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SPORT CHALET: Plaintiffs Ask CA Court To Certify Overtime Suit

Plaintiffs asked California State Court to grant class certification for the lawsuit filed against Sport Chalet, Inc. by certain of its employees.

Former employee Kenneth Henderson brought this class action on behalf of himself and other similarly situated employees, alleging causes of action, for:

- (1) failure to provide required meal periods,
- (2) failure to authorize or permit rest periods,
- (3) failure to provide compensation for split shifts,
- (4) failure to reimburse employees for uniforms,
- (5) failure to maintain required records,
- (6) penalties for terminated employees who were not fully compensated,
- (7) penalties for failure to pay employees all wages at least twice a month, and
- (8) violation of Business and Professions Code Section 17,200

Plaintiffs basically allege that hourly employees were regularly denied their required meal periods and rest periods and were not paid premiums for split shifts. They further allege that the Company required its employees to wear uniforms but did not pay for the uniforms. Plaintiffs seek a class action in which they demand various wages, premiums, interest, and penalties for these alleged violations. They also seek attorneys' fees and an injunction.

The Company answered the complaint, denying the material allegations and asserting numerous affirmative defenses. The parties have engaged in significant discovery and Plaintiffs have filed a Motion for Class Certification, which will be heard on July 13, 2005. The Company opposed the Motion for Class Certification. No trial date has been set. The Court will likely order the parties to a settlement conference or mediation.