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October 15, 2018

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Mo's Seafood Restaurants to Pay \$1 Million Settlement to Former Employees

34 former employees settle wage case against Mo's Seafood Restaurants

Baltimore, MD – Today, former employees of several restaurants owned and operated under the name of “Mo’s” or “Mo’s Seafood” announced that they have successfully settled a lawsuit for unpaid or underpaid wages against the seafood chain as well as its owner, Mohammed Manocheh, for \$1 million.

The plaintiffs are a collective of 34 hourly restaurant workers – including wait staff and kitchen staff – who were employed in six Mo’s restaurants in the Baltimore region. In 2015, they sued their former employer, alleging minimum wage and overtime violations and unlawful deductions from their tips in violation of federal and state wage and hour law. Having prevailed over the defendants’ motion for summary judgment and motion to decertify the collective action, the workers were preparing for trial, but instead will begin to receive some of the pay owed to them before the holidays this year.

Plaintiff Erick Rivera stated: “I’m pleased that we will receive some justice and most of the back wages that we are owed. All restaurants should pay their workers in accordance with the law, including all the overtime so many of us work hard to earn. Workers, particularly those who have come from other countries, should not be intimidated and should report wrongdoing for the good of everyone.”

The workers are represented by Monisha Cherayil and Sally Dworak-Fisher of the Public Justice Center and Jessie Weber, Brooke Lierman, Neel Lalchandani, and Andrew Freeman of Brown, Goldstein & Levy.

The original complaint was filed in May 2015 and is Case No. 15-CV-1427 in the U.S. District Court of Maryland, Baltimore Division. Judge Hollander has presided over the matter. As part of the settlement, Mo’s Seafood continues to deny liability.

The Public Justice Center (PJC) is a nonprofit legal organization advocating for social justice, economic opportunity, and race equity. The PJC partners with low-wage workers, community and labor organizations, and fellow advocates to promote justice in the workplace through litigation and public policy. To learn more, visit www.publicjustice.org.

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