UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT

Melody Liu, individually and on behalf of all other employees similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

- against -

Yang Family Group, Inc. d/b/a Teppanyaki, Xinfa Wu, Bin Yang, Lin Yang, and Ziqi Pang,

Defendants.

Case No.:

<u>COLLECTIVE ACTION</u> <u>COMPLAINT</u>

Plaintiff Melody Liu ("Liu", or "Plaintiff"), on her own behalf and on behalf of all others similarly situated employees, by and through her undersigned attorneys, hereby file this complaint against Defendants, Yang Family Group, Inc. d/b/a Teppanyaki, Xinfa Wu, Bin Yang, Lin Yang, and Ziqi Pang, (collectively "Defendants") allege and show the Court the following:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. Plaintiff alleges, on behalf of herself and all other similarly situated current and former employees of the Defendants who elect to opt into this action pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA"), 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), that they are entitled to: (i) unpaid wages for overtime work for which they did not receive overtime premium pay, as required by law; (ii) expenses incurred on behalf of Defendants; (iii) liquidated damages, declaratory relief, costs, interest and attorneys' fees pursuant to the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§201 et seq.; and (iv) reasonable attorney fees and costs.

2. Plaintiff further complains, on behalf of herself and a class of all other similarly situated current and former employees of the Defendants, that they are entitled to: (i)

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unpaid wages for overtime work for which they did not receive overtime premium pay, as required by law; (ii) liquidated damages, costs, interest and attorneys' fees pursuant to the CMWA, Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 31-68, 31-72.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 29
 U.S.C. § 201 et seq. and 28 U.S.C. § 1331.

4. This Court has jurisdiction over the State Law claim pursuant to 28 USC §1367 since it is so related to the FLSA claim that it forms part of the same case or controversy.

5. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because they are engaged in business within the State of Connecticut, and the events complained of occurred in Connecticut.

6. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred in this district, and pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(c) because Defendants Yang Family Group, Inc., Xinfa Wu, Bin Yang, and Ziqi Pang.

THE PARTIES

7. Plaintiff was, at all relevant times, an adult individual residing in Kings county, New York.

Plaintiff was employed by Defendants from approximately October 2016 to
 October 24, 2017 as a cashier for Yang Family Group d/b/a Teppanyaki.

9. Upon information and belief, Yang Family Group, Inc. is a Connecticut domestic company incorporated in 2016.

10. Lin Yang, Vice President/Director of Yang Family Group Inc., is an owner

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officer, shareholder, and manager of Yang Family Group Inc. Upon information and belief, at all times relevant to the allegations herein, he had the power to hire and fire employees at the restaurant, establish their wages, set their work schedules, and maintain their employment records.

11. Upon information and belief, Defendant Bin Yang, known as "Lady Boss" to Plaintiff Liu, is the Secretary/Director of Yang Family Group Inc., and is an owner, officer, shareholder, and manager of Yang Family Group Inc. Upon information and belief, at all times relevant to the allegations herein, he had the power to hire and fire employees at the restaurant, establish their wages, set their work schedules, and maintain their employment records.

12. Upon information and belief, Defendant Xinfa Wu, known as "Boss" to Plaintiff Liu, is an owner, officer, shareholder, and manager of Yang Family Group Inc. Upon information and belief, at all times relevant to the allegations herein, he had the power to hire and fire employees at the restaurant, establish their wages, set their work schedules, and maintain their employment records.

13. Upon information and belief, Defendant Ziqi Pang is an officer and manager of Yang Family Group Inc. Upon information and belief, at all times relevant to the allegations herein, he had the power to hire and fire employees at the restaurant, establish their wages, set their work schedules, and maintain their employment records.

14. During the times relevant to this Complaint, Defendants have employed more than ten (10) employees and generated more than \$500,000 in revenues every year from 2016 to the present.

15. Defendants qualify for and are subject to both traditional and enterprise coverage under the FLSA for all the relevant time periods contained in this Complaint. In other words, Defendants are subject to the Fair Labor Standards Act.

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16. At all relevant times Defendants have been and continue to be an employer engaged in interstate commerce and/or the production of goods for commerce, within the meaning of FLSA 29 U.S.C. §§ 206(a) and 207(a).

17. Defendants employed the Plaintiff as an employee within the meaning of FLSA § 203.

COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS

18. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §207, Plaintiff seeks to prosecute their FLSA claims as a collective action on behalf of all persons who are or were formerly employed by Defendants since March 2015 to the entry of judgment in this case (the "Collective Action Period"), who were non-exempt employees within the meaning of the FLSA and who were not paid wages for all hours worked, and overtime compensation at rates not less than one and one-half times their regular rate of pay for hours worked in excess of forty hours per workweek (the "Collective Action Members").

19. This collective action class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. Although the precise number of such persons is unknown, and the facts on which the calculation of that number are presently within the sole control of the Defendants, upon information and belief, there are at least ten (10) members of the collective action during the Collective Action Period, most of whom would not be likely to file individual suits because they lack adequate financial resources, access to attorneys or knowledge of their claim.

20. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Collective Action Members and have retained counsel that is experienced and competent in the fields of employment law and class action litigation. Plaintiff has no interests that are contrary to or in conflict with those members of this collective action.

21. A collective action is superior to other available methods for the fair and

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efficient adjudication of this controversy, since joinder of all members is impracticable. Furthermore, inasmuch as the damages suffered by individual Collective Action Members may be relatively small, the expense and burden of individual litigation make it virtually impossible for the members of the collective action to individually seek redress for the wrongs done to them. There will be no difficulty in the management of this action as a collective action.

22. Questions of law and fact common to the members of the collective action predominate over questions that may affect only individual members because Defendants have acted on grounds generally applicable to all members. Among the common questions of law and fact common to Plaintiff and other Collective Action Members are:

- a. whether the Defendants employed the Collective Action members within the meaning of the FLSA;
- whether the Defendants failed to keep true and accurate time records for all hours worked by Plaintiff and the Collective Action Members;
- c. what proof of hours worked is sufficient where the employer fails in its duty to maintain time records;
- whether Defendants failed to pay the Collective Action Members wages for all hours worked as well as overtime compensation for hours worked in excess of forty hours per workweek, in violation of the FLSA and the regulations promulgated thereunder;
- e. whether Defendants' violations of the FLSA are willful as that term is used within the context of the FLSA;
- whether Defendants are liable for all damages claimed hereunder, including but not limited to compensatory, punitive and statutory damages, interest,

costs and disbursements and attorneys' fees; and

i. whether Defendants should be enjoined from such violations of the FLSA in the future.

23. Plaintiff knows of no difficulty that will be encountered in the management of this litigation that would preclude its maintenance as a collective action.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

24. At all relevant times, the defendants operated Yang Family Group, Inc. d/b/a Teppanyaki at 355 Huntington Turnpike, Bridgeport, CT 06610.

25. Upon information and belief, Defendants employed at least ten (10) employees at any one time in their restaurants. Plaintiff and a large number of Defendants' other employees have not received their: (i) wages for all hours worked; (ii) overtime pay as required by the Fair Labor Standards Act and CMWA, Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 31-68(a), 31-72; (iii) expenses incurred on behalf of Defendants.

26. Plaintiff Melody Liu was employed by Defendants from approximately October 2016 to October 24, 2017, as a cashier for Defendants' buffet restaurant.

27. Defendant Xinfa Wu hired Plaintiff Liu.

28. Defendant Bing Yang, who goes by "Maggie," were regularly present at the restaurant, especially on Saturdays and Sundays, running the business. She also handled payrolls for Defendants. She hired and fired waiting staff for Defendants' business.

29. Upon information and belief, Defendant Ziqi Pang is the spouse of Bing Yang.

30. Plaintiff Melody Liu was paid biweekly in a combination of check and cash amounting to approximately \$2,900 per month from October 2016 to January 2017; and to \$3,000

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from February 2017 to October 24, 2017.

31. Defendants required Plaintiff Liu to work according to the following schedule: on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; on Friday and Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.; she took Tuesday off. This resulted in a total work week of approximately seventy-four hours (74 hours).

32. Plaintiff was required to work for Defendants well in excess of forty (40) hours per week, regularly about 74 hours per week, yet Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff all overtime compensation for hours she worked in excess of forty hours per week.

33. Plaintiff was not afforded any breaks. She was allowed to have lunch at the cashier's desk but she still had to stop eating and constitute to do her duties if customers requires her attention. In other words, the break is not uninterrupted.

34. Defendants willfully failed to post a notice explaining the Fair Labor Standards Act in a conspicuous place in the workplace, as prescribed by the Wage and Hour Division of the U.S. Department of Labor and required by 29 C.F.R. § 516.4.

35. Defendants, in contravention of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-66, willfully failed to post a notice of the restaurant minimum wage order, Conn. State Agencies Regs. § 31-62-El, and of regulations issued by the Labor Commissioner of the State of Connecticut.

36. Defendants, in contravention of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-71f, willfully failed to post a notice in a place accessible to employees with employment practices and policies with regard to wages, vacation pay, sick leave, health and welfare benefits and comparable matters. Defendants also failed otherwise to make such information available to employees in writing.

37. Defendants also willfully violated the provisions of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-71f by failing to advise employees in writing, at the time of hiring, of the rate of remuneration,

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hours of employment and wage payment schedules.

38. Plaintiff's work was performed in the normal course of the Defendants' business and was integrated into the business of Defendants.

39. The work performed by Plaintiff required little skill and no capital investment.

40. Plaintiff did not supervise other employees, did not have hiring and firing authority and her job duties did not include managerial responsibilities or the exercise of independent business judgment.

STATEMENT OF CLAIMS

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF:

FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

41. Plaintiff on behalf of herself and all other similarly situated Collective Action Members and members of the Class repeat and re-allege each and every allegation of the preceding paragraphs hereof with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

42. At all relevant times Defendants have been and continue to be an employer engaged in interstate commerce and/or the production of goods for commerce, within the meaning of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 206(a) and 207(a).

43. At all relevant times, Defendants employed, and/or continue to employ, Plaintiff and each of the Collective Action Members within the meaning of the FLSA.

44. Upon information and belief, at all relevant times, the Corporate Defendants have each had gross revenues in excess of \$500,000.

45. Plaintiff consents in writing to be a party to this action, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b). The named Plaintiff's written consent is attached hereto and incorporated by

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reference.

46. At all relevant times, the Defendants had a policy and practice of refusing to pay overtime compensation to its employees for their hours worked in excess of forty hours per workweek.

47. As a result of the Defendants' willful failure to compensate its employees, including Plaintiff and the Collective Action members, at a rate not less than one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for work performed in excess of forty hours in a workweek, the Defendants have violated, and continue to violate, the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 207(a) (1).

48. As a result of the Defendants' failure to record, report, credit and/or compensate its employees, including Plaintiff and the Collective Action members, the Defendants have failed to make, keep and preserve records with respect to each of its employees sufficient to determine the wages, hours and other conditions and practices of employment in violation of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 211(c).

49. The foregoing conduct, as alleged, constitutes a willful violation of the FLSA within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 255(a).

50. Defendants are jointly and severally liable to all delivery workers for violations of their rights under federal law.

51. Due to Defendants' FLSA violations, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the Collective Action members, are entitled to recover from Defendants their unpaid wages, their unpaid overtime compensation, an additional amount equal as liquidated damages, additional liquidated damages for unreasonably delayed payment of wages, reasonable attorneys' fees, and costs and disbursements of this action, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF:

CONNECTICUT WAGE AND HOUR LAW

52. Plaintiff on behalf of herself and all other similarly situated Collective Action Members and members of the Class repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation of the preceding paragraphs hereof with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

53. At all relevant times, Plaintiff and the members of the Class were employed by the Defendants within the meaning of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-58(f).

54. Defendants willfully violated Plaintiff's rights and the rights of the members of the Class by failing to pay them compensation for all hours worked, the state statutory minimum wage as well as overtime compensation at rates not less than one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for each hour worked in excess of forty hours in a workweek, in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. §§31-60, 31-76C.

55. Defendants willfully failed to distribute accurate records of hours worked, earnings and overtime to the restaurant workers, in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-13a.

56. Defendants willfully failed to keep accurate records of hours worked by the restaurant workers, in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-66.

57. Defendants willfully failed to post a notice of the restaurant minimum wage order, Conn. State Agencies § 31-62-E1 and of regulations issued by the Labor Commissioner of the State of Connecticut, in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-66.

58. Defendants willfully failed to post a notice with employment practices and policies with regard to wages, vacation pay, sick leave, health and welfare benefits and comparable matters, in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-71f.

59. Defendants willfully failed to advise employees in writing, at the time of hiring, of the rate of remuneration, hours of employment and wage payment schedules, in violation

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of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-71f.

60. Defendants willfully failed to provide 30 consecutive minutes for a meal within a seven and one-half hour time period, in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-51ii(a).

61. Because Defendants failed to post and keep posted a notice explaining Connecticut's Wage and Hour Law in conspicuous places in their establishment, so as to permit their employees to readily observe a copy, and because the Plaintiff and the members of the Class had no other knowledge, actual or constructive, of their rights under Connecticut Wage and Hour Law, Plaintiff is entitled to the equitable tolling of their Connecticut Wage and Hour Law claims.

62. As a result of these violations, all restaurant works suffered damages.

63. Defendants are jointly and severally liable to all restaurant workers for violations of their rights under state law.

64. Due to the Defendants' CMWA violations, Plaintiff and the members of the Class are entitled to recover from Defendants twice amount of their unpaid wages, unpaid minimum wages and unpaid overtime compensation, interests, damages for unreasonably delayed payment of wages, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs and disbursements of the action, pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 31-68(a), 31-76.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff on behalf of herself and all other similarly situated Collective Action Members and members of the Class, respectfully request that this Court grant the following relief:

a. Designation of this action as a collective action on behalf of the Collective Action
 Members and prompt issuance of notice pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b) to all
 similarly situated members of an FLSA Opt-In Class, apprising them of the

pendency of this action, permitting them to assert timely FLSA claims in this action by filing individual Consents to Sue pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b) and appointing Plaintiff and her counsel to represent the Collective Action members;

- b. Certification of this action as a class action pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2) and
 (3) on behalf of the members of the Class and appointing Plaintiff and their counsel to represent the Class;
- c. An order tolling the statute of limitations;
- A declaratory judgment that the practices complained of herein are unlawful under the FLSA and the CMWA;
- e. An injunction against the Defendants and its officers, agents, successors, employees, representatives and any and all persons acting in concert with Defendants, as provided by law, from engaging in each of the unlawful practices, policies and patterns set forth herein;
- f. An award of overtime compensation, minimum wages, work-related expenses, and illegally retained portion of tips due under the FLSA and the CMWA;
- g. An award of liquidated and/or punitive damages as a result of the Defendants' willful failure to pay for all hours worked as well as overtime compensation pursuant to 29 U.S.C § 216 and the CMWA;
- h. An award of damages arising out of the non-payment of wages;
- i. An award of prejudgment and post-judgment interest;
- j. An award of costs and expenses of this action together with reasonable attorneys' and expert fees; and
- k. Such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Dated: Flushing, New York March 14, 2018

HANG & ASSOCIATES, PLLC.

S/JIAN HANG

Jian Hang (ct29549) 136-20 38th Ave., Suite 10G Flushing, New York 11354 Tel: 718.353.8588 jhang@hanglaw.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff

CONSENT TO SUE UNDER FEDERAL FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

I am an employee currently of formerly employed by Yang Family Group Inc., Xinö, Wa, Bin Yang and related emittes and individuals. I consent to be a plaintiff in an action to collect unpaid wages. Lagree that I am bound by the terms of the Contingent Fee Relation signed by the named plaintiff in this case.

<u>- Melodi Li</u>k. Full Legal Name (Prist)

<u>sspelad</u>Y <u>C.c.</u> Signature DB10<u>81801</u>B Date

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Case 5:18-cv-004 CIVIL COVER SHEET Page 1 of 2

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				DEFENDANTS			
Melody Liu				Yang Family Group, Inc. d/b/a Teppanyaki, Xinfa Wu, Bin Yang, Lin Yang, and Ziqi Pang			
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff KINGS				County of Residence	of First Listed Defendant	Fairfield	
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.			
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) HANG & ASSOCIATES, PLLC 136-20 38th Ave., Suite 10G				Attorneys (If Known)			
Flushing, NY 11354 (718	8)-353-8588						
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in G	One Box Only)	III. CI	TIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff	
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	S Federal Question (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 Incorporated or Principal Place □ 4 □ 4 of Business In This State □ 1 □ 1 Business In This State				
□ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)		Citizen of Another State 2 2 2 1 2 Incorporated <i>and</i> Principal Place of Business In Another State 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5				
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	IT (Place an "X" in One Box Only) TORTS		E			of Suit Code Descriptions.	
CONTRACT 110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY	PERSONAL INJUR		DRFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY □ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158	OTHER STATUTES □ 375 False Claims Act	
 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) 	 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product 	 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability 	□ 69	of Property 21 USC 881 00 Other	 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS 820 Copyrights 830 Patent 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application 840 Trademark 	 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) 400 State Reapportionment 410 Antirust 430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce 460 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations 	
153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	Liability 350 Motor Vehicle	 PERSONAL PROPER 370 Other Fraud 		LABOR 0 Fair Labor Standards	SOCIAL SECURITY ☐ 861 HIA (1395ff)	 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 - Medical Malpractice 	 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage 385 Property Damage Product Liability 	□ 72 □ 74 □ 75	Act 20 Labor/Management Relations 40 Railway Labor Act 41 Family and Medical Leave Act	 862 Black Lung (923) 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) 864 SSID Title XVI 865 RSI (405(g)) 	 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange 890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts 893 Environmental Matters 895 Freedom of Information 	
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITION		00 Other Labor Litigation	FEDERAL TAX SUITS	Act	
 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property 	 440 Other Civil Rights 441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommodations 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - 	1 Voting Image: 463 Alien Detainee 2 Employment Image: 510 Motions to Vacate 3 Housing/ Sentence Accommodations Image: 530 General		11 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION	 R70 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) R71 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609 	 896 Arbitration 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes 	
	 Hat: WDisabilities - Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other 448 Education 	Other: □ 540 Mandamus & Othe □ 550 Civil Rights □ 555 Prison Condition □ 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement		2 Naturalization Application 55 Other Immigration Actions		State Statutes	
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in	n One Box Only)						
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	FLSA 20 LISC 21		e filing (1	Do not cite jurisdictional stat	utes unless diversity):		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	brief description of ca			PK			
UNPAID WAGES FOR OVERTIME (VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.				DEMAND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: □ Yes XNo			
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCKET NUMBER		
DATE		SIGNATURE OF ATT	FORNEY (OF RECORD			
03/14/2018 For office use only		s/ Jian Hang					
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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 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 there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: <u>Nature of Suit Code Descriptions</u>.
- 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.

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: Former Teppanyaki Cashier Claims Restaurant Owes Unpaid Overtime