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U.S. DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK	

IRIZARRY, CH.J.

BRIAN JIMENEZ, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

-against-

COLLECTIVE ACTION

OFFICIAL

JURY TRIAL

DEMANDED

6636 KUO, M.J.

AGL INDUSTRIES, INC and FRANK LOFASO, as an individual,

Defendants.

1. Plaintiff, BRIAN JIMENEZ, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff"), by his attorneys at Helen F. Dalton & Associates, P.C., alleges, upon personal knowledge as to himself and upon information and belief as to other matters, as follows:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

- 2. Plaintiff, BRIAN JIMENEZ, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, through undersigned counsel, brings this action against AGL INDUSTRIES, INC, and FRANK LOFASO, as an individual, (hereinafter referred to as "Defendants"), to recover damages for egregious violations of state and federal wage and hour laws arising out of Plaintiffs' employment at AGL INDUSTRIES, INC, located at 59-12 57th Street, Maspeth, New York 11378.
- 3. As a result of the violations of Federal and New York State labor laws delineated below, Plaintiff seeks compensatory damages and liquidated damages in an amount exceeding \$100,000.00. Plaintiff also seeks interest, attorneys' fees, costs, and all other legal and equitable remedies this Court deems appropriate.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' federal claims pursuant to the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §216 and 28 U.S.C. §1331.
- 5. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1367.
- 6. Venue is proper in the EASTERN District of New York pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(b) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this district.
- 7. This Court is empowered to issue a declaratory judgment pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§2201 & 2202.

THE PARTIES

- 8. Plaintiff BRIAN JIMENEZ residing 61-45 Palmetto Street, Flushing, New York 11385, was employed by Defendants at AGL INDUSTRIES, INC from in or around January 2016 until in or around March 2017.
- Upon information and belief, Defendant, AGL INDUSTRIES, INC, is a corporation organized under the laws of New York with a principal executive office at 59-12 57th Street, Maspeth, New York 11378.
- 10. Upon information and belief, Defendant, AGL INDUSTRIES, INC, is a corporation authorized to do business under the laws of New York.
- 11. Upon information and belief, Defendant FRANK LOFASO owns and/or operates AGL INDUSTRIES, INC.
- 12. Upon information and belief, Defendant FRANK LOFASO is the Chairman of the Board of AGL INDUSTRIES, INC.
- 13. Upon information and belief, Defendant FRANK LOFASO is the Chief Executive Officer of AGL INDUSTRIES, INC.
- 14. Upon information and belief, Defendant FRANK LOFASO is an agent of AGL INDUSTRIES, INC.
- 15. Upon information and belief, Defendant FRANK LOFASO has power over personnel decisions at AGL INDUSTRIES, INC.

- 16. Upon information and belief, Defendant FRANK LOFASO has power over payroll decisions at AGL INDUSTRIES, INC.
- 17. Defendant FRANK LOFASO has the power to hire and fire employees at AGL INDUSTRIES, INC, establish and pay their wages, set their work schedule, and maintains their employment records.
- 18. During all relevant times herein, Defendant FRANK LOFASO was Plaintiff's employer within the meaning of the FLSA and NYLL.
- 19. On information and belief, AGL INDUSTRIES, INC is, at present and has been at all times relevant to the allegation in the complaint, an enterprise engaged in interstate commerce within the meaning of the FLSA in that the entity (i) has had employees engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, and handle, sell or otherwise work on goods or material that have been moved in or produced for commerce by any person: and (ii) has had an annual gross volume of sales of not less than \$500,000.00.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 20. Plaintiff BRIAN JIMENEZ was employed by Defendants at AGL INDUSTRIES, INC from in or around January 2016 until in or around March 2017.
- 21. During Plaintiff BRIAN JIMENEZ'S employment by Defendants at AGL INDUSTRIES, INC, Plaintiff's primary duties were as a construction worker, steel beam worker, laborer and performing other miscellaneous duties from in or around January 2016 until in or around March 2017.
- 22. Plaintiff BRIAN JIMENEZ was paid by Defendants approximately \$1,100.00 per week from in our around January 2016 until in or around March 2017.
- 23. Plaintiff BRIAN JIMENEZ worked approximately eighty-four (84) hours per week at AGL INDUSTRIES, INC from in or around January 2016 until in or around March 2017.
- 24. Although Plaintiff BRIAN JIMENEZ worked approximately eighty-four (84) or more per week during his employment by Defendants from in or around January 2016 until in or around March 2017, Defendants did not pay Plaintiff time and a half (1.5) for

- hours worked over forty (40), a blatant violation of the overtime provisions contained in the FLSA and NYLL.
- 25. Upon information and belief, Defendants willfully failed to post notices of the minimum wage and overtime wage requirements in a conspicuous place at the location of their employment as required by both the NYLL and the FLSA.
- 26. Upon information and belief, Defendants willfully failed to keep accurate payroll records as required by both NYLL and the FLSA.
- 27. As a result of these violations of Federal and New York State labor laws, Plaintiffs seek compensatory damages and liquidated damages in an amount exceeding \$100,000.00. Plaintiff also seeks interest, attorneys' fees, costs, and all other legal and equitable remedies this Court deems appropriate.

COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 28. Plaintiff bring this action on behalf of himself and other employees similarly situated as authorized under the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b). The employees similarly situated are the collective class.
- 29. Collective Class: All persons who are or have been employed by the Defendants as construction workers, steel beam workers, laborers, or other similarly titled personnel with substantially similar job requirements and pay provisions, who were performing the same sort of functions for Defendants, other than the executive and management positions, who have been subject to Defendants' common practices, policies, programs, procedures, protocols and plans including willfully failing and refusing to pay required minimum and overtime wage compensation.
- 30. Upon information and belief, Defendants employed approximately 100 employees within the relevant time period who were subjected to similar payment structures.
- 31. Upon information and belief, Defendants suffered and permitted Plaintiff and the Collective Class to work more than forty hours per week without appropriate overtime compensation.
- 32. Defendants' unlawful conduct has been widespread, repeated, and consistent.
- 33. Upon information and belief, Defendants had knowledge that Plaintiff and the Collective Class performed work requiring overtime pay.

- 34. Defendants' conduct as set forth in this Complaint, was willful and in bad faith, and has caused significant damages to Plaintiff and the Collective Class.
- 35. Defendants are liable under the FLSA for failing to properly compensate Plaintiff and the Collective Class, and as such, notice should be sent to the Collective Class. There are numerous similarly situated current and former employees of Defendants who have been denied overtime pay in violation of the FLSA and NYLL, who would benefit from the issuance of a Court-supervised notice of the present lawsuit, and the opportunity to join the present lawsuit. Those similarly situated employees are known to Defendants and are readily identifiable through Defendants' records.
- 36. The questions of law and fact common to the putative class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members.
- 37. The claims of Plaintiff are typical of the claims of the putative class.
- 38. Plaintiff and his counsel will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the putative class.
- 39. A collective action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Overtime Wages Under The Fair Labor Standards Act

- 40. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
- 41. Plaintiff has consented in writing to be a party to this action, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b).
- 42. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff was engaged in commerce or the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §§206(a) and 207(a).
- 43. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were employers engaged in commerce or the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §§206(a) and 207(a).
- 44. Defendants willfully failed to pay Plaintiff overtime wages for hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week at a wage rate of one and a half (1.5) times the

- regular wage, to which Plaintiff was entitled under 29 U.S.C. §§206(a) in violation of 29 U.S.C. §207(a)(1).
- 45. Defendants' violations of the FLSA as described in this Complaint have been willful and intentional. Defendants have not made a good effort to comply with the FLSA with respect to the compensation of the Plaintiff.
- 46. Due to Defendants' FLSA violations, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants, jointly and severally, his unpaid wages and an equal amount in the form of liquidated damages, as well as reasonable attorneys fees and costs of the action, including interest, pursuant to the FLSA, specifically 29 U.S.C. §216(b).

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Overtime Wages Under New York Labor Law

- 47. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
- 48. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants within the meaning of New York Labor Law §§2 and 651.
- 49. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff overtime wages for hours worked in excess of forty hours per week at a wage rate of one and a half (1.5) times the regular wage to which Plaintiff was entitled under New York Labor Law §652, in violation of 12 N.Y.C.R.R. 137-1.3.
- 50. Due to Defendants' New York Labor Law violations, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants, jointly and severally, his unpaid overtime wages and an amount equal to his unpaid overtime wages in the form of liquidated damages, as well as reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of the action, including interest in accordance with NY Labor Law §198(1-a).

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of the Notice and Recordkeeping Requirements of the New York Labor Law

51. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.

- 52. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff with a written notice, in English and in Spanish (Plaintiff's primary language), of his rate of pay, regular pay day, and such other information as required by NYLL §195(1).
- 53. Defendants are liable to Plaintiff in the amount of \$5,000.00 each, together with costs and attorneys' fees.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of the Wage Statement Requirements of the New York Labor Law

- 54. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
- 55. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff with wage statements upon each payment of wages, as required by NYLL §195(3)
- 56. Defendants are liable to Plaintiff in the amount of \$5,000.00 each, together with costs and attorneys' fees.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, Plaintiffs respectfully request that judgment be granted:

- a. Declaring Defendants' conduct complained herein to be in violation of the Plaintiffs' rights under the FLSA, the New York Labor Law, and its regulations;
- b. Awarding Plaintiff unpaid overtime wages;
- c. Awarding Plaintiff unpaid wages;
- d. Awarding Plaintiff liquidated damages pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216 and New York Labor Law §§198(1-a), 663(1);
- e. Awarding Plaintiff prejudgment and post-judgment interest;
- f. Awarding Plaintiff the costs of this action together with reasonable attorneys' fees; and
- g. Awarding such and further relief as this court deems necessary and proper.

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

Pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all questions of fact raised by the complaint.

Dated: This $\mathcal{I}^{\mathcal{H}}$ day of November 2017.

Roman Avshalumov, Esq. (RA 5508)

Helen F. Dalton & Associates, PC

69-12 Austin Street

Forest Hills, NY 11375 Telephone: 718-263-9591

Fax: 718-263-9598

JS 44 (Rev.1/2013)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The IS 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 purpose of initiating the civil de					974, is requir	red for the use of	the Clerk of Co	ourt for th	ie
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS BRIAN JIMENEZ, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated				DEFENDANTS AGL INDUSTRIES, INC and FRANK LOFASO, as an individual					
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II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in C	ne Box Only)		ENSHIP OF P	RINCIPA	L PARTIES			
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff (U.S. Government Not a Party)			(For Diversity Cases Only) PTF DEF Citizen of This State						DEF
2 U.S. Government Defendant				Citizen of Another State					
W. NATHER OF STATE	.			Subject of a Country	3 🗆 3	Foreign Nation		6	0 6
IV. NATURE OF SUIT		nly) DRTS	FORF	ITURE/PENALTY	RAN	KRUPTCY	OTHER	STATUT	ES
□ 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 (Excludes Veterans) □ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits □ 160 Stockholders' Suits □ 190 Other Contract □ 195 Contract Product Liability □ 196 Franchise □ 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 &	PERSONAL INJURY 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERT 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage 385 Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Other 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	Y 27 710 Fai	ng Related Seizure Property 21 USC 881 ner LABOR r Labor Standards	422 Appea 423 Withd 28 US PROPER 820 Copyr 830 Patent 840 Tradet 862 Black 863 DIWC 864 SSID 865 RSI (4	at 28 USC 158 rawal SC 157 TYRIGHTS rights mark SECURITY 1395ff) Lung (923) POIWW (405(g)) Title XVI 105(g)) LUS. Plaintiff fendant) Third Party SC 7609 C 7609	375 False C 400 State R 410 Antitrus 430 Banks s 450 Commun 450 Commun 460 Deports 470 Racketer Corrupt 480 Consum 890 Cable/S 850 Securiti Exchar 890 Other S 891 Agricus 893 Enviror 895 Arbitra 896 Arbitra 899 Admini Act/Rev Agency 950 Constit 20 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	claims Act eapportion st and Bankin ear Ce eation torganizat ner Credit stat TV ties/Common torganizat tutory Act turnental Me m of Inform tion strative Pr view or Ap ivew or Ap view or A	nment ng nced and tions odities/ actions latters mation
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	N Fair Labor Standa Brief description of ca	nuse:		t cite jurisdictional stat	tutes unless div	ersity):	-		
VII. REQUESTED IN	Compensation for CHECK IF THIS	r unpaid overtime wa IS A CLASS ACTION	DEMA		Ci	HECK YES only		complair	nt;
COMPLAINT: VIII. RELATED CASE		3, F.R.Cv.P.	100	,000.00	Л	JRY DEMAND:	⊠ Yes	□ No	
IF ANY	(See instructions):	JUDGE/			DOCKET	NUMBER			
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		SONATURE OF ATTO	RAFY/OF RI	ECOPO /					

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

AMOUNT

RECEIPT #

CERTIFICATION OF ARBITRATION ELIGIBILITY Local Arbitration Rule 83.10 provides that with certain exceptions, actions seeking money damages only in an amount not in excess of \$150,000. exclusive of interest and costs, are eligible for compulsory arbitration. The amount of damages is presumed to be below the threshold amount unless a certification to the contrary is filed. I, ______, do hereby certify that the above captioned civil action is ineligible for compulsory arbitration for the following reason(s): monetary damages sought are in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs. the complaint seeks injunctive relief. the matter is otherwise ineligible for the following reason DISCLOSURE STATEMENT - FEDERAL RULES CIVIL PROCEDURE 7.1 Identify any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation that owns 10% or more or its stocks: RELATED CASE STATEMENT (Section VIII on the Front of this Form) Please list all cases that are arguably related pursuant to Division of Business Rule 50.3.1 in Section VIII on the front of this form. Rule 50.3.1 (a) provides that "A civil case is "related" to another civil case for purposes of this guideline when, because of the similarity of facts and legal issues or because the cases arise from the same transactions or events, a substantial saving of judicial resources is likely to result from assigning both cases to the same judge and magistrate judge." Rule 50.3.1 (b) provides that "A civil case shall not be deemed "related" to another civil case merely because the civil case: (A) involves identical legal issues, or (B) involves the same parties." Rule 50.3.1 (c) further provides that "Presumptively, and subject to the power of a judge to determine otherwise pursuant to paragraph (d), civil cases shall not be deemed to be "related" unless both cases are still pending before the court." NY-E DIVISION OF BUSINESS RULE 50.1(d)(2) 1.) Is the civil action being filed in the Eastern District removed from a New York State Court located in Nassau or Suffolk County: NO If you answered "no" above: 2.) a) Did the events or omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in Nassau or Suffolk County? NO b) Did the events of omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in the Eastern District? YES If your answer to question 2 (b) is "No," does the defendant (or a majority of the defendants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or Suffolk County, or, in an interpleader action, does the claimant (or a majority of the claimants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or Suffolk County? (Note: A corporation shall be considered a resident of the County in which it has the most significant contacts). **BAR ADMISSION** I am currently admitted in the Eastern District of New York and currently a member in good standing of the bar of this court. |X| No Are you currently the subject of any disciplinary action (s) in this or any other state or federal court? (If yes, please explain) Yes No Attorney Bar Code: RA5508

I certify the accuracy of all information provided above.

Signature:

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Construction Worker Files Wage and Hour Lawsuit Against AGL Industries</u>