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RECEIVED / FILED  
Superior Court of New Jersey

AUG 06 2012

CIVIL CASE MANAGEMENT  
UNION COUNTY

Plaintiff(s),

KATIRIA VELEZ

vs.

Defendant(s)

WORKFORCE ADVANTAGE, FARLEY  
TOWERS, STANLEY CHAMPAGNE,  
JOHN DOE(S), AND/OR XYZ  
CORPORATIONS, JOINTLY,  
SEVERALLY, INDIVIDUALLY AND/OR  
IN THE ALTERNATIVE

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY  
LAW DIVISION  
UNION COUNTY

DOCKET NO.:

UNNL 2760 12

CIVIL ACTION

COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND

JURY

Personal  
T. J. [unclear]  
(P)  
X

2760

Plaintiff Katiria Velez, residing at 125 First Street, City of Elizabeth, County of Union,  
State of New Jersey by way of Complaint against the Defendants says:

STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. At all times relevant hereto Plaintiff Katiria Velez and on or about November 9, 2010  
was involved in a welfare program which required her to work in order to receive assistance.

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SECTION

2. At all times relevant hereto Plaintiff Katiria Velez was required by Defendant Workforce Advantage, John Doe(s) and/or XYZ Corporations, jointly, severally, individually and/or in the alternative to report to and work for Defendant Workforce Advantage.

3. On or about November 9, 2010 Plaintiff Katiria Velez was assigned by the Defendant Workforce Advantage to work as a maintenance assistant by Defendant Workforce Advantage with Defendant Stanley Champagne at Defendant Farley Towers located on 33 Cherry Street, Apt. 721, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

4. At all times relevant hereto Defendant Stanley Champagne was employed by Defendant Workforce Advantage and on or about November 9, 2010, Plaintiff Katiria Velez was working with Defendant Stanley Champagne when he started to make inappropriate sexual comments to Plaintiff Katiria Velez saying, "I had a dream about you last night, I can imagine how good you taste" and made a similar comment offering her fifty (50) dollars to "eat her out."

5. At all times relevant hereto Plaintiff Katiria Velez ignored Defendant Stanley Champagne's inappropriate sexual comments but Defendant Stanley Champagne kept persisting and sexually harassing Plaintiff Katiria Velez.

6. Plaintiff Katiria Velez attempted to leave the apartment when Defendant Stanley Champagne became physical and grabbed Plaintiff Katiria Velez by her arm, then by her hooded sweat-shirt collar, pushed Plaintiff Katiria Velez against the refrigerator, pulled out his penis and began to masturbate and rub his penis on and between Plaintiff Katiria Velez's hips, legs and vaginal area.

7. At all times relevant hereto Plaintiff Katiria Velez tried to push herself away from Defendant Stanley Champagne, but Defendant had her secured tightly by the waist and forcefully continued his actions.

8. At all times relevant hereto Plaintiff Katiria Velez after several attempts finally was able to break free from Defendant Stanley Champagne.

9. At all times relevant hereto Plaintiff Katiria Velez opened the door and walked out of the apartment towards the elevator. Plaintiff Katiria Velez turned around and saw Defendant Stanley Champagne following her out of the apartment and into the hallway with his penis still protruding out of his pants.

10. At all times relevant hereto Defendant Stanley Champagne turned around halfway down the hallway and went back into the apartment, while Plaintiff Katiria Velez continued to walk on to the elevator and exited the premises.

11. At all times relevant hereto Plaintiff Katiria Velez left the premises and from thereon after, Defendant Stanley Champagne called the Plaintiff's cellular phone approximately every five (5) minutes but Plaintiff Katiria Velez refused Defendant's phone calls.

12. At all times relevant hereto Plaintiff Katiria Velez's boyfriend, "Edwin Fuster," who picked her up from work, answered her phone at approximately 2:15 p.m. Edwin Fuster states that Defendant Stanley Champagne told Edwin, "I'm sorry for what I did. It will never happen again. I've been working here for thirteen years; I don't want to lose my job."

13. At all times relevant hereto Plaintiff Katiria Velez states that Defendant Stanley Champagne continued to call approximately every fifteen (15) minutes until 8:00 p.m., and Defendant Stanley Champagne left a voicemail stating, "Hey, this is Stan. Call me back."

14. Prior to this incident, Defendant Workforce Advantage was placed on notice by Plaintiff Katiria Velez on several occasions of the inappropriate sexual advances and comments Defendant Stanley Champagne made towards Plaintiff Katiria Velez.

15. Despite Plaintiff Katiria Velez's complaints, Defendant Workforce Advantage, Farley Towers, John Doe(s) and XYZ Corporations, jointly, severally, individually and/or in the alternative failed to discipline and/or supervise Defendant Stanley Champagne after complaints were made against Defendant Stanley Champagne and/or failed to take the appropriate, necessary and/or reasonable actions necessary and required to protect its participants, despite being placed on notice by Plaintiff's complaints.

16. Despite Plaintiff Katiria Velez's complaints, Defendant Workforce Advantage required Plaintiff Katiria Velez to continue to work with Defendant Stanley Champagne at Defendant Farley Towers' site.

17. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Stanley Champagne's assault and Defendants Workforce Advantage's and/or Farley Towers' failure to supervise, Plaintiff Katiria Velez suffered and continues to suffer permanent psychological injuries.

WHEREFORE Plaintiff Katiria Velez demands Judgment against Defendants jointly, severally, individually, and/or in the alternative for compensatory damages, punitive damages, prior and future medical expenses, attorney fees, and costs.

**FIRST COUNT (assault and battery) STANLEY CHAMPAGNE**

1. Plaintiff Katiria Velez repeats the facts contained within the Statement of Facts as though set forth as length herein.

2. At all times relevant hereto Plaintiff Katiria Velez received is/or and/or was receiving public assistance from the State of New Jersey through Defendant Workforce Advantage.

3. At all times relevant hereto Plaintiff Katiria Velez was required to work in order to receive public assistance.

4. At all times relevant hereto Plaintiff Katiria Velez fulfilled this obligation by performing work assigned to Plaintiff Katiria Velez through Defendant Workforce Advantage, John Doe(s) and XYZ Corporations, jointly, severally, individually and/or in the alternative.
5. On or about November 9, 2010, Plaintiff Katiria Velez was assigned to and required to work with Defendant Stanley Champagne by Defendant Workforce Advantage and at Defendant Farley Towers' site.
6. On or about November 9, 2010, Defendant Stanley Champagne made inappropriate sexual advances and comments towards Plaintiff Katiria Velez including but not limited to offering her fifty dollars (\$50.00) to "eat her out."
7. Plaintiff Katiria Velez refused Defendant Stanley Champagne's advances and told Defendant Stanley Champagne, "You're sick you have mental problems."
8. Defendant Stanley Champagne grabbed Plaintiff Katiria Velez's arm and pushed Plaintiff Katiria Velez against a refrigerator and pulled out his penis and begin to masturbate and rub his penis between Plaintiff Katiria Velez's thighs.
9. Plaintiff Katiria Velez told Defendant Stanley Champagne to stop but he did not.
10. At all times relevant hereto Defendant Stanley Champagne was an employee of or under the supervision of Defendants Farley Towers and Workforce Advantage.
11. At all times relevant hereto Defendants Farley Towers and Workforce Advantage are responsible for Defendant Stanley Champagne's actions.
12. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Stanley Champagne's assault on Plaintiff Katiria Velez, Plaintiff Katiria Velez suffered and continues to suffer permanent injuries.

WHEREFORE Plaintiff Katiria Velez demands Judgment against Defendants jointly, severally, individually, and in the alternative for compensatory damages, punitive damages, prior and future medical expenses, attorney fees, and costs.

### **SECOND COUNT (negligence) WORK FORCE ADVANTAGE**

1. Plaintiff Katiria Velez repeats the allegations contained in the Statement of Facts and the First Count of Plaintiff's complaint as though set forth at length herein.

2. Prior to November 9, 2010, Defendant Stanley Champagne made rude and inappropriate sexual advances to Plaintiff Katiria Velez.

3. Prior to November 9, 2010, Plaintiff Katiria Velez informed Defendant Workforce Advantage, John Doe(s), and/or XYZ Corporations, jointly, severally, individually and/or in the alternative of Defendant Stanley Champagne's comments and requested that she not be assigned and/or required to work with Defendant Stanley Champagne. Therefore, Defendants Workforce Advantage, John Doe(s), and XYZ Corporations, jointly, severally, individually and/or in the alternative were placed on notice of the conduct of Defendant Stanley Champagne.

4. Defendant Workforce Advantage, John Doe(s), and/or XYZ Corporations, jointly, severally, individually and/or in the alternative had a duty to investigate Plaintiff Katiria Velez's complaints and insure the safety of Plaintiff Katiria Velez while Plaintiff Katiria Velez was in the program.

5. Defendant Workforce Advantage, John Doe(s), and/or XYZ Corporations, jointly, severally, individually and/or in the alternative denied Plaintiff Katiria Velez's request and advised her that if she did not work with Defendant Stanley Champagne her benefits would be discontinued.

6. Defendant Workforce Advantage, John Doe(s), and/or XYZ Corporations, jointly, severally, individually and/or in the alternative breached that duty by requiring Plaintiff Katiria Velez to work with Defendant Stanley Champagne despite being placed on notice of Defendant Stanley Champagne's conduct.
7. On November 9, 2010, Defendant Stanley Champagne made inappropriate sexual advances and comments against Plaintiff Katiria Velez.
8. Plaintiff Katiria Velez ignored Defendant Stanley Champagne's advances.
9. Defendant Stanley Champagne grabbed Plaintiff Katiria Velez's arm and pushed Plaintiff against a refrigerator pulled out his penis and began to masturbate and rub his penis between Plaintiff Katiria Velez's thighs.
10. As direct and proximate result of Defendant Workforce Advantage requiring Plaintiff Katiria Velez to work with Defendant Stanley Champagne despite Defendant Stanley Champagne's previous conduct, Plaintiff Katiria Velez suffered and continues to suffer permanent injuries.

WHEREFORE Plaintiff Katiria Velez demands Judgment against Defendants jointly, severally, individually, and/or in the alternative for compensatory damages, punitive damages, prior and future medical expenses, attorney fees, and costs.

### **THIRD COUNT (failure to supervise)**

1. Plaintiff Katiria Velez repeats the allegations contained in the Statement of Facts, the First and Second Counts of Plaintiff's Complaint as through set forth at length herein.

2. Defendants Workforce Advantage, Farley Towers, John Doe(s), and/or XYZ Corporations, jointly, severally, individually and/or in the alternative has a duty to supervise those that are placed in their program and/or employed.

3. Defendants Workforce Advantage, Farley Towers, John Doe(s) and/or XYZ Corporations, jointly, severally, individually and/or in the alternative were placed on notice by Plaintiff Katiria Velez that Defendant Stanley Champagne had made inappropriate comments to Plaintiff.

4. Despite Plaintiff's complaints, Defendants Workforce Advantage, Farley Towers, John Doe(s) and/or XYZ Corporations, jointly, severally, individually and/or in the alternative failed to discipline and/or supervise Defendant Stanley Champagne after complaints were made against Defendant Stanley Champagne.

5. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants Workforce Advantage, Farley Towers, John Doe(s) and/or XYZ Corporations, jointly, severally, individually and/or in the alternative failure to supervise and/or discipline and/or insure that he did not work with Plaintiff Katiria Velez, Defendant Stanley Champagne grabbed Plaintiff Katiria Velez's arm and pushed Plaintiff Katiria Velez against a refrigerator and pulled out his penis and began to masturbate and rub his penis between Plaintiff Katiria Velez's thighs causing Plaintiff Katiria Velez to suffer and continue to suffer permanent injuries.

WHEREFORE Plaintiff Katiria Velez demands Judgment against Defendants jointly, severally, individually, and/or in the alternative for compensatory damages, punitive damages, prior and future medical expenses, attorney fees, and costs.



#### FOURTH COUNT (NJLAD)

1. Plaintiff Katiria Velez repeats the allegations contained in the Statement of Facts, the First, Second, and Third Counts of Plaintiff's Complaint as though set forth at length herein.
2. At all times relevant hereto Plaintiff Katiria Velez was employed by Defendant Farley Towers and/or Workforce Advantage and/or Defendant John Doe(s), and/or XYZ Corporations, jointly, severally, individually and/or in the alternative.
3. Prior to November 9, 2010, Defendant Stanley Champagne made rude and inappropriate sexual advances towards Plaintiff Katiria Velez.
4. Prior to November 9, 2010 Plaintiff Katiria Velez informed Workforce Advantage, John Doe(s), and/or XYZ Corporations, jointly, severally, individually and/or in the alternative of the inappropriate conduct of Defendant Stanley Champagne.
5. Defendants Workforce Advantage, Farley Towers, John Doe(s) and XYZ Corporations, jointly, severally, individually and/or in the alternative failed to investigate and/or discipline Defendant Stanley Champagne.
6. On November 9, 2010 Defendant Stanley Champagne made inappropriate sexual advances and comments against Plaintiff Katiria Velez.
7. Plaintiff Katiria Velez ignored Defendant Stanley Champagne's advances.
8. Defendant Stanley Champagne grabbed Plaintiff Katiria Velez's arm and pushed Plaintiff against a refrigerator pulled out his penis and began to masturbate and rub his penis between Plaintiff Katiria Velez's thighs.
9. The above conduct occurred during the course of Plaintiff's employment with Defendants Workforce Advantage, Farley Towers, John Doe(s) and XYZ Corporations, jointly, severally, individually and/or in the alternative and created a hostile and dangerous work environment as

defined by New Jersey's Law Against Discrimination codified at N.J.S.A. 10:5-1.42 and other statutes.

10. As a direct and proximate result the physical and verbal sexual abuse and physical contact and/or assault the Plaintiff suffered irreparable emotional, psychological and physical injuries, social disruption, adjustment problems, economic loss and other losses incurred and that will incur in the future, including future medical expenses.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Katiria Velez demands judgment against the Defendants jointly, severally, individually and/or in the alternative for compensatory and punitive damages, prior and future medical expenses together with interest and costs of suit.

#### **FIFTH COUNT (gross negligence)**

1. Plaintiff Katiria Velez repeats the allegations contained in the Statement of Facts, the First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Counts of Plaintiff's Complaint as though set forth at length herein.

2. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants Workforce Advantage, Farley Towers, John Doe(s), and/or XYZ Corporations, jointly, severally, individually and/or in the alternative gross negligence, Plaintiff Katiria Velez suffered and continues to suffer permanent injuries.

WHEREFORE Plaintiff Katiria Velez demands Judgment against Defendants, jointly, severally, individually, and/or in the alternative for compensatory damages, punitive damages, prior and future medical expenses, attorney fees, and costs.

**SIXTH COUNT (intentional infliction of emotional distress)**

1. The Plaintiff Katiria Velez repeats the allegations contained in the Statement of Facts, the First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Counts of Plaintiff's Complaint as though set forth at length herein.
2. At all times relevant hereto Defendant Stanley Champagne was an employee of or under the supervision of Defendants Farley Towers and Workforce Advantage.
3. At all times relevant hereto Defendants Farley Towers and Workforce Advantage are responsible for Defendant Stanley Champagne's actions.
4. On or about November 9, 2010, Defendant Stanley Champagne made inappropriate sexual advances and comments towards plaintiff Katiria Velez including but not limited to offering her fifty (\$50.00) dollars to "eat her out."
5. Plaintiff Katiria Velez refused Defendant Stanley Champagne's advances and told Defendant Stanley Champagne, "You're sick you have mental problems."
6. Defendant Stanley Champagne grabbed Plaintiff Katiria Velez's arm and pushed Plaintiff Katiria Velez against a refrigerator and pulled out his penis and began to masturbate and rub his penis between Plaintiff Katiria Velez's thighs.
7. Plaintiff Katiria Velez told Defendant Stanley Champagne to stop but he did not stop.
8. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Stanley Champagne's intentional conduct, Plaintiff Katiria Velez suffered and continues to suffer from emotional distress, loss of quality of life and otherwise sustained damages.

WHEREFORE Plaintiff Katiria Velez demands Judgment against Defendants jointly, severally, individually and/or in the alternative for compensatory damages, punitive damages, prior and future medical expenses, attorney fees and costs.

**SEVENTH COUNT (negligent infliction of emotional distress)**

1. The Plaintiff Katiria Velez repeats the allegations contained in the Statement of Facts, the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Counts of Plaintiff's Complaint as though set forth at length herein.

2. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants Workforce Advantage, Farley Towers, Stanley Champagne, John Doe(s) and XYZ Corporations negligent infliction of emotional distress, Plaintiff Katiria Velez suffers and continues to suffer permanent injuries, loss of quality of life and otherwise sustained damages.

WHEREFORE Plaintiff Katiria Velez demands Judgment against Defendants jointly, severally, individually and/or in the alternative for compensatory damages, punitive damages, prior and future expenses, attorney fees and costs

**EIGHTH COUNT (false imprisonment)**

1. The Plaintiff Katiria Velez repeats the allegations contained in the Statement of Facts, the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Counts of Plaintiff's Complaint as though set forth at length herein.

2. On or about November 9, 2010, Defendant Stanley Champagne made inappropriate sexual advances and comments towards Plaintiff Katiria Velez including but not limited to offering her fifty (\$50.00) dollars to "eat her out."

3. Plaintiff Katiria Velez refused Defendant Stanley Champagne's advances and told Defendant Stanley Champagne, "You're sick you have mental problems."

4. Defendant Stanley Champagne grabbed Plaintiff Katiria Velez's arm and pushed Plaintiff Katiria Velez against a refrigerator and pulled out his penis and began to masturbate and rub his penis between Plaintiff Katiria Velez's thighs.

5. Plaintiff Katiria Velez told Defendant Stanley Champagne to stop but he did not stop.

6. At all times relevant hereto Defendant Stanley Champagne was an employee of or under the supervision of Defendants Farley Towers and Workforce Advantage.

7. At all times relevant hereto Defendants Farley Towers and Workforce Advantage are responsible for Defendant Stanley Champagne's actions.

8. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Stanley Champagne's actions Plaintiff Katiria Velez was falsely imprisoned.

9. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Stanley Champagne's false imprisonment of Plaintiff Katiria Velez, Plaintiff Katiria Velez suffered and continues to suffer damages.

WHEREFORE Plaintiff Katiria Velez demands Judgment against Defendants jointly, severally, individually and/or in the alternative for compensatory damages, punitive damages, prior and future medical expenses, attorney fees and costs.

#### **NINTH COUNT (sexual harassment)**

1. Plaintiff Katiria Velez repeats the allegations contained in the Statement of Facts, First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Counts of Plaintiff's Complaint as though set forth at length herein.

2. Before November 9, 2010 Defendant Stanley Champagne made inappropriate sexual advances and comments towards Plaintiff Katiria Velez.

3. Plaintiff Katiria Velez complained about Defendant Stanley Champagne's inappropriate conduct to Defendant Workforce Advantage.
4. Defendant Workforce Advantage had a duty to investigate and/or discipline Defendant Stanley Champagne for his conduct.
5. Defendant Workforce Advantage did not investigate reprimand and/or take appropriate action to discipline Defendant Stanley Champagne.
6. On or about November 9, 2010, Defendant Stanley Champagne made inappropriate sexual advances and comments towards Plaintiff Katiria Velez including but not limited to offering her fifty (\$50.00) dollars to "eat her out."
7. Plaintiff Katiria Velez refused Defendant Stanley Champagne's advances and told Defendant Stanley Champagne, "You're sick you have mental problems."
8. Defendant Stanley Champagne grabbed Plaintiff Katiria Velez's arm and pushed Plaintiff Katiria Velez against a refrigerator and pulled out his penis and began to masturbate and rub his penis between Plaintiff Katiria Velez's thighs.
9. Plaintiff Katiria Velez told Defendant Stanley Champagne to stop but he did not stop.
10. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Stanley Champagne's actions, Plaintiff Katiria Velez endured sexual harassment.
11. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants Workforce Advantage and Farley Tower's failure to investigate and/or discipline Defendant Stanley Champagne, Plaintiff Katiria Velez was a victim of sexual harassment.

WHEREFORE Plaintiff Katiria Velez demands Judgment against Defendants jointly, severally, individually and/or in the alternative for compensatory damages, punitive damages, prior and future medical expenses, attorney fees and costs.

## **TENTH COUNT (outrage)**

1. Plaintiff Katiria Velez repeats the allegations contained in the Statement of Facts, First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Counts of Plaintiff's Complaint as though set forth at length herein.
2. On or about November 9, 2010, Defendant Stanley Champagne made inappropriate sexual advances and comments towards Plaintiff Katiria Velez including but not limited to offering her (\$50.00) dollars to "eat her out."
3. Plaintiff Katiria Velez refused Defendant Stanley Champagne's advances and told Defendant Stanley Champagne, "You're sick you have mental problems."
4. Defendant Stanley Champagne grabbed Plaintiff Katiria Velez's arm and pushed Plaintiff Katiria Velez against a refrigerator and pulled out his penis and began to masturbate and rub his penis between Plaintiff Katiria Velez's thighs.
5. Plaintiff Katiria Velez told Defendant Stanley Champagne to stop but he did not stop.
6. At all times relevant hereto Defendant Stanley Champagne was an employee of or under the supervision of Defendants Farley Towers and Workforce Advantage.
7. At all times relevant hereto Defendants Farley Towers and Workforce Advantage are responsible for Defendant Stanley Champagne's actions.
8. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Stanley Champagne's outrageous conduct, Plaintiff Katiria Velez suffered and continues to suffer damages.

WHEREFORE Plaintiff Katiria Velez demands Judgment against Defendants jointly, severally, individually and/or in the alternative for compensatory damages, punitive damages, attorney fees and costs.

## **ELEVENTH COUNT**

1. Plaintiff Katiria Velez repeats the allegations contained in the Statement of Facts, First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Counts of Plaintiff's Complaint as though set forth at length herein.

2. At the foresaid time and place, on or about November 9, 2010 Defendant John Doe(s) and/or XYZ Corporation(s) was an unknown person or entity whose actions caused and/or contributed, directly or indirectly to the incident herein and the injuries and damages suffered by Plaintiff Katiria Velez.

3. As a direct and proximate result of said physical, emotional and sexual abuse, Plaintiff Katiria Velez, suffered and continues to suffer from permanent injuries.

WHEREFORE Plaintiff Katiria Velez demands judgment against Defendants jointly, severally, individually and/or in the alternative for compensatory damages, punitive damages, prior and future medical expenses, attorney fees and costs.

### **JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff Katiria Velez hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues.

### **TRIAL ATTORNEY DESIGNATION**

Richard J. Vapnar, Esq., is hereby designated as trial counsel



LAW OFFICES OF  
STEPHEN STEINBERG, P.C.  
Attorney for Plaintiff(s),



RICHARD J. VAPNAR, ESQ.

Dated: 8/1/12

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO RULE 4:5-1**

Pursuant to Rule 4:5-1 the undersigned certifies that to the best of his knowledge, the within matters is controversy are not the subject of any other action pending in any other Court or of a pending arbitration proceeding, no other proceedings are contemplated nor are other parties to be joined in this action

Dated: 8/1/12



RICHARD J. VAPNAR, ESQ.  
Attorney for Plaintiff

Forms/Complaint/Velez Katrina