

Philippe Chow workers forced to clean bloodied walls: suit

By Lisa Eustachewich / January 28, 2016 / 2:31am



Workers at Philippe Chow's three restaurants in New York were stiffed on tips and forced to perform "completely menial and humiliating tasks" like killing rodents and cleaning up "walls sprayed with blood from butchering animal carcasses," a new Manhattan federal lawsuit charges.

Eighteen servers, bus people, runners, bartenders and barbacks filed the class-action suit Wednesday, seeking to end "unlawful wage practices for once and for all and change the culture of mistreatment directed towards service employees" at the eateries.

"It is totally unacceptable for Philippe to hold itself out as a high-end restaurant catering to affluent New Yorkers but meanwhile its largely immigrant workers are treated like complete second-class citizens," said the plaintiffs' lawyer, David Gottlieb.

The employees also say they hung out of windows to clean the panes and had to clean skylights.

Abraham Merchant, CEO of Merchant Hospitality, which took ownership of the restaurants in 2013, said the company is reviewing the complaint and characterized the plaintiffs as "disgruntled."