class of similarly situated individuals, is not necessarily the job title of the Plaintiffs and

Defendants JWE Enterprises Inc., Squeaky Clean Car Wash-Shea LLC, John Epley and Jane Doe Epley, and Janell Epley and John Doe Epley² who were compensated at a straight-time hourly rate for all hours worked, regardless of whether those hours exceeded 40 in any given workweek.

- 2. Plaintiff, individually, and on behalf of all others similarly-situated, brings this action against Defendants for their unlawful failure to pay overtime in violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201-219 (the "FLSA").
- 3. Plaintiff brings a collective action under the FLSA to recover the unpaid overtime owed to him individually and on behalf of all other similarly-situated employees, current and former, of Defendants. Members of the Collective Action are referred to as the "Collective Members."
- 4. The Collective Members are all current and former Car Washer/Detailers, Lube Technicians, and/or Crew Members who were employed by Defendants at any time starting three years before this Complaint was filed, up to the present.
- 5. This is an action for unpaid wages, liquidated damages, interest, attorneys' fees, and costs under the FLSA.
- 6. The FLSA was enacted "to protect all covered workers from substandard wages and oppressive working hours." Under the FLSA, employers must pay all non-

putative class, and has no bearing or relation to any specialization, skill, education, training, or other qualification that might otherwise be associated with such a job title.

All Defendants to this action are collectively referred to as either "Squeaky Clean" or "Defendants" unless specified otherwise.

exempt employees an overtime premium for all time spent working in excess of 40	hour
per week.	

- 7. Defendants engaged in the regular policy and practice of subjecting Plaintiff and the Collective Members to their policy and practice of failing and/or refusing to pay them overtime for time they worked in excess of 40 hours per week, in violation of 29 U.S.C. § 207(a).
- 8. Therefore, Defendants did not pay Plaintiff or the Collective Members the applicable overtime rate, in violation of 29 U.S.C. § 207.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 9. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
- 10. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 29 U.S.C. § 201, *et seq*. because this action arises under the Constitution and laws of the United States.
- 11. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and (c) because acts giving rise to the claims of Plaintiffs and the Collective Members occurred within the District of Arizona, and Defendants regularly conduct business in and have engaged in the conduct alleged in the Complaint and, thus, are subject to personal jurisdiction in this judicial district.

PARTIES

12. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.

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	13.	At all time	es ma	aterial to	the matter	rs alleged	in th	is Co	mplaint,	Plaintiff	was
an	individual	l residing	in N	Maricopa	County,	Arizona,	and	is a	former	employee	of
De	fendants.										

- 14. At all material times, Plaintiff was a full-time, non-exempt employee of Defendants who worked at Defendants' Bell Road location, located at 2824 West Bell Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85053 from approximately December 1, 2011 through approximately February 5, 2017.
- 15. Throughout Plaintiff's entire employment, he was paid as an hourly employee at a rate of between \$7.00 and \$9.00 per hour, plus certain commissions, which, at no time during Plaintiff's employment with Defendants, equaled or exceeded his hourly rate of compensation.
- 16. At all material times, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants. Defendants employed Plaintiff to perform various manual labor and car washing, detailing, and oil and lubrication-related duties, which generally consisted of, but was not limited to, changing oil in cars; vacuuming, washing, and drying cars; washing and scrubbing carpets and interiors; sending and directing cars through the car wash tunnel; and other similar work that Defendants required them to do.
- At all material times, Plaintiff was an employee of Defendants as defined 17. by the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(e)(1) and was a non-exempt employee under 29 U.S.C. § 213(a)(1).

18	3.	Plaintiff	has	given hi	s writ	ten c	consent to	o be a	par	ty Pla	inti	iff in this	ac	tior
pursuant	to 2	9 U.S.C.	§	216(b), a	true	and	accurate	copy	of v	which	is	attached	to	thi
Complai	nt as	"Exhibit	Α.	"										

- 19. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and on behalf of all other persons similarly situated who are current or former Car Washer/Detailers, Lube Technicians, and/or Crew Members] of Defendants, including but not limited to Car Washer/Detailers, Lube Technicians, and/or Crew Members who agree in writing to join this action seeking recovery under the FLSA.
- 20. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and on behalf of all other similarly situated current and former employees of Defendants–specifically, Car Washer/Detailers, Lube Technicians, and/or Crew Members who were not paid overtime for time worked in excess of 40 hours in any given workweek and whose wages, therefore, were non-compliant with the FLSA.
- 21. Defendant JWE Enterprises Inc. is an Arizona corporation, authorized to do business in the State of Arizona and was at all relevant times Plaintiff's and the Collective Members' Employer as defined by 29 U.S.C. § 203(d).
- 22. At all relevant times, Defendant JWE Enterprises Inc. owned and operated as Squeaky Clean Car Wash, an automobile washing and detailing company located at 2824 West Bell Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85053 (the "Bell Road Location").
- 23. Defendant Squeaky Clean Car Wash-Shea LLC is an Arizona limited liability company, authorized to do business in the State of Arizona and was at all

relevant times Plaintiff's and the Collective Members' Employer as defined by 29 U.S.C. § 203(d).

- 24. At all relevant times, Defendant Squeaky Clean Car Wash-Shea LLC owned and operated as Squeaky Clean Car Wash, a automobile washing and detailing company located at 3240 East Shea Boulevard, Phoenix, Arizona 85028 (the "Shea Location").
- 25. Defendant John Epley and Jane Doe Epley are, upon information and belief, husband and wife. They have caused events to take place giving rise to the claims in this Complaint as to which their marital community is fully liable. John Epley is an owner of Squeaky Clean, including JWE Enterprises Inc. and Squeaky Clean Car Wash-Shea LLC, and was at all relevant times Plaintiff's and the Collective Members' employer as defined by the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(d). Jane Doe Epley is an owner of Squeaky Clean.
- 26. Under the FLSA, Defendants John Epley and Jane Doe Epley are employers. The FLSA defines "employer" as any individual who acts directly or indirectly in the interest of an employer in relation to an employee. John Epley and Jane Doe Epley are the owners of Squeaky Clean. They had the authority to hire and fire employees, supervised and controlled work schedules or the conditions of employment, determined the rate and method of payment, and maintained employment records in connection with Plaintiffs' and the Collective Members' employment with Squeaky Clean. As persons who acted in the interest of Squeaky Clean. in relation to the

company's employees, John Epley and Jane Doe Epley are subject to individual liability under the FLSA.

- 27. Defendant Janell Epley and John Doe Epley are, upon information and belief, husband and wife. They have caused events to take place giving rise to the claims in this Complaint as to which their marital community is fully liable. Janell Epley is an owner of Squeaky Clean, including JWE Enterprises Inc. and Squeaky Clean Car Wash-Shea LLC, and was at all relevant times Plaintiff's and the Collective Members' employer as defined by the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(d). John Doe Epley is an owner of Squeaky Clean.
- 28. Under the FLSA, Defendants Janell Epley and John Doe Epley are employers. The FLSA defines "employer" as any individual who acts directly or indirectly in the interest of an employer in relation to an employee. Janell Epley and John Doe Epley are the owners of Squeaky Clean. They had the authority to hire and fire employees, supervised and controlled work schedules or the conditions of employment, determined the rate and method of payment, and maintained employment records in connection with Plaintiffs' and the Collective Members' employment with Squeaky Clean. As persons who acted in the interest of Squeaky Clean in relation to the company's employees, Janell Epley and John Doe Epley are subject to individual liability under the FLSA.
- 29. Plaintiff is further informed, believes, and therefore alleges that each of the Defendants gave consent to, ratified, and authorized the acts of all other Defendants, as alleged in this Complaint.

30.	Defendants,	and	each	of	them,	are	sued	in	both	their	individual	and
corporate ca												

- 31. Defendants are jointly and severally liable for the injuries and damages sustained by Plaintiff and the Collective Members.
- 32. At all relevant times, Plaintiff and the Collective Members were "employees" of Defendants as defined by the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 201, et seq.
- 33. The provisions set forth in the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 201, et seq., apply to Defendants.
- 34. At all relevant times, Defendants were and continue to be "employers" as defined by FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 201, et seq.
- 35. Defendants individually and/or through an enterprise or agent, directed and exercised control over Plaintiff's and the Collective Members' work and wages at all relevant times.
- 36. At all relevant times, Plaintiff and the Collective Members, in their work for Defendants, were engaged in commerce or the production of goods for commerce.
- 37. At all relevant times, Plaintiff and the Collective Members, in their work for Defendants, were employed by an enterprise engaged in commerce that had annual gross sales of at least \$500,000.
- 38. At all relevant times, all Defendants were joint employers of Plaintiff and the Collective Members. At all relevant times: (1) Defendants were not completely disassociated with respect to the employment of Plaintiff and the Collective Members; and (2) Defendants were under common control. In any event, at all relevant times,

Defendants were joint employers under the FLSA and 29 C.F.R. § 791.2(b) and employed Plaintiff and the Collective Members.

- 39. Further, at all relevant times, Defendants have operated as a "single enterprise" within the meaning of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(r)(1). That is, Defendants perform related activities through unified operation and common control for a common business purpose. *See Brennan v. Arnheim and Neely, Inc.*, 410 U.S. 512, 515 (1973); *Chao v. A-One Med. Servs., Inc.*, 346 F.3d 908, 914-15 (9th Cir. 2003).
- 40. Defendants operate as a family of two automobile washing and detailing businesses under the assumed name "Squeaky Clean Car Wash." They advertise themselves as such on their website. The fact that they run each Squeaky Clean Car Wash identically and their customers can expect the same kind of customer service regardless of the location is a significant advertising point of Defendants. Plaintiff has attached various screen shots of Defendants' website as "Exhibit B."
- 41. Defendants represent themselves to the general public as one establishment operating at multiple locations. They share employees, have a common management, have a common ownership, have common ownership of the trade name "Squeaky Clean Car Wash," pool their resources, operate from the same headquarters, share common statutory agents, and have the same operating name. This is a family of entities that advertises together on the same website, provides the same array of products and services to its customers, and uses the same business model. The Squeaky Clean family of car washes exists under the control and direction of Defendants. This family of car washes provides the same service product to its customers by using a set formula when

conducting its business. Part of that set formula is the wage violations alleged in this Complaint. These facts represent a classic example of "corporate fragmentation." (See generally Ex. B).

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 42. Plaintiff realleges and incorporatea by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
- 43. Defendants own and/or operate as Squeaky Clean Car Wash, an enterprise located in Maricopa County, Arizona.
- 44. Squeaky Clean is an enterprise that a "full service refurbishment" company whose primary marketplace offering is automobile washing, detailing, and oil and lubrication services.
- 45. On approximately December 1, 2011, Plaintiff began employment with Defendants as a Car Washer/Detailer, Lube Technician, and/or Crew Member, performing various repetitive tasks such as manual labor and car washing, detailing, and oil and lubrication-related duties, which generally consisted of, but was not limited to, changing oil in cars; vacuuming, washing, and drying cars; washing and scrubbing carpets and interiors; sending and directing cars through the car wash tunnel; and other similar work that Defendants required them to do.
- 46. At all relevant times, Defendants did not pay Plaintiff or the Collective Members one and one half times their regular rates of pay for time spent working in excess of 40 hours in a given workweek.
 - 47. Plaintiff and the Collective Members are and were non-exempt employees.

48. Fr	om the beginning of Plaintiff's and the Collective Members' employmen
through the pre	esent day, Defendants failed to properly compensate Plaintiff and the
Collective Mem	abers for any of their overtime hours. During this time, Plaintiff and the
Collective Mem	nbers generally worked approximately fifty (50) to sixty (60) hours pe
given workweek	x. Plaintiff has attached examples of his pay stubs at "Exhibit C."

- 49. Plaintiff and the Collective Members were paid exclusively on an hourly basis, or an hourly-plus-commission basis. However, Plaintiff and the Collective Members' commissions never exceeded their hourly pay in any given workweek that they worked for Defendants.
 - 50. Plaintiff and the Collective Members were not managers.
- 51. Plaintiff and the Collective Members did not have supervisory authority over any employees, did not possess the authority to hire or fire employees, did not possess authority to make critical job decisions with respect to any of Defendants' employees, did not direct the work of two or more employees, and did not exercise discretion and independent judgment with respect to matters of significance.
- 52. Plaintiff's and the Collective Members' primary duty was not the management of the enterprise in which they were employed or any recognized department of the enterprise.
- 53. From the beginning of Plaintiff's and the Collective Members' employment through the present day, Defendants failed to properly compensate them for any of their overtime hours.

54.	Defendants knew that - or acted with reckless disregard as to whether -
their refus	al or failure to properly compensate Plaintiff and the Collective Members ove
the course	of their employment would violate federal and state law, and Defendants were
aware of	the FLSA overtime wage requirements during Plaintiffs' and the Collective
Members'	employment. As such, Defendants' conduct constitutes a willful violation o
the FLSA.	

- 55. Defendants refused and/or failed to properly disclose to or apprise Plaintiff and the Collective Members of their rights under the FLSA.
- 56. Therefore, in a given workweek, and during each and every workweek of Plaintiff's and the Collective Members' employment with Defendants, Plaintiff and the Collective Members were subject to Defendants' policy and practice of not paying one and one half times Plaintiff's and the Collective Members' regular rates of pay.
- 57. In a given workweek, and during each and every workweek of Plaintiff's and the Collective Members' employment with Defendants, Plaintiff and the Collective Members worked more than 40 hours but were not paid the applicable one and one half times Plaintiff's and the Collective Members' regular rates of pay for time they spent working in excess of 40 hours.
- 58. Plaintiff believes and therefore claims that Defendants subjected each and every Car Washer/Detailer, Lube Technician, and/or Crew Member that they employed, including Plaintiff and the Collective Members, to its policy and specific course of not paying one and one half times Plaintiff's and the Collective Members' regular rates of pay.

59.	Plaintiff	and	the	Collective	Members	are	covered	employees	within	th
meaning of t	he Fair La	bor S	Stan	dards Act ('	'FLSA'').					

- 60. Defendants refused and/or failed to properly disclose to or apprise Plaintiff and the Collective Members of their rights under the FLSA.
- 61. Defendants individually and/or through an enterprise or agent, directed and exercised control over Plaintiff's and Collective Members' work and wages at all relevant times.
- 62. Due to Defendants' illegal wage practices, Plaintiff and the Collective Members are entitled to recover from Defendants compensation for unpaid overtime wages, an additional amount equal amount as liquidated damages, interest, and reasonable attorney's fees and costs of this action under 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 63. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
- 64. Plaintiff brings this action pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) on their own behalves and as representatives of individuals similarly situated who are current or former Car Washer/Detailers, Lube Technicians, and/or Crew Members of Defendants.
- 65. At all times material, Defendants paid Plaintiff and the Collective Members at a fixed hourly rate.
- 66. Defendants subjected all of their Car Washer/Detailers, Lube Technicians, and/or Crew Members, including Plaintiff and the Collective Members, to their policy and practice of not paying their Car Washer/Detailers, Lube Technicians, and/or Crew

Members	one and	one	half tim	es their	r regular	rates	of pay	for tin	ne they	spent	workii	ng ii
excess of	40 hours	s in a	given w	orkwe	ek, in vi	olatio	n of 29	U.S.C.	§ 207	(a).		

- 67. At all times material, Plaintiff and the Collective Members are and have been similarly situated, have had substantially similar job requirements and pay provisions, and are and have been subject to Defendants' decision, policy, plan, and common programs, practices, procedures, protocols, routines, and rules of willfully subjecting Plaintiff and the Collective Members to their policy and practice of not paying their [positions] one and one half times their regular rates of pay for time they spent working in excess of 40 hours in a given workweek, in violation of 29 U.S.C. § 207(a).
- 68. Plaintiff's claims stated in this complaint are essentially the same as those of the Collective Members. This action is properly maintained as a collective action because in all pertinent aspects the employment relationship of individuals similarly situated to Plaintiff is identical or substantially similar.
- 69. Plaintiff and the Collective Members were each compensated on an hourly basis for the duration of their employment with Defendants.
- 70. The Collective Members perform or have performed the same or similar work as Plaintiff.
- 71. Defendants' failure to pay overtime compensation required by the FLSA results from generally applicable policies or practices, and does not depend on the personal circumstances of Plaintiff or the Collective Members.
- 72. While Plaintiff and Defendants have described Plaintiff's and the Collective Members' job titles as Car Washer/Detailer, Lube Technician, and/or Crew

Member, the specific job titles or precise job responsibilities of each Collective Member does not prevent collective treatment.

- 73. All Collective Members, irrespective of their particular job requirements and job titles, are entitled to proper overtime wage compensation for all hours worked in excess of 40 in a given workweek.
- 74. Although the exact amount of damages may vary among the Collective Members, the damages for the Collective Members can be easily calculated by a simple formula. The claims of all Collective Members arise from a common nucleus of facts. Liability is based on a systematic course of wrongful conduct by the Defendants that caused harm to all of the Collective Members.
- 75. As such, Plaintiff bring his FLSA overtime wage claim as a collective action on behalf of the following class:

The FLSA Collective Members are all of Defendants' current and former Car Washer/Detailers, Lube Technicians, Crew Members, and/or all other Hourly Employees of Defendants who were not paid one and one half times their regular rates of pay for time spent working in excess of 40 hours in a given workweek, starting three years before this lawsuit was filed up to the present.

- 76. Defendants' unlawful conduct, as described in this Collective Action Complaint, is pursuant to Defendants' corporate policy or practice of minimizing labor costs by refusing and/or failing to properly compensate its employees according to the FLSA.
- 77. Defendants are aware or should have been aware that federal law prohibited them from not paying their Car Washer/Detailers, Lube Technicians, and/or Crew

Members -namely, Plaintiff and the	Collective Members-an	overtime premium	wage for
time spent working in excess of 40 h	nours per given workweel	ζ.	

- 78. Defendants' unlawful conduct has been widespread, repeated, and consistent.
- 79. This action is properly brought and maintained as an opt-in collective action pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).
- 80. Upon information and belief, the individuals similarly situated to Plaintiff include more than twenty (20) employees currently and/or formerly employed by Defendants, and Plaintiffs are unable to state the precise number of similarly-situated employees because that information is solely in Defendants' possession, custody, or control, but it can be readily ascertained from their employment records and the records of Defendants' payroll processor.
- 81. Notice can be provided to the Collective Members by First Class Mail to the last address known to Defendants, via email at the last known email address known to Defendants, and by text message to the last known telephone number known to Defendants.

DAMAGES

- 82. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
- 83. Plaintiff and the Collective Members are entitled to recover overtime compensation for the hours they worked in excess of 40 per given workweek for which

they were not paid at t	he federally man	dated one and	one half times	their regular rates of
pay.				

- 84. Plaintiff and the Collective Members are also entitled to an amount equal to all of their unpaid wages as liquidated damages. 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).
- 85. Plaintiff and the Collective Members are also entitled to recover their attorney's fees and costs as required by the FLSA. 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

COUNT ONE: FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT FAILURE TO PAY OVERTIME

- 86. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
- 87. At all relevant times, Defendants did not pay Plaintiff or the Collective Members one and one half times their regular rates of pay for time spent working in excess of 40 hours in a given workweek.
- 88. Defendants engaged in such conduct in direct violation of 29 U.S.C. § 207(a).
- 89. As such, unpaid overtime wages for such time Plaintiff and the Collective Members worked in excess of 40 hours per given workweek is owed to Plaintiff and the Collective Members for the entire time they were employed by Defendants.
- 90. Defendants knew that or acted with reckless disregard as to whether their refusal or failure to properly compensate Plaintiff and the Collective Members over the course of their employment would violate federal and state law, and Defendants were aware of the FLSA overtime wage requirements during Plaintiff's and the Collective

Members' employment. As such, Defendants' conduct constitutes a willful violation of the FLSA.

91. Plaintiff and the Collective Members are therefore entitled to compensation for their unpaid overtime wages at an hourly rate, to be proven at trial, plus an additional equal amount as liquidated damages, together with interest, reasonable attorney's fees, and costs.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Luis Lopez, individually, and on behalf of all other similarly situated persons, requests that this Court grant the following relief in Plaintiff's and the Collective Members' favor, and against Defendants:

- A. For the Court to declare and find that the Defendants committed one or more of the following acts:
 - i. violated overtime provisions of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 207, by failing to pay proper overtime wages;
 - ii. willfully violated overtime provisions of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 207;
- B. For the Court to award damages in the amounts of all unpaid overtime compensation due and owing to Plaintiff and the Collective Members for time they spent working in excess of 40 hours per given workweek;
- C. For the Court to award compensatory damages, including liquidated damages pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), in amounts to be determined at trial;
- D. For the Court to award prejudgment and post-judgment interest on any damages awarded;

E.	For the Court to award Plaintiff's and the Collective Members' reasonable
	attorneys' fees and costs of the action pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) and
	all other causes of action set forth in this Complaint;

- F. For the Court to provide reasonable incentive awards for each named Plaintiff to compensate them for the time they spent attempting to recover wages for the Collective Members and for the risks they took in doing so; and
- G. Such other relief as this Court deems just and proper.

REQUEST FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION CERTIFICATION

As to Count I of this Complaint, Plaintiff requests that the Court designate this action as a collective action on behalf of the FLSA Collective Members and promptly issue a notice pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) to all similarly situated members of the FLSA opt-in class, apprising them of the pendency of this action, and permitting them to timely assert FLSA claims in this action by filing individual Consent to Sue Forms pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

JURY TRIAL DEMAND

Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 14th day of February, 2017.

THE BENDAU LAW FIRM, PLLC

By: /s/ Clifford P. Bendau, II Clifford P. Bendau, II Christopher J. Bendau Attorneys for Plaintiffs

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>JWE Enterprises</u>, <u>Squeaky Clean Car Wash Waxed with FLSA Lawsuit</u>