

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF WAYNE

BRITTANY PAZ,

Plaintiff,

v

MICHAEL MORSE, and  
MICHAEL J. MORSE, P.C.,

Defendants.

Case No.: 17 - -CZ  
Hon.

17-008434-CZ

FILED IN MY OFFICE  
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CATHY M. GARRETT

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**PLAINTIFF'S VERIFIED COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND**

There is no other civil action between these parties arising out of the same transaction or occurrence as alleged in this complaint pending in this court, nor has any such action been previously filed and dismissed or transferred after having been assigned to a judge, nor do I know of any other civil action not between these parties arising out of the same transaction or occurrence as alleged in this complaint that is either pending, or was previously filed and dismissed, transferred, or otherwise disposed of after having been assigned to a judge in this court.

NOW COMES the Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, by and through her attorneys, Fieger, Fieger, Kenney & Harrington, P.C., and for her complaint against Defendant, states as follows:

**COMMON ALLEGATIONS**

1. At all relevant times, Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, resided in the City of Taylor, County of Wayne, State of Michigan.

2. At all relevant times, Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, resided in the City of Huntington Woods, County of Oakland, State of Michigan.

3. At all relevant times, Defendant, MICHAEL J MORSE, P.C. (hereinafter, "MIKE MORSE LAW FIRM"), was a Michigan professional corporation located in the City of Southfield, County of Oakland, State of Michigan and conducts systematic business in Oakland County, State of Michigan.

4. At all relevant times, Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, was the owner and agent of Defendant, MIKE MORSE LAW FIRM, who was at all times acting within the course and scope of his employment, and as a result, Defendant, MIKE MORSE LAW FIRM, is vicariously liable for the acts of Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE.

5. The events which are the subject matter of this Complaint occurred at Detroit Beer Company in Wayne County, Michigan.

6. Venue and jurisdiction are properly vested in this court.

7. The amount in controversy exceeds Twenty Five Million (\$25,000,000.00) Dollars, exclusive of interest, costs and attorney's fees.

#### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

8. Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, incorporates by reference the previous allegations, as if restated word for word and paragraph by paragraph.

9. On or about December 9, 2016 Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, was bartending at Detroit Beer Company during Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE's, firm Christmas Party which was held at Detroit Beer Company.

10. Prior to this incident, BRITTANY PAZ had never met and/or encountered Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE.

11. During the party, an employee from the Mike Morse Law Firm told Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, that she was pretty enough to be hired by Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, and that he only hires good looking girls.

12. The employee then introduced Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, to Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE.

13. Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, gave Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, his business card and asked for her number, which she provided to him.

14. Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, thought that this interaction with Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, was to establish a professional connection to help her pursue employment at the Mike Morse Law Firm.

15. Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, then said that he would "put her tongue ring to work," after which he stated "she was tiny" and "the things he would do with her in his office during her interview."

16. Several witnesses heard Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, make these comments to Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ.

17. After hearing Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE's, sexual comments, Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, decided that she no longer wanted work for or have anything to do with Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE.

18. Throughout the night, Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, would approach Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, and rub up against her in a sexual manner; at one point he approached her from behind and grabbed her buttocks.

19. Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, did not react upon being sexually touched by Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, because he was the host of the party and she did not think it would be a good time to complain.

20. Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, told other staff at Detroit Beer Company that Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, was making her uncomfortable.

21. Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, made a complaint to her general manager, Josh Guitar, about the behavior of Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, at the Christmas Party.

22. The following day, Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, sent Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, a text saying "It wasn't bad having a great looking bartender like you," to which Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, did not respond.

23. Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, committed sexual assault and battery, negligence, intentional and/or negligent infliction of emotional distress, and against BRITTANY PAZ who as a result has suffered injuries and damages set forth herein.

24. Defendant, MIKE MORSE LAW FIRM, was aware that Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, engaged in conduct constituting sexual harassment and sexual assault with female employees, and as such, Defendant, MIKE MORSE LAW FIRM, had actual and/or constructive knowledge of Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE's, propensities to act in a manner which constitutes sexual harassment and had actual and/or constructive knowledge of Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE's, propensity to act in accordance with said conduct.

25. Defendant, MIKE MORSE LAW FIRM, is vicariously liable for the actions of Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, who is owner and agent of Defendant, MIKE MORSE LAW FIRM, and who was at all times acting within the course and scope of his employment.

**COUNT I**  
**SEXUAL ASSAULT AND BATTERY**  
**AGAINST DEFENDANT, MICHAEL MORSE**

26. Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, incorporates by reference the previous allegations, as if restated word for word and paragraph by paragraph.

27. At all times relevant, Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, unlawfully and without consent touched Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ's, body in a sexual manner, when he rubbed his body her and grabbed her buttocks in a sexual manner.

28. At all times relevant, Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, negligently and/or willfully or maliciously sexually assaulted Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, in December 2016.

29. At all times relevant, Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, negligently, intentionally, and/or willfully or maliciously sexually assaulted Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ.

30. Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, knew or should have known, that his conduct was illegal and malicious.

31. As a result of Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE's, illegal, negligent, grossly negligent, intentional, and/or malicious conduct, MICHAEL MORSE breached the duties owed to Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, of not sexually assaulting a person, or touching, without consent.

32. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE's, conduct, Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, suffered a sexual assault and battery.

33. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE's, negligent and/or intentional actions and/or omissions, Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, has suffered and continues to suffer the following injuries and damages:

- a. Severe emotional and mental distress;
- b. Humiliation, grief, embarrassment;
- c. Loss of reputation and esteem in the community;
- d. Fright and shock;
- e. Inability to experience social pleasures and enjoyment;
- f. Physical manifestations including shaking of hands, nausea, increased anxiety, headaches, cold sweats, loss of appetite, sleeplessness and other physical manifestations;
- g. Exemplary damages; And
- h. All additional injuries and damages discovered throughout the course of this litigation;

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, demands judgment in excess of Twenty Five Million (\$25,000,000.00) Dollars, or whatever amount the trier of fact finds the plaintiff to be entitled, along with an award of exemplary damages, including costs, interest and attorney's fees.

**COUNT II**  
**NEGLIGENT AND INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS**  
**AGAINST DEFENDANTS, MICHAEL MORSE and MIKE MORSE LAW FIRM**

34. Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, incorporates by reference the previous allegations, as if restated word for word and paragraph by paragraph.

35. At all times relevant, Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, who is an agent of Defendant, MIKE MORSE LAW FIRM, was acting within the scope and course of his employment, when he committed the previously described acts constituting negligence, gross negligence, and/or willful and wanton misconduct.

36. Defendant, MIKE MORSE LAW FIRM, had actual and/or constructive knowledge of Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE's, propensities to act in a manner which constitutes sexual harassment and had actual and/or constructive knowledge of Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE's, propensity to act in accordance with said conduct.

37. Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, inflicted great emotional distress upon Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, by way of his intentional and/or negligent facilitation of the aforementioned illegal and improper acts.

38. The aforementioned illegal and improper acts constitute extreme and outrageous conduct, which caused Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, to suffer severe injuries, including humiliation, indignity and injury to her psyche including, but not limited to the following, all of which shock the conscience of the community:

- a. Actually and physically putting his hands into BRITTANY PAZ's buttocks as she was working as a bartender at Detroit Beer Company;
- b. Actually and physically touching the body of BRITTANY PAZ, in a sexual and offensive manner without invitation, permission, or inducement when he grabbed her buttocks without permission, invitation, and/or any inducement whatsoever;
- c. All other breaches of duty identified by Defendant in deposition testimony and/or answers to interrogatories and/or all other discovery, all of which is hereby adopted by reference; and
- d. Any and all other breaches that become known through the course of litigation.

39. Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, by and through his acts and/or omissions, inflicted emotional distress upon Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, by his unwanted sexual assault and battery.

40. The conduct of Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, was extreme, outrageous, and of a character not to be tolerated by a civilized society.

41. The conduct of Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, would naturally and probably result in emotional distress.

42. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE's, actions, all of which constitute either negligent or intentional infliction of emotional distress, Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, has suffered the following injuries and damages:

- a. Severe emotional and mental distress;
- b. Humiliation, grief, embarrassment;
- c. Loss of reputation and esteem in the community;
- d. Fright and shock;
- e. Inability to experience social pleasures and enjoyment;
- f. Physical manifestations including shaking of hands, nausea, increased anxiety, headaches, cold sweats, loss of appetite, sleeplessness and other physical manifestations;
- g. Exemplary damages; And
- h. All additional injuries and damages discovered throughout the course of this litigation;

43. Defendant, MIKE MORSE LAW FIRM, is vicariously liable for the actions of Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, who is owner and agent of MIKE MORSE LAW FIRM, and who was at all times acting within the course and scope of his employment.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, demands judgment in excess of Twenty Five Million (\$25,000,000.00) Dollars, or whatever amount the trier of fact finds the plaintiff to be entitled, along with an award of exemplary damages, including costs, interest and attorney's fees.

**COUNT III**  
**NEGLIGENCE, GROSS NEGLIGENCE, WANTON AND WILLFUL MISCONDUCT**  
**DEFENDANTS, MICHAEL MORSE AND MIKE MORSE LAW FIRM**

44. Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, incorporates by reference the previous allegations, as if restated word for word and paragraph by paragraph

45. At all times relevant, Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, who is an agent of Defendant, MIKE MORSE LAW FIRM, was acting within the scope and course of his employment, when he committed the previously described acts constituting negligence, gross negligence, and/or willful and wanton misconduct.

46. Defendant, MIKE MORSE LAW FIRM, had actual and/or constructive knowledge of Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE's, propensities to act in a manner which constitutes sexual harassment and had actual and/or constructive knowledge of Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE's, propensity to act in accordance with said conduct.

47. Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, committed the acts of negligence, gross negligence, willful and wanton misconduct, as described previously, which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Actually and physically putting his hands into BRITTANY PAZ's buttocks as she was working as a bartender at Detroit Beer Company;



- b. Actually and physically touching the body of BRITTANY PAZ, in a sexual and offensive manner without invitation, permission, or inducement when he grabbed her buttocks without permission, invitation, and/or any inducement whatsoever;
- c. All other breaches of duty identified by Defendant in deposition testimony and/or answers to interrogatories and/or all other discovery, all of which is hereby adopted by reference; and
- d. Any and all other breaches that become known through the course of litigation.

48. As a result of breaching each and every duty owed to BRITTANY PAZ by Defendants, MICHAEL MORSE and MIKE MORSE LAW FIRM, as described above, BRITTANY PAZ, suffered damages and injuries as described herein.

49. At all times relevant, the conduct by Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, as identified herein amounted to conduct so reckless as to have a substantial disregard whether injury should occur.

50. Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, committed acts of negligence, gross negligence, willful and wanton misconduct against Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, as described previously, which constituted conduct so reckless and egregious so as to amount to gross negligence.

51. As a direct and proximate result of the acts and conduct referenced above, by Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, BRITTANY PAZ, suffered numerous injuries and damages, which include but are not limited to:

- a. Severe emotional and mental distress;
- b. Humiliation, grief, embarrassment;
- c. Loss of reputation and esteem in the community;
- d. Fright and shock;
- e. Inability to experience social pleasures and enjoyment;
- f. Physical manifestations including shaking of hands, nausea, increased anxiety, headaches, cold sweats, loss of appetite, sleeplessness and other physical manifestations;
- g. Exemplary damages; And
- h. All additional injuries and damages discovered throughout the course of this litigation;

52. Defendant, MIKE MORSE LAW FIRM, is vicariously liable for the actions of Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, who is owner and agent of MIKE MORSE LAW FIRM, and who was at all times acting within the course and scope of his employment.

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ demands judgment in excess of Twenty Five Million (\$25,000,000.00) Dollars, or whatever amount the trier of fact finds the plaintiff to be entitled, along with an award of exemplary damages, including costs, interest and attorney's fees.

**COUNT IV**  
**NEGLIGENCE OF DEFENDANT MIKE MORSE LAW FIRM – FAILURE TO**  
**CONTROL EMPLOYEE/AGENT**

53. Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, incorporates by reference the previous allegations, as if restated word for word and paragraph by paragraph.

54. At all times relevant, Defendant, MIKE MORSE, was an agent of Defendant, MIKE MORSE LAW FIRM, and as a result they had a special relationship.

55. Defendant, MIKE MORSE LAW FIRM had a duty to control Defendant, MIKE MORSE, so as to prevent harm to others, including Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ.

56. At all times relevant, Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, who is an agent of Defendant, MIKE MORSE LAW FIRM, was acting within the scope and course of his employment, when he committed the previously described acts constituting negligence, gross negligence, and/or willful and wanton misconduct.

57. Defendant, MIKE MORSE LAW FIRM, had actual and/or constructive knowledge of Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE's, propensities to act in a manner which constitutes sexual harassment and had actual and/or constructive knowledge of Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE's, propensity to act in accordance with said conduct.

58. Employees of Defendant, MIKE MORSE LAW FIRM, witnessed Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, acting in an inappropriately sexual manner towards Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, at the Christmas Party and failed to intervene or control Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE.

59. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant, MIKE MORSE LAW FIRM and/or its agents and/or employees breach of their duties, Defendant, MICHAEL MORSE, committed the aforementioned acts against Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, at the Christmas Party including sexual assault and battery, negligent infliction of emotional distress, and negligent or willful misconduct, resulting in Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, suffering numerous injuries and damages, which include but are not limited to:

- a. Severe emotional and mental distress;
- b. Humiliation, grief, embarrassment;
- c. Loss of reputation and esteem in the community;
- d. Fright and shock;
- e. Inability to experience social pleasures and enjoyment;
- f. Physical manifestations including shaking of hands, nausea, increased anxiety, headaches, cold sweats, loss of appetite, sleeplessness and other physical manifestations;
- g. Exemplary damages; And
- h. All additional injuries and damages discovered throughout the course of this litigation;

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ demands judgment in excess of Twenty Five Million (\$25,000,000.00) Dollars, or whatever amount the trier of fact finds the plaintiff to be entitled, along with an award of exemplary damages, including costs, interest and attorney's fees.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Donald H. Dawson Jr.

GEOFFREY N. FIEGER (P30441)

DONALD H. DAWSON JR. (P29692)

Attorneys for Plaintiff

19390 West Ten Mile Road

Southfield, MI 48075

(248) 355-5555

Dated: June 7, 2017

Brittany Paz  
BRITTANY PAZ

*I declare that the statements above are true to the best of my information, knowledge and belief.*

June 5, 2017  
DATED

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF OAKLAND

BRITTANY PAZ,

Plaintiff,

v

MICHAEL MORSE,

Defendant.

Case No.: 17-  
Hon.

-CZ

GEOFFREY N. FIEGER (P30441)  
DONALD H. DAWSON, JR. (P29692)  
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**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

NOW COMES the Plaintiff, BRITTANY PAZ, by and through her attorneys FIEGER, FIEGER, KENNEY, & HARRINGTON, P.C., and hereby demands a trial by jury in the above captioned matter.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Donald H. Dawson Jr.

GEOFFREY N. FIEGER (P30441)  
DONALD H. DAWSON JR. (P29692)  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
19390 West Ten Mile Road  
Southfield, MI 48075  
(248) 355-5555

Dated: June 7, 2017

Brittany Paz  
BRITTANY PAZ

*I declare that the statements above are  
true to the best of my information,  
knowledge and belief.*

June 5, 2017  
DATED