

## Castle, Petersen & Krause, LLP

Trial Attorneys

### **Castle, Petersen & Krause, LLP Announces that a Notice of Collective Action was Mailed Today to Over Ten Thousand Police Officers Eligible to Join an FLSA Overtime Lawsuit Filed Against the City of Los Angeles**

#### **- LAPD Officers Have 90 Days to Join the Overtime Lawsuit Against the City**

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. March 7, 2007 – Castle, Petersen & Krause, LLP announced that Notices of Collective Action and Consent to Join Forms were mailed today to 10,670 Los Angeles Police Officers, including, but not limited to Lieutenants, Sergeants, Detectives and Patrol Officers (“Officers”) who are eligible to join the *Alaniz, et al. v. City of Los Angeles* (“Alaniz”) lawsuit. Approximately six hundred Officers have already joined the *Alaniz* Lawsuit, with approximately 75 Officers joining the case each week based solely on word of mouth discussions and prior to receiving notice from the court.

The Notices of Collective Action and Consent to Join forms were mailed today to current and former Police Officers, Sergeants, Detectives and lieutenants, who worked at least one shift between May 23, 2003 and the present. The deadline for an Officer to return the Consent to Join form is June 5, 2007, ninety (90) days from today. If an eligible officer fails to timely return the Consent to Join form, they will not be able to join the lawsuit.

The *Alaniz* lawsuit asserts that the Los Angeles Police Department (“LAPD”) required the Officers to work before and after their regular shifts, through “Code 7” meal periods, and at home for the benefit of the LAPD without compensation in violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act (“FLSA”). The required activities include performing pre- and post shift responsibilities; preparing for court appearances; completing arrest and investigation reports; the donning and doffing of protective gear; and performing various other required tasks. The suit asserts that the LAPD officers have regularly worked overtime without compensation and that the department’s supervisors were aware of such practices. The *Alaniz* lawsuit seeks compensation for LAPD officers holding the rank of Lieutenant and below for all work performed before and after the officers’ regularly scheduled shifts, interrupted rest periods and other activities that are routinely not compensated.

Castle, Petersen & Krause, LLP brought the *Alaniz* lawsuit to United States District Court, Central District of California on behalf of the representative Plaintiff and all other Officers similarly situated and is being assisted by the Law Offices of Herbert Hafif as co-counsel.

The *Alaniz* case is one of a number of FLSA Collective Action lawsuits filed by Castle, Petersen & Krause against the City of Los Angeles. The *Nolan, et al. v. City of Los Angeles* lawsuit involves similar claims by 36 police Lieutenants, Sergeants and Detectives against the City of Los Angeles for unpaid compensation under federal law for regular and overtime hours worked performing pre-shift and post-shift activities and missed meal periods. The *Nolan* suit asserts that the 36 officers have regularly worked overtime without compensation; that the LAPD has an “unwritten policy” discouraging the reporting of overtime work for less than an hour’s time; and that the department’s supervisors were aware of such practices. The *Batts, et al. v. City of Los Angeles* lawsuit seeks redress for retaliatory actions imposed by the City of Los Angeles and other named defendants against members of the *Alaniz* and *Nolan* lawsuits. The retaliation alleged in the *Batts* Complaint includes Officers being passed over for promotions, subjected to administrative transfers, intimidation and bad ratings reviews. The Plaintiffs brought the lawsuit to halt further retaliation and remedy passed damages.

The Law Offices of Herbert Hafif also serves as co-counsel in the *Nolan, et al. v. City of Los Angeles* lawsuit and *Reed v. County of Orange*, a similar FLSA overtime lawsuit filed on behalf of Orange County Deputy Sheriffs.

### **About Castle, Petersen & Krause, LLP**

The law firm of Castle, Petersen & Krause, LLP specializes in litigating labor and employment law and business law matters. The firm's areas of focus within labor and employment include civil rights, labor relations, contract negotiations, disciplinary actions, FLSA, California labor law, discrimination, retaliation, wage and hour issues, and wrongful termination. Castle, Petersen & Krause, LLP has a near 30-year history of representing public and private industry employees and their associations in contract negotiations, disciplinary actions, civil rights claims, and class action lawsuits related to wage and hours matters. The firm also has a history of success in recovering overtime wages from public and private employers through FLSA class action litigation, including recent cases against the City of Los Angeles, numerous other public entities and companies in the hospitality and fitness industries. Additionally, Castle, Petersen & Krause, LLP provides its clients counsel in the areas of construction defect, intellectual property, product liability and first and third party insurance litigation, as well as personal injury claims. Castle, Petersen & Krause, LLP is headquartered in Newport Beach, California. More information on Castle, Petersen & Krause, LLP can be found at [www.cpk-law.com](http://www.cpk-law.com).

### **About the Law Offices of Herbert Hafif**

The Law Offices of Herbert Hafif, located in Claremont, California and established in 1956, is comprised of plaintiff civil contingency litigation lawyers who are nationally recognized and highly regarded at the local level. Areas of practice include personal injury, class action, business and commercial litigation, insurance bad faith, breach of contract, product liability, wrongful termination and medical malpractice cases. More information on the Law Offices of Herbert Hafif can be found at [www.hafif.com](http://www.hafif.com).

#### Contacts:

Castle Petersen & Krause, LLP

Jeff Leonard, Director of Communications

949-417-5600

[jleonard@cpk-law.com](mailto:jleonard@cpk-law.com)

Law Offices of Herbert Hafif

Greg K. Hafif

909-624-1671