FLSA, has been applied, and continues to be applied, to all delivery driver employees in Defendant's restaurants.
- 58. Plaintiffs and all similarly situated employees are entitled to damages equal to the minimum wage minus actual wages received after deducting reasonably approximated automobile expenses within three years from the date each Plaintiff joins this case, plus periods of equitable tolling, because Defendant acted willfully and knew, or showed reckless disregard for, whether its conduct was unlawful.

59.Defendant has acted neither in good faith nor with reasonable grounds to believe that its actions and omissions were not a violation of the FLSA, and as a result, Plaintiffs and other similarly situated employees are entitled to recover an award of liquidated damages in an amount equal to the amount of unpaid minimum wages under 29 U.S.C. § 216(b). Alternatively, should the Court find Defendant lacked good faith and reasonable grounds to believe its actions and omissions complied with the FLSA, Plaintiffs and all similarly situated employees are entitled to an award of prejudgment interest at the applicable legal rate.

60.As a result of the aforesaid willful violations of the FLSA's minimum wage provisions, minimum wage compensation has been unlawfully withheld by Defendant from Plaintiffs and all similarly situated employees. Accordingly, Defendant is liable under 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), together with an additional amount as liquidated damages, pre-judgment and post-judgment interest, reasonable attorneys' fees, and costs of this action.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs and all similarly situated delivery drivers demand judgment against Defendant and request: (1) compensatory damages; (2) liquidated damages; (3) attorneys' fees and costs as allowed by Section 16(b) of the FLSA; (4) pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as provided by law; and (5) such other relief as the Court deems fair and equitable.

Demand for Jury Trial

Plaintiffs hereby request a trial by jury of all issues triable by jury.

Dated: January 25, 2017 Respectfully submitted,

THE WEINER LAW FIRM

/s/ Andrew Weiner

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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS

EXHIBIT 1

CONSENT TO BECOME A PARTY PLAINTIFF

Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b)

I hereby consent to become a party plaintiff seeking unpaid wages against Deli Management, Inc., its owners and/or related entities.

Dated: Jan. 18th 2017

Nial Bentøn

EXHIBIT 2

Case 1:17-cv-00296-WSD Document 1-2 Filed 01/25/17 Page 2 of 2

CONSENT TO BECOME A PARTY PLAINTIFF

Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b)

I hereby consent to become a party plaintiff seeking unpaid wages against Deli Management, Inc., its owners and/or related entities.

Dated: 1/17/17

Hutton James Graham

JS 44 (Rev. 07/16)

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 NIAL BENTON and HUT individually and on behalf situated persons,	of similarly			DEFENDANTS DELI MANAGEMEI "JASON'S DELI,"	NT, INC. d/b/a				
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff DeKalb (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Fulton (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.					
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A Jack McInnes (Paul McIn 816-984-8100). Andrew V mont Rd, 7 Piedmont Ctr.	nes LLC; 601 Walnut, Veiner (THE WEINER	Suite 300, KCMO (LAW FIRM; 3525 I	Pied-	Attorneys (If Known) Kevin D. Johnson (Thompson, Sizemore,	Gonzalez & Hearing, P.A.; 33602; 813-273-0050)			
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in Oi	ne Box Only)	III. CI	TIZENSHIP OF PI	RINCIPAL PARTIES	S (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff			
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	→ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government N	lot a Party)		(For Diversity Cases Only) PT en of This State					
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenshi)	p of Parties in Item III)	Citize	en of Another State		d Principal Place ☐ 5 ☐ 5 n Another State			
				en or Subject of a reign Country	3 🗇 3 Foreign Nation	□ 6 □ 6			
IV. NATURE OF SUIT									
CONTRACT		RTS		ORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES ☐ 375 False Claims Act			
☐ 110 Insurance ☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment	PERSONAL INJURY □ 310 Airplane □ 315 Airplane Product Liability □ 320 Assault, Libel & Slander □ 330 Federal Employers'	PERSONAL INJURY 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability	□ 69	25 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 00 Other	□ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 820 Copyrights □ 830 Patent	□ 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) □ 400 State Reapportionment □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce			
☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) ☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	Liability □ 340 Marine □ 345 Marine Product Liability □ 350 Motor Vehicle	☐ 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPER ☐ 370 Other Fraud		LABOR 10 Fair Labor Standards Act	□ 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY 861 HIA (1395ff) 862 Black Lung (923)	☐ 460 Deportation ☐ 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations ☐ 480 Consumer Credit ☐ 490 Cable/Sat TV			
☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits ☐ 190 Other Contract ☐ 195 Contract Product Liability ☐ 196 Franchise	☐ 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability ☐ 360 Other Personal Injury ☐ 362 Personal Injury -	☐ 371 Truth in Lending ☐ 380 Other Personal Property Damage ☐ 385 Property Damage Product Liability	O 74	20 Labor/Management Relations 40 Railway Labor Act 51 Family and Medical Leave Act	☐ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) ☐ 864 SSID Title XVI ☐ 865 RSI (405(g))	S Securities/Commodities/ Exchange S S So Securities/Commodities/ Exchange S S S S S S S			
REAL PROPERTY	Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITION		90 Other Labor Litigation 91 Employee Retirement	FEDERAL TAX SUITS	☐ 895 Freedom of Information Act			
☐ 210 Land Condemnation ☐ 220 Foreclosure ☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment ☐ 240 Torts to Land ☐ 245 Tort Product Liability	☐ 440 Other Civil Rights ☐ 441 Voting ☐ 442 Employment ☐ 443 Housing/ Accommodations	Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General		Income Security Act	□ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) □ 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	□ 896 Arbitration □ 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision □ 950 Constitutionality of			
□ 290 All Other Real Property	☐ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment ☐ 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other ☐ 448 Education	☐ 535 Death Penalty Other: ☐ 540 Mandamus & Oth ☐ 550 Civil Rights ☐ 555 Prison Condition ☐ 560 Civil Detaince - Conditions of Confinement		IMMIGRATION 62 Naturalization Application 65 Other Immigration Actions		State Statutes			
	moved from 3	Remanded from (Appellate Court		nstated or	r District Litigati	on - Litigation -			
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	1 29 U.S.C. § 201		re filing (Do not cite jurisdictional stat	utes unless diversity):				
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:		IS A CLASS ACTION 3, F.R.Cv.P.	N I	DEMAND \$	CHECK YES on JURY DEMAN	nly if demanded in complaint: (D: 🗷 Yes 🗆 No			
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCKET NUMBER				
DATE 01/25/2017		SIGNATURE OF AT	TORNEY	OF RECORD					
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		() (1 ,						
RECEIPT # Al	MOUNT	APPLYING 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:

- 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.
- 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.)
- 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)".
- 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" II. 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 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.
- 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 IV. sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- **Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes. V.

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

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
- 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: <u>Jason's Deli Operating Company Slammed with Reimbursement Class Action</u>