

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

CASE NO.:

PEDRO ALEXIS CASTANEDA PINO and all)
others similarly situated under 29 U.S.C.)
216(b),)

Plaintiff,)

vs.)

UNIVERSAL USED PALLETS INC. a/k/a)
UNIVERSAL PALLETS, INC.)
QUALITY PALLETS, INC.)
JOSE R LESTEIRO,)

Defendants.)

**COMPLAINT UNDER 29 U.S.C. 201- 216 OVERTIME AND MINIMUM WAGE
VIOLATIONS**

Plaintiff, PEDRO ALEXIS CASTANEDA PINO on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated under 29 U.S.C. 216(b), through undersigned counsel, files this Complaint against Defendants, UNIVERSAL USED PALLETS INC. a/k/a UNIVERSAL PALLETS, INC., QUALITY PALLETS, INC., and JOSE R LESTEIRO, and alleges:

1. This is an action arising under the Fair Labor Standards Act 29 U.S.C. §§ 201-216.
2. The Plaintiff was a resident of Dade County, Florida at the time that this dispute arose.
3. The Defendant UNIVERSAL USED PALLETS INC. a/k/a UNIVERSAL PALLETS, INC. is a corporation that regularly transacts business within Miami-Dade County. Upon information and belief, the Defendant Company was the joint FLSA employer for Plaintiff's respective period of employment ("the relevant time period").
4. The Defendant QUALITY PALLETS, INC. is a corporation that regularly transacts business within Miami-Dade County. Upon information and belief, the Defendant Company was the

joint FLSA employer for the relevant time period.

5. The individual Defendant JOSE R LESTEIRO is a corporate officer and/or owner and/or manager of both Defendant Corporations who ran the day-to-day operations of both Corporate Defendants for the relevant time period and was responsible for paying Plaintiff's wages for the relevant time period and controlled Plaintiff's work and schedule and was therefore Plaintiff's employer as defined by 29 U.S.C. 203 (d).
6. All acts or omissions giving rise to this dispute took place in Dade County.

COUNT I. FEDERAL OVERTIME WAGE VIOLATION

7. This action arises under the laws of the United States. This case is brought as a collective action under 29 USC 216(b). It is believed that the Defendants have employed several other similarly situated employees like Plaintiff who have not been paid overtime and/or minimum wages for work performed in excess of 40 hours weekly from the filing of this complaint back three years.
8. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 as this case is brought pursuant to The Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §§ 201-219 (section #216 for jurisdictional placement).
9. 29 U.S.C. § 207 (a) (1) states, "Except as otherwise provided in this section, no employer shall employ any of his employees who in any workweek is engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, or is employed in an enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, for a workweek longer than forty hours unless such employee receives compensation for his employment in excess of the hours above specified at a rate not less than one and one-half times the regular rate at which he is employed."

10. Plaintiff worked for Defendants as a pallet dis-assembler from on or about April 16, 2006 through on or about November 3, 2016. In addition to Plaintiff's regular work schedule he worked for Defendants at their private country home maintaining Defendants' home and tending to their livestock which was completely uncompensated by Defendants.
11. Defendant's business activities involve those to which the Fair Labor Standards Act applies. Both the Defendant's business and the Plaintiff's work for the Defendants affected interstate commerce for the relevant time period. Plaintiff's work for the Defendants affected interstate commerce for the relevant time period because the materials and goods that Plaintiff used on a constant and/or continual basis and/or that were supplied to him by the Defendants to use on the job moved through interstate commerce prior to and/or subsequent to Plaintiff's use of the same. The Plaintiff's work for the Defendants was actually in and/or so closely related to the movement of commerce while he worked for the Defendants that the Fair Labor Standards Act applies to Plaintiff's work for the Defendants.
12. Additionally, Defendants regularly employed two or more employees for the relevant time period who handled goods or materials that travelled through interstate commerce, or used instrumentalities of interstate commerce, thus making Defendant's business an enterprise covered under the Fair Labor Standards Act.
13. Upon information and belief, the Defendant Corporation had gross sales or business done in excess of \$500,000 annually for the years 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.
14. Upon information and belief, the Defendant Corporation's gross sales or business done exceeded \$375,000 for the nine months of the year 2016 and is expected to exceed \$500,000 for the year 2016.
15. Upon information and belief, Defendants, UNIVERSAL USED PALLETS INC. a/k/a

UNIVERSAL PALLETS, INC. and QUALITY PALLETS, INC., are joint enterprises as defined by 29 U.S.C. 203(r) as the related activities between the companies, performed through unified operation and/or common control, are being done for a common business purpose.

16. Upon information and belief, Defendants, UNIVERSAL USED PALLETS INC. a/k/a UNIVERSAL PALLETS, INC. and QUALITY PALLETS, INC., were each Plaintiff's joint employer during Plaintiff's employment with the Defendant Companies as the work performed by Plaintiff simultaneously benefited all Defendant Companies who were responsible for controlling Plaintiff's hours, determining Plaintiff's pay and which were operated by the same company officers for a common business purpose.
17. Individual Defendant JOSE R LESTEIRO was Plaintiff's individual employer pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §203(d) as set forth above.
18. Between the period of on or about November 10, 2013 through on or about November 10, 2014, Plaintiff worked an average of 54 hours a week for Defendants and was paid an average of \$10.00 per hour but was never paid anything at all for any hours worked over 40 hours in a week as required by the Fair Labor Standards Act. Plaintiff therefore claims the time-and-a-half time overtime rate for each hour worked above 40 in a week.
19. Between the period of on or about November 11, 2014 through on or about November 3, 2016, Plaintiff worked an average of 47 hours a week for Defendants and was paid an average of \$10.50 per hour but was never paid anything at all for any hours worked over 40 hours in a week as required by the Fair Labor Standards Act. Plaintiff therefore claims the time-and-a-half time overtime rate for each hour worked above 40 in a week.
20. Defendants willfully and intentionally refused to pay Plaintiff's overtime wages as required

by the Fair Labor Standards Act as Defendants knew of the overtime requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act and recklessly failed to investigate whether Defendants' payroll practices were in accordance with the Fair Labor Standards Act. Defendants remain owing Plaintiff these wages since the commencement of Plaintiff's employment with Defendants for the time period specified above.

Wherefore, the Plaintiff requests double damages and reasonable attorney fees from Defendants, jointly and severally, pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act as cited above, to be proven at the time of trial for all overtime wages still owing from Plaintiff's entire employment period with Defendants or as much as allowed by the Fair Labor Standards Act along with court costs, interest, and any other relief that this Court finds reasonable under the circumstances. *The Plaintiff requests a trial by jury.*

Respectfully Submitted,

J.H. Zidell, Esq.
J.H. Zidell, P.A.
Attorney For Plaintiff
300 71st Street, Suite 605
Miami Beach, Florida 33141
Tel: (305) 865-6766
Fax: (305) 865-7167

By: /s/ J.H. Zidell
J.H. Zidell, Esq.
Florida Bar Number: 0010121

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the
Southern District of Florida

PEDRO ALEXIS CASTANEDA PINO and)
all others similarly situated under 29 U.S.C.)
216(b),)

Plaintiff,)

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UNIVERSAL USED PALLETS INC. a/k/a)
UNIVERSAL PALLETS, INC.)
QUALITY PALLETS, INC.)
JOSE R LESTEIRO,)

Defendants.)

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address)

UNIVERSAL USED PALLETS INC. a/k/a UNIVERSAL PALLETS, INC.

Registered Agent: Jose R Lesteiro

6350 NW 72nd Ave

Miami, FL 33166

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:

J.H. Zidell, Esq.
J.H. Zidell P.A.
300 71ST Street, Suite 605
Miami Beach, Florida 33141

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.

CLERK OF COURT

Date: _____

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the
Southern District of Florida

PEDRO ALEXIS CASTANEDA PINO and)
all others similarly situated under 29 U.S.C.)
216(b),)

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QUALITY PALLETS, INC.)
JOSE R LESTEIRO,)

Defendants.)

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address)
QUALITY PALLETS, INC.
Registered Agent: Jose R Lesteiro
12899 NW 2 Street
Miami, FL 33182

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:

J.H. Zidell, Esq.
J.H. Zidell P.A.
300 71ST Street, Suite 605
Miami Beach, Florida 33141

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.

CLERK OF COURT

Date: _____

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

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QUALITY PALLETS, INC.)
JOSE R LESTEIRO,)

Defendants.)

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address)

JOSE R LESTEIRO
12899 NW 2 Street
Miami, FL 33182

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:

J.H. Zidell, Esq.
J.H. Zidell P.A.
300 71ST Street, Suite 605
Miami Beach, Florida 33141

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.

CLERK OF COURT

Date: _____

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 purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.) NOTICE: Attorneys MUST Indicate All Re-filed Cases Below.

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS PINO, PEDRO ALEXIS CASTANEDA and all others similarly situated under 29 USC 216(b) DEFENDANTS UNIVERSAL USED PALLETS INC. a/k/a UNIVERSAL PALLETS, INC.

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Miami-Dade (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) J.H. Zidell, P.A. 300 71st St., Suite 605, Miami Beach, FL 33141 phone: 305-865-6766 NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED. Attorneys (If Known)

(d) Check County Where Action Arose: [X] MIAMI-DADE [] MONROE [] BROWARD [] PALM BEACH [] MARTIN [] ST. LUCIE [] INDIAN RIVER [] OKEECHOBEE [] HIGHLANDS

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only) III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

Form with checkboxes for Basis of Jurisdiction (Federal Question, Diversity) and Citizenship of Principal Parties (Citizen of This State, Citizen of Another State, Foreign Nation).

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Large grid form for Nature of Suit with categories: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, TORTS, CIVIL RIGHTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES.

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only) [X] 1 Original Proceeding [] 2 Removed from State Court [] 3 Re-filed (See VI below) [] 4 Reinstated or Reopened [] 5 Transferred from another district (specify) [] 6 Multidistrict Litigation [] 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment [] 8 Remanded from Appellate Court

VI. RELATED/ RE-FILED CASE(S) (See instructions): a) Re-filed Case [] YES [X] NO b) Related Cases [] YES [X] NO JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER

VII. CAUSE OF ACTION 29 USC §§ 201-216 Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and Write a Brief Statement of Cause (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): LENGTH OF TRIAL via days estimated (for both sides to try entire case)

VIII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: [] CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23 DEMAND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: [X] Yes [] No

ABOVE INFORMATION IS TRUE & CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE DATE November 14, 2016 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # AMOUNT IFP JUDGE MAG JUDGE

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.C.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; 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 the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerks in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.

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.

Refiled (3) Attach copy of Order for Dismissal of Previous case. Also complete VI.

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. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.

Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment. (7) Check this box for an appeal from a magistrate judge's decision.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (8) Check this box if remanded from Appellate Court.

VI. Related/Refiled Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases or re-filed cases. Insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judges name for such cases.

VII. 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

VIII. 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 dollar amount (in thousands of dollars) 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.

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: [Pallet Companies Smacked with Overtime Pay Class Action](#)
