



MEDIA ADVISORY from the **MAINTENANCE COOPERATION TRUST FUND**

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For Immediate Release: Thursday, December 20, 2007

Cheesecake Factory, Yard House and Elephant Bar janitorial contractors sued by Labor Commissioner for not paying workers

LOS ANGELES—The State Labor Commissioner and Attorney General Office is suing two janitorial contractors who failed to pay workers legally mandated wages.

Excell Cleaning and Building Services and Mo's Restaurant Cleaning Services, both Houston based companies, had contracts to clean Cheesecake Factory, Yard House and Elephant Bar restaurants throughout California.

Janitors throughout Southern California filed complaints with the State Labor Commissioner for sub-minimum wages, non payment of overtime, double time, failure to provide rest and meal periods, failure to provide itemized wage statement and issuing insufficient payroll checks.

“It's embarrassing, said Antonio Bentin a former Excell janitor, after working so many hours, 7 days a week and for only \$50 a night, and then for the check to bounce. I bowed my head and walked away humiliated. The landlord doesn't care why we can't make rent, our families have needs. We are human and deserve to be respected, added Bentin.”

“These restaurants are extremely lucrative operations, there is no acceptable reason why they are contracting with such an irresponsible company”, said Lilia Garcia, executive director of MCTF. “It is unconscionable to operate these conditions. We call on the restaurants to stop supporting unscrupulous business practices and contract with a responsible company.”

“We want to work, we do work hard, all we are asking is that our rights be respected, said former Excell janitor Norma Peñaloza.”

MCTF investigators visited restaurants in Northern California and janitors complained of the same conditions and employer.

The MCTF is a janitorial watchdog organization in California. It is the intention of the MCTF to abolish unfair and illegal business practices within the janitorial industry. The MCTF is committed to improving the stability of the janitorial industry in the interest of responsible employers, client companies, consumers and workers. Irresponsible contractors place all parties at risk. Protect yourself and your business; ensure that you are contracting a responsible employer.

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