



JOANNE KLEINER LEVIN as legal guardian of JOY BARBARA, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

F.

Plaintiff,

v.

THE BUCCINI/POLLIN GROUP, INC.,

Defendant.

Case No.

\*

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

> FEB 2 0 2018 KATE BARKMAN, Clerk By\_\_\_\_\_Dep. Clerk

Plaintiff Joanne Kleiner Levin("Plaintiff"), as legal guardian of Joy Barbara Levin, on behalf of herself and the proposed class (defined below), brings this action against The Buccini/Pollin Group, Inc. ("Defendant"):

# **INTRODUCTION**

1. For more than 25 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.

#### Case 2:18-cv-00738-PD Document 1 Filed 02/20/18 Page 2 of 8

4. Because of its inadequate corporate policy, 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.

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 eastern Pennsylvania, including the Philadelphia Crowne Plaza, King of Prussia, PA ("Crowne Plaza").

8. Venue in the Eastern 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 Joanne Kleiner Levin, at all times relevant hereto, is and was a resident of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

10. Plaintiff is the legal guardian of Joy Barbara Levin, who is a wheelchair user and is limited in the major life activity of walking.

#### Case 2:18-cv-00738-PD Document 1 Filed 02/20/18 Page 3 of 8

11. As Joy Barbara Levin requires a wheelchair accessible vehicle in order to utilize transportation services offered by hotels, Plaintiff 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 consumers who wishes to access Defendant's goods and services.

13. Defendant The Buccini/Pollin Group, Inc. is a Delaware corporation headquartered in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Defendant operates its hotel management operations through PM Hotel Group.

#### FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

14. Defendant owns, manages and/or operates many hotels throughout the United States.

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

16. Within the applicable limitations period, Plaintiff called the Crowne Plaza located in King of Prussia, PA, and was told by an agent of Defendant that Crowne Plaza provides a complimentary shuttle service for guests.

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

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

19. The investigation performed on behalf of Plaintiff further confirmed that, in addition to the Crowne Plaza, Defendant owns, manages and/or operates other hotels in the United

#### Case 2:18-cv-00738-PD Document 1 Filed 02/20/18 Page 4 of 8

States that offer transportation services to their guests, but do not offer equivalent transportation services to guests who use wheelchairs or scooters, including but not limited to the following:

- A. Embassy Suites by Hilton Newark Wilmington South located at 654 South College Avenue, Newark, DE 19713.
- B. Hampton Inn Suites Wilmington Christiana located at 10058 Old Churchmans Road, Newark, DE 19713.
- C. Hotel Du Pont located at 42 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Wilmington, DE 19801.
- D. The Westin Wilmington located at 42 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Wilmington, DE 19801.
- E. Hilton Baltimore BWI Airport Hotel located at 1739 West Nursery Road, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090.
- F. Sheraton Edison Hotel Raritan Center located at 125 Raritan Center Parkway, Edison, NJ 08837.
- G. Hampton Inn Portland Airport located at 8633 NE Airport Way, Portland, OR 19406.
- H. Crowne Plaza Philadelphia King of Prussia located at 260 Mall Boulevard, King of Prussia, PA 19406.
- Embassy Suites by Hilton Philadelphia Valley Forge located at 888 Chesterbrook Boulevard, Valley Forge, PA 19087.
- J. DoubleTree by Hilton Dallas DFW Airport North located at 4441 W. John Carpenter Freeway, Irving, TX 75063.
- K. Sheraton DFW Airport Hotel located at 4440 West John Carpenter Freeway, Irving, TX 75063.
- L. Aloft Dulles Airport North located at 22390 Flagsaff Plaza, Ashburn, VA 20148.

- M. Embassy Suites by Hilton Dulles North Airport Chantilly located at 44610
   Waxpool Road, Dulles, VA 20147.
- N. Fairfield Inn & Suites Dulles Airport Chantilly located at 3960 Corsair Court, Chantilly, VA 20151.
- O. Hampton Inn Potomac Mills Woodbridge located at 1240 Annapolis Way, Woodbridge, VA 22191.
- P. Hilton Garden Inn Dulles North located at 22400 Flagstaff Plaza, Ashburn, VA 20148.
- Q. Holiday Inn Hotel located at 625 First Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

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

#### CLASS ALLEGATIONS

21. 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."

22. <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.

### Case 2:18-cv-00738-PD Document 1 Filed 02/20/18 Page 6 of 8

23. <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.

24. <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 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.

25. <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.

26. 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.

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

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

29. Plaintiff is the guardian of Joy Barbara Levin, an individual with a disability under the ADA. 42 U.S.C. § 12102(1)(A).

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

#### Case 2:18-cv-00738-PD Document 1 Filed 02/20/18 Page 7 of 8

31. 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).

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

33. 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).

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

35. 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.

36. 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:

# Case 2:18-cv-00738-PD Document 1 Filed 02/20/18 Page 8 of 8

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 is 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: February 14, 2018

ally submitted. Rð

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

ً 🚝 Case 2:18-cv-00738 🖉 آ	Document 1-1 Filed 02/20/18 _ Page 7 3 8
JS 44 (Rev. 06/17)	L COVER SHEET
The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the interesting of lained herein neither rep provided by local rules of court. This print a period by the Judicial Confe purpose of initiating the civil docket stret. <i>INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT I</i>	lace for supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as rence of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the AGE OF THIS FORM.)
JOANNE RLEINER LEVIN	THE BUCCINI/POLLIN GROUP, INC.
(b)-County-of-Residence of Eirst-Listed-Plaintiff Montgomery- (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)	County, of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Rumber)	NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED. Attorneys (If Known)
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place on "X" in One Box for Plaintiff
I U.S. Government Plaintiff (U.S. Government Not a Party)	(For Diversity Cases Only) and One Box for Defendant) PTF DEF PTF DEF Citizen of This State 1 1 1 Incorporated or Principal Place 4 4 of Business In This State
2 U.S. Government Defendant (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item	Citizen of Another State 2 2 Incorporated and Principal Place 5 5 5
	Citizen or Subject of a 3 3 3 Foreign Nation 6 6
IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions
□ 110 Insurance       □ 120 Marine       □ 310 Airplane       □ 365 Personal In         □ 130 Miller Act       □ 315 Airplane Product       □ 367 Heath Car         □ 140 Negotiable Instrument       □ 315 Airplane Product       □ 367 Heath Car         □ 151 Medicare Act       □ 330 Federal Employers'       □ Product Lie         □ 152 Recovery of Defaulted       □ 340 Marine       □ 110 Marine         □ 153 Recovery of Deraulted       □ 340 Marine       □ 110 Marine         □ 153 Recovery of Overpayment       □ 340 Marine       □ 110 Marine         □ 153 Recovery of Overpayment       □ 345 Marine Product       □ Liability         □ 160 Stockholders' Suits       □ 355 Motor Vehicle       □ 370 Other Frau         □ 190 Other Contract       □ 350 Motor Vehicle       □ 371 Truth in Le         □ 190 Franchise       □ 350 Motor Vehicle       □ 370 Other Frau         □ 196 Franchise       □ 360 Other Personal       Property Dr         □ 196 Franchise       □ 362 Personal Injury       □ 388 Property Dr         □ 210 Land Condemation       □ 440 Qther Civil Rights       □ 443 Alousing/         □ 220 Foreclosure       □ 345 Anner. w/Disabilities -       □ 530 General         □ 230 All Other Real Property       □ 443 Alousing/       □ 346 Anner. w/Disabilities -         □ 240 Torts to Land <td>NJURY jury - ability // ical iury ical iury bility rsconal luct</td>	NJURY jury - ability // ical iury ical iury bility rsconal luct
X         I         Original Proceeding         I         Removed from State Court         I         3         Remanded from Appellate Court	□ 4 Reinstated or Reopened □ 5 Transferred from □ 6 Multidistrict □ 8 Multidistrict Another District Litigation - (specify) Transfer □ birect File
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION Brief description of cause: Public accommodation violation	you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: COMPLAINT: COMPLAINT:	
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY, (See instructions): JUDGE	
	DOCKET NUMBER
FOR OFFICE USB ONLY	mail

Ş.

ssignment to aphenormatic calendary		790 -
ddress of Defendant: 5425 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700, Chevy C	hase, MD 20815	• • •
lace of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Rydal, Pennsylvania		
(Use Reverse Side Fo	r Additional Space)	
oes this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation		or more of its stock?
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1)	(a)) $Yes \square / Nob$	
oes this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?	Yeşo Not	1
ELATED CASE, IF ANY:		
ase Number: Judge	Date Terminated:	
ivil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:		4 <sup>1</sup>
Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one	vear previously terminated action in this court?	
	Yes No	
Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prio action in this court?	or suit pending or within one year previously termi	nated
	Yes D Not	
Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlie		
terminated action in this court?	Yes	
Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rig	ts case filed by the same individual?	
	Yes No	
VIL: (Place V in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)		
Federal Question Cases: .  Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts	<ul> <li>B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:</li> <li>1.          <ul> <li>Insurance Contract and Ot</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	er Contracts
□ FELA	<ol> <li>2.          <ul> <li>Airplane Personal Injury</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	ier contracts
D Jones Act-Personal Injury	3. D Assault, Defamation	
□ Antitrust	4. □ Marine Personal Injury	
D Patent	5. D Motor Vehicle Personal In	urv
D Labor-Management Relations	6. D Other Personal Injury (Plea	•
□ Civil Rights	7. D Products Liability	
🗆 Habeas Corpus	8. D Products Liability - Asbe	stos
Securities Act(s) Cases	9. □ All other Diversity Cases	
. D Social Security Review Cases	(Please specify)	
All other Federal Question Cases		
Please specify) Americans with Disabilities Act, Title III		
ARBITRATION CÉRT	<b>FIFICATION</b>	
D Danse Carleon (Check Appropriate C	Category)	
<ul> <li>Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and</li> </ul>		n case exceed the sum of
50,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;	,	
Relief other than monetary damages is sought.		
TE: 21711 S when	56657	
Kttorney-at-Law	Attorney I.D	#
NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if the	ere has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.	
ertify that, to my knowledge, the wightnesself out related to any case now pending or	within one year previously terminated action	n this court
ept as noted above.		

Case 2:18-cv	v-00738-PD Document 1-1	Filed 02/20/18 Page 3 of 3
	IN THE UNITED STATES DI OR THE EASTERN DISTRICT	OF PENNSYLVANIA
	SE MANAGEMENT TRACK D	ESIGNATION FORM
JOANNE KLEINE	RLEVIN	CIVIL ACTION
	v. :	18 738
THE BUCCINI/P	OLLIN GROUP, INC.	NO.
side of this form.) In designation, that defen the plaintiff and all oth to which that defendar	the event that a defendant does dant shall, with its first appearance	
	Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2	
(b) Social Security – C and Human Service	Cases requesting review of a decisi es denying plaintiff Social Security	on of the Secretary of Health y Benefits. (
(c) Arbitration – Cases	s required to be designated for arbi	itration under Local Civil Rule 53.2. (
(d) Asbestos – Cases i exposure to asbesto	nvolving claims for personal injur os.	y or property damage from (
commonly referred	ent – Cases that do not fall into trace to as complex and that need specierse side of this form for a detailed .)	ial or intense management by
(f) Standard Managem	nent – Cases that do not fall into ar	ny one of the other tracks. (
and ic/	A Fring 1	Phintiff, Joanne Kleiner Levin
21418	Attorney at law	Attornor for
Date (412)322 9243	Attorney-at-law (412)231-0246	Attorney for
Date (412)322-9243	Attorney-at-law (412)231-0246	Attorney for bcarlson@carlsonlynch.com

(Civ. 660) 10/02

橡

FEB 20 2018

# **ClassAction.org**

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Hotel Operators The Buccini/Pollin Group Hit with ADA Accessibility Class Action</u>