UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Chun Ping Yim and Ji Zhao, Individually and on behalf of All Other Employees Similarly Situated,

Plaintiffs,

- against -

Blue Pacific, Inc. d/b/a 110 Japan, Sonny Lin, Hong "John" (Middle Name Unknown) Lin, "John" (First Name Unknown) Wen, "Jane" (First Name Unknown) Wen, Kan Pat Kong, Sau Man Kong, D Shek Yee, Bonny "Doe" (Last Name Unknown), Li Chen

Defendants.

Case No.

COLLECTIVE & CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs Chun Ping Yim and Ji Zhao, on their own behalf and on behalf of all others similarly situated, by and through their undersigned attorneys, Hang & Associates, PLLC, hereby file this complaint against the Defendants Blue Pacific, Inc. d/b/a 110 Japan, Sonny Lin, Hong "John" (Middle Name Unknown) Lin, "John" (First Name Unknown) Wen, "Jane" (First Name Unknown) Wen, Kan Pat Kong, Sau Man Kong, D Shek Yee, Bonny "Doe" (Last Name Unknown), Li Chen (collectively "Defendants"), allege and show the Court the following:

INTRODUCTION

- 1. This is an action brought by Plaintiff on his own behalf and on behalf of similarly situated employees, alleging violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq. ("FLSA") and the New York Labor Law, arising from Defendants' various willful and unlawful employment policies, patterns and/or practices.
- 2. Upon information and belief, Defendants have willfully and intentionally committed widespread violations of the FLSA and NYLL by engaging in a pattern and practice of

failing to pay their employees, including Plaintiffs, overtime compensation for all hours worked over forty (40) each workweek.

- 3. Plaintiffs allege pursuant to the FLSA, that he is entitled to recover from the Defendants: (1) unpaid overtime wages, (2) unlawful retention of tips (3) liquidated damages, (4) prejudgment and post-judgment interest; and (5) attorneys' fees and costs.
- 4. Plaintiffs further allege pursuant to New York Labor Law § 650 et seq. and 12 New York Codes, Rules and Regulations §§ 146 ("NYCRR") that they are entitled to recover from the Defendants: (1) unpaid overtime compensation, (2) unlawful retention of tips, (3) unpaid "spread of hours" premium for each day they worked ten (10) or more hours, (4) compensation for failure to provide wage notice at the time of hiring and failure to provide paystubs in violation of the NYLL (5) liquidated damages equal to the sum of unpaid "spread of hours" premium, and unpaid overtime pursuant to the NY Wage Theft Prevention Act; (6) prejudgment and post-judgment interest; and (7) attorney's fees and costs.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 5. This Court has original federal question jurisdiction over this controversy under 29 U.S.C. §216(b), 28 U.S.C. § 1331, and has supplemental jurisdiction over the New York Labor Law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).
- 6. Venue is proper in the Eastern District of New York pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and (c), because Defendants conduct business in this District, and the acts and omissions giving rise to the claims herein alleged took place in this District.

PLAINTIFFS

- 7. Plaintiff Chun Ping Yim is a resident of Queens and was employed as a Hibachi Chef by Blue Pacific, Inc. d/b/a 110 JAPAN located at 179 Walt Whitman Rd, Huntington Station, NY 11746 from May 7, 2015 to August 11, 2017.
- 8. Plaintiff Ji Zhao is a resident of Queens and was employed as a Cook by Blue Pacific, Inc. d/b/a 110 JAPAN located at 179 Walt Whitman Rd, Huntington Station, NY 11746 from July 29, 2016 to March 29, 2017.

DEFENDANTS

- 9. Upon information and belief, Defendant, Blue Pacific, Inc. owns and operates a Japanese restaurant in Suffolk County located at 179 Walt Whitman Rd, Huntington Station, NY 11746.
- 10. Upon information and belief, Defendant, Blue Pacific, Inc. d/b/a 110 Japan had gross sales in excess of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) per year. Upon information and belief, Best Buffet, Inc. purchased and handled goods moved in interstate commerce.
- 11. Upon information and belief, Defendant Yee Dai Shek is the owner, officer, director and/or managing agent of Best Buffet, Inc. at 179 Walt Whitman Rd, Huntington Station, NY 11746 and participated in the day-to-day operations of 110 Japan and acted intentionally and maliciously and is an employer pursuant to FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §203d, and regulations promulgated thereunder, 29 C.F.R. §791.2, NYLL §2 and the regulations thereunder, and is jointly and severally liable with Blue Pacific, Inc.
- 12. Upon information and belief, Defendant Yee Dai Shek owns the stock of Blue Pacific, Inc. d/b/a 110 Japan and manages and makes all business decisions including but not limited to the amount in salary the employee will receive and the number of hours employees will work. (See Exhibit 2).

- 13. Upon information and belief, Defendant Sonny Lin is the owner, officer, director and/or managing agent of Blue Pacific, Inc. at 179 Walt Whitman Rd, Huntington Station, NY 11746 and participated in the day-to-day operations of 110 Japan and acted intentionally and maliciously and is an employer pursuant to FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §203d, and regulations promulgated thereunder, 29 C.F.R. §791.2, NYLL §2 and the regulations thereunder, and is jointly and severally liable with Blue Pacific, Inc.
- 14. Upon information and belief, Defendant Sonny Lin owns the stock of Blue Pacific, Inc. d/b/a 110 Japan and manages and makes all business decisions including but not limited to the amount in salary the employee will receive and the number of hours employees will work. (See Exhibit 2).
- Unknown) is the owner, officer, director and/or managing agent of Blue Pacific, Inc. at 179 Walt Whitman Rd, Huntington Station, NY 11746 and participated in the day-to-day operations of 110 Japan and acted intentionally and maliciously and is an employer pursuant to FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §203d, and regulations promulgated thereunder, 29 C.F.R. §791.2, NYLL §2 and the regulations thereunder, and is jointly and severally liable with Blue Pacific, Inc.
- 16. Upon information and belief, Defendant Hong "John" Lin (Middle Name Unknown) owns the stock of Blue Pacific, Inc. d/b/a 110 Japan and manages and makes all business decisions including but not limited to the amount in salary the employee will receive and the number of hours employees will work. (See Exhibit 2).
- 17. Upon information and belief, Defendant "John" (first name unknown) Wen is the owner, officer, director and/or managing agent of Blue Pacific, Inc. at 179 Walt Whitman Rd, Huntington Station, NY 11746 and participated in the day-to-day operations of 110 Japan and

acted intentionally and maliciously and is an employer pursuant to FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §203d, and regulations promulgated thereunder, 29 C.F.R. §791.2, NYLL §2 and the regulations thereunder, and is jointly and severally liable with Blue Pacific, Inc.

- 18. Upon information and belief, Defendant "John" Wen owns the stock of Blue Pacific, Inc. d/b/a 110 Japan and manages and makes all business decisions including but not limited to the amount in salary the employee will receive and the number of hours employees will work. (See Exhibit 2).
- 19. Upon information and belief, Defendant "Jane" (first name unknown) Wen is the owner, officer, director and/or managing agent of Blue Pacific, Inc. at 179 Walt Whitman Rd, Huntington Station, NY 11746 and participated in the day-to-day operations of 110 Japan and acted intentionally and maliciously and is an employer pursuant to FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §203d, and regulations promulgated thereunder, 29 C.F.R. §791.2, NYLL §2 and the regulations thereunder, and is jointly and severally liable with Blue Pacific, Inc.
- 20. Upon information and belief, Defendant "Jane" Wen owns the stock of Blue Pacific, Inc. d/b/a 110 Japan and manages and makes all business decisions including but not limited to the amount in salary the employee will receive and the number of hours employees will work. (See Exhibit 2).
- Upon information and belief, Defendant Bonny "Doe" (last name unknown) is the owner, officer, director and/or managing agent of Blue Pacific, Inc. at 179 Walt Whitman Rd, Huntington Station, NY 11746 and participated in the day-to-day operations of 110 Japan and acted intentionally and maliciously and is an employer pursuant to FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §203d, and regulations promulgated thereunder, 29 C.F.R. §791.2, NYLL §2 and the regulations thereunder, and is jointly and severally liable with Blue Pacific, Inc.

- 22. Upon information and belief, Defendant Bonny "Doe" (last name unknown) owns the stock of Blue Pacific, Inc. d/b/a 110 Japan and manages and makes all business decisions including but not limited to the amount in salary the employee will receive and the number of hours employees will work. (See Exhibit 2).
- 23. Upon information and belief, Defendant Li Chen is the owner, officer, director and/or managing agent of Blue Pacific, Inc. at 179 Walt Whitman Rd, Huntington Station, NY 11746 and participated in the day-to-day operations of 110 Japan and acted intentionally and maliciously and is an employer pursuant to FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §203d, and regulations promulgated thereunder, 29 C.F.R. §791.2, NYLL §2 and the regulations thereunder, and is jointly and severally liable with Blue Pacific, Inc.
- 24. Upon information and belief, Defendant Li Chen owns the stock of Blue Pacific, Inc. d/b/a 110 Japan and manages and makes all business decisions including but not limited to the amount in salary the employee will receive and the number of hours employees will work. (See Exhibit 2).
- 25. Upon information and belief, Defendant Kan Pat Kong is the owner, officer, director and/or managing agent of Blue Pacific, Inc. at 179 Walt Whitman Rd, Huntington Station, NY 11746 and participated in the day-to-day operations of 110 Japan and acted intentionally and maliciously and is an employer pursuant to FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §203d, and regulations promulgated thereunder, 29 C.F.R. §791.2, NYLL §2 and the regulations thereunder, and is jointly and severally liable with Blue Pacific, Inc.
- 26. Upon information and belief, Defendant Kan Pat Kong owns the stock of Blue Pacific, Inc. d/b/a 110 Japan and manages and makes all business decisions including but not

limited to the amount in salary the employee will receive and the number of hours employees will work. (See Exhibit 2).

- 27. Upon information and belief, Defendant Sau Man Kong is the owner, officer, director and/or managing agent of Blue Pacific, Inc. at 179 Walt Whitman Rd, Huntington Station, NY 11746 and participated in the day-to-day operations of 110 Japan and acted intentionally and maliciously and is an employer pursuant to FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §203d, and regulations promulgated thereunder, 29 C.F.R. §791.2, NYLL §2 and the regulations thereunder, and is jointly and severally liable with Blue Pacific, Inc.
- 28. Upon information and belief, Defendant Sau Man Kong owns the stock of Blue Pacific, Inc. d/b/a 110 Japan and manages and makes all business decisions including but not limited to the amount in salary the employee will receive and the number of hours employees will work. (See Exhibit 2).
- 29. At all times relevant herein, Blue Pacific, Inc. was, and continues to be, an "enterprise engaged in commerce" within the meaning of FLSA.
- 30. At all relevant times, the work performed by Plaintiffs was directly essential to the business operated by Blue Pacific, Inc.
- 31. At all relevant times, Defendants knowingly and willfully failed to pay Plaintiffs his lawfully earned overtime compensation and spread-of-hour premiums, and failed to provide him a wage notice at the time of hiring in violation of the NYLL.
- 32. Plaintiffs have fulfilled all conditions precedent to the institution of this action and/or conditions have been waived.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 33. Defendants committed the following alleged acts knowingly, intentionally and willfully.
- 34. Defendants knew that the nonpayment of overtime pay, spread of hours pay, and failure to provide the required wage notice at the time of hiring would financially injure Plaintiffs and similarly situated employees and violate state and federal laws.

Plaintiff Chun Ping Yim

- 35. From May 7, 2015 to August 11, 2017, Plaintiff Yim was hired by Defendants to work as a Hibachi Chef for Defendants' restaurant located at 179 Walt Whitman Rd, Huntington Station, NY 11746.
- 36. Throughout his employment Plaintiff's weekly shift alternated between five days per week and six days per week. In general, for every four weeks, there would be three weeks during when Plaintiff Yim would work five days per week; and one week six days per week. Plaintiff Yim took one day or two days off randomly between Monday and Thursday.
- 37. From Monday through Thursday, if he is working, his work schedule ran from 11 am to 10 pm with a one-hour-and-forty-five-minute break for nine-and-a-quarter (9.25) hours per day, his work schedule on Friday and Saturday ran from 11 am to 11 pm with a one-hour-and-forty-five-minute break for ten-and-a-quarter (10.25) hours. On Sunday Plaintiff worked from 12:30 pm to 10 pm without any break for nine-and-a-half (9.5) hours. In sum, Plaintiff worked forty-eight and a half (48.5) hours for a five-day weekly shift and fifty-seven and forty-five minutes (57.75) for a six-day weekly shift.
- 38. Plaintiff Yim occasionally drove employees from Flushing, New York to the restaurant on one or two days per month.

- 39. Plaintiff Yim was paid at a fixed daily rate at one hundred dollars (\$100) from May 7, 2015 to November 2016; and one hundred and ten dollars (\$110) from December 2016 to August 11, 2017. Plaintiff received his compensation in both cash and check.
- 40. During all relevant periods above Plaintiff received tips from the customer and his average weekly tip income ranges from \$350 to \$400.
- 41. During all the relevant periods, Defendants have a policy and practice of unlawful deduction of tips. Specifically, from November 2015 to February 2016 Defendants deducted the amount equal 3% percent of the business's gross revenue from the total tip amount the Hibachi section received (constitute about 18% of the total tips received by the Hibachi section), from March 2016 to April 2016 Defendants deducted the amount equal 3.5% percent of the business's gross revenue from the total tip amount the Hibachi section received (constitute about 20% of the total tips received by the Hibachi section). Consequently, Defendants deducted about \$40 to \$50 from Plaintiff's tips per week.
- 42. Defendants did not keep any record of the working time for Plaintiff Yim until August 2016 when Defendants started using time cards for Hibachi chefs. Despite that, Plaintiff was not paid according to the hours on the time cards.

Plaintiff Ji Zhao

- 43. From July 29, 2016 to March 29, 2017, Plaintiff Zhao was hired by Defendants to work as a Cook for Defendants' restaurant located at 179 Walt Whitman Rd, Huntington Station, NY 11746.
- 44. Throughout his employment Plaintiff worked six days, and took one day off on Wednesday per week.

- 45. From Monday through Thursday, if he is working, his work schedule ran from 11 am to 10 pm with a one-and-a-half-hour break for nine-and-a-half (9.5) hours per day, his work schedule on Friday and Saturday ran from 11 am to 11 pm with a one-and-a-half-hour break for ten-and-a-quarter (10.5) hours. On Sunday Plaintiff worked from 12:30 pm to 10 pm without any break for nine-and-a-half (9.5) hours. In sum, Plaintiff worked fifty-nine-hour (59) per week if he worked only as a cook.
- 46. Plaintiff Zhao was also responsible for driving employees to and off work during half of his entire employment with the Defendants. In general, Plaintiff normally picked up the first employee at Flushing, NY at 10:10 am from Monday to Saturday, and 11:40 am on Sunday; he normally dropped off the last employee at Flushing, NY at 11:00 pm from Sunday to Thursday, and 12:00 am (the next day) on Friday and Saturday. Therefore, Plaintiff Zhao worked seventy (70) hours every week when he worked both as a cook and a driver.
- 47. Plaintiff Zhao was paid at a fixed weekly rate at six hundred and fifty dollars (\$650) from July 29, 2016 to September 29, 2016; and six hundred and seventy-five dollars (\$675) from September 30, 2016 to March 29, 2017. Plaintiff Zhao was paid additionally fifteen (\$15) dollars per day on which he drove employees from and off work. Plaintiff received his compensation in both cash and check.
 - 48. Defendant never kept records for the number of hours for Plaintiff Zhao.
- 49. Defendants did not compensate Plaintiffs for overtime compensation according to state and federal laws.
- 50. Plaintiffs were not compensated for New York's "spread of hours" premium for shifts that lasted longer than ten (10) hours.
 - 51. Defendants did not provide Plaintiffs with wage notices at the time of their hiring.

- 52. Defendants committed the following alleged acts knowingly, intentionally and willfully.
- 53. Defendants knew that the nonpayment of overtime and the "spread of hours" premium would economically injure Plaintiffs and the Class Members by their violation of federal and state laws.
- 54. While employed by Defendants, Plaintiffs were not exempt under federal and state laws requiring employers to pay employees overtime.
- 55. Plaintiffs and the New York Class Members' workdays frequently lasted longer than 10 hours.
- 56. Defendants did not pay Plaintiffs and other Class members' New York's "spread of hours" premium for every day in which they worked over 10 hours.
- 57. Defendants did not provide Plaintiffs and other Class members with written notices about the terms and conditions of their employment upon hire in relation to their rate of pay, regular pay cycle and rate of overtime pay. These notices were similarly not provided upon Plaintiffs' and other Class members' pay increase(s).
- 58. Defendants committed the foregoing acts against the Plaintiffs, the FLSA Collective Plaintiffs, and the Class.

COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS

59. Defendants knowingly and willfully operated their business with a policy of not paying Plaintiffs and other similarly situated employees either the FLSA overtime rate (of time and one-half), or the New York State overtime rate (of time and one-half), in violation of the FLSA and New York Labor Law and the supporting federal and New York State Department of Labor Regulations.

- 60. Defendants knowingly and willfully operated their business with a policy of not paying the New York State "spread of hours" premium to Plaintiffs and other similarly situated employees.
- 61. Plaintiff brings this action individually and on behalf of all other and former non-exempt employees who have been or were employed by the Defendants at their restaurant location for up to the last three (3) years, through entry of judgment in this case (the "Collective Action Period") and whom failed to receive spread-of-hours pay, and overtime compensation for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week (the "Collective Action Members"), and have been subject to the same common decision, policy, and plan to not provide required wage notices at the time of hiring, in contravention to federal and state labor laws.
- 62. Upon information and belief, the Collection Action Members are so numerous the joinder of all members is impracticable. The identity and precise number of such persons are unknown, and the facts upon which the calculations of that number may be ascertained are presently within the sole control of the Defendants. Upon information and belief, there are more than ten (10) Collective Action members, who have worked for or have continued to work for the Defendants during the Collective Action Period, most of whom would not likely file individual suits because they fear retaliation, lack adequate financial resources, access to attorneys, or knowledge of their claims. Therefore, Plaintiff submits that this case should be certified as a collection action under the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §216(b).
- 63. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Collective Action Members, and have retained counsel that is experienced and competent in the field of employment law and class action litigation. Plaintiff has no interests that are contrary to or in conflict with those members of this collective action.

- 64. This action should be certified as collective action because the prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the collective action would risk creating either inconsistent or varying adjudication with respect to individual members of this class that would as a practical matter be dispositive of the interest of the other members not party to the adjudication, or subsequently impair or impede their ability to protect their interests.
- 65. A collective action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy, since joinder of all members is impracticable. Furthermore, inasmuch as the damages suffered by individual Collective Action Members may be relatively small, the expense and burden of individual litigation makes it virtually impossible for the members of the collective action to individually seek redress for the wrongs done to them. There will be no difficulty in the management of this action as collective action.
- 66. Questions of law and fact common to members of the collective action predominate over questions that may affect only individual members because Defendants have acted on grounds generally applicable to all members. Among the questions of fact common to Plaintiffs and other Collective Action Members are:
 - a. Whether the Defendants employed Collective Action members within the meaning of the FLSA;
 - b. Whether the Defendants failed to pay the Collective Action Members overtime wages for all hours worked above forty (40) each workweek in violation of the FLSA and the regulation promulgated thereunder;
 - c. Whether the Defendants failed to pay the Collective Action Members spread of hours payment for each day an employee worked over 10 hours;

- d. Whether the Defendants failed to provide the Collective Action Members with a wage notice at the time of hiring as required by the NYLL;
- e. Whether the Defendants' violations of the FLSA are willful as that terms is used within the context of the FLSA; and,
- f. Whether the Defendants are liable for all damages claimed hereunder, including but not limited to compensatory, punitive, and statutory damages, interest, costs and disbursements and attorneys' fees.
- 67. Plaintiff knows of no difficulty that will be encountered in the management of this litigation that would preclude its maintenance as a collective action.
- 68. Plaintiff and others similarly situated have been substantially damaged by Defendants' unlawful conduct.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 69. Plaintiffs bring their NYLL claims pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure ("F. R. C. P.") Rule 23, on behalf of all non-exempt persons employed by Defendants at their restaurant location doing business as 110 Japan on or after the date that is six years before the filing of the Complaint in this case as defined herein (the "Class Period").
- 70. All said persons, including Plaintiffs, are referred to herein as the "Class." The Class members are readily ascertainable. The number and identity of the Class members are determinable from the records of Defendants. The hours assigned and worked, the positions held, and the rate of pay for each Class Member is also determinable from Defendants' records. For purpose of notice and other purposes related to this action, their names and addresses are readily available from Defendants. Notice can be provided by means permissible under said F.R.C.P 23.

- 71. The proposed Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable, and the disposition of their claims as a class will benefit the parities and the Court. Although the precise number of such persons is unknown, and the facts on which the calculation of the number is presently within the sole control of the Defendants, upon information and belief, there are more than ten (10) members of the class.
- 72. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of those claims which could be alleged by any member of the Class, and the relief sought is typical of the relief that would be sought by each member of the Class in separate actions. All the Class members were subject to the same corporate practices of Defendants, as alleged herein, of failing to pay overtime compensation. Defendants' corporation wide policies and practices, including but not limited to their failure to provide a wage notice at the time of hiring, affected all Class members similarly, and Defendants benefited from the same type of unfair and/ or wrongful acts as to each Class member. Plaintiffs and other Class members sustained similar losses, injuries and damages arising from the same unlawful policies, practices and procedures.
- 73. Plaintiffs are able to fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class and has no interests antagonistic to the Class. Plaintiffs are represented by attorneys who are experienced and competent in representing plaintiffs in both class action and wage and hour employment litigation cases.
- 74. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy, particularly in the context of wage and hour litigation where individual Class members lack the financial resources to vigorously prosecute corporate defendants. Class action treatment will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently, and without the

unnecessary duplication of efforts and expenses that numerous individual actions engender. The losses, injuries, and damages suffered by each of the individual Class members are small in the sense pertinent to a class action analysis, thus the expenses and burden of individual litigation would make it extremely difficult or impossible for the individual Class members to redress the wrongs done to them. Further, important public interests will be served by addressing the matter as a class action. The adjudication of individual litigation claims would result in a great expenditure of Court and public resources; however, treating the claims as a class action would result in a significant saving of these costs. The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Class would create a risk of inconsistent and/or varying adjudications with respect to the individual members of the Class, establishing incompatible standards of conduct for Defendants and resulting in the impairment of class members' rights and the disposition of their interests through actions to which they were not parties. The issues in this action can be decided by means of common, class-wide proof. In addition, if appropriate, the Court can, and is empowered to, fashion methods to efficiently manage this action as a class action.

75. Upon information and belief, defendants and other employers throughout the state violate the New York Labor Law. Current employees are often afraid to assert their rights out of fear of direct or indirect retaliation. Former employees are fearful of bringing claims because doing so can harm their employment, future employment, and future efforts to secure employment. Class actions provide class members who are not named in the complaint a degree of anonymity which allows for the vindication of their rights while eliminating or reducing these risks.

- 76. There are questions of law and fact common to the Class which predominate over any questions affecting only individual class members, including:
 - a. Whether Defendants employed Plaintiffs and the Class within the meaning of the New York law;
 - b. Whether Plaintiffs and Class members are entitled to overtime under the New York Labor Law;
 - c. Whether Defendants maintained a policy, pattern and/or practice of failing to pay Plaintiff and the Rule 23 Class spread-of-hours pay as required by the NYLL;
 - d. Whether the Defendants provided wage notices at the time of hiring to Plaintiffs and class members as required by the NYLL;
 - e. At what common rate, or rates subject to common method of calculation were and are the Defendants required to pay the Class members for their work

STATEMENT OF CLAIM

COUNT I

[Violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act—Overtime Wage Brought on behalf of the Plaintiffs and the FLSA Collective]

- 77. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 78. The FLSA provides that no employer engaged in commerce shall employ a covered employee for a work week longer than forty (40) hours unless such employee receives compensation for employment in excess of forty (40) hours at a rate not less than one and one-half times the regular rate at which he or she is employed, or one and one-half times the minimum wage, whichever is greater. 29 USC §207(a).

79. The FLSA provides that any employer who violates the provisions of 29

U.S.C. §207 shall be liable to the employees affected in the amount of their unpaid overtime

compensation, and in an additional equal amount as liquidated damages. 29 USC §216(b).

80. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiffs and the FLSA Collective their overtime pay

violated the FLSA.

At all relevant times, Defendants had, and continue to have, a policy of practice of 81.

refusing to pay overtime compensation at the statutory rate of time and a half to Plaintiff

and Collective Action Members for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per workweek,

which violated and continues to violate the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§201, et seq., including 29

U.S.C. §§207(a)(1) and 215(a).

82. The FLSA and supporting regulations required employers to notify employees of

employment law requires employers to notify employment law requirements. 29 C.F.R. §516.4.

83. Defendants willfully failed to notify Plaintiff and FLSA Collective of the

requirements of the employment laws in order to facilitate their exploitation of Plaintiffs'

and FLSA Collectives' labor.

84. Defendants knowingly and willfully disregarded the provisions of the FLSA

as evidenced by their failure to compensate Plaintiff and Collective Class Members the statutory

overtime rate of time and one half for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) per week when they

knew or should have known such was due and that failing to do so would financially injure

Plaintiffs and Collective Action members.

COUNT II

[Violation of New York Labor Law—Overtime Pay Brought on behalf of Plaintiffs and the Rule 23 Class]

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- 85. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 86. Pursuant to the New York Wage Theft Prevention Act, an employer who fails to pay proper overtime compensation shall be liable, in addition to the amount of any underpayments, for liquidated damages equal to the total of such under-payments found to be due the employee.
- 87. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff and the Rule 23 Class their overtime pay violated the NYLL.
 - 88. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff and the Rule 23 Class was not in good faith.

COUNT III

[Violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act — Improper Retention of Tips Brought on behalf of Plaintiffs and the FLSA Collective]

- 89. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 90. Plaintiffs bring this Cause of Action pursuant to 29 U.S.C § 216(b) on behalf of themselves and all other similarly situated persons, if any, who consent in writing to join this action.
- 91. The FLSA prohibits any arrangement between the employer and a tipped employee whereby any part of the tip received becomes the property of the employer. A tip is the sole property of the tipped employee.
- 92. Upon information and belief, Defendants did not allow Plaintiffs and the FLSA Collective to retain all the tips they earned. Rather, upon information and belief, Defendants unlawfully retained portions of the tips earned by Plaintiffs and the FLSA Collective.

- 93. The foregoing conduct, as alleged, constitutes a willful violation of the FLSA within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 255. Defendants were aware or should have been aware that the practices described in this Collective Action Complaint were unlawful. Defendants have not made a good faith effort to comply with the FLSA with respect to the compensation of Plaintiffs and the FLSA Collective.
- 94. Because Defendants' violations of the FLSA have been willful, a three-year statute of limitations applies, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 255.
- 95. Due to Defendants' FLSA violations, Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the FLSA Collective, are entitled to recover from Defendants the tips that were unlawfully retained by the Defendants, an additional, equal amount as liquidated damages for Defendants' willful violations of the FLSA, together with interest, reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and disbursements in connection with this action, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

COUNT IV

[Violation of New York Labor Law Unlawful —Retention Gratuities Under NYLL]

- 96. Plaintiff Yim re-alleges and incorporate by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 97. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff Yim was employed by some or all of the Defendants within the meaning of NYLL §§ 2 and 651.
- 98. NYLL § 196-d bars an employer from retaining "any part of a gratuity or of any charge purported to be gratuity [.]"
- 99. Defendants retained part of Plaintiff Yim's gratuities for unauthorized purpose in violation of NYLL § 196-d.
 - 100. Defendants' retention of Plaintiff Yim's gratuities was willful.

101. Accordingly, Plaintiff Yim is entitled to recover from Defendants, jointly and severally, damages in the amount of unlawfully retained gratuities and an amount equal to one quarter of their unlawfully retained gratuities in the form of liquidated damages, as well as reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of the action, including pre-and post-judgment interest, pursuant to NYLL § 198.

COUNT V

[Violation of New York Labor Law—Spread of Time Pay Brought on behalf of Plaintiffs and the Rule 23 Class]

- 102. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 103. The NYLL requires employers to pay an extra hour's pay for every day that an employee works an interval in excess of ten hours pursuant to NYLL §§190, et seq., and §§650, et seq., and New York State Department of Labor regulations §146-1.6.
- 104. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiffs and Rule 23 Class spread-of-hours pay was not in good faith.

COUNT VI

[Violation of New York Labor Law—Time of Hire Wage Notice Requirement]

- 91. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 92. The NYLL and supporting regulations require employers to provide written notice of the rate or rates of pay and the basis thereof, whether paid by the hour, shift, day, week, salary, piece, commission, or other; allowances, if any, claimed as a part of minimum wage, including tip, meal, or lodging allowances; the regular pay day designated by the employer; the name of the employer; any "doing business as" names used by the employer; the physical address of

employer's main office or principal place of business, and a mailing address if different; the telephone number of the employer. NYLL §195-1(a).

- 93. Defendants intentionally failed to provide notice to employees in violation of New York Labor Law § 195, which requires all employers to provide written notice in the employee's primary language about the terms and conditions of employment related to rate of pay, regular pay cycle and rate of overtime on his or her first day of employment.
- 94. Defendants not only did not provide notice to each employee at Time of Hire, but failed to provide notice to each Plaintiff even after the fact.
- 95. Due to Defendants' violations of New York Labor Law, each Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants, jointly and severally, \$50 for each workday that the violation occurred or continued to occur, up to \$5,000, together with costs and attorneys' fees pursuant to New York Labor Law. N.Y. Lab. Law §198(1-b).

COUNT VII [Violation of New York Labor Law—New York Pay Stub Requirement]

- 96. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 97. The NYLL and supporting regulations require employers to provide detailed paystub information to employees every payday. NYLL §195-1(d).
- 98. Defendants have failed to make a good faith effort to comply with the New York Labor Law with respect to compensation of each Plaintiff, and did not provide the paystub on or after each Plaintiffs' payday.
- 99. Due to Defendants' violations of New York Labor Law, each Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants, jointly and severally, \$250 for each workday of the violation, up to

\$5,000 for each Plaintiff together with costs and attorneys' fees pursuant to New York Labor Law N.Y. Lab. Law §198(1-d).

Prayer For Relief

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves, and the FLSA collective plaintiffs and rule 23 class, respectfully request that this court enter a judgment providing the following relief:

- a) Authorizing plaintiffss at the earliest possible time to give notice of this collective action, or that the court issue such notice, to all persons who are presently, or have been employed by defendants as non-exempt tipped or non-tipped employees. Such notice shall inform them that the civil notice has been filed, of the nature of the action, of their right to join this lawsuit if they believe they were denied proper hourly compensation and premium overtime wages;
- b) Certification of this case as a class action pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;
- c) Designation of Plaintiffs as representatives of the Rule 23 Class, and counsel of record as Class counsel;
- d) Certification of this case as a collective action pursuant to FLSA;
- e) Issuance of 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 assert timely FLSA claims and state claims in this action by filing individual Consent to Sue forms pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), and appointing Plaintiffs and their counsels to represent the Collective Action Members;
- f) A declaratory judgment that the practices complained of herein are unlawful under FLSA and New York Labor Law;

- g) An injunction against Blue Pacific, Inc., its officers, agents, successors, employees, representatives and any and all persons acting in concert with them as provided by law, from engaging in each of unlawful practices and policies set forth herein;
- h) An award of unpaid overtime wages due under FLSA and New York Labor Law;
- i) An award of unpaid "spread of hours" premium due under the New York Labor Law;
- j) An award of unlawfully retained gratuities;
- k) An award of "spread of hours" premium due under the New York Labor Law;
- l) An award of damages for Defendants' failure to provide wage notice at the time of hiring as required under the New York Labor Law.
- m) An award of liquidated and/or punitive damages as a result of Defendants' knowing and willful failure to pay overtime compensation pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216;
- n) An award of liquidated and/ or punitive damages as a result of Defendants' willful failure to pay overtime compensation and "spread of hours" premium pursuant to New York Labor Law;
- o) An award of costs and expenses of this action together with reasonable attorneys' and expert fees pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b) and NYLL §§198 and 663;
- p) The cost and disbursements of this action;
- q) An award of prejudgment and post-judgment fees;
- r) Providing that if any amounts remain unpaid upon the expiration of ninety days following the issuance of judgment, or ninety days after expiration of the time to appeal and no appeal is then pending, whichever is later, the total amount of judgment shall automatically increase by fifteen percent, as required by NYLL §198(4); and
- s) Such other and further legal and equitable relief as this Court deems necessary, just, and

proper.

Dated: Flushing, New York, August 18, 2017 HA

HANG & ASSOCIATES, PLLC

/s/ Jian Hang Jian Hang, Esq. 136-18 39th Avenue, Suite 1003 Flushing, New York, 11354 Tel: (718)353-8588

jhang@hanglaw.com
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

EXHIBIT I

CONSENT TO SUE UNDER FEDERAL FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

I am an employee currently or formerly employed by Blue Pacific, Inc., Sonny Lin, and/or related entities. I consent to be a plaintiff in an action to collect unpaid wages. I agree that I am bound by the terms of the Contingent Fee Retainer signed by the named plaintiff in this case.

CONSENT TO SUE UNDER FEDERAL FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

I am an employee currently or formerly employed by Blue Pacific, Inc., Sonny Lin, and/or related entities. I consent to be a plaintiff in an action to collect unpaid wages. I agree that I am bound by the terms of the Contingent Fee Retainer signed by the named plaintiff in this case.

EXHIBIT II

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ENFORCE SHAREHOLDER LIABILITY FOR SERVICES RENDERED

TO: SONNY LIN, HONG "JOHN" LIN (Middle Name Unknown), "JOHN" WEN (First Name Unknown), "JANE" WEN (First Name Unknown), KAN PAT KONG, SAU MAN KONG, YEE D SHEK, BONNY "DOE" (Last Name Unknown), LI CHEN

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that pursuant to the provisions of Section 630 of the Business Corporation Law of New York, you are hereby notified that Chun Ping Yim, Ji Zhao and others similarly situated intend to charge you and hold you personally liable, jointly and severally, as one of the ten largest shareholders of Blue Pacific, Inc. for all debts, wages, and/or salaries due and owing to them as laborers, servants and/or employees of the said corporations for services performed by them for the said corporations within the six (6) years preceding the date of this notice and have expressly authorized the undersigned, as their attorney, to make this demand on their behalf.

Dated: August 18, 2017

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern Dist	trict of New York
Chun Ping Yim and Ji Zhao, Individually and on behalf of All Other Employees Similarly Situated,))))
Plaintiff(s)	Civil Action No.
v. Blue Pacific, Inc. d/b/a 110 Japan, Sonny Lin, Hong " John" (Middle Name Unknown) Lin, "John" (First Name Unknown) Wen, "Jane" (First Name Unknown) Wen, Kan Pat Kong, Sau Man Kong, et al) CIVII Action No.)))))))))))))))))))
Defendant(s))
SUMMONS II	N A CIVIL ACTION
Name Unknown) Wen, ".	Lin, Hong "John" (Middle Name Unknown) Lin, "John" (First Jane" (First Name Unknown) Wen, Kan Pat Kong, Sau Manny "Doe" (Last Name Unknown), Li Chen
A lawsuit has been filed against you.	
are the United States or a United States agency, or an off P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an a	
If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be You also must file your answer or motion with the court.	be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
	DOUGLAS C. PALMER CLERK OF COURT
Date:	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No.

PROOF OF SERVICE

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

was ra	This summons for (no ceived by me on (date)	ame of individual and title, if a	ny)						
was re	cerved by the on (aate)		·						
	☐ I personally serve	ed the summons on the inc	lividual at (place)						
			on (date)	; or					
	☐ I left the summon								
	, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there								
	on (date)	, and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or							
	☐ I served the summons on (name of individual)								
	designated by law to	accept service of process	s on behalf of (name of organization)						
			on (date)	; or					
	☐ I returned the sum	I returned the summons unexecuted because							
	☐ Other (<i>specify</i>):								
	My fees are \$	for travel and S	\$ for services, for a total of \$	0.00					
	I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.								
Date:		_							
			Server's signature						
		_	Printed name and title						
		_	Server's address						

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

Print Save As... Reset

Print

Save As...

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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 purpose of initiating the civil de					1974, is requi	ired for the use of	the Clerk of C	ourt for th	e
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS Chun Ping Yim and Ji Zhao (b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Queens (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				DEFENDANTS Blue Pacific, Inc. d/b/a 110 Japan, Sonny Lin, Hong "John" (Middle Name Unknown) Lin, "John" (First Name Unknown) Wen, "Jane" (Fi Name Unknown) Wen, Kan Pat Kong, Sau Man Kong. et al County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Suffolk (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.					
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A HANG & ASSOCIATES, 136-18 39TH AVE., SUIT FLUSHING, NY 11354 (7	PLLC FE 1003	<i>r)</i>		Attorneys (If Known)					
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	ICTION (D) "V": C	D D 01)	ш ст	<u> </u> TIZENSHIP OF P	DINCIDA	I DADTIES	/DI	0 P (
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	3 Federal Question (U.S. Government)			(For Diversity Cases Only) P	TF DEF	Incorporated or Pri	and One Box j		
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)		Citize	en of Another State	1 2 🗖 2	of Business In T Incorporated and P of Business In A	Principal Place	□ 5	□ 5
				en or Subject of a reign Country	1 3 1 3	Foreign Nation		□ 6	□ 6
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VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	UNDER RULE 2	IS A CLASS ACTION 3, F.R.Cv.P.	D	EMAND \$		CHECK YES only URY DEMAND:		n complair No	ıt:
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCKE	ET NUMBER			
DATE 08/18/2017		SIGNATURE OF ATT /S JIAN HANG	ORNEY (OF RECORD					
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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. $I, \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$, counsel for $\underline{\hspace{1cm}}$, do hereby certify that the above captioned civil action is ineligible for compulsory arbitration for the following reason(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 - FEDERAL RULES CIVIL PROCEDURE 7.1 Identify any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation that owns 10% or more or its stocks: **RELATED CASE STATEMENT (Section VIII on the Front of this Form)** Please list all cases that are arguably related pursuant to Division of Business Rule 50.3.1 in Section VIII on the front of this form. Rule 50.3.1 (a) provides that "A civil case is "related" to another civil case for purposes of this guideline when, because of the similarity of facts and legal issues or because the cases arise from the same transactions or events, a substantial saving of judicial resources is likely to result from assigning both cases to the same judge and magistrate judge." Rule 50.3.1 (b) provides that "A civil case shall not be deemed "related" to another civil case merely because the civil case: (A) involves identical legal issues, or (B) involves the same parties." Rule 50.3.1 (c) further provides that "Presumptively, and subject to the power of a judge to determine otherwise pursuant to paragraph (d), civil cases shall not be deemed to be "related" unless both cases are still pending before the court." NY-E DIVISION OF BUSINESS RULE 50.1(d)(2) Is the civil action being filed in the Eastern District removed from a New York State Court located in Nassau or Suffolk 1.) County: NO If you answered "no" above: 2.) a) Did the events or omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in Nassau or Suffolk County? Yes b) Did the events or omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in the Eastern District? Yes If your answer to question 2 (b) is "No," does the defendant (or a majority of the defendants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or Suffolk County, or, in an interpleader action, does the claimant (or a majority of the claimants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or Suffolk County? (Note: A corporation shall be considered a resident of the County in which it has the most significant contacts). **BAR ADMISSION** I am currently admitted in the Eastern District of New York and currently a member in good standing of the bar of this court. Are you currently the subject of any disciplinary action (s) in this or any other state or federal court? (If yes, please explain) Yes

I certify the accuracy of all information provided above.

Signature: /S JIAN HANG

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: Restaurant Owners, Operators of 110 Japan Named in Unpaid Overtime Case