

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

EUGENE SCALIA,
SECRETARY OF LABOR,
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,

Plaintiff,

v.

Civil Action No. ADC-17-0931

MEZCAL, INC., a corporation,
d/b/a/ MEZCAL MEXICAN RESTAURANT &
BAR, CARLOS ULLOA, individually, and as
owner and corporate officer of the aforementioned
corporations,

Defendants.

CONSENT JUDGMENT

Plaintiff, Secretary of Labor, United States Department of Labor, hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff" or "the Secretary," has filed his Complaint alleging violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C. § 201, *et seq.* (hereinafter "the Act"). Defendants named above, hereinafter referred as "Defendants" or "Employers," have appeared by counsel, waive any defense which they may have and hereby agree to the entry of this Consent Judgment without contest. It is, therefore, upon motion of the attorneys for Plaintiff and for cause shown:

ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendants, their officers, agents, servants, and all persons acting or claiming to act on their behalf and interest be, and they hereby are, permanently enjoined and restrained from violating the provisions of Sections 6, 7, 11(c), and 15 of the Act, in any manner, specifically:

1. Defendants shall not, contrary to Section 6 of the Act, pay to any of their employees who in any workweek are engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, or employed in an enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, within the meaning of the Act, wages at rates less than those which are now, or which in the future may become, applicable under Sections 6 and 15(a)(2) of the Act.

2. Defendants shall not, contrary to Section 7 of the Act, employ any of their employees including, but not limited to, any of their employees working at 9958 Reisterstown Road, Owings Mills, Maryland, 21117, or at any business location owned, operated, and/or controlled by Defendants, and at any other business location at which their employees perform work, in any workweek when they are engaged in commerce or employed in an enterprise engaged in commerce, within the meaning of the Act, for workweeks longer than the hours now, or which in the future become, applicable under Sections 7 and 15(a)(2) of the Act, unless the said employees receive compensation for their employment in excess of the prescribed hours at a rate equivalent to one and one-half times the regular rates applicable to them.

3. Defendants shall not fail to make, keep, and preserve adequate records of their employees and of the wages, hours, and other conditions and practices of employment maintained by them including, but not limited to, any of their employees working at 9958 Reisterstown Road, Owings Mills, Maryland, 21117, or at any business location owned, operated, and/or controlled by Defendants, and at any other business location at which their employees perform work, as prescribed by the Regulations issued pursuant to Section 11(c) and 15(a)(5) of the Act and found at 29 C.F.R. Part 516.

4. Defendants shall not discharge or take any retaliatory action against any of their employees, whether or not directly employed by Defendants, because the employee engages in

any of the following activities pursuant to Section 15(a)(3) of the Act:

i. Discloses, or threatens to disclose, to a supervisor or to a public agency, any activity, policy, or practice of the Employers or another employer, with whom there is a business relationship, that the employee reasonably believes is in violation of the Act, or a rule or regulation promulgated pursuant to the Act;

ii. Provides information to, or testifies before, any public agency or entity conducting an investigation, hearing or inquiry into any alleged violation of the Act, or a rule or regulation promulgated pursuant to the Act, by the Employers or another employer with whom there is a business relationship;

iii. Objects to, or refuses to participate in any activity, policy or practice which the employee reasonably believes is in violation of the Act, or a rule or regulation promulgated pursuant to the Act.

It is further ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED by the Court that:

5. Defendants are enjoined and restrained from withholding gross back wages in the sum total amount \$249,629.42 and are jointly and severally liable for the payment of \$249,629.42 in compensatory liquidated damages, due certain employees and former employees of Defendants set forth and identified in Schedule A, which is attached as Exhibit A hereto and made a part hereof.

6. Regarding the matter of the civil money penalty, Defendants have agreed that the amount currently due and payable is \$15,357.36, that they are jointly and severally liable for this amount, that such assessment has become the final order of the Secretary of the Department of Labor, and that they waive any and all rights to appeal or contest such assessment.

7. Defendants shall pay the above referenced amounts, plus interest of \$4,409.60 in accordance with the installment agreement which is attached hereto as Exhibit B and incorporated herein. If Defendants elect to pay the full remaining balance of back wages, compensatory liquidated damages and the civil money penalty during the course of the installment agreement as set forth in Exhibit B, any remaining interest payments as set forth in Column 4 of Exhibit B do not need to be paid. By way of example, if Defendants elect to timely pay the full remaining balance of back wages, compensatory liquidated damages and the civil money penalty at Payment No. 3, the interest payments due in Column 4 of Payment Nos. 4 through 15 need not be paid. The Secretary and Defendants agree that the interest payments set forth in Exhibit B are contingent upon 15 separate payments and thus, timely satisfying the entire outstanding balance of back wages, compensatory liquidated damages and the civil money penalty will relieve the Defendants of any interest payments due once the balance is satisfied. Payments made in accordance with the installment agreement shall be made as follows:

a. For payments related to the back wages and compensatory liquidated damages, payments may be made online by ACH transfer, credit card, or debit card by going to <https://www.pay.gov/public/form/start/77689032> or www.pay.gov. Alternatively, payments may be made by a certified check, bank check, or money order made payable to “**Wage and Hour Division-Labor,**” and mailed to:

U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division
The Curtis Center, Suite 850 West
170 South Independence Mall West
Philadelphia, PA 19106-3317

The check or money order shall bear the following reference: 1777248.

b. For the payment related to the civil money penalty, payments may be made online by ACH transfer, credit card, or debit card by going to

<https://www.pay.gov/public/form/start/77734139> or www.pay.gov. Alternatively, payments may be made by a certified check, bank check, or money order made payable to Wage and Hour Division-Labor,” and mailed to:

U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division
The Curtis Center, Suite 850 West
170 South Independence Mall West
Philadelphia, PA 19106-3317

The check or money order shall bear the following reference: 1777248.

c. The Secretary, through the Wage and Hour Division, shall distribute the back wages (less any applicable federal taxes, withholdings, and deductions) and compensatory liquidated damages payments to the employees and former employees, or to their estates, as set forth in Schedule A. Schedule A will show for each individual the gross back pay due (subject to legal deductions), and compensatory liquidated damages. Any sums not distributed to the employees or former employees on Schedule A, or to their estates, because of inability to locate the proper persons or because of such persons’ refusal to accept such sums, shall be deposited with the Treasurer of the United States pursuant to 29 U.S.C § 216(c). Defendants shall remain responsible for all tax payments considered to be the “employer’s share,” including, but not limited to, FICA.

d. A fifteen (15) calendar-day grace period shall be allowed for receipt of each payment that is required by this section and Exhibit B of this Consent Judgment. If Defendants fail to make any payment set forth in Exhibit B of this Consent Judgment within that fifteen (15) calendar-day grace period, all remaining installment payments shall become due immediately.

8. It is FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that if Defendants fail to make the payments as set forth in Paragraph 7 above, upon notice to the Defendants, the

Court shall appoint a Receiver to effectuate all of the terms of this Consent Judgment. In the event a Receiver is appointed:

- a. Defendants shall cooperate with the Receiver in all respects, and shall provide to the Receiver any and all information which the Receiver may require to carry out its appointment and in accordance with the authority given to the Receiver pursuant to applicable law at the time of appointment.
- b. All the expenses of the accountant or Receiver shall be borne solely by the Defendants.
- c. If the Court appoints a Receiver, the Receiver shall serve until the payment of the monetary terms of this Judgment are satisfied.
- d. The Receiver shall have full authority to: collect the Defendants' assets and report his/her findings to the Court and the parties; to redeem and/or liquidate the Defendants' assets and turn over the proceeds to the Secretary; if the asset is a debt that is due, collect it and turn over the proceeds to the Secretary; to analyze all indebtedness and where deemed appropriate seek restructuring; to analyze all transfers of the Defendants' assets; to prevent waste or fraud; and to do all acts and take all measures necessary or proper for the efficient performance of the duties under this Judgment.

9. Within thirty days of the entry of an order approving this Order, Defendants will provide the Wage and Hour Division with the current or last known address, telephone number, and social security number (or individual taxpayer identification number (if either are known)) of each individual identified on the attached Schedule A, to the extent Defendants have such information.

10. Neither Defendants nor anyone on their behalf shall directly or indirectly solicit or

accept the return or refusal of any sums paid under this Consent Judgment. Any such amount shall be immediately paid to the Secretary for deposit as above, and Defendants shall have no further obligations with respect to such returned monies. If recovered wages have not been claimed by the employee or the employee's estate within three years of the entry of this Consent Judgment, the Secretary shall deposit such money with the Treasury in accordance with Section 16(c) of the Act.

11. The parties agree that the instant action is deemed to solely cover Defendants' business and operations for the relevant period for all claims raised in the Complaint as a result of the Secretary's investigation. The parties agree that the filing of this action and the provisions of this Judgment shall not, in any way, affect, determine, or prejudice any and all rights of any person specifically named on Schedule A or the Secretary for any period after February 19, 2016, or any persons, be they current or former employees, not specifically named on Schedule A, insofar as such rights are conferred and reserved to said employees by reason of Section 16(b) of the Act

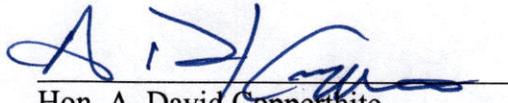
12. Defendants agree that they are employers within the meaning of Section 3(d) of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 203(d).

13. By entering into this Consent Judgment, Plaintiff does not waive his right to conduct future investigations of Defendants under the provisions of the FLSA and to take appropriate enforcement action, including assessment of civil money penalties pursuant to Section 16(e) of the FLSA, with respect to any violations disclosed by such investigations.

14. It is FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that each party shall bear its own fees and other expenses incurred by such party in connection with any stage of this

proceeding including, but not limited to, attorney fees which may be available under the Equal Access to Justice Act, as amended.

Date 7 July 2020


Hon. A. David Copperthite
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Defendants have appeared by counsel and hereby consent to the entry of this Judgment.

For the employers, MEZCAL, Inc., a corporation, d/b/a/ MEZCAL Mexican Restaurant & Bar, Carlos Ulloa,



Carlos Ulloa
Individually, and as owner and officer of MEZCAL, Inc., a corporation, d/b/a/ MEZCAL Mexican Restaurant & Bar,



William Sinclair, Esquire

Attorneys for Defendants MEZCAL, Inc., a corporation, d/b/a/ MEZCAL Mexican Restaurant & Bar and Carlos Ulloa,

Dated: July 1, 2020

For the Secretary:

Kate S. O'Scannlain
Solicitor of Labor

Oscar L. Hampton III
Regional Solicitor

Adam F. Welsh
Regional Counsel.

s/Ryan C. Atkinson

Ryan C. Atkinson
Trial Attorney
NJ ID: 001342007

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Attorneys for Plaintiff
U.S. Department of Labor

Dated: July 2, 2020