

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
CIVIL DIVISION**

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

*Plaintiff*

v.

**MH HOSPITALITY CORP., et al.**

*Defendants*

**Case Number: 2025 CAB 000997**

**Judge James A. Crowell IV**

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**ORDER**

This matter comes before the Court on Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgment. On February 19, 2025, Plaintiff filed suit against Defendants for their violations of the District of Columbia's Minimum Wage Revision, Sick and Safe Leave, Wage Transparency, and Wage Payment and Collection Laws. *See generally* Compl. On April 4, 2025, Plaintiff served Defendant MH Hospitality Corp. by leaving a copy with Defendant's registered agent. Aff. of Serv. on MH Hosp. Corp. (Apr. 10, 2025). On June 3, 2025, Plaintiff served Defendant Hamza Hadani by sending a copy of the complaint and summons by certified mail, as well as by email and leaving a copy of each at Defendant's place of employment in accordance with this Court's order. Aff. of Serv. on Def. Hamza Hadani (June 4, 2025); *see also* Order of May 22, 2025 at 10 (permitting alternate service). On August 15, 2025, this matter came before the Court for a Remote Initial Scheduling Conference. Default was entered against Defendant Hadani for his failure to file an answer or appear in this matter. On November 7, 2025, the Court entered default against Defendant MH Hospitality Corp. as sanction for discovery violations and as a result of their failure to oppose Plaintiff's motion for sanctions.

On January 5, 2026, Plaintiff moved for default judgment against both Defendants. On January 23, 2026, Plaintiff filed a corrected motion for default judgment. Attached to that corrected motion are 25 exhibits, including spreadsheets detailing payroll data for Defendant MH

Hospitality Corp., communications between Defendant Hadani and employees, as well as declarations of several workers employed by Defendant MH Hospitality Corp. On February 13, 2026, this matter came before the Court for an Ex Parte Proof Hearing against Defendant Hadani to establish damages, and a Liability and Damages Hearing against Defendant MH Hospitality Corp. *See Luna v. A.E. Eng'g Servs., LLC*, 938 A.2d 744, 750 (D.C. 2007) (“it is essential to require proof of liability as well as damages where the defendant has filed an answer even when the defendant thereafter has refused to proceed.” (internal quotation marks and citation omitted)). At that hearing, Plaintiff presented those exhibits, as well as the testimony of their investigator, Naeela Bakari. In her testimony, Investigator Bakari explained her process of compiling Exhibits 2 and 3, summary charts detailing Defendants’ failure to lawfully compensate their employees.

Pursuant to D.C. Superior Court Rule of Civil Procedure 55-II, the Court “may enter judgment for the amount alleged in [an] affidavit” in support of a motion for default judgment if that affidavit sets forth “the specific pecuniary loss sustain,” the loss’s “causal relationship to the factual situation set forth in the complaint,” and “that a copy of the motion was sent to the defendant’s last known address notifying the defendant that any objection to the motion must be received by” the Court “within 21 days,” and an affidavit in compliance with the Servicemember Civil Relief Act accompanies the motion. D.C. Super. Ct. R. 55-II(a)(1), (a)(4).

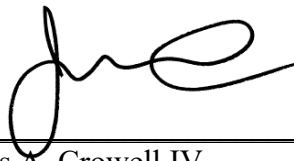
Having reviewed Plaintiff’s motion and corrected motion, the Court finds Plaintiff has complied with all procedural requirements. And after review of those motions and the record as a whole, the Court finds Plaintiff has established a *prima facie* case that Defendant MH Hospitality Corp and Hamza Hadani violated the District’s Minimum Wage Revision, Sick and Safe Leave, Wage Transparency, and Wage Payment and Collection Laws, and are liable in the amount of \$1,752,408.03 in restitutionary damages (to include treble damages) for their

violations. *See W.H.H. Trice & Co. v. Faris*, 829 A.2d 189, 194 (D.C. 2003) (explaining burden of proof at ex parte liability and damages hearing is whether Plaintiff has presented a “*prima facie*” case of liability).

Accordingly, it is this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026, hereby

**ORDERED** that Plaintiff’s Motion for Default Judgment is **GRANTED**. A separate judgment order shall issue.

**SO ORDERED.**



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James A. Crowell IV  
Associate Judge, D.C. Superior Court

**Copies to:**

Morgan Sperry, Esq.  
Dennis Andrew Corkery, Esq.  
Jude Chukwuka Nwaokobia, Esq.  
*Counsel for Plaintiff*

James T. Zelloe, Esq.  
James T. Bacon, Esq.  
*Counsel for Defendant MH Hospitality Corp. d/b/a Talea Ristorante*

Hamza Hadani  
*Defendant*

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**JUDGMENT ORDER**

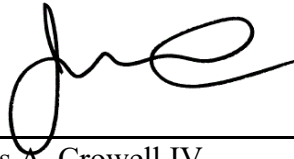
For the reasons articulated in the Court’s February 17, 2026, order granting Plaintiff’s Motion for Default Judgment, it is hereby

**ORDERED** that Judgment is entered in favor of Plaintiff, the District of Columbia, against Defendants Management Hospitality Corp. and Hamza Hadani, who shall be jointly and severally liable for \$1,752,408.02, which consists of the following:

1. Judgment against MH Hospitality Corp. and Hamza Hadani in the amount of \$1,155,573.29 as worker restitution, including treble damages, for failure to pay earned wages, tipped minimum wages, regular minimum wages, overtime wages, and earned wages on time, in violation of the Minimum Wage Revision Act (“MWRA”) and Wage Collection and Payment Law (“WPCL);
2. Judgment against MH Hospitality Corp. and Hamza Hadani in the amount of \$190,000 as statutory penalties for failure to pay earned wages, tipped minimum wages, regular minimum wages, overtime wages, and earned wages on time, as well as failure to pay itemized pay statements on time, in violation of the MWRA and WPCL;
3. Judgment against MH Hospitality Corp. and Hamza Hadani in the amount of \$136,834.74 as worker restitution for violations of the Sick and Safe Leave Act (“SSLA”);

4. Judgment against MH Hospitality Corp. and Hamza Hadani in the amount of \$95,000 as statutory penalties for violations of the SSLA;
5. Judgment against MH Hospitality Corp. and Hamza Hadani in the amount of \$95,000 as statutory penalties for violations of the Wage Transparency Act (“WTA”);
6. Judgment against MH Hospitality Corp. and Hamza Hadani in the amount of \$40,000 as worker restitution for four counts of unlawful retaliation in violation of the WPCL and MWRA;
7. Judgment against MH Hospitality Corp. and Hamza Hadani in the amount of \$40,000 as statutory penalties for four counts of unlawful retaliation in violation of the WPCL and MWRA.

**SO ORDERED.**



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James A. Crowell IV  
Associate Judge, D.C. Superior Court

**Copies to:**

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Hamza Hadani  
*Defendant*