UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK	
CERLIN A. OSARIO MELGAR, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated,	No.:
Plaintiff,	
-against-	COMPLAINT
RECOMMENDATION CONTRACTING, INC., and RICHARD FRANCO,	Jury Demanded
Defendants.	

Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, alleges upon knowledge as to himself and his own actions, and upon information and belief as to all other matters, as follows:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This is an individual and collective action to recover unpaid overtime pay, statutory damages, attorneys' fees, and all other relief permitted by law due to Defendants' failure to comply with the requirements and obligations of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 29 U.S.C. §§ 201 et seq. ("FLSA"), New York Labor Law Article 19 §§ 650 et seq., New York Labor Law Article 6 §§ 190 et seq. ("NYLL"), and 12 New York Codes, Rules and Regulations ("NYCRR") §§ 142-1.1 et seq., from the date that is three years prior to the filing of this action through and including the date of judgment.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because Plaintiff brings his claims under the FLSA, a federal statute.

- 3. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff's state law claims under 28 U.S.C.
 § 1367 because the state claims are so related to the federal claims that they form a part of the same case or controversy between Plaintiff and Defendants.
- 4. Venue is proper in this judicial district under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because a substantial part of the events and omissions giving rise to Plaintiff's claims took place within this judicial district.

PARTIES

- 5. Plaintiff CERLIN A. OSARIO MELGAR, at all relevant times, was an adult individual residing in the County of Nassau and State of New York.
- 6. Defendant RECOMMENDATION CONTRACTING, INC ("RC"), at all relevant times, was a for-profit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, with its principal place of business located at 123 Clark Avenue, Massapequa, New York 11758.
- 7. At all relevant times, RC was in the business of operating a home remodeling construction company. Its business was, and is, engaged in interstate commerce within the meaning of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203, and has, upon information and belief, annual gross sales of at least \$500,000.
- 8. Defendant RICHARD FRANCO, at all relevant times, was an adult individual residing in the County of Nassau and State of New York. Franco was a corporate officer, director, manager, and one of the ten largest shareholders of RC. Franco was also one of Plaintiff's direct supervisors, and regularly exercised day-to-day operational control of RC, in that Franco assigned work to Plaintiff, scheduled Plaintiff's hours, hired and fired RC

- employees, and set the rate and method of payment to Plaintiff and RC employees.
- 9. Defendants directly employed Plaintiff, individually and as joint employers, within the meaning of the FLSA and NYLL in that they controlled the means and manner of production of Plaintiff's work.
- 10. The individually named defendant, as an officer, director, shareholder, manager, or agent of RC, had control over the day-to-day employment practices of RC and was responsible for the wage and hour practices complained of herein; therefore, he is an "employer" within the meaning of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(d), and the NYLL.
- 11. Plaintiff was Defendants' employee as defined by § 3(e)(1) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(e)(1), and the NYLL because Defendants regularly suffered or permitted Plaintiff to work.

ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CLAIMS

- 12. Defendants employed Plaintiff as a construction helper from in or about April 2016 to November 17, 2016. His work was performed in the normal course of RC's business and was integral to the business of RC.
- 13. As an employee of Defendants, Plaintiff regularly worked 51-58.5 hours per week according to the following work schedule: Monday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with a 30-minute meal break, and oftentimes, additionally, on Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with a 30-minute meal break
- 14. As an employee of Defendants, Plaintiff was paid an hourly rate of pay of \$18.00 per hour.
- 15. As an employee of Defendants, Plaintiff often worked in excess of 40 hours per week as

set forth above, yet Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff the overtime premium of one-half times his regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of 40 hours in a workweek as required by the FLSA and NY Labor Law. In Plaintiff's case, said overtime premium was equal to \$9.00 per hour for all hours worked over 40 in any given workweek, or approximately \$99.00 to \$166.50 per week based upon the work schedule set forth above.

- 16. During the course of Plaintiff's employment, Defendants failed to maintain accurate and sufficient compensation and time records with respect to Plaintiff and, upon information and belief, did not keep a record of Plaintiff's compensation or working time at all. As a result of such failure, Defendants have failed to make, keep, and preserve records with respect to Plaintiff sufficient to determine the wages, hours, and other conditions of employment of Plaintiff in violation of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 211(c) & 215(a)(5), and NY Labor Law § 195.
- 17. Defendants never provided a yearly wage notice and acknowledgment to Plaintiff as required by the New York Wage Theft Prevention Act.
- 18. Defendants never provided a compliant weekly wage statement to Plaintiff as required by the New York Wage Theft Prevention Act.
- 19. The foregoing conduct constitutes a willful violation of the FLSA and the NY Labor Law.
- 20. Due to Defendants' willful violations of the FLSA and NY Labor Law, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from the Defendants his unpaid overtime compensation, statutory penalties pursuant to the New York Wage Theft Prevention Act and liquidated damages of 100% any amounts found to be due and owing as compensation, reasonable attorneys'

fees, pre- and post-judgment interest, and the costs and disbursements of this action.

FLSA COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 21. In addition to his individual claims, Plaintiff brings Count I, as set forth below, as a collective action pursuant to Section 16(b) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), on behalf of all non-exempt employees employed by Defendants on or after the date that is three years before the filing of the Complaint in this case to the date of judgment; but, insofar as the statute of limitations is equitably tolled as a result of Defendants' failure to post required notices or otherwise inform the Non-Exempt Employees of their rights under the FLSA, on behalf of all Non-Exempt Employees who were employed by Defendants on or after the date that is six years before the filing of the complaint in this case to the date of judgment.
- 22. Plaintiff's individual consent to sue under 29 U.S.C. § 216 is annexed hereto.
- 23. Plaintiff can remember approximately 12 Non-Exempt Employees, including Milton, with whom he worked who all were paid in the same manner as Plaintiff and who, likewise, worked in excess of 40 hours per week without receiving overtime compensation of one and one-half times their regular rate of pay.
- 24. At all relevant times, the Non-Exempt Employees are and have been similarly situated, have had substantially similar job requirements and pay provisions, and are and have been subject to Defendants' uniform policies that have resulted in Defendants willfully failing to pay them premium overtime pay.
- 25. The claims of the Plaintiff stated herein are substantially the same as those of the the Non-Exempt Employees.

COUNT I: FLSA OVERTIME VIOLATIONS

- 26. Defendants' failure to pay premium overtime pay to Plaintiff and the Non-Exempt Employees for all hours worked over 40 in any given workweek violates the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 207(a)(1) & 215(a)(2).
- 27. Defendants' violation of the FLSA in this regard was willful.
- 28. Defendants are liable to Plaintiff and the Non-Exempt Employees for premium overtime pay, plus liquidated damages in the amount of the overtime pay wrongfully withheld, preand post-judgment interest, attorneys' fees, and the costs and disbursements of this action.

COUNT II: NY LABOR LAW OVERTIME VIOLATIONS

- 29. Defendants' failure to pay premium overtime pay to Plaintiff for all hours worked over 40 in any given workweek violates NY Labor Law § 160 and 12 N.Y. C.R.R. § 142-2.2.
- 30. Defendants' violation of the NY Labor Law in this regard was willful.
- 31. Defendants are liable to Plaintiff for premium overtime pay, plus liquidated damages in the amount of 100% of the overtime pay wrongfully withheld, pre- and post-judgment interest, attorneys' fees, and the costs and disbursements of this action.

COUNT III: NEW YORK WAGE THEFT PREVENTION ACT

- 32. Defendants did not provide Plaintiff with a yearly wage statement in compliance with the requirements of NY Labor Law § 195(1) and are, therefore, liable to the Plaintiff for the damages set forth in NY Labor Law § 198(1-b), post-judgment interest, attorneys' fees, and the costs and disbursements of this action.
- 33. Defendants also did not provide Plaintiff with a weekly wage statement in compliance

with the requirements of NY Labor Law § 195(3) and are, therefore, liable to the Plaintiff for the damages set forth in NY Labor Law §198(1-d), post-judgment interest, attorneys' fees, and the costs and disbursements of this action.

JURY DEMAND

34. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and the Non-Exempt Employees, demands a trial by jury on all issues in this action.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and the Non-Exempt Employees, prays for relief and prays that the Court:

- A. Designate this action a collective action on behalf of the Non-Exempt Employees and promptly authorize Plaintiff's attorneys to issue notice under 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) to all Non-Exempt Employees, employed any time on or after the date that is three years (plus any applicable tolling period) prior to the date of any such order (hereinafter "the Liability Period"), apprising them of this action and of their right to opt-in to this lawsuit if they were not properly paid premium overtime pay during any part of the Liability Period;
- B. Order Defendants to file with this Court, and to furnish to Plaintiff's counsel, a verified list of all names, and the last known addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses and alternative contact information of all Non-Exempt Employees who were employed by Defendants any time during the Liability Period;
- C. Order Defendants to conspicuously post notice in each of their business locations, in a place determined by the Court to be readily accessible to all Non-Exempt Employees,

apprising them of this action and of their right to opt-in to this lawsuit if they were not properly paid premium overtime pay during any part of the Liability Period;

- D. Enter judgment in favor of the Plaintiff and each Non-Exempt Employee and each class member on each or any count of this Complaint for all compensatory damages and, where applicable, liquidated damages, attorneys' fees, pre- and post-judgment interest, and the costs and disbursements of this action; and,
- E. Grant to Plaintiff, and each Non-Exempt Employee, any other and further relief that to the Court seems just and proper.

Dated: Uniondale, New York February 2, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

Eric S. Tilton
Tilton Beldner LLP

626 Rxr Plaza

Uniondale, New York 11556

(631) 629-5291

etilton@tiltonbeldner.com

CIVIL COVER SHEET

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 rurrose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

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TILTON BELDNER LLP, Uniondale, NY 11556 (63									
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Case 2:18-cv-00747 Document 1-1 Filed 02/02/18 Page 2 of 2 PageID #: 10

CERTIFICATION OF ARBITRATION ELIGIBILITY

Local Arbitration Rule 83.10 provides that with certain exceptions, actions seeking money damages only in an amount not in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs, are eligible for compulsory arbitration. The amount of damages is presumed to be below the threshold amount unless a certification to the contrary is filed.

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		NY-E DIVISION OF BUSINESS	RULE 5	0.1(d)(<u>2)</u>
1.)	Is the civil action being filed in County? Yes	the Eastern District removed from No	n a New '	York State Court located in Nassau or Suffolk
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	Are you currently the subject	of any disciplinary action (s) in th	is or any	other state or federal court?
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	I certify the accuracy of all inf	ormation provided above.		
	Signature:			

Last Modified: 11/27/2017

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern District of New York

CERLIN A. OSARIO MELGAR, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated)))					
Plaintiff(s))					
v. RECOMMENDATION CONTRACTING, INC. and RICHARD FRANCO	Civil Action No.					
Defendant(s)))					
SUMMONS	IN A CIVIL ACTION					
To: (Defendant's name and address) The above named Defe 123 Clark Avenue Massapequa, New York						
A lawsuit has been filed against you.						
Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney,						
whose name and address are: Tilton Beldner LLP 626 Rxr Plaza Uniondale, NY 11556						
If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.						
	DOUGLAS C. PALMER CLERK OF COURT					
Date:						
	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk					

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No.

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

		ne of individual and title, if ar	ny)					
was re	ceived by me on (date)		·					
	☐ I personally served	the summons on the ind	lividual at (place)					
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	on (date); or ☐ I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with (name), a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,							
	on (date), and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or \[\begin{align*} \text{ I served the summons on (name of individual)} \] designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of (name of organization) \]							
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Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

CONSENT TO JOIN COLLECTIVE ACTION Pursuant to Fair Labor Standards Act 29 U.S.C. §216(b)

- 1. I, <u>Osino</u>, consent and agree to pursue my claims arising out of uncompensated work time, including minimum wage and overtime, as an employee of Recommendation Contracting, Inc., and its affiliates and officers.
- 2. I understand that this lawsuit is brought under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended, 29 U.S.C. §201, et seq. I hereby consent, agree and opt-in to become a Plaintiff herein and be bound to any judgment by the Court or any settlement of this action.
- 3. I hereby designate Eric S. Tilton, Esq., of the law firm of Tilton Beldner LLP, to represent me for all purposes in this action and as the collective action representative for this case.

(Signature) Conlus Automaile Date: 2/1/18

Print Name: Cerlin OSario

ClassAction.org

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