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U.S. DISTRICT COURT E.D.

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Helen F. Dalton & Associates, P.C. Roman Avshalumov (RA 5508) 69-12 Austin Street Forest Hills, NY 11375 Telephone: 718-263-9591

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

CV18-2265

MIGUEL QUINTUNA PULI, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

AMON, J.

COLLECTIVE ACTION COMPLAINT

-against-

MELVA CONSTRUCTION CORP., and CHRISTOS BATALIAS, as an individual,

TISCIONE, M.J.

Defendants.
 X

 Plaintiff, MIGUEL QUINTUNA PULI, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff"), by his attorneys at Helen F. Dalton & Associates, P.C., alleges, upon personal knowledge as to himself and upon information and belief as to other matters, as follows:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

Plaintiff,

- 2. Plaintiff, MIGUEL QUINTUNA PULI, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, through undersigned counsel, brings this action against MELVA CONSTRUCTION CORP., and CHRISTOS BATALIAS, as an individual, (hereinafter referred to as "Defendants"), to recover damages for egregious violations of state and federal wage and hour laws arising out of Plaintiffs' employment at MELVA CONSTRUCTION CORP., located at 3623 23RD STREET, LONG ISLAND CITY, NEW YORK 11106.
- 3. As a result of the violations of Federal and New York State labor laws delineated below, Plaintiff seeks compensatory damages and liquidated damages in an amount

exceeding \$100,000.00. Plaintiff also seeks interest, attorneys' fees, costs, and all other legal and equitable remedies this Court deems appropriate.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' federal claims pursuant to the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §216 and 28 U.S.C. §1331.
- 5. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1367.
- 6. Venue is proper in the EASTERN District of New York pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(b) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this district.
- 7. This Court is empowered to issue a declaratory judgment pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§2201 & 2202.

THE PARTIES

- 8. Plaintiff MIGUEL QUINTUNA PULI residing at 4272 80TH STREET, ELMHURST, NEW YORK 11373, was employed by Defendants at MELVA CONSTRUCTION CORP. from in or around 2006 until in or around June 2016.
- Upon information and belief, Defendant, MELVA CONSTRUCTION CORP., is a corporation organized under the laws of New York with a principal executive office at 3623 23RD STREET, LONG ISLAND CITY, NEW YORK 11106.
- 10. Upon information and belief, Defendant, MELVA CONSTRUCTION CORP.,, is a corporation authorized to do business under the laws of New York.
- 11. Upon information and belief, Defendant CHRISTOS BATALIAS owns and/or operates MELVA CONSTRUCTION CORP.,
- 12. Upon information and belief, Defendant CHRISTOS BATALIAS is the Chairman of the Board of MELVA CONSTRUCTION CORP.,
- 13. Upon information and belief, Defendant CHRISTOS BATALIAS is the Chief Executive Officer of MELVA CONSTRUCTION CORP.,
- 14. Upon information and belief, Defendant CHRISTOS BATALIAS is an agent of MELVA CONSTRUCTION CORP.,

- 15. Upon information and belief, Defendant CHRISTOS BATALIAS has power over personnel decisions at MELVA CONSTRUCTION CORP.,
- 16. Upon information and belief, Defendant CHRISTOS BATALIAS has power over payroll decisions at MELVA CONSTRUCTION CORP.,
- 17. Defendant CHRISTOS BATALIAS has the power to hire and fire employees at MELVA CONSTRUCTION CORP., establish and pay their wages, set their work schedule, and maintains their employment records.
- 18. During all relevant times herein, Defendant CHRISTOS BATALIAS was Plaintiff's employer within the meaning of the FLSA and NYLL.
- 19. On information and belief, MELVA CONSTRUCTION CORP. is, at present and has been at all times relevant to the allegation in the complaint, an enterprise engaged in interstate commerce within the meaning of the FLSA in that the entity (i) has had employees engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, and handle, sell or otherwise work on goods or material that have been moved in or produced for commerce by any person: and (ii) has had an annual gross volume of sales of not less than \$500,000.00.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 20. Plaintiff MIGUEL QUINTUNA PULI was employed by Defendants at MELVA CONSTRUCTION CORP. from in or around 2006 until in or around June 2016.
- 21. During Plaintiff MIGUEL QUINTUNA PULI'S employment by Defendants at MELVA CONSTRUCTION CORP., Plaintiff's primary duties were as a construction worker, roofer, and performing other miscellaneous duties from in or around 2006 until in or around June 2016.
- 22. Plaintiff MIGUEL QUINTUNA PULI was paid by Defendants approximately \$150.00 per day from in or about 2010 until in or around 2014 and approximately \$160.00 per day from in or around 2015 until in or around June 2016.
- 23. Although Plaintiff MIGUEL QUINTUNA PULI worked approximately sixty-three (63) hours or more per week during the months of May through October during his employment by Defendants from in or around 2006 to in or around June 2016,

- Defendants did not pay Plaintiff time and a half (1.5) for hours worked over forty (40), a blatant violation of the overtime provisions contained in the FLSA and NYLL.
- 24. Upon information and belief, Defendants willfully failed to post notices of the minimum wage and overtime wage requirements in a conspicuous place at the location of their employment as required by both the NYLL and the FLSA.
- 25. Upon information and belief, Defendants willfully failed to keep payroll records as required by both NYLL and the FLSA.
- 26. As a result of these violations of Federal and New York State labor laws, Plaintiffs seek compensatory damages and liquidated damages in an amount exceeding \$100,000.00. Plaintiff also seeks interest, attorneys' fees, costs, and all other legal and equitable remedies this Court deems appropriate.

COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 27. Plaintiff bring this action on behalf of himself and other employees similarly situated as authorized under the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b). The employees similarly situated are the collective class.
- 28. Collective Class: All persons who are or have been employed by the Defendants as construction workers, roofers, or other similarly titled personnel with substantially similar job requirements and pay provisions, who were performing the same sort of functions for Defendants, other than the executive and management positions, who have been subject to Defendants' common practices, policies, programs, procedures, protocols and plans including willfully failing and refusing to pay required minimum and overtime wage compensation.
- 29. Upon information and belief, Defendants employed between 15 and 20 employees within the past three years subjected to similar payment structures.
- 30. Upon information and belief, Defendants suffered and permitted Plaintiff and the Collective Class to work more than forty hours per week without appropriate overtime compensation.
- 31. Defendants' unlawful conduct has been widespread, repeated, and consistent.
- 32. Upon information and belief, Defendant had knowledge that Plaintiff and the Collective Class performed work requiring overtime pay.

- 33. Defendants' conduct as set forth in this Complaint, was willful and in bad faith, and has caused significant damages to Plaintiff and the Collective Class.
- 34. Defendants are liable under the FLSA for failing to properly compensate Plaintiff and the Collective Class, and as such, notice should be sent to the Collective Class. There are numerous similarly situated current and former employees of Defendants who have been denied overtime pay in violation of the FLSA and NYLL, who would benefit from the issuance of a Court-supervised notice of the present lawsuit, and the opportunity to join the present lawsuit. Those similarly situated employees are known to Defendants and are readily identifiable through Defendants' records.
- 35. The questions of law and fact common to the putative class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members.
- 36. The claims of Plaintiff are typical of the claims of the putative class.
- 37. Plaintiff and his counsel will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the putative class.
- 38. A collective action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Overtime Wages Under The Fair Labor Standards Act

- 39. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
- 40. Plaintiff has consented in writing to be a party to this action, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b).
- 41. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff was engaged in commerce or the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §§206(a) and 207(a).
- 42. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were employers engaged in commerce or the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §§206(a) and 207(a).
- 43. Defendants willfully failed to pay Plaintiff overtime wages for hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week at a wage rate of one and a half (1.5) times the

- regular wage, to which Plaintiff was entitled under 29 U.S.C. §§206(a) in violation of 29 U.S.C. §207(a)(1).
- 44. Defendants' violations of the FLSA as described in this Complaint have been willful and intentional. Defendants have not made a good effort to comply with the FLSA with respect to the compensation of the Plaintiff.
- 45. Due to Defendants' FLSA violations, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants, jointly and severally, his unpaid wages and an equal amount in the form of liquidated damages, as well as reasonable attorneys fees and costs of the action, including interest, pursuant to the FLSA, specifically 29 U.S.C. §216(b).

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Overtime Wages Under New York Labor Law

- 46. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
- 47. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants within the meaning of New York Labor Law §§2 and 651.
- 48. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff overtime wages for hours worked in excess of forty hours per week at a wage rate of one and a half (1.5) times the regular wage to which Plaintiff was entitled under New York Labor Law §652, in violation of 12 N.Y.C.R.R. 137-1.3.
- 49. Due to Defendants' New York Labor Law violations, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants, jointly and severally, his unpaid overtime wages and an amount equal to his unpaid overtime wages in the form of liquidated damages, as well as reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of the action, including interest in accordance with NY Labor Law §198(1-a).

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of the Notice and Recordkeeping Requirements of the New York Labor Law

50. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.

- 51. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff with a written notice, in English and in Spanish (Plaintiff's primary language), of his rate of pay, regular pay day, and such other information as required by NYLL §195(1).
- 52. Defendants are liable to Plaintiff in the amount of \$5,000.00 each, together with costs and attorneys' fees.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of the Wage Statement Requirements of the New York Labor Law

- 53. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
- 54. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiffs with wage statements upon each payment of wages, as required by NYLL §195(3)
- 55. Defendants are liable to Plaintiffs in the amount of \$5,000.00 each, together with costs and attorneys' fees.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, Plaintiffs respectfully request that judgment be granted:

- a. Declaring Defendants' conduct complained herein to be in violation of the Plaintiffs' rights under the FLSA, the New York Labor Law, and its regulations;
- b. Awarding Plaintiff unpaid overtime wages;
- c. Awarding Plaintiff unpaid minimum wages;
- d. Awarding Plaintiff liquidated damages pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216 and New York Labor Law §§198(1-a), 663(1);
- e. Awarding Plaintiff prejudgment and post-judgment interest;
- f. Awarding Plaintiff the costs of this action together with reasonable attorneys' fees; and
- g. Awarding such and further relief as this court deems necessary and proper.

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

Pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all questions of fact raised by the complaint.

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Dated: This May of March 2018.

Roman Avshalumov, Esq. (RA 5508)

Helen F. Dalton & Associates, PC

69-12 Austin Street Forest Hills, NY 11375

Telephone: 718-263-9591

Fax: 718-263-9598

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

MIGUEL QUINTUNA PULI, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

-against-

MELVA CONSTRUCTION CORP., and CHRISTOS BATALIAS, as an individual,

Defendants.

SUMMONS & COMPLAINT

HELEN F. DALTON & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Attorneys for Plaintiffs 69-12 Austin Street Forest Hills, NY 11375 Phone (718) 263-9591 Fax (718) 263-9598

TO: MELVA CONSTRUCTION 3623 23rd STREET LONG ISLAND CITY, NY 11106

CHRISTOS BATALIAS 3623 23rd STREET LONG ISLAND CITY, NY 11106

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and provided by local rules of cour purpose of initiating the civil d	 This form, approved by the 	he Judicial Conference o	of the Uni	ted States in September 1	of pleading 974, is requ	gs or other papers a lired for the use of	is required by I the Clerk of Co	aw, ex ourt for	the
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(b) County of Residence o	f First Listed Plaintiff C	QUEENS	, U .	County of Residence	of First List	ted Defendant (QUEENS		
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) TISCIONE, M.J.				NOTE: IN LAND CO THE TRACT	NDEMNATI	PLAINTIFF CASES O	NLY)	OF .	
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Helen F. Dalton & Associ 69-12 Austin Street Forest Hills, NY 11375 (7	Address, and Telephone Numbe ates, P.C.	•		Attorneys (If Known)					
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in C	ne Box Only)	III. CI	TIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPA	AL PARTIES	Place an "X" in	One Bo	x for Plain
U.S. Government Plaintiff (U.S. Government Not a Party)				(For Diversity Cases Only) PTF DEF Citizen of This State					
2 U.S. Government Defendant		ip of Parties in Item III)	Citize	en of Another State	2 🛭 2	Incorporated and P of Business In A		o 5	5 🗆 5
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IV. NATURE OF SUIT		nly) DRTS	l R	PRFEITURE/PENALTY	I DAN	NKRUPTCY	OTHER	CTATE	ITES
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	Fair Labor Standa Brief description of ca	ards Act		Oo not cite jurisdictional stat	utes unless di	iversity):			
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:		IS A CLASS ACTION	D	EMAND \$ 100,000.00	///	CHECK YES only URY DEMAND:	if demanded in 🔀 Yes	compl	
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions):	INDGE.			DOCKE	ET NUMBER			
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JUDGE

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exclusiv	e of inter		tions seeking money damages only in an amount not in excess of \$150,000, The amount of damages is presumed to be below the threshold amount unless a			
ī		counsel for	do hereby certify that the above captioned civil action is			
ineligi	ble for c	compulsory arbitration for the following rea	, do hereby certify that the above captioned civil action is ason(s):			
	monetary damages sought are in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs,					
	☐ the complaint seeks injunctive relief,					
		the matter is otherwise ineligible for the	following reason			
		DISCLOSURE STATEMENT - I	FEDERAL RULES CIVIL PROCEDURE 7.1			
		Identify any parent corporation and any publ	icly held corporation that owns 10% or more or its stocks:			
		RELATED CASE STATEMEN	NT (Section VIII on the Front of this Form)			
provide because same ju case: (A	s that "A of the cases dge and many involves	civil case is "related" to another civil case for purpose arise from the same transactions or events, a substant aggistrate judge." Rule 50.3.1 (b) provides that "A continue in the same part is identical legal issues, or (B) involves the same part	business Rule 50.3.1 in Section VIII on the front of this form. Rule 50.3.1 (a) sees of this guideline when, because of the similarity of facts and legal issues or nitial saving of judicial resources is likely to result from assigning both cases to the civil case shall not be deemed "related" to another civil case merely because the civil ties." Rule 50.3.1 (c) further provides that "Presumptively, and subject to the power as shall not be deemed to be "related" unless both cases are still pending before the			
		NY-E DIVISION O	OF BUSINESS RULE 50.1(d)(2)			
1.)	Is the c	<u> </u>	moved from a New York State Court located in Nassau or Suffolk			
2.)		5 5	or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in Nassau or Suffolk			
	b) Did the events of omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in the Eastern District? YES					
Suffoll	c County,	or, in an interpleader action, does the claimant	r a majority of the defendants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or (or a majority of the claimants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau ent of the County in which it has the most significant contacts).			
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		<u>BA</u>	R ADMISSION			
I am cı	urrently a	dmitted in the Eastern District of New York an Yes	d currently a member in good standing of the bar of this court. No			
Are yo	u current	ly the subject of any disciplinary action (s) in the Yes (If yes, please explain)	his or any other state or federal court? No			
Attorn	ney Bar	Code: RA5508				
I certif	fy the acc	uracy of all information provided above				

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: Melva Construction Corp. Failed to Pay OT Between May and October, Lawsuit Alleges