FILED

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA FORT MYERS DIVISION

CASE NO .:

2018 NOV 19 AM 10: 46

CLERK, US DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
FORT MYERS FLORIDA

JAVIER A. MOLINA, JUAN F. FLORES and other similarly-situated individuals,

Plaintiffs,

V.

218-cv-771-Fth-29cm

CULINARY EXPERTS, INC. a/k/a LA GROTTA ITALIAN GRILL and MOUHSINE LAHLIL, individually

Defendants.

COMPLAINT (OPT-IN PURSUANT TO 29 U.S.C § 216(b))

COME NOW the Plaintiffs JAVIER A. MOLINA, JUAN F. FLORES, and other similarly-situated individuals, by and through the undersigned counsel, and hereby sue Defendants CULINARY EXPERTS, INC. a/k/a LA GROTTA ITALIAN GRILL, and MOUHSINE LAHLIL individually and alleges:

- This is an action to recover money damages for unpaid regular and overtime wages under the laws of the United States. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201-219 (Section 216 for jurisdictional placement) ("the Act"),
- Plaintiffs JAVIER A. MOLINA and JUAN F. FLORES are residents of Lee County,
 Florida. Plaintiffs are covered employees for purposes of the Act. Plaintiffs performed
 their work in Lee County, within the jurisdiction of this Court.
- Defendant CULINARY EXPERTS, INC. a/k/a LA GROTTA ITALIAN GRILL (hereinafter LA GROTTA ITALIAN GRILL, or Defendant) is a Florida corporation,

Page 1 of 15

- having its main place of business in Lee County, were Plaintiffs worked. At all times material, Defendant was and is engaged in interstate commerce.
- 4. Individual Defendant MOUHSINE LAHLIL was and is now, the owner/partner and/or manager of Defendant Corporation LA GROTTA ITALIAN GRILL. Defendant MOUHSINE LAHLIL is the employer of Plaintiff and others similarly situated within the meaning of Section 3(d) of the "Fair Labor Standards Act" [29 U.S.C. § 203(d)].
- 5. All the action raised in this complaint took place in Lee County Florida, within the jurisdiction of this Court.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

- ,6. Defendant LA GROTTA ITALIAN GRILL is a retail business operating as an Italian restaurant at 9520 Market Place Rd. Fort Myers, Florida 33912, where Plaintiffs worked.
 - 7. The employer LA GROTTA ITALIAN GRILL was engaged in interstate commerce as defined in §§ 3 (r) and 3(s) of the Act, 29 U.S.C. § 203(r) and 203(s)(1)(A). The defendant is a retail company operating as an Italian restaurant. Defendant has more than two employees directly and recurrently engaged in interstate commerce. At all times pertinent to this Complaint, the Employer/Defendant operates as an organization which sells and/or markets its services to customers from throughout the United States. Employer/Defendant obtains and solicits funds from non-Florida sources, accepts funds from non-Florida sources, uses telephonic transmissions going over state lines to do its business, transmits funds outside of the State of Florida. Upon information and belief, the annual gross revenue of the Employer/Defendant was at all times material hereto in excess of \$500,000 per annum. Therefore, there is enterprise coverage.

- 8. Plaintiffs were employed by an enterprise engaged in interstate commerce. Plaintiffs and other employees similarly situated regularly and recurrently participated in interstate commerce, by handling and working on goods and materials and that were moved across State lines at any time in the course of business. Therefore, there is individual coverage.
- Defendants LA GROTTA ITALIAN GRILL and MOUHSINE LAHLIL employed
 Plaintiffs JAVIER A. MOLINA and JUAN F. FLORES as a non-exempt, full time, hourly
 employees. Plaintiffs were hired as cooks.
- Plaintiff JAVIER A. MOLINA worked for Defendants form approximately September 27,
 2017 to September 20, 2018, or 51 weeks.
- Plaintiff JUAN F. FLORES worked for Defendants from approximately September 29,
 2017, to September 20, 2018, or 51 weeks.
- 12. During their time of employment Plaintiffs worked 7, and 6 days per week more than 40 hours every week period.
- 13. Plaintiffs worked a period of approximately 12 weeks an average of 77 hours per week. Plaintiffs worked from Monday to Saturday from 9:00 AM to 9:30 PM (12.5 hours); on Sundays Plaintiffs worked from 4:30 PM to 9:30 PM (5 hours). In this period, Plaintiffs worked a total of 77 hours weekly. Plaintiffs had already deducted 30 minutes of lunch break daily or 3 hours weekly (0.5x6=3 hours weekly).
- 14. The remaining 39 weeks Plaintiffs worked 6 days per week. Plaintiffs had Wednesday off, but they worked Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 AM to 9:30 PM (12.5 hours) for a total of 72 hours weekly. Plaintiffs had already deducted 30 minutes of lunch break daily or 3 hours weekly (0.5x6=3 hours weekly).

15. Plaintiffs worked many hours in excess of 40 every week period, but they were not paid overtime hours.

- 16. Therefore, Defendants willfully failed to pay Plaintiffs overtime hours at the rate of time and one-half their regular rate for every hour that they worked in excess of forty (40), in violation of Section 7 (a) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 207(a)(1).
- 17. Plaintiffs were paid bi-weekly a salary of \$900.00 weekly strictly in cash, without any record of paystubs showing number of days and hours worked, wage rate, employment taxes withheld etc.
- 18. Defendants used a computer to track the hours worked by other employees, but Plaintiffs were not allowed to clock in and out. Although Plaintiffs did not clock in and out, Defendants were able to track the hours worked by Plaintiffs and other similarly situated individuals.
- 19. Plaintiffs JAVIER A. MOLINA and JUAN F. FLORES were fired by the owner of the business MOUHSINE LAHLIL on or about September 20, 2018 after they complained for overtime hours.
- 20. Plaintiffs JAVIER A. MOLINA and JUAN F. FLORES seek to recover unpaid overtime hours, accumulated during all their time of employment, liquidated damages, retaliatory damages, as allowable by law.
- 21. The additional persons who may become Plaintiffs in this action are weekly-paid employees and/or former employees of Defendants who are and who were subject to the unlawful payroll practices and procedures of Defendants and were not paid overtime hours at the rate of time and one half of their regular rate of pay for all overtime hours worked in excess of forty.

<u>COUNT I:</u> <u>WAGE AND HOUR FEDERAL STATUTORY VIOLATION;</u> FAILURE TO PAY OVERTIME; AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS

22. Plaintiffs JAVIER A. MOLINA and JUAN F. FLORES re-adopt each and every pertinent and factual allegation, as stated in paragraphs 1-21 above as if set out in full herein.

The state of the s

* The second of the second of

- 23. This action is brought by Plaintiffs JAVIER A. MOLINA and JUAN F. FLORES and those similarly-situated to recover from the Employers unpaid overtime compensation, as well as an additional amount as liquidated damages, costs, and reasonable attorney's fees under the provisions of 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq., and specifically under the provisions of 29 U.S.C. § 207. 29 U.S.C. § 207 (a)(1) states, "No employer shall employ any of his employees... for a work week longer than 40 hours unless such employee receives compensation for his employment in excess of the hours above-specified at a rate not less than one and a half times the regular rate at which he is employed."
- 24. Defendants LA GROTTA ITALIAN GRILL and MOUHSINE LAHLIL employed Plaintiffs JAVIER A. MOLINA and JUAN F. FLORES from September 2017, to September 20, 2018, or approximately 51 weeks.
- 25. Plaintiffs were hired as a non-exempt, full time, hourly employees. Plaintiffs were paid \$900.00 per week.
- 26. During their time of employment Plaintiffs worked 12 weeks, 7 days per week; from Monday to Sunday a total of 77 hours weekly.
- 27. The remaining 39 weeks, Plaintiffs worked 6 days per week an average of 72 hours weekly.
- 28. Plaintiffs were paid bi-weekly a salary of \$900.00 weekly strictly in cash, without any record of paystubs showing number of days and hours worked, wage rate, employment taxes withheld etc.

- 29. Defendants used a computer to track the hours worked by other employees, but Plaintiffs were not allowed to clock in and out. Although Plaintiffs did not clock in and out, Defendants were able to track the hours worked by Plaintiffs and other similarly situated individuals.
- 30. Plaintiffs worked in excess of 40 hours weekly, but they were not paid for overtime hours.
- 31. Therefore, Defendants willfully failed to pay Plaintiffs overtime hours at the rate of time and one-half their regular rate for every hour that he worked in excess of forty (40), in violation of Section 7 (a) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 207(a)(1).
- 32. Plaintiffs JAVIER A. MOLINA and JUAN F. FLORES were fired on or about September 20, 2018, after they complained for overtime hours.
- 33. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiffs and all current and former employees similarly situated, compensation at a rate not less than one and one-half times the rate at which they are/were employed for work performed beyond the 40 hours in a workweek, is contrary to the provisions of Section 7 (a) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 207(a)(1)).
- 34. The records, if any, concerning the number of hours worked by Plaintiffs JAVIER A. MOLINA and JUAN F. FLORES and all other similarly-situated employees, and the compensation paid to such employees should be in the possession and custody of Defendants. However, upon information and belief, Defendants did not maintain accurate and complete time records of hours worked by Plaintiffs and other employees in the asserted class.
- 35. Defendants violated the record keeping requirements of FLSA, 29 CFR Part 516.

The state of the s

The second second

- 36. Upon information and belief, Defendants never posted any notice, as required by the Fair Labor Standards Act and Federal Law, to inform employees of their Federal rights to overtime and minimum wage payments. Defendants violated the Posting requirements of 29 U.S.C. § 516.4.
- 37. Prior to the completion of discovery and to the best of Plaintiff's knowledge, at the time of the filing of this complaint, Plaintiff's good faith estimate of unpaid wages are as follows:

I.- Overtime Plaintiff JAVIER A. MOLINA

- *Please note that these amounts are based on preliminary calculations and that these figures could be subject to modification as new evidence could dictate
 - a. Total amount of alleged unpaid wages:

Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-One Dollars and 28/100 (\$9,881.28)

b. Calculation of such wages:

The second second of the second secon

the same to a set to the same to the set of the set of

Total Period of Employment: 51 weeks

Paid: \$900.00 weekly:

i. Calculations for 12 weeks with 7 days/77 hours worked weekly

Total relevant weeks of employment: 12 weeks Total number of hours worked weekly: 77 hrs.

Overtime hours: 37 hours weekly Unpaid overtime hours: 37 hours

Paid: \$900.00 weekly:77 worked hours=\$11.69 an hour

Regular rate: \$11.69:2= \$5.84 half-time

Half-time \$5.84 x 37 O/T hours=\$216.08 x 12 weeks=\$2,592.96

ii. Calculations for 39 weeks with 6 days/72 hours worked weekly

Total relevant weeks of employment: 39 weeks Total number of hours worked weekly: 72 hrs.

Overtime hours: 32 hours weekly Unpaid overtime hours: 32 hours

Paid: \$900.00 weekly:77 worked hours=\$11.69 an hour

Regular rate: \$11.69:2= \$5.84 half-time

Half-time \$5.84 x 32 O/T hours=\$186.88 x 12 weeks=\$7,288.32

Total i and ii: \$9,881.28

The second secon

A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR

c. Nature of wages (e.g. overtime or straight time):

This amount represents the unpaid half-time overtime compensation.

II.- Overtime Plaintiff JUAN F. FLORES

*Please note that these amounts are based on preliminary calculations and that these figures could be subject to modification as new evidence could dictate

a. Total amount of alleged unpaid wages:

Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-One Dollars and 28/100 (\$9,881.28)

b. Calculation of such wages:

Total Period of Employment: 51 weeks

Paid: \$900.00 weekly:

i. Calculations for 12 weeks with 7 days/77 hours worked weekly

Total relevant weeks of employment: 12 weeks Total number of hours worked weekly: 77 hrs.

Overtime hours: 37 hours weekly Unpaid overtime hours: 37 hours

Paid: \$900.00 weekly:77 worked hours=\$11.69 an hour

Regular rate: \$11.69:2= \$5.84 half-time

Half-time \$5.84 x 37 O/T hours=\$216.08 x 12 weeks=\$2,592.96

ii. Calculations for 39 weeks with 6 days/72 hours worked weekly

Total relevant weeks of employment: 39 weeks Total number of hours worked weekly: 72 hrs.

Overtime hours: 32 hours weekly Unpaid overtime hours: 32 hours

Paid: \$900.00 weekly:77 worked hours=\$11.69 an hour

Regular rate: \$11.69:2= \$5.84 half-time

Half-time \$5.84 x 32 O/T hours=\$186.88 x 12 weeks=\$7,288.32

Total i and ii: \$9,881.28

c. Nature of wages (e.g. overtime or straight time):

This amount represents the unpaid half-time overtime compensation.

- 38. At all times, the Employers/Defendants LA GROTTA ITALIAN GRILL and MOUHSINE LAHLIL failed to comply with Title 29 U.S.C. §207 (a) (1), in that Plaintiffs and those similarly-situated performed services and worked in excess of the maximum hours provided by the Act but no provision was made by the Defendants to properly pay them at the rate of time and one half for all hours worked in excess of forty hours (40) per workweek, as provided in said Act.
- 39. The additional persons who may become Plaintiffs in this action are weekly-paid employees and/or former employees of Defendants who are and who were subject to the unlawful payroll practices and procedures of Defendants and were not paid time and one half of their regular rate of pay for all overtime hours worked in excess of forty.
- 40. Defendant LA GROTTA ITALIAN GRILL knew and/or showed reckless disregard of the provisions of the Act concerning the payment of overtime wages as required by the Fair Labor Standards Act and remains owing Plaintiffs and those similarly-situated these overtime wages since the commencement of Plaintiffs' and those similarly-situated employees employment with Defendants as set forth above, and Plaintiffs and those similarly-situated are entitled to recover double damages.

The second secon

41. At the time mentioned, individual Defendant MOUHSINE LAHLIL was and is now, the owner/partner/manager of LA GROTTA ITALIAN GRILL. Defendant MOUHSINE LAHLIL is the employer of Plaintiffs and others similarly situated within the meaning of Section 3(d) of the "Fair Labor Standards Act" [29 U.S.C. § 203(d)]. This individual Defendant acted directly in the interests of LA GROTTA ITALIAN GRILL in relation to

its employees, including Plaintiffs and others similarly situated. Defendant MOUHSINE LAHLIL had financial and operational control of the business, he determined terms and working conditions of Plaintiffs and all other similarly situated employees and he is jointly liable for Plaintiffs' damages.

THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NAMED IN COLUMN TW

The state of the s

State of the second sec

- 42. Defendants LA GROTTA ITALIAN GRILL and MOUHSINE LAHLIL willfully and intentionally refused to pay Plaintiffs overtime wages as required by the law of the United States and remain owing Plaintiffs these overtime wages since the commencement of Plaintiffs' employment with Defendant LA GROTTA ITALIAN GRILL as set forth above.
- 43. Plaintiffs have retained the law offices of the undersigned attorney to represent them in this action and they are obligated to pay a reasonable attorneys' fee.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs JAVIER A. MOLINA and JUAN F. FLORES and those similarly-situated respectfully request that this Honorable Court:

- A. Enter judgment for Plaintiffs JAVIER A. MOLINA and JUAN F. FLORES and other similarly-situated individuals, and against the Defendants LA GROTTA ITALIAN GRILL and MOUHSINE LAHLIL on the basis of Defendants' willful violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq.; and
- B. Award Plaintiffs actual damages in the amount shown to be due for unpaid overtime compensation for hours worked in excess of forty weekly, with interest; and
- C. Award Plaintiffs an equal amount in double damages/liquidated damages; and
- D. Award Plaintiffs reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit; and
- E. Grant such other and further relief as this Court deems equitable and just and/or available pursuant to Federal Law.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiffs JAVIER A. MOLINA, JUAN F. FLORES, and those similarly-situated demand trial by jury of all issues triable as of right by jury.

The same of the sa

ALL TOWNSHIP OF SELECTION OF THE PROPERTY OF T

FEDERAL STATUTORY VIOLATION PURSUANT TO 29 U.S.C. 215 (a)(3) RETALIATION; AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS

- 44. Plaintiffs JAVIER A. MOLINA and JUAN F. FLORES re-adopt each and every factual allegation as stated in paragraphs 1-21 of this complaint as if set out in full herein.
- 45. The employer LA GROTTA ITALIAN GRILL was engaged in interstate commerce as defined in §§ 3 (r) and 3(s) of the Act, 29 U.S.C. § 203(r) and 203(s)(1)(A). Upon information and belief, the annual gross revenue of the Employer/Defendant was at all times material hereto in excess of \$500,000 per annum. Therefore, there is enterprise coverage.
- 46. Plaintiffs were employed by an enterprise engage in interstate commerce. Plaintiffs and other employees similarly situated regularly and recurrently participated in interstate commerce, by handling and working on goods and materials and materials that were moved across State lines at any time in the course of business. Therefore, there is individual coverage.
- 47. By reason of the foregoing, Defendant's business activities involve those to which the Fair Labor Standards Act applies.
- 48. 29 U.S.C. § 207 (a) (1) states, "if an employer employs an employee for more than forty hours in any work week, the employer must compensate the employee for hours in excess of forty at the rate of at least one and one-half times the employee's regular rate..."

- 49. Likewise, 29 U.S.C. 215(a)(3) states... it shall be unlawful for any person— "to discharge or in any other manner discriminate against any employee because such employee has filed any complaint or instituted or caused to be instituted any proceeding under or related to this chapter, or has testified or is about to testify in any such proceeding,....."
- 50. Defendants LA GROTTA ITALIAN GRILL and MOUHSINE LAHLIL employed Plaintiffs JAVIER A. MOLINA and JUAN F. FLORES from September 2017, to September 20, 2018, or approximately 51 weeks.
- 51. Plaintiffs were hired as a non-exempt, full time, hourly employees. Plaintiffs were paid \$900.00 per week.

The second secon

200

- 52. During their time of employment Plaintiffs worked 12 weeks, 7 days per week; from Monday to Sunday a total of 77 hours weekly.
- 53. The remaining 39 weeks, Plaintiffs worked 6 days per week an average of 72 hours weekly.
- 54. Plaintiffs were paid bi-weekly a salary of \$900.00 weekly strictly in cash, without any record of paystubs showing number of days and hours worked, wage rate, employment taxes withheld etc.
- 55. Defendants used a computer to track the hours worked by other employees, but Plaintiffs were not allowed to clock in and out. Although Plaintiffs did not clock in and out, Defendants were able to track the hours worked by Plaintiffs and other similarly situated individuals.
- 56. Plaintiffs worked in excess of 40 hours weekly, but they were not paid for overtime hours.
- 57. Therefore, Defendants willfully failed to pay Plaintiffs overtime hours at the rate of time and one-half their regular rate for every hour that he worked in excess of forty (40), in violation of Section 7 (a) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 207(a)(1).

- 58. On or about July 14, 2018 Plaintiffs JAVIER A. MOLINA and JUAN F. FLORES complained with the owner of the business MOUHSINE LAHLIL about late payments and missing unpaid overtime. Plaintiffs told MOUHSINE LAHLIL that they knew that they were supposed to be paid more for hours worked after the 40 regular hours every week. Owner MOUHSINE LAHLIL refused to pay overtime.
- 59. On or about August 20, 2018, Plaintiffs complained about late payments and missing payment for overtime hours once again. MOUHSINE LAHLIL answered that he would not pay overtime time hours.
- 60. These complains constituted protected activity under 29 U.S.C. 215(a)(3).

THE RESERVE THE PROPERTY OF THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NAMED IN COLUMN TWO I

- 61. On or about September 20, 2018, the owner of the business MOUHSINE LAHLIL fired Plaintiffs JAVIER A. MOLINA and JUAN F. FLORES.
- 62. At all times during their employment, Plaintiffs performed their work satisfactorily. There was no reason other than a retaliatory action to terminate Plaintiffs' employment with Defendants.
- 63. The adverse employment action against Plaintiffs JAVIER A. MOLINA and JUAN F. FLORES by the Defendants was directly and proximately caused by Defendants' unjustified retaliation because of Plaintiffs' complaints about overtime payment, and regular wages in violation of Federal Law.
- 64. Moreover, Plaintiffs' termination came just in temporal proximity after Plaintiffs' participation in protected activity on or about August 20, 2018.
- 65. At the time mentioned, individual Defendant MOUHSINE LAHLIL was and is now, the owner and manager of Defendant Corporation LA GROTTA ITALIAN GRILL. Defendant MOUHSINE LAHLIL was the employer of Plaintiffs and others similarly

situated within the meaning of Section 3(d) of the "Fair Labor Standards Act" [29 U.S.C. § 203(d)], in that this individual Defendant acted directly in the interests of LA GROTTA ITALIAN GRILL in relation to its employees including Plaintiffs and others similarly situated. Defendant MOUHSINE LAHLIL had absolute operational and financial control of the business, and he is jointly liable for Plaintiffs' damages.

66. Defendants LA GROTTA ITALIAN GRILL and MOUHSINE LAHLIL willfully and maliciously retaliated against Plaintiffs JAVIER A. MOLINA and JUAN F. FLORES by engaging in a retaliatory action that was materially adverse to a reasonable employee, and with the purpose to dissuade Plaintiffs from exercising their rights under 29 U.S.C. 215(a)(3).

- 67. The Defendants' adverse action against Plaintiffs JAVIER A. MOLINA and JUAN F. FLORES was in direct violation of 29 U.S.C. 215 (a) (3) and, as a direct result, Plaintiffs have been damaged.
- 68. Plaintiffs JAVIER A. MOLINA and JUAN F. FLORES have retained the law offices of the undersigned attorney to represent them in this action and they are obligated to pay a reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs JAVIER A. MOLINA and JUAN F. FLORES respectfully request that this Honorable Court:

- A. Enter judgment declaring that the firing of Plaintiffs JAVIER A. MOLINA and JUAN F. FLORES by Defendants LA GROTTA ITALIAN GRILL and MOUHSINE LAHLIL were an unlawful act of retaliation in violation of 29 U.S.C. 215 (a) (3).
- B. Enter judgment against Defendants LA GROTTA ITALIAN GRILL and MOUHSINE

- LAHLIL awarding Plaintiffs JAVIER A. MOLINA and JUAN F. FLORES liquidated damages in an amount equal to the amount awarded as consequential damages;
- C. For all back wages from the date of discharge to the present date and an equal amount of back wages as liquidated damages
- D. Enter judgment awarding Plaintiffs reasonable attorney's fees and costs of this suit; and
- E. Grant such other and further relief as this Court deems necessary and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiffs JAVIER A. MOLINA and JUAN F. FLORES demand trial by jury of all issues triable as of right by jury.

DATED: October 30, 2018

Control of the Contro

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Zandro E. Palma
ZANDRO E. PALMA, P.A.
Florida Bar No.: 0024031
9100 S. Dadeland Blvd.
Suite 1500
Miami, FL 33156
Telephone: (305) 446-1500
Facsimile: (305) 446-1502

zep@thepalmalawgroup.com Attorney for Plaintiffs

Case 2:18-cv-00771-JEŞ-CM_, Document 1-1 Filed 11/19/18 Page 1 of 1 PageID 16

The IS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neather replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as revided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the fudicial 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 CULINARY EXPERTS, INC. a/k/a LA GROTTA ITALIAN GRILL

JAVIER A. MOLINA, JUAN F. FLORES	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		and MOUHSINE L		2010 ****
(b) County of Residence of	First Listed Plaintiff		County of Residence	of First Listed Defendant	2018 NOV 19 AM 10: 48
	XCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA	SES)	- 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1	HN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES G	NLY)
			NOTE: IN LAND CO	and the second s	THE DESTRICT COURT
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Zandro E. Palma, P.A.	Address, and Telephone Number		Attorneys (If Known)		FORT MYERS FLORIDA
9100 South Dadeland Bl					
Miami, FL 33156					
M. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in O	ne Box Only)		RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff
U.S. Government	3 Federal Question		(For Diversity Cases Only)	TF DEF	and One Box for Defendant) PTF DEF
Plaintiff	(U.S. Government	Not a Party)	Citizen of This State	I I Incorporated or Pr of Business In T	
7 2 U.S. Government	☐ 4 Diversity		Citizen of Another State : : :	2 D 2 Incorporated and i	rincipal Place
Defendant	thalicate Citizenship of Parties in Item IIIx of Business In Another State				
			Citizen or Subject of a	3 G 3 Foreign Nation	□ 6 □ 6
V. NATURE OF SUIT	r (Place an "X" in One Box On	(v)	, Poreign Country		
CONTRACT	TO	RTS	FOREETEURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
110 Insurance 1120 Marine	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Auplane	PERSONAL INJURY 365 Personal Injury -	☐ 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881	1 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 423 Withdrawal	☐ 375 False Claims Act ☐ 376 Qui Tam (31 USC
□ 130 Miller Act	☐ 315 Airplane Product	Product Liability	☐ 690 Other	28 USC 157	3729(a))
7 140 Negotiable Instrument 7 150 Recovery of Overpayment	Liability 1320 Assault, Libel &	73 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceatical		PROPERTY RIGHTS	☐ 400 State Reapportionment ☐ 410 Antitrust
& Enforcement of Judgment		· Personal Injury	1	☐ 820 Copyrights	☐ 430 Banks and Banking
151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted	☐ 330 Federal Employers' Liability	Product Liability ☐ 368 Asbestos Personai	0 0	S30 Patent S40 Trademark	☐ 450 Commerce ☐ 460 Deportation
Student Loans	☐ 340 Marine	Injury Product	Y I DOD	noon rangelness	☐ 470 Racketeer Influenced and
(Excludes Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment	☐ 345 Marine Product Liability	Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY	ABOR 710 Fair Labor Standards	SOCIAL SECURITY 361 HIA (1395ff)	Corrupt Organizations 480 Consumer Credit
of Veteran's Benefits	7 350 Motor Vehicle	☐ 370 Other Fraud	Act	☐ 862 Black Lung (923)	G 490 Cable/Sat TV
7 460 Stockholders' Suits 7 190 Other Contract	7 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability	☐ 371 Truth in Lending ☐ 380 Other Personal	720 Labor/Management Relations	☐ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) ☐ 864 SSID Title XVI	7 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange
7 - 195 Contract Product Liability	☐ 360 Other Personal	Property Damage	7 740 Railway Labor Act	☐ 865 RSI (405(g))	☐ 890 Other Statutory Actions
3 196 Franchise	Injury 3 362 Personal Injury -	☐ 385 Property Damage Product Liability	☐ 751 Family and Medical Leave Act		☐ 891 Agricultural Acts ☐ 893 Environmental Matters
REAL PROPERTY	Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITIONS	☐ 790 Other Labor Litigation ☐ 791 Employee Retirement	FEDERAL TAX SUITS	☐ 895 Freedom of Information Act
1 210 Land Condemnation	7 440 Other Civil Rights	Habeas Corpus:	Income Security Act	☐ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff	☐ 896 Arbitration
220 Forcelosure 2 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	☐ 441 Voting ☐ 442 Employment	☐ 463 Alien Detainee ☐ 510 Motions to Vacate		or Defendant) 3 871 IRS—Third Party	☐ 899 Administrative Procedure
3 240 Torts to Land	O 443 Housing/	Sentence		26 USC 7609	Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision
2 245 Tort Product Liability 200 All Other Real Property	Accommodations 7 445 Amer, w/Disabilities -	530 General 535 Death Penalty	IMMIGRATION		☐ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
2 2 G All Other Real Property	Employment	Other:	☐ 462 Naturalization Application		State Statutes
	☐ 446 Amer, w/Disabilities - Other	☐ 540 Mandamus & Other ☐ 550 Civil Rights	☐ 465 Other Immigration		
	7 448 Education	7 555 Prison Condition	Actions		
		71 Sob Civil Detainee -			
		Conditions of Confinement			
ORIGIN (Place on "X" i	in One Box Only i				
	emoved from	Appellate Court	topositi	er District Litigation	
	Cite the U.S. Civil St. 29 U.S.C	stute under which you are f	iling (Do not cite jurisdictional sta	tutes unless diversity):	
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	Brief description of co FLSA Overtime a	nusc:		THE PARTY OF THE P	Anna Carlo Sandana a Mariera de Carlos de Carl
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	
IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER	
DATE 10/30/2018	SIGNATURL OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD Zandro E. Palma				
OR OFFICE USE ONLY					BANKANIAN INTO AND A THE TOTAL PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE CONTRACT
	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP	JUDGE	MAG. JU	DGE
Ftmol320i			2:18-01-7	71-2411-201	0.4

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>La Grotta Italian Grill Sued Over Unpaid Wage, Retaliatory Discharge Claims</u>