

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Ubnare v. Trillian Technologies, Inc.

Ubnare · No. Civil Action No. 1:24-cv-3129 (ACR) · Decided December 15, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Columbia grants in part the plaintiff’s motion for default judgment in an action alleging violations of the District of Columbia Wage Payment and Collection Law and breach of contract. The court awards unpaid wages, unpaid PTO, wire transfer fees, a laptop charger expense, and liquidated damages, while deferring rulings on attorney’s fees, costs, and prejudgment interest pending supplemental briefing.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Columbia
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Ana C. Reyes
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Columbia
DECIDED	December 15, 2025
DOCKET	Civil Action No. 1:24-cv-3129 (ACR)
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff moved for default judgment after Defendant failed to appear or answer. The court granted the motion in part, awarded unpaid wages and related amounts plus liquidated damages, and deferred ruling on attorney's fees, costs, and prejudgment interest pending supplemental briefing.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Before entering default judgment, the court independently determines whether it has subject-matter and personal jurisdiction. The court accepts well-pleaded allegations as true for liability but requires sufficient evidence to determine damages and independently evaluates the reasonableness of requested attorney's fees and costs.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	published

TOPICS

- default judgment
- default
- wage and hour
- attorney fees
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court had subject-matter and personal jurisdiction to enter a default judgment.
2. Whether Plaintiff's well-pleaded allegations and supporting evidence established Defendant's liability under the District of Columbia Wage Payment and Collection Law.
3. Whether Plaintiff adequately proved the amounts of unpaid wages, unpaid PTO, wire-transfer fees, and work-expense reimbursement.
4. Whether Plaintiff was entitled to mandatory treble liquidated damages under the DCWPCL.
5. Whether Plaintiff sufficiently supported his requests for attorney's fees and costs.
6. Whether Plaintiff established entitlement to prejudgment and post-judgment interest.

HOLDINGS

1. The court had subject-matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332 because the parties were completely diverse and the amount in controversy exceeded \$75,000, and it had personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant was an employer that resided and transacted business in the District of Columbia.
2. Plaintiff established Defendant's liability under the District of Columbia Wage Payment and Collection Law by alleging and supporting that Defendant failed to pay wages earned on the designated regular paydays.
3. Plaintiff was entitled to \$22,762.68 for unpaid wages, unpaid PTO, wire-transfer fees, and reimbursement for the work-expensed laptop charger.
4. The DCWPCL required an award of treble damages, and Plaintiff was entitled to \$67,745.37 in liquidated damages based on unpaid wages and unpaid PTO.
5. The court deferred ruling on attorney's fees and costs because Plaintiff did not provide sufficiently detailed information identifying which attorney performed each task or describing the specific work performed.
6. Post-judgment interest was proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1961, but the court deferred ruling on prejudgment interest because Plaintiff had not provided supporting authority or addressed the applicable rate.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Rule 55 sets forth a two-step process for a party seeking a default judgment: first, entry of a default by the clerk of the court, followed by entry of a default judgment by either the clerk or the court.” (2)

“This provision makes clear that treble damages are mandatory, not discretionary, if requested.” (5)

“The Court will enter final judgment on all requested amounts—including those set forth above—after it reviews Plaintiff’s supplemental brief.” (8)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Diwakar Ubnare worked as a full-time employee of Trillian Technologies, Inc. from October 26, 2020, through July 24, 2024, at a semi-monthly salary of \$7,708.33 and with accrued paid time off. Trillian withheld nine paychecks totaling \$69,374.97, later making partial payments but leaving \$14,873.46 in unpaid wages. The court also found supported claims for \$7,708.33 in unpaid PTO, \$105 in wire-transfer fees, and \$75.89 for a work-expensed laptop charger.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed the complaint on November 4, 2024 and properly served Defendant on December 17, 2024. After Defendant failed to respond, the Clerk entered default on January 29, 2025. Plaintiff filed successive motions for default judgment, with the second renewed motion filed July 15, 2025 serving as the operative motion. The court granted that motion in part and ordered supplemental briefing before entering final judgment on all requested amounts.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Jackson v. Beech, 636 F.2d 831, 836 (D.C. Cir. 1980)
- Friends Christian High Sch. v. Geneva Fin. Consultants, 321 F.R.D. 20, 22 (D.D.C. 2017)
- Mwani v. bin Laden, 417 F.3d 1, 6 (D.C. Cir. 2005)
- Boland v. Elite Terrazzo Flooring, Inc., 763 F. Supp. 2d 64, 67-68 (D.D.C. 2011)
- Flynn v. Mastro Masonry Contractors, 237 F. Supp. 2d 66, 69 (D.D.C. 2002)
- Sivaraman v. Guizzetti & Assocs., Ltd., 228 A.3d 1066, 1072 (D.C. 2020)
- Blum v. Stenson, 465 U.S. 886, 888 (1984)
- Ventura v. L.A. Howard Constr. Co., 134 F. Supp. 3d 99, 105 (D.D.C. 2015)
- Salazar v. District of Columbia, 123 F. Supp. 2d 8 (D.D.C. 2000)
- Nat'l Ass'n of Concerned Veterans v. Sec'y of Def., 675 F.2d 1319, 1327 (D.C. Cir. 1982)
- Ventura v. Bebo Foods, Inc., 738 F. Supp. 2d 8, 34 (D.D.C. 2010)
- Ashraf-Hassan v. Embassy of France in the United States, 189 F. Supp. 3d 48, 61 (D.D.C. 2016)
- Hensley v. Eckerhart, 461 U.S. 424, 434 (1983)

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