# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

ALICIA GARCIA HERRERA, on behalf of herself, individually, and on behalf of all others similarly-situated,

Plaintiff,

-against-

JAI BALAJI INC d/b/a SUPER 8 BY WYNDHAM LONG ISLAND CITY LGA HOTEL, and S.A. GANDHI, individually, and VIKRAM GANDHI, individually,

Defendants.

Docket No.: 1:19-cv-07164 (MKB) (PK)

#### **COURT AUTHORIZED NOTICE OF LAWSUIT**

If you worked for Jai Balaji Inc d/b/a Super 8 by Wyndham Long Island City LGA Hotel, and/or S.A. Gandhi, individually, and/or Vikram Gandhi, individually, (collectively, "Defendants"), at any time between December 20, 2016 and the present, *please read this Notice*.

Important: You are NOT being sued. This Notice is NOT a solicitation from a lawyer.

The Court authorized this Notice.

- Plaintiff Alicia Garcia Herrera ("Plaintiff") is a former employee of Defendants who worked as a housekeeper and was paid on an hourly basis.
- Plaintiff brought this lawsuit against Defendants on behalf of herself and all other current and former employees who worked for Defendants who were paid on an hourly basis at any time between December 20, 2016 and the present. Plaintiff claims that she worked in excess of forty hours per week and that Defendants did not pay her overtime pay at the rate of time and one-half her regular hourly rate of pay for all hours that she worked over forty each week, in violation of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act and the New York Labor Law. Defendants deny any wrongdoing and maintain that they paid all of their employees in accordance with federal and New York law.
- The Court has authorized Plaintiff to send out this Notice. The Court has not yet decided who is right or who is wrong. However, your legal rights may be affected, and you have a choice to make now.

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS LAWSUIT		
ASK TO BE INCLUDED	If you choose to be included in this collective action, you must complete the "Consent to Join Lawsuit" form at the end of this Notice. You may then share in any proceeds from a settlement or judgment if those bringing the claims are successful and you qualify under the law, but you give up any rights to separately sue the Defendants for the same legal claims in this lawsuit.	
DO NOTHING	By doing nothing, you will not be included in this lawsuit, and the statute of limitations on your claims continues to run.	

#### 1. Why did I get this notice?

You are getting this notice because Defendants' records show that you may have worked for them at some point between December 20, 2016 and the present in a job similar to the one held by Plaintiff.

#### 2. What is a collective action and who is involved?

In a collective action lawsuit, one or more persons can bring a lawsuit on behalf of others who have similar claims. The individual who brought this lawsuit is called the Plaintiff. The corporate entity and individuals that are being sued are called the Defendants. One court resolves the issues for everyone who decides to join the case.

#### 3. What is this collective action lawsuit about?

Plaintiff alleges that Defendants' compensation practices violated federal and New York law. Plaintiff claims that she and others who worked for Defendants and who were paid on an hourly basis are entitled to unpaid overtime wages, liquidated damages, attorneys' fees, and costs.

Defendants deny any wrongdoing and/or liability and maintain that they paid all of their employees in accordance with federal and New York law.

#### 4. What is the purpose and effect of this notice?

This notice is for the sole purpose of determining those persons who wish to be involved in this case.

If you elect to join this proceeding, and if Plaintiff successfully obtains a settlement or a judgment, you may be entitled to some portion of the recovery. There are no assurances that any recovery will be awarded.

You should be aware that a claim under the Fair Labor Standards Act must be brought within two years of the date that the claim accrues, unless you can prove that your employer's violation was "willful," in which case the claim must be brought within three years.

# 5. How do I join this collective action lawsuit?

To participate in this lawsuit, you need to fill out the enclosed form entitled "Consent to Join Lawsuit" and mail it, in the enclosed, postage-paid envelope to Borrelli & Associates, P.L.L.C. Should the enclosed envelope be lost or misplaced, the Consent to Join Lawsuit form must be sent to:

Borrelli & Associates, P.L.L.C. 910 Franklin Avenue, Suite 200 Garden City, New York 11530 Tel: (516) 248-5550

You can also: fax the Consent to Join Lawsuit form to (516) 248-6027; or scan and email it to mjb@employmentlawyernewyork.com

The signed "Consent to Join Lawsuit" form must be filed with the court by January 15, 2021. If your signed "Consent to Join Lawsuit" form is not filed with the Court January 15, 2021, you may not be allowed to participate in this lawsuit.

# 6. If I choose to join this lawsuit, will I have to participate in any legal proceeding?

Most likely, if you choose to join this lawsuit, you will be required to provide information and answer questions relating to your employment with Defendants. You may be required to testify at a deposition or at a trial, respond to written questions, and/or produce documents relevant to the case. For this reason, if you join the lawsuit, you should preserve all documents relating to your employment with the Defendants that are currently in your possession. Plaintiff's attorneys will assist you with these requirements if you elect for them to represent you, as explained below in section 10.

#### 7. What happens if I do nothing at all?

You will not be included in this lawsuit and you will not be affected by any settlement or judgment rendered in this case, whether favorable or unfavorable. The limitations period on your claims will, however, continue to run.

# 8. Can I participate in this collective action lawsuit regardless of my immigration status?

Yes. You have a right to participate in this Lawsuit regardless of your immigration status.

# 9. If I join, will there be any impact on my employment?

No. Federal and New York law both prohibit Defendants from discharging or in any other manner retaliating against you because you joined this case or have in any other way exercised your rights under federal and New York law.

# 10. Do I have a lawyer in this case?

Plaintiff is represented by Borrelli & Associates, P.L.L.C. If you choose to join this Lawsuit, Borrelli & Associates, P.L.L.C. will represent you on a contingency fee basis, meaning that you will not owe any attorneys' fees unless Plaintiff is successful and wins the case or obtains a settlement, in which case the Court will determine the amount of attorneys' fees to be paid from any such settlement or judgment.

You do not have to be represented by Borrelli & Associates, P.L.L.C. and may instead hire another attorney of your choosing, at your own expense, or represent yourself *pro se* without the assistance of a lawyer. If you intend to retain your own lawyer or to represent yourself, you should indicate this on the "Consent to Join Lawsuit" form. If you send back your form but do not indicate that you intend to retain your own lawyer or to represent yourself, the Court will assume that you want Borrelli & Associates, P.L.L.C. to represent you.

# 11. This Notice has been authorized by the Court

This notice and its contents have been authorized by Magistrate Judge Peggy Kuo of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, located in Brooklyn, New York. The Court has not yet ruled on whether Plaintiff's claims or Defendants' defenses have any merit.

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE OR CALL THE COURT OR THE CLERK OF THE COURT ABOUT THIS NOTICE. THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO JOIN THE LAWSUIT. THE COURT HAS TAKEN NO POSITION IN THIS CASE REGARDING THE MERITS OR THE PLAINTIFF'S CLAIMS OR OF THE DEFENDANTS' DEFENSES.

Although the Court has approved the sending of this Notice, the Court expresses no opinion on the merits of the Lawsuit. If you have any questions, you may contact Plaintiff's attorneys, Borrelli & Associates, P.L.L.C., by telephone at (516) 248-5550, or in writing at Borrelli & Associates, P.L.L.C., 910 Franklin Avenue, Suite 200, Garden City, New York 11530, or by email at mjb@employmentlawyernewyork.com.

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JAI BALAJI INC d/b/a SUPER 8 BY WYNDH. LONG ISLAND CITY LGA HOTEL, and S.A. GANDHI, individually, and VIKRAM GANDH individually,	LAWSUIT	
Defendants.		
IF YOU RECEIVED THIS FORM AND WANT TO JOIN STEPS:	THIS LAWSUIT, PLEASE COMPLETE THESE <u>TWO</u>	
1. COMPLETE AND SIGN THIS CONSENT TO JO	DIN LAWSUIT FORM; <u>AND</u>	
2. USE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE TO RETU LATER THAN JANUARY 15, 2021.	JRN THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS BELOW NOT	
Borrelli & Associates, P.L.L.C. 910 Franklin Avenue, Suite 200 Garden City, New York 11530	You can also: fax the Consent to Join Lawsuit form to (516) 248-6027; or scan and email it to mjb@employmentlawyernewyork.com	
I consent to join the lawsuit brought pursuant to the Fair L the New York Code of Rules and Regulations; and I elect to		
Borrelli & Associates, P.L.L.C. I authorize Plaintiff Alicia Garcia Herrera and Borrelli & Associates, P.L.L.C. to act on my behalf in all matters relating to this action,	Another attorney of my choosing, who shall promptly file a notice of appearance on my behalf.	
including any settlement of my claims brought under federal and state laws.	Myself <i>pro se</i> without the assistance of an attorney.	
If you do not select any of the representation options abov will automatically be represented by Plaintiff's lawyers, Boa representation option above will authorize Alicia Garcia Hehalf in all matters relating to this action, including any permitted to proceed with alternative counsel of your own of se without the assistance of an attorney.	Derrelli & Associates, P.L.L.C. Moreover, failure to select Herrera, and Borrelli & Associates, P.L.L.C., to act on your settlement of your federal and state law claims. You are	
SIGNATURE	PRINT NAME	
Address	City, State, Zip Code	
Telephone Number	Email Address	
Start Date of Employment	End Date of Employment	