

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, APPELLATE DIVISION,
SECOND JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

Palisades Cleaning Servs., Inc. v. Bagatelle Little W. 12th, LLC

2026 NY Slip Op 00382 (Supreme Court of the State of New York Appellate Division Second Judicial
Department 2026) · No. 2022-05417 · Decided January 28, 2026

SUMMARY

The Appellate Division, Second Department, reversed an order granting the defendant summary judgment in an action involving alleged breach of a cleaning-services contract and an account stated. The court held that factual issues remained concerning the authenticity and execution of the contract and whether the parties agreed on the correctness of the plaintiff's invoices.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Cheryl E. Chambers, J.P.; Paul Wooten, J.; Barry E. Warhit, J.; Carl J. Landicino, J.
JURISDICTION	Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division, Second Department
DECIDED	January 28, 2026
DOCKET	2022-05417
DISPOSITION	reversed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff appealed from an order granting defendant summary judgment dismissing an action for breach of contract and an account stated.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	On a motion for summary judgment, the movant must make a prima facie showing of entitlement to judgment as a matter of law by tendering sufficient evidence to eliminate any material issues of fact. If the movant fails to meet that burden, the motion must be denied regardless of the sufficiency of the opposition.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published New York intermediate appellate opinion
PARTIES	Palisades Cleaning Services, Inc. v. Bagatelle Little West 12th, LLC

TOPICS

breach of contract

summary judgment

commercial litigation

standard of review

appellate procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

contract law

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appellate procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Bagatelle waived its defense that its principal's signature on the alleged contract was not authentic.
2. Whether Bagatelle established as a matter of law that its principal did not sign the alleged contract.
3. Whether Bagatelle established that the contract was not binding because Palisades's principal's signature was absent from the produced copy.
4. Whether Bagatelle established prima facie that the parties did not reach an express or implied agreement concerning the correctness of Palisades's invoices and the balance due.
5. Whether Bagatelle was entitled to summary judgment dismissing the complaint.

HOLDINGS

1. Bagatelle did not waive its defense that the purported signature of its principal was not authentic because its answer specifically denied that the contract was executed by its manager and agent.
2. Bagatelle failed to establish prima facie that its principal did not sign the alleged contract or that the contract was not binding because Palisades's principal's signature was absent from the produced copy.
3. Bagatelle failed to establish prima facie that the parties did not reach an express or implied agreement as to the correctness of Palisades's invoices.
4. Because Bagatelle failed to demonstrate prima facie entitlement to judgment as a matter of law, its summary judgment motion had to be denied regardless of the sufficiency of Palisades's opposition.

KEY QUOTATIONS

*“The elements of a cause of action to recover damages for breach of contract are the existence of a contract, the plaintiff's performance under the contract, the defendant's breach, and resulting damages” (at *1)*

*“An account stated is an agreement, express or implied, between the parties to an account based upon prior transactions between them with respect to the correctness of account items and a specific balance due on them” (at *2)*

*“As the defendant failed to demonstrate, prima facie, its entitlement to judgment as a matter of law dismissing the complaint, the Supreme Court should have denied the defendant's motion, regardless of the sufficiency of the plaintiff's opposition” (at *2)*

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The parties allegedly entered into a 2017 written agreement under which Palisades would provide cleaning services to Bagatelle's restaurant for one year, with automatic annual renewals. Bagatelle disputed the

authenticity of its principal's purported signature and argued that the contract was not binding because the copy produced lacked the signature of Palisades's principal. Palisades's principal testified that she personally signed the agreement and delivered a fully executed copy to Bagatelle, and the parties' dispute also concerned whether Bagatelle agreed, expressly or impliedly, to the correctness of Palisades's invoices.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Palisades Cleaning Services commenced an action alleging that the parties entered into a written agreement for cleaning services and seeking damages for breach of contract and on an account stated. Bagatelle moved for summary judgment dismissing the complaint. The Supreme Court, Rockland County, granted the motion, and the Appellate Division reversed and denied the motion.

DISPOSITION

reversed

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The order granting Bagatelle's summary judgment motion is reversed, with costs, and the motion for summary judgment dismissing the complaint is denied.

CASES CITED

- Fortuna Design & Constr., Inc. v. 888 Crescent, LLC, 221 AD3d 861, 862-863
- Riccio v. Genworth Fin., 184 AD3d 590, 591
- CPLR 3018(b)
- Sterling Natl. Bank v. Alan B. Brill, P.C., 186 AD3d 515, 518
- Lewis v. Reeves, 236 AD3d 777, 780-781
- Selene Fin., L.P. v. Jones, 203 AD3d 1191
- Adrian Family Partners I, L.P. v. ExxonMobil Corp., 61 AD3d 901, 903
- Citibank [S.D.] N.A. v. Cutler, 112 AD3d 573, 573-574
- Shelly v. Skief, 73 AD3d 1016, 1016
- Simplex Grinnell v. Ultimate Realty, LLC, 38 AD3d 600, 600
- Goldberg & Connolly v. Upgrade Contr. Co., Inc., 135 AD3d 703, 705
- GPI Entertainment, LLC v. Aviv Façade Solutions, 144 AD3d 409
- TM 18 Realty, LLC v. Copper Wang, Inc., 222 AD3d 904, 905
- Winegrad v. New York Univ. Med. Ctr., 64 NY2d 851, 853

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

Palisades Cleaning Servs., Inc. v Bagatelle Little W. 12th, LLC (2026 NY Slip Op 00382)
Palisades Cleaning Servs., Inc. v Bagatelle Little W. 12th, LLC 2026 NY Slip Op 00382 Decided

on January 28, 2026 Appellate Division, Second Department Published by New York State Law Reporting Bureau pursuant to Judiciary Law § 431. This opinion is uncorrected and subject to revision before publication in the Official Reports.

Decided on January 28, 2026 SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department CHERYL E. CHAMBERS, J.P. PAUL WOOTEN BARRY E. WARHIT CARL J. LANDICINO, JJ. 2022-05417 (Index No. 37285/18) [*1]Palisades Cleaning Services, Inc., appellant, v Bagatelle Little West 12th, LLC, respondent. Sandra D. Parker, New York, NY, for appellant.

McCue Sussmane Zapfel & Cohen, P.C., New York, NY (Ken Sussmane and Jesse Sussmane of counsel), for respondent. DECISION & ORDER In an action to recover damages for breach of contract and on an account stated, the plaintiff appeals from an order of the Supreme Court, Rockland County (Rolf M. Thorsen, J.), dated June 9, 2022.

The order granted the defendant's motion for summary judgment dismissing the complaint. ORDERED that the order is reversed, on the law, with costs, and the defendant's motion for summary judgment dismissing the complaint is denied.

The plaintiff commenced this action to recover damages for breach of contract and on an account stated. The complaint alleges that the plaintiff and the defendant executed a written agreement in 2017, providing that the plaintiff was to perform cleaning services for the defendant's restaurant for a one-year period, automatically renewable for additional one-year terms.

The defendant moved for summary judgment dismissing the complaint. In an order dated June 9, 2022, the Supreme Court granted the motion. The plaintiff appeals. "The elements of a cause of action to recover damages for breach of contract are the existence of a contract, the plaintiff's performance under the contract, the defendant's breach, and resulting damages" (*Fortuna Design & Constr., Inc. v 888 Crescent, LLC*, 221 AD3d 861, 862; see *Riccio v Genworth Fin.*, 184 AD3d 590, 591).

Here, contrary to the plaintiff's contention, the defendant did not waive its defense that the purported signature by the defendant's principal on the subject contract was not authentic, as the defendant's answer specifically denied the plaintiff's allegations that the contract was executed by the defendant's manager and agent (see generally CPLR 3018[b]; cf. *Sterling Natl.*

Bank v Alan B. Brill, P.C., 186 AD3d 515, 518). Nevertheless, contrary to the defendant's contention, the evidence submitted in support of its motion failed to demonstrate as a matter of law that its principal did not sign the alleged contract (see *Lewis v Reeves*, 236 AD3d 777, 780-781; cf. *Selene Fin., L.P. v Jones*, 203 AD3d 1191).

The defendant also failed to demonstrate, *prima facie*, that the contract was not binding because the signature of the plaintiff's principal, required by paragraph 10 of the contract for the agreement to become binding, did not appear on the copy of the contract produced by the plaintiff.

The evidence proffered in support of the defendant's motion, which included a transcript of the sworn deposition testimony by the plaintiff's principal that she personally signed the contract and delivered a fully executed copy to the [*2]defendant, demonstrated the existence of a triable issue of fact as to whether the plaintiff's principal executed the contract (cf. *Adrian Family Partners I, L.P. v ExxonMobil Corp.*, 61 AD3d 901, 903). "An account stated is an agreement, express or implied, between the parties to an account based upon prior transactions between them with respect to the correctness of account items and a specific balance due on them" (*Fortuna Design & Constr., Inc. v 888 Crescent, LLC*, 221 AD3d at 863, quoting *Citibank [S.D.]*

N.A. v Cutler, 112 AD3d 573, 573-574). "An account stated assumes the existence of some indebtedness between the parties, or an express agreement to treat a statement of debt as an account stated" (*Shelly v Skief*, 73 AD3d 1016, 1016, quoting *Simplex Grinnell v Ultimate Realty, LLC*, 38 AD3d 600, 600).

Here, contrary to the defendant's contention, its evidentiary submissions failed to establish, *prima facie*, that the parties did not reach an express or implied agreement as to the correctness of the plaintiff's invoices (see *Goldberg & Connolly v Upgrade Contr. Co., Inc.*, 135 AD3d 703, 705; see also *GPI Entertainment, LLC v Aviv Façade Solutions*, 144 AD3d 409; cf. *TM 18 Realty, LLC v Copper Wang, Inc.*, 222 AD3d 904, 905).

As the defendant failed to demonstrate, *prima facie*, its entitlement to judgment as a matter of law dismissing the complaint, the Supreme Court should have denied the defendant's motion, regardless of the sufficiency of the plaintiff's opposition (see *Winegrad v New York Univ. Med. Ctr.*, 64 NY2d 851, 853). CHAMBERS, J.P., WOOTEN, WARHIT and LANDICINO, JJ., concur.

ENTER: Darrell M. Joseph Clerk of the Court