IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA **MACON DIVISION**

MANDIE WALKER,

Plaintiff,

Civil Action No. 5:09-cv-16(HL) ٧.

DOLGENCORP, INC., DOLGENCORP OF NEW YORK, INC., DOLGENCORP OF TEXAS, **INC., and DOLLAR GENERAL** PARTNERS.

Defendants.

ORDER

Plaintiff, Kathy Boatwright, was one of approximately 2500 plaintiffs identified in a Fair Labor Standards Act case brought against the Dollar General stores and filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama. Gray v. Dolgencorp, Inc., Case No. 7:06-cv-01538-LSC. The district court in Alabama granted, in part, the defendants' motion for severance and separate trials and ordered that the cases of some of the plaintiffs be transferred to each plaintiff's "home district." As a result of that order, the complaint, as amended, that was filed in the Northern District of Alabama has now been docketed in this Court in the name of Plaintiff Boatwright.

¹ According to records in the case, the claims at issue here were originally brought as a collective action under the Fair Labor Standards Act in Brown v. Dolgencorp, Inc., Case No. 7:02-cv-673-UWC, in the Northern District of Alabama. After the collective action was decertified, the plaintiffs refiled their claims as a single action in Case No. 7:06-cv-01538-LSC.

Review of the complaint, as amended, reveals that, because it was originally

filed on behalf of five other plaintiffs who were residing in Alabama, it fails to provide

information specific to Plaintiff Boatwright. For example, the complaint fails to state

Boatwright's residence, or show how venue is proper in this Court. It also fails to

identify the Dollar General store where she worked, or the dates that she worked, or

the dates on which she bases her Fair Labor Standards Act claim. Additionally, there

are four defendants identified in the complaint; the complaint fails to identify what

wrongful conduct taken against plaintiff can be attributed to each defendant. As a result

of these shortcomings, the Court is of the opinion that plaintiff must amend her

complaint to demonstrate that venue is proper in this Court, and to more properly

identify her claims and the parties against whom they are made, so that the issues may

be properly framed and the proper parties to this proceeding may be identified. See

generally Byrne v. Nezhat, 261 F.3d 1075 (11th Cir. 2001) (encouraging district courts

to take control of the pleadings early in the case). Plaintiff shall file her amended

complaint not later than 20 days from the date of entry of this order.

SO ORDERED, this the 23rd day of January, 2009.

s/ Hugh Lawson

HUGH LAWSON, Judge

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