

Two Former Employees Are Suing Danny Meyer Over Unpaid Wages

By Sierra Tishgart



Danny Meyer's <u>plan to eliminate tipping</u> has just started to <u>take hold</u>, and it looks like it's going to be a <u>huge success</u>. But there's some lingering drama: Two former <u>Gramercy Tavern</u> bussers, Uzzol Siddiky and Kawsar Maruf, are suing Meyer's Union Square Hospitality Group, claiming they weren't properly compensated.

Both workers received a lower minimum wage of \$5 per hour — given to staff who benefit from tips — but because they had to share their tips, they claim they should have received \$8.75 per hour. They're demanding to recover their unpaid minimum wages, "retained gratuities" from private events, as well as damages and attorney's fees. Also, Siddiky and Maruf have filed this as a class-action suit, to represent more than 100 employees.

Union Square Hospitality has responded gracefully, saying through a spokesperson, "We have always cared deeply about cultivating a strong employee-first culture, and we will review this matter thoroughly."