UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

GERTRUDE MAE FLYNN, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,	Case No
Plaintiff,	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF
V.	
AIMBRIDGE HOSPITALITY, LLC,	
Defendant.	

Plaintiff Gertrude Mae Flynn, on behalf of herself and the proposed class (defined below), brings this action against Aimbridge Hospitality, LLC ("Defendant"):

INTRODUCTION

1. For more than 20 years, the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") has required that individuals with disabilities be provided full and equal access to the goods, services and facilities provided by hotel owners and operators.

2. This mandate requires hotel businesses to provide individuals with disabilities accessible transportation services.

3. Defendant operates various hotels throughout the United States, and, as part of those operations, provides hotel customers transportation services.

4. Defendant has failed to make its transportation services fully accessible to individuals with disabilities, thereby denying those individuals the same benefits and privileges afforded to guests without disabilities.

Case 2:17-cv-01649-JFC Document 1 Filed 12/20/17 Page 2 of 11

5. Plaintiff accordingly seeks declaratory and injunctive relief establishing that Defendant has engaged in violations of the ADA, and requiring Defendant to comply with the ADA by providing individuals with disabilities accessible transportation services that are equivalent to the transportation services provided to nondisabled guests.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

6. The claims alleged arise under Title III such that this Court's jurisdiction is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 42 U.S.C. § 12188.

7. Personal jurisdiction exists for Defendant because it manages and/or operates multiple hotels located in Allegheny County, including the Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Pittsburgh South Hotel ("Holiday Inn").

8. Venue in the Western District of Pennsylvania is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because this is the judicial district in which a substantial part of the acts and omissions giving rise to Plaintiff's claims occurred.

PARTIES

9. Plaintiff Gertrude Mae Flynn, at all times relevant hereto, is and was a resident of Lawrence County, Pennsylvania.

10. Plaintiff is a wheelchair user who is limited in the major life activity of walking.

11. As Plaintiff requires a wheelchair accessible vehicle in order to utilize transportation services offered by hotels, she has a personal interest in ensuring that hotels comply with federal requirements governing the provision of accessible transportation services.

12. Plaintiff is a tester in this litigation and a consumer who wishes to access Defendant's goods and services.

Case 2:17-cv-01649-JFC Document 1 Filed 12/20/17 Page 3 of 11

13. Plaintiff is a former board member of Disability Options Network and is a current member of the disability rights organization ADAPT.

14. Defendant Ambridge Hospitality, LLC is incorporated under the laws of Delaware with its principal place of business in Plano, Texas.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

15. Defendant manages and/or operates many hotels throughout the United States.

16. As part of these operations, Defendant provides its customers transportation services, including, but not limited to, complimentary shuttle services.

17. Within the applicable limitations period, Plaintiff called the Holiday Inn and was told by an agent of Defendant that the Holiday Inn provides a complimentary shuttle service for guests.

18. Plaintiff was told that the complimentary shuttle service was not wheelchair accessible and was told that Defendant would not provide an alternative transportation service.

19. An investigation performed on Plaintiff's behalf confirmed the allegations made by Plaintiff above.

20. The investigation performed on behalf of Plaintiff further confirmed that, in addition to the Holiday Inn, Defendant manages and/or operates a substantial number of other hotels in the United States that offer transportation services to their guests, but do not offer equivalent transportation services to guests who use wheelchairs or scooters.

21. These hotels include, but are not limited to, the following locations:

A. Four Points by Sheraton located at 5115 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588;

Case 2:17-cv-01649-JFC Document 1 Filed 12/20/17 Page 4 of 11

B. Hyatt Place Sacramento/Rancho Cordova located at 10744 Gold Center
 Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670;

C. Hyatt House Boston/Burlington located at 2 Van De Graaf Drive, Burlington, MA 01803;

D. Holiday Inn Express & Suites Pittsburgh – South Side located at 20 South
 10th Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203;

E. Hyatt Place Pittsburgh/Cranberry located at 136 Emeryville Drive, Cranberry Township, PA 16066;

F. Hyatt Place Pittsburgh Airport located at 6011 Campbells Run Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15205;

G. Springhill Suites Pittsburgh Southside Works located at 2950 S. Water Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203;

H. Courtyard Fort Worth at Alliance Town Center located at 3001 Amador Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76177

I. Courtyard by Marriott Killeen located at 1721 E. Central Texas Expressway, Killeen, TX 76541;

J. Crowne Plaza Dallas near Galleria – Addison located at 14315 Midway Road, Addison, TX 75001;

K. Elian Hotel & Spa, Autograph Collection located at 18603 La Cantera Terrace, San Antonio, TX 78256;

L. Embassy Suites by Hilton Dallas Love Field located at 3880 W. Northwest Highway, Dallas, TX 75220

Case 2:17-cv-01649-JFC Document 1 Filed 12/20/17 Page 5 of 11

M. Hilton Garden Inn Dallas/Market Center located at 2325 North Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, TX 75207;

N. Hilton San Antonio Airport located at 611 NW Loop 410, San Antonio, TX

O. Holiday Inn Houston – Intercontinental Airport located at 15222 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Houston, TX 77032;

P. Holiday Inn Houston S – NRG Area – Medical Center located at 811 Kirby
 Drive, Houston, TX 77054;

Q. Home 2 Home Suites by Hilton Dallas Addison located at 4875 Belt Line Road, Dallas, TX 75254;

R. Homewood Suites by Hilton Dallas – Irving – Las Colinas located at 4300
 Wingren Drive, Irving, TX 75093;

S. Homewood Suites by Hilton Dallas/Addison located at 4451 Beltine Road, Addison, TX 75001;

T. Homewood Suites by Hilton North Dallas – Plano located at 4705 Old Shepard Place, Plano, TX 75093;

U. Hyatt Place Houston/Galleria located 5252 W. Alabama, Houston, TX 77056;

V. San Antonio Marriott Northwest located at 3233 NW Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78213;

W. Sheraton McKinney Hotel located at 1900 Gateway Boulevard, McKinney, TX 75207;

X. Sheraton Suites Market Center Dallas located at 2101 North Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, TX

Case 2:17-cv-01649-JFC Document 1 Filed 12/20/17 Page 6 of 11

Y. Hyatt Deerfield located at 1750 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield, IL 60015;

Z. Hyatt House Raleigh Durham Airport located at 10962 Chapel Hill Road, Morrisville, NC 27560;

AA. Hyatt House Shelton located at 830 Bridgeport Avenue, Shelton, CT 06484;

BB. Hyatt House Sterling/Dulles Airport-North located at 45520 Dulles Plaza,Sterling, VA 20166;

CC. Hyatt Place Albuquerque Airport located at 1400 Sunport Place SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106;

DD. Hyatt Place Atlanta/Alpharetta/Windward Parkway located at 5595 Windward Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 3004;

EE. Hyatt Place Atlanta/Norcross/Peachtree located at 5600 Peachtree Parkway, Norcross, GA 30092;

FF. Hyatt Place Birmingham/Inverness located at 4686 Highway 280 East, Birmingham, GA 35242;

GG. Hyatt Place Boise/Towne Square located at 925 North Milwaukee Street, Boise, ID 83704;

HH. Hyatt Place Charlotte Airport/Tyvola Road located at 2950 Oak Lane Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28208;

II. Hyatt Place Chicago/Itasca located at 1150 North Arlington, Itasca, IL 60143;

JJ. Hyatt Place Cincinnati Airport/Florence located at 300 Meijer Drive, Florence, KY 40142;

Case 2:17-cv-01649-JFC Document 1 Filed 12/20/17 Page 7 of 11

KK. Hyatt Place Cleveland/Independence, OH located at 6025 Jefferson Drive, Independence, OH 44131 and

LL. Hyatt Place Detroit/Auburn Hills located at 1545 North Opdyke Road, Auburn Hills, MI 48326.

22. Plaintiff has been, and in the absence of an injunction will continue to be, injured by Defendant's policy and practice of failing to provide equivalent transportation services to persons with disabilities.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

23. Plaintiff brings this action under Rule 23(a) and (b)(2) of the federal rules of civil procedure and on behalf of herself and the following class: "All individuals who use wheelchairs or scooters for mobility and who have been, or in the future will be, denied the full and equal enjoyment of transportation services offered to guests at hotels owned and/or operated by Defendant because of the lack of equivalent accessible transportation services at those hotels."

24. <u>Numerosity</u>: The class described above is so numerous that joinder of all individual members in one action would be impracticable. The disposition of the individual claims of the respective class members through this class action will benefit both the parties and the Court, and will facilitate judicial economy.

25. <u>Typicality:</u> Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the members of the class. The claims of Plaintiff and members of the class are based on the same legal theories and arise from the same unlawful conduct.

26. <u>Common Questions of Fact and Law:</u> There is a well-defined community of interest and common questions of fact and law affecting members of the class in that they all have

Case 2:17-cv-01649-JFC Document 1 Filed 12/20/17 Page 8 of 11

been and/or are being denied their civil rights to full and equal access to, and use and enjoyment of, Defendant's goods, services and facilities due to the policies and practices described above.

27. <u>Adequacy of Representation</u>: Plaintiff is an adequate representative of the class because her interests do not conflict with the interests of the members of the class. Plaintiff will fairly, adequately, and vigorously represent and protect the interests of the members of the class and has no interests antagonistic to the members of the class. Plaintiff has retained counsel who are competent and experienced in the prosecution of class action litigation, generally, and who possess specific expertise in the context of class litigation under the ADA.

28. Class certification is appropriate pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2) because Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the class, making appropriate both declaratory and injunctive relief with respect to Plaintiff and the class as a whole.

<u>CAUSE OF ACTION</u> Violations of 42 U.S.C. §§ 12181, *et seq.*

29. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation herein.

30. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the class.

31. Plaintiff is an individual with a disability under the ADA. 42 U.S.C. § 12102(1)(A).

32. Defendant, a hospitality business, is public accommodation under the ADA. 42U.S.C. § 12181(7).

33. Title III of the ADA prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of any place of public accommodation by any person who owns, leases (or leases to), or operates a place of public accommodation. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(a).

34. Defendant operates fixed route systems and demand responsive systems within the meaning of the ADA. 42 U.S.C. § 12181(3) and (4).

Case 2:17-cv-01649-JFC Document 1 Filed 12/20/17 Page 9 of 11

35. For fixed route systems, Defendant must meet the following requirements: a) for all purchases or leases after August 25, 1990, vehicles with a seating capacity over 16 passengers must be wheelchair-accessible; and b) for all purchases or leases after August 25, 1990, vehicles with a seating capacity of under 16 passengers must either be either wheelchair-accessible or equivalent service must be provided. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(B).

36. For demand responsive systems, Defendant must provide wheelchair-accessible vehicles or ensure that equivalent service is provided. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(C)

37. Defendant has engaged in illegal disability discrimination by, without limitation, failing to ensure that transportation vehicles in use at the hotels it manages and/or operates are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, including individuals who use wheelchairs, by failing to ensure that its hotels provide equivalent accessible transportation services to such individuals, and/or by failing to ensure that personnel are trained to proficiency with respect to the provision of accessible transportation services.

38. Moreover, by failing to provide accessible transportation, Defendant has engaged, directly, or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements, in illegal disability discrimination, as defined by Title III, including without limitation:

a) denying individuals with mobility disabilities opportunities to participate in and benefit from the goods, services and facilities available at Defendant's hotels;

 b) affording individuals with mobility disabilities unequal access to goods, services or facilities;

c) utilizing methods of administration that (i) have the effect of discriminating on the basis of disability; or (ii) perpetuating the discrimination of others who are subject to common administrative control; and

Case 2:17-cv-01649-JFC Document 1 Filed 12/20/17 Page 10 of 11

d) failing to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures where necessary to afford services, privileges, advantages, or accommodations to individuals with mobility disabilities.

39. Defendant's ongoing and continuing violations of Title III have caused, and in the absence to an injunction will continue to cause harm to the Plaintiff and the class.

40. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12188 and the remedies, procedures and rights set forth and incorporated therein, Plaintiff requests relief as set forth below.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests judgement as follows:

a. A Declaratory Judgment that at the commencement of this action Defendant was in violation of the specific requirements of Title III of the ADA described above, and the relevant implementing regulations of the ADA, in that Defendant failed to take action reasonably calculated to ensure that Defendant's transportation services were fully accessible to, and independently usable by, individuals with mobility disabilities;

b. A permanent injunction pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12188(a)(2) and 28 CFR § 36.501 which direct Defendant to take all steps necessary to bring its transportation services into full compliance with the requirements set forth in the ADA, and its implementing regulations, so that those transportation services are fully accessible to, and independently usable by, individuals with disabilities, and which further directs that the Court shall retain jurisdiction for a period to be determined to ensure that Defendant has adopted and is following an institutional policy that will in fact cause Defendant to remain fully in compliance with the law.

c. An Order Certifying the proposed class, naming Plaintiff as the representative of the class, and designating counsel for Plaintiff as class counsel;

- d. Payment of costs and reasonable attorneys' fees as provided for by law; and
- e. Such other additional or alternative relief as the Court finds just and proper.

Dated: December 20, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ R Bruce Carlson R. Bruce Carlson bcarlson@carlsonlynch.com Gary F. Lynch glynch@carlsonlynch.com Kevin Abramowicz kabramowicz@carlsonlynch.com CARLSON LYNCH SWEET KILPELA & CARPENTER, LLP 1133 Penn Avenue, 5th Floor Pittsburgh PA, 15222 (412) 322-9243

JS 44 (Rev. 07/16)

Case 2:17-cv-01649 CIVIL Decument 1 Filed 12/20/17 Page 1 of 3

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.)*

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JS 44A REVISED June, 2009 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA THIS CASE DESIGNATION SHEET MUST BE COMPLETED

PART A

This case belongs on the (\bigcirc Erie O Johnstown • Pittsburgh) calendar.

- 1. ERIE CALENDAR If cause of action arose in the counties of Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, McKean. Venang or Warren, OR any plaintiff or defendant resides in one of said counties.
- 2. JOHNSTOWN CALENDAR If cause of action arose in the counties of Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Clearfield or Somerset OR any plaintiff or defendant resides in one of said counties.
- 3. Complete if on ERIE CALENDAR: I certify that the cause of action arose in County and that the _____resides in _____County.
- 4. Complete if on JOHNSTOWN CALENDAR: I certify that the cause of action arose in County and that the resides in County.

PART B (You are to check ONE of the following)

1. O This case is related to Number_____ . Short Caption____

2. O This case is not related to a pending or terminated case.

DEFINITIONS OF RELATED CASES:

CIVIL: Civil cases are deemed related when a case filed relates to property included in another suit or involves the same issues of fact or it grows out of the same transactions as another suit or involves the validity or infringement of a patent involved in another suit EMINENT DOMAIN: Cases in contiguous closely located groups and in common ownership groups which will lend themselves to consolidation for trial shall be deemed related. HABEAS CORPUS & CIVIL RIGHTS: All habeas corpus petitions filed by the same individual shall be deemed related. All pro se Civil Rights actions by the same individual shall be deemed related.

PARTC

10.0

I. CIVIL CATEGORY (Select the applicable category).

- 1. O Antitrust and Securities Act Cases
- 2. \mathbb{O} Labor-Management Relations
- 3. O Habeas corpus
- 4. O Civil Rights
- 5. Ŏ Patent, Copyright, and Trademark
- 6. **O** Eminent Domain
- All other federal question cases
- 7. **Ŏ** 8. **Ŏ** All personal and property damage tort cases, including maritime, FELA, Jones Act, Motor vehicle, products liability, assault, defamation, malicious prosecution, and false arrest
- 9. O Insurance indemnity, contract and other diversity cases.
 - Government Collection Cases (shall include HEW Student Loans (Education), V A Overpayment, Overpayment of Social Security, Enlistment Overpayment (Army, Navy, etc.), HUD Loans, GAO Loans (Misc. Types), Mortgage Foreclosures, SBA Loans, Civil Penalties and Coal Mine Penalty and Reclamation Fees.)

I certify that to the best of my knowledge the entries on this Case Designation Sheet are true and correct

/s/ R. Bruce Carlson

Date: December 20, 2017

ATTORNEY AT LAW

NOTE: ALL SECTIONS OF BOTH FORMS MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE CASE CAN BE PROCESSED.

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.Cv.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 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.
- **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 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.
- 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.

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 date.

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
- VII. 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.

Case 2:17-cv-01649-JFC Document 1-2 Filed 12/20/17 Page 1 of 2

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Western District of Pennsylvania

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GERTRUDE MAE FLYNN

<i>Plaintiff(s)</i>	
1 ((((()))))))))))))))	
V.	
AIMBRIDGE HOSPITALITY, LLC	
Defendant(s)	

Civil Action No.

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) Aimbridge Hospitality, LLC

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: R. Bruce Carlson

Carlson Lynch Sweet Kilpela & Carpenter, LLP 1133 Penn Avenue, 5th Floor Pittsburgh, PA 15222

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

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

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 (nam	ne of individual and title, if any)					
was re	ceived by me on (date)						
	□ I personally served	the summons on the individ	ual at (place)				
	on (date) ; or						
	□ I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with (<i>name</i>)						
	, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there on (<i>date</i>), and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or I served the summons on (<i>name of individual</i>) designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of (<i>name of organization</i>)						
	0	On (date)					
	\Box I returned the summ	nons unexecuted because		; or			
	□ Other (<i>specify</i>):						
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00			
	I declare under penalt	y of perjury that this informa	tion is true.				
Date:							
			Server's signature				
			Printed name and title				

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: Latest ADA 'Tester' Class Action Sets Sights on Aimbridge Hospitality