

DESIGNATION FORM

34666

Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)

(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar, 2907 S. Franklin Street, Philadelphia, PA and 116 Saddlebrook Ct. Cherry Hill, NJ 08003 Address of Plaintiff: 1001 N. Delaware Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19125 Address of Defendant: 1001 N. Delaware Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19125 Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: RELATED CASE, IF ANY: Date Terminated: Case Number: Judge: Civil cases are deemed related when Yes is answered to any of the following questions: 1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action of this court? 4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same individual? I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case 🔲 is / is/not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above. 34666 5/22/2019 DATE: Attorney I.D. # (if applicable) Automey-ai-Lpw/Pri Sa Plaintifi CIVIL: (Place a √in one category only) Federal Question Cases: Diversity Jurisdiction Cases: /Insurance Contract and Other Contracts Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts Airpiane Personal Injury FELA 2. Assault, Defamation 3. Jones Act-Personal Injury 3. Marine Personal Injury 4. Antitrust 4. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury Patent Other Personal Injury (Please specify): Labor-Management Relations Products Liability Civil Rights Products Liability - Asbestos Habeas Corpus 8. All other Diversity Cases (Please specify): __negligence/fraud __contract breach Securities Act(s) Cases 10. Social Security Review Cases 11. All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify): ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION (The effect of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration.) Conrad J. Benedetto, Esquire , counsel of record or pro se plaintiff, do hereby certify: Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, § 3(c) (2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs: MAY 22 2019 Relief other than monetary damages is sought.

/ Pro Se Plaintiff

Attorney-at-Law

NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P/38.

DATE:

5/22/2019

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THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT OR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

Anthony Mattia
and William
Vespe

Sugarhouse HSP Gaming, LP dba Sugarhouse Casino; Rush Street Gaming, LLC; John Does 1-X and Jane Does 1-X

CIVIL ACTION

2220

In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:

Da 21:	ite 5-389-1900 lephone	Attorney-at-law 215-271-8910 FAX Number	Attorney for Anthony N and Willia conrad_benedetto@comcast.n E-Mail Address	m Vespe
Da		•	/ / \ / / \ / And Willia	m Vespe
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	22/2019	Conrad J. Benedetto, Esquire	1/0/16	Manual Market Ma
(f)	Standard Management -	- Cases that do not fall into any or	ne of the other tracks.	/(x)
(e) Special Management – Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases.)				
(d)	(d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos.		property damage from	()
(c)	Arbitration - Cases requ	uired to be designated for arbitrati	ion under Local Civil Rule 53.2.	()
	Social Security – Cases and Human Services de	requesting review of a decision on a nying plaintiff Social Security Be	of the Secretary of Health enefits.	()
(b)	•			



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

ANTHONY MATTIA and WILLIAM VESPE

Case No.

Plaintiffs,

Hon.

٧.

SUGARHOUSE HSP GAMING, L.P. d/b/a SUGARHOUSE CASINO; RUSH STREET GAMING, LLC; JOHN DOE COMPANIES I-X; JOHN DOES I-X.

19 2220

Defendants,

NOW COMES, Plaintiffs, by and through the Undersigned Counsel, and hereby brings this Complaint against Defendants as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 1. This diversity action is brought under 28 <u>U.S.C.</u> § 1332. The matter is controversy exceeds \$75,000 and all parties to this action are citizens of different States.
- 2. This Court has pendant jurisdiction over Plaintiff's state law claims under 28 U.S.C. §1367.
- 3. Venue is proper under 28 <u>U.S.C.</u> § 1391 in that Plaintiffs are residents of the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania and Defendant Sugarhouse HSP Gaming L.P. d/b/a/ Sugarhouse Casino has its principal business office located in the City of Philadelphia, County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania.

PARTIES

4. Plaintiff, Anthony Mattia is a residents of the City of Philadelphia, County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania.

- 5. Plaintiff, William Vespe is a residents of the City of Cherry Hill in the County of Camden, in the State of New Jersey.
- 6. Defendant Sugarhouse HSP Gaming, L.P., d/b/a Sugarhouse Casino ("Sugarhouse") is a limited partnership organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, and at all times had its business offices located at 1080 North Delaware Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19125.
- 7. Sugarhouse is a casino entertainment development located at 1001 N. Delaware Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19125.
- 8. Defendant Sugarhouse was awarded a casino license on December 20, 2006 by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board.
- 9. Defendant Rush Street Gaming, LLC, ("Rush Street") located at 900 N. Michigan Ave., Ste. 1600, Chicago, IL 60611, is the parent company of Sugarhouse.
- 10. Rush Street operates casino slot games and table games at casino properties in various communities including Chicago, IL, Pittsburgh, PA, Schenectady, NY, and Philadelphia, PA.
- 11. Plaintiff, Anthony Mattia, (Mattia), a frequent wagering customer at Sugarhouse, is a Rush Rewards and Patron Account Member, account number 5610051876. From May 2017 to January 1, 2018, Plaintiff suffered wagering losses in the amount of \$147,026.18 at Sugarhouse.
- 12. Plaintiff, William Vespe, (Vespe), a frequent wagering customer at Sugarhouse, is a Rush Rewards and Patron Account Member, account number 5610162870. From May 2017 to January 1, 2018, Plaintiff suffered wagering losses in the amount of \$103,844.00 at Sugarhouse.

BACKGROUND

- 13. On July 26, 2018, the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board penalized Sugarhouse Casino with a fine of \$100,000 for dealing cards to patrons using "illegitimate" decks, or with malfunctioning automatic shufflers, over a period of time from May 2017 to January 2018.
- 14. In hearings before the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, Bureau of Casino Compliance, Sugarhouse admitted that in a series of occurrence, employees failed to properly address warning lights on automated shufflers used at the blackjack, poker, and mini-baccarat tables in seven incidents between May 2017 and January 2018.
- 15. Plaintiffs Mattia and Vespe were guests at Sugarhouse on various occasions during this period of time.
- 16. Specifically, table dealers used decks of cards that contained too many cards, too few cards, or in one poker tournament, cards sorted into sequential order, rather than randomly shuffled.
- 17. As a result of these occurrences, two casino supervisors were terminated, but one was reinstated.
- 18. By way of example, in May 28, 2017, a casino employee found 16 cards remaining in an automatic shuffler that had been removed from service.
- 19. When investigators retraced the cards, they found that the cards were missing from six decks that were used in 46 rounds of blackjack the previous day, involving 122 individual hands.
- 20. On that date, only one out eight players who were dealt hands from the short deck won.

- 21. Sugarhouse personnel did not provide the players with any form of reimbursement.
- 22. On September 3, 2017, a card shuffler malfunctioned on a blackjack table.
- 23. On September 23, 2017, during a poker tournament, a dealer mistakenly set the automatic shuffler not to randomly shuffle the cards, but to sort them by suit in sequence.
- 24. The dealer dealt sixteen poker hands before noticing the cards were suited and in sequential order.
- 25. Once again, Sugarhouse did not provide the players with any form of reimbursement on either occasion.
- 26. Similarly, based on events from December 9, 2017, January 22, 2018 and January 24, 2018, Sugarhouse admitted to additional infractions including illegitimate decks and/or malfunctioning shufflers.
- 27. As a result of these infractions, Sugarhouse entered into a consent agreement with the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, Bureau of Casino Compliance, on July 26, 2018 and agreed to pay fines in the amount of \$87,500.00.
- 28. A separate violation within this time frame involved Sugarhouse dealers deploying decks containing too many cards in a game of Spanish 21, a blackjack game in which 10s were normally removed from play.
- 29. Casino employees noticed that the 10s had not been removed from several decks only after 27 hands had been dealt, including 18 hands that contained 10s.
- 30. Based on those events, Sugarhouse once again entered into a consent agreement with the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, Bureau of Casino Compliance, and agreed to pay fines in the amount of \$12,500.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

NEGLIGENCE DEFENDANTS SUGARHOUSE AND RUSH STREET

- 31. Plaintiffs Mattia and Vespe, repeat the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 29 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 32. Defendants had a duty to exercise reasonable care, skill and diligence, in operating table games at Sugarhouse for its customers/patrons and to make sure that its card decks were properly stocked, sorted and/or counted and that its card shufflers were properly functioning.
- 33. On numerous occasions, Defendant breached this duty by supplying its table games with illegitimate decks, i.e., decks that had either too many cards, too few cards, or containing certain playing cards that did not belong with the decks in certain games, or tables with malfunctioning card sorters.
- 34. Plaintiffs Mattia and Vespe, were patrons of Sugarhouse from May 2017 to January 1, 2018, the period during which Sugarhouse admitted to various violations under a consent agreement with the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, dated July 26, 2018.
- 35. As a result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiffs Mattia and Vespe have been damaged and have sustained damages.
 - WHEREFORE, the Plaintiffs Mattia and Vespe are entitled to damages, both compensatory and punitive, costs of suit, and attorney's fees.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

BREACH OF CONTRACT DEFENDANTS SUGARHOUSE AND RUSH STREET

- 36. Plaintiffs Mattia and Vespe, repeat the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 34 of the Complaint as if set forth fully herein.
- 37. As paying patrons of Sugarhouse, there was an implied contract between Defendants and their customers of fair play, and for Defendants to provide an honest wagering environment to their customers at the casino.
- 38. Nevertheless, among other actions, Defendants supplied the table games, including those participated in by Plaintiffs, Mattia and Vespe, with illegitimate decks, i.e., decks that had either too many cards, too few cards, or the improper denomination of cards included in the game, and/or malfunctioning card sorters.
- 39. By providing illegitimate decks and/or malfunctioning card sorters, the Defendants breached their duty of providing Plaintiffs, Mattia and Vespe and other patrons of Sugarhouse with both a fair wagering environment and a level playing field for wagering.
- 40. As a result of Defendants failing to provide Plaintiffs, Mattia and Vespe and other patrons with a level/fair playing field, Plaintiffs, Mattia and Vespe were damaged and suffered significant monetary losses.
 - WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs Mattia and Vespe, are entitled to damages against Defendants, both punitive and compensatory, costs of suit, and attorney's fees.

THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

UNJUST ENRICHEMENT DEFENDANTS SUGARHOUSE AND RUSH STREET

- 41. Plaintiffs Mattia and Vespe repeats the allegations set forth in Paragraph 1 through 39 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 42. As a result of the conduct described above, Defendants Sugarhouse and Rush Street have been unjustly enriched at the expense of Plaintiffs Mattia and Vespe.
- 43. Defendants Sugarhouse and Rush Street should be required to disgorge all monies and gains which they have obtained at the expense of Plaintiffs Mattia and Vespe for the period from May 2017 through January 2018.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs Mattia and Vespe are entitled to damages against Defendants, both punitive and compensatory, costs of suit, and attorney's fees.

FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

BREACH OF GOOD FAITH AND FAIR DEALING DEFENDANTS SUGARHOUSE AND RUSH STREET

- 44. Plaintiffs Mattia and Vespe repeat the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 42 of the Complaint as if set forth fully herein.
- 45. Defendants in operating a casino had a duty to treat Plaintiffs Mattia and Vespe and other patrons fairly and had a duty of good faith and fair dealing towards them.
- 46. Nevertheless, among other actions, Defendants supplied the table games, including those participated in by Plaintiffs Mattia and Vespe, with illegitimate decks, i.e., decks that had

- either too many cards, too few cards, or the improper denomination of cards included in the game, and/or malfunctioning card sorters.
- 47. In providing illegitimate decks and/or non-functioning sorters, Defendants failed to act in good faith and deal fairly with their customers.
- 48. Plaintiffs Mattia and Vespe have been damaged, specifically in the form of significant monetary damages, when Defendants acting in bad faith and not dealing fairly with them.

 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs Mattia and Vespe are entitled to damages against Defendants, both punitive and compensatory, costs of suit, and attorney's fees.

FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

FRAUD ALL DEFNDANTS

- 49. Plaintiffs Mattia and Vespe repeat the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 47 of the Complaint as if set forth fully herein.
- 50. Defendants represented to the public that in operating the Sugarhouse casino under the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Act, Defendants supplied Plaintiffs Mattia and Vespe and other patrons with an honest and fair wagering environment.
- 51. Defendants continued to take wages, despite knowledge of illegitimate decks and/or malfunctioning card sorters.
- 52. In fact, Plaintiffs Mattia and Vespe relied on Defendants' false representation when they placed wagering bets at Sugarhouse on numerous occasions between the period from May 2017 to January 1, 2018.
- 53. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiffs Mattia and Vespe with an honest and fair wagering environment at Sugarhouse when they supplied the table games, including those participated in by Plaintiffs, with illegitimate decks, i.e., decks that had either too many

- cards, too few cards, or the improper denomination of cards included in the game, and/or malfunctioning card sorters.
- 54. As a result of the Defendants conduct, Plaintiffs Mattia and Vespe has been damaged and have suffered significant monetary losses.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs Mattia and Vespe are entitled to damages against Defendants, both punitive and compensatory, costs of suit, and attorney's fees.

SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT FRAUD ALL DEFENDANTS

- 55. Plaintiffs Mattia and Vespe repeat the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 53 of the Complaint as if set forth fully herein.
- 56. Defendants Sugarhouse, Rush Street, John Doe Companies I-X, John Does I-X, and Jane Does I-X, acted together and conspired to mislead the public that in operating the Sugarhouse casino under the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Act, Defendants supplied Plaintiffs Mattia and Vespe and other patrons with an honest and fair wagering environment.
- 57. Defendants continued to take wagers, despite knowledge of illegitimate decks and/or malfunctioning card sorters.
- 58. In fact, Plaintiffs Mattia and Vespe relied on Defendants' false representation when they placed wagering bets at Sugarhouse on numerous occasions between the period from May 2017 to January 1, 2018.
- 59. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiffs Mattia and Vespe with an honest and fair wagering environment at Sugarhouse when they supplied the table games, including those participated in by Plaintiffs, with illegitimate decks, i.e., decks that had either too many

cards, too few cards, or the improper denomination of cards included in the game, and/or malfunctioning card sorters.

60. As a result of the Defendants conduct, Plaintiffs Mattia and Vespe have been damaged and have suffered significant monetary losses.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs Mattia and Vespe are entitled to damages against Defendants, both punitive and compensatory, costs of suit, and attorney's fees.

JURY DEMAND

The Plaintiff demands trial by jury.

LAW OFFICES OF CONRAD J. BENEDETTO

/s/ Conrad J. Benedetto

Conrad J. Benedetto, Esquire

Attorney for Defendant ANTHONY MATTIA

and WILLIAM VESPE/

OPTIMUM LAW GROUP

/s/ Steven Feinstein, Esquire

Steven Feinstein, Esquire

Attorney for Defendants ANTHONY MATTIA

and WILLIAM VESPE