#### United States Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of New York

MML ID: 2932762

Plea	se select applicable Debtor (select only one Debtor per claim form):	
<b>D</b>	/ Gawker Media, LLC (Case No. 16-11700)	Date Stamped Copy Returned
	Kinja, Kft. (Case No. 16-11718)	No Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope  No Copy Provided
	Gawker Media Group, Inc. (Case No. 16-11719)	

You may also submit your claim electronically by visiting http://cases.primeclerk.com/Gawker/EPOC-Index

#### Official Form 410

Debtor Gawker Media, LLC has listed your claim on Schedule E/F, Part 2 as a Contingent, Unliquidated and Disputed General Unsecured claim in an Unknown amount. You must timely file a proof of claim or be forever barred from recovery.

**Proof of Claim** 

4/16

Read the instructions before filling out this form. This form is for making a claim for payment in a bankruptcy case. Do not use this form to make a request for payment of an administrative expense. Make such a request according to 11 U.S.C. § 503.

Filers must leave out or redact information that is entitled to privacy on this form or on any attached documents. Attach redacted copies of any documents that support the claim, such as promissory notes, purchase orders, invoices, itemized statements of running accounts, contracts, judgments, mortgages, and security agreements. Do not send original documents; they may be destroyed after scanning. If the documents are not available, explain in an attachment.

A person who files a fraudulent claim could be fined up to \$500,000, imprisoned for up to 5 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 157, and 3571.

Fill in all the information about the claim as of the date the case was filed. That date is on the notice of bankruptcy (Form 309) that you received.

P	art 1. Identify the C	laim				
1.	Who is the current	Sadowski, Christopher	PRIME CLERK LLC			
	creditor?	Name of the current creditor (the person or entity to be paid for this clair	im) AUG 2 3 2016			
_		Other names the creditor used with the debtor				
2.	Has this claim been acquired from someone else?	No Yes. From whom?	RECEIVED OC			
3.	Where should notices and payments to the creditor be sent?	Where should notices to the creditor be sent?  Sadowski, Christopher	Where should payments to the creditor be sent? (if different)			
Fe Ba	Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure	Richard P. Liebowitz, Liebowitz Law Firm, PLLC	←Same Name			
	(FRBP) 2002(g)	11 Sunrise Plaza, Suite 301 Valley Stream NY 11580	Number Street			
RII	ME CLERK LLC		City State ZIP Code			
	AUG 2 4 2016	Contact phone 5/6-233-1660 Contact email RLO, Liebouitzlaw	Contact phone			
-	RECEIVED		Contact email			
		Firm.com				
4.	Does this claim amend one already filed?	No Yes. Claim number on court claims registry (if known)	Filed on 6/05/2016			
5.	Do you know if anyone else has filed a proof of claim for this claim?	No Property No Property No made the earlier filing?				



EPOC ID: 161170000391193

Part 2: Give Information About the Claim as of the Date the Case Was Filed No. 6. Do you have any number you use to identify the Yes. Last 4 digits of the debtor's account or any number you use to identify the debtor: \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ debtor? Does this amount include interest or other charges? 7. How much is the claim? Yes. Attach statement itemizing interest, fees, expenses, or other charges required by Bankruptcy Rule 3001(c)(2)(A). 8. What is the basis of the Examples: Goods sold, money loaned, lease, services performed, personal injury or wrongful death, or credit card. claim? Attach redacted copies of any documents supporting the claim required by Bankruptcy Rule 3001(c). Limit disclosing information that is entitled to privacy, such as health care information. 9. Is all or part of the claim secured? Yes. The claim is secured by a lien on property. Nature of property: Real estate. If the claim is secured by the debtor's principal residence, file a Mortgage Proof of Claim Attachment (Official Form 410-A) with this Proof of Claim. ■ Motor vehicle Other Describe: Basis for perfection: Attach redacted copies of documents, if any, that show evidence of perfection of a security interest (for example, a mortgage, lien, certificate of title, financing statement, or other document that shows the lien has been filed or recorded.) Value of property: Amount of the claim that is secured: Amount of the claim that is unsecured: \$ \_\_\_\_(The sum of the secured and unsecured amounts should match the amount in line 7.) Amount necessary to cure any default as of the date of the petition: Annual Interest Rate (when case was filed) \_\_\_\_\_% Fixed ■ Variable 10. Is this claim based on a lease? Yes. Amount necessary to cure any default as of the date of the petition. 11. Is this claim subject to a No. right of setoff? Yes. Identify the property: \_\_\_

2. Is all or part of the claim	₩ No				
entitled to priority under 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)?	☐ Yes. Check one:	Amount entitled to priority			
A claim may be partly priority and partly nonpriority. For example, in some categories, the law limits the amount entitled to priority.	Domestic support obligations (including alimony and child support) under 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(1)(A) or (a)(1)(B).	\$			
	☐ Up to \$2,850* of deposits toward purchase, lease, or rental of property or services for personal, family, or household use. 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(7).	\$			
	Wages, salaries, or commissions (up to \$12,850*) earned within 180 days before the bankruptcy petition is filed or the debtor's business ends, whichever is earlier.  11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(4).				
	☐ Taxes or penalties owed to governmental units. 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(8).	\$			
	☐ Contributions to an employee benefit plan. 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(5).	\$ <u>_</u>			
	☐ Other. Specify subsection of 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)( ) that applies.	\$			
	* Amounts are subject to adjustment on 4/01/19 and every 3 years after that for cases begun on or after the date of adjustment.				
3. Is all or part of the claim entitled to	No No				
administrative priority pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 503(b)(9)?	☐ Yes. Indicate the amount of your claim arising from the value of any goods received by the Debtor within 20 days before the date of commencement of the above case, in which the goods have been sold to the Debtor in the ordinary course of such Debtor's business. Attach documentation supporting such claim.	\$			
Part 3: Sign Below					
The person completing this proof of claim must					
sign and date it. FRBP 9011(b).	am the creditor.  I am the creditor's attorney or authorized agent.				
If you file this claim	I am the trustee, or the debtor, or their authorized agent. Bankruptcy Rule 3004.				
electronically, FRBP 5005(a)(2) authorizes courts	☐ I am a guarantor, surety, endorser, or other codebtor. Bankruptcy Rule 3005.				
to establish local rules specifying what a signature	I understand that an authorized signature on this <i>Proof of Claim</i> serves as an acknowledgment that when calculating the amount of the claim, the creditor gave the debtor credit for any payments received toward the debt.				
is.  A person who files a	I have examined the information in this <i>Proof of Claim</i> and have a reasonable belief that the information is true and correct.				
fraudulent claim could be fined up to \$500,000.	I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.				
imprisoned for up to 5 years, or both.	Executed on date 08/19/2016 (mm/dd/yyyy)				
18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 157, and 3571.	20 D.D. +				
	Kichard thelively				
	Signature Print the name of the person who is completing and signing this claim:				
	Name Richard Paul Liebowit First name Middle name Last name	2			
	Title Attorney at Law				
	Company  Liebouitz Caw Firm PUC  Identify the corporate servicer as the company if the authorized agent is a servicer.				
	Address II Suncise Plaza, Suite 301 Nouteur Street Aburrack 11580				
	Contact phone 516-233-1660 Email RL Clieb	owntlow Firm.			

UNITED STATES DISTRIC SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF		_
CHRISTOPHER SADOWS		
	Plaintiff,	Docket No.
- against -		JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
GAWKER MEDIA LLC		
	Defendant.	

#### **COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff Christopher Sadowski ("Sadowski" or "Plaintiff") by and through his undersigned counsel, as and for his Complaint against Defendant Gawker Media LLC ("Gawker" or "Defendant") hereby alleges as follows:

#### **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

1. This is an action for copyright infringement under Section 501 of the Copyright Act and for the removal and/or alteration of copyright management information under Section 1202(b) of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. This action arises out of Defendant's unauthorized reproduction and public display of a copyrighted photograph of an UBER car owned and registered by Sadowski, a New York City based photojournalist. Accordingly, Sadowski seeks monetary relief under the Copyright Act of the United States, as amended, 17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq*.

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

2. This claim arises under the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 101 et seq., and this Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).

- 3. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant resides in and/or are doing business in New York.
  - 4. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b).

#### **PARTIES**

- 5. Sadowski is a professional photojournalist in the business of licensing his photographs to online, print, and television stations for a fee, having a usual place of business at 46 Viola Avenue, Clifton, New Jersey, 07011. Sadowski's photographs have appeared in many publications around the United States.
- 6. Upon information and belief, Gawker is a limited liability corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, with a place of business at 210 Elizabeth Street, Ste. 4, New York, New York, 10012. Upon information and belief, Gawker is registered with the New York Department of State, Division of Corporations to do business in the State of New York. At all times material hereto, Gawker has owned and operated the websites at the following URL's: www.Gizmodo.com and Gawker.com (the "Websites").

#### STATEMENT OF FACTS

- A. Background and Plaintiff's Ownership of the Photograph
- 7. On or about August 19, 2014, Sadowski photographed an UBER car (the "Photograph"). A true and correct copy of the Photograph is attached hereto as Exhibit A.
- 8. Sadowski then licensed the Photograph to The New York Post. On August 19, 2014, The New York Post ran an article that featured the Photograph on its web edition entitled, *Uber users are mistakenly jumping into random cars*. See (http://nypost.com/2014/08/19/uber-users-are-mistakenly-jumping-into-random-cars/). Sadowski's name was featured in a gutter

credit identifying him as the photographer of the Photograph. A true and correct copy of the Photograph on the article is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

- 9. Sadowski is the author of the Photograph and has at all times been the sole owner of all right, title and interest in and to the Photograph, including the copyright thereto.
- 10. The Photograph was registered with Copyright Office and was given Copyright Registration Number VA 1-925-762 effective September 30, 2014.

#### B. Defendant's Infringing Activities

- 11. Upon information and belief, on or about June 17, 2015, Gawker ran an article on the Website entitled *Uber drivers in California will be employees, not contractors*. See (http://gizmodo.com/uber-drivers-in-california-will-be-considered-employees-1711956394) and another article entitled *NYC Has Impounded 500 Uber Cars Since April for Picking Up Illegal Fares*. See (http://gawker.com/nyc-has-impounded-500-uber-cars-since-april-for-picking-1712012779) The articles prominently featured the Photograph. A true and correct copy of the articles is attached hereto as Exhibit C.
- 12. Gawker did not license the Photograph from Plaintiff for its articles, nor did Gawker have Plaintiff's permission or consent to publish the Photograph on its Websites.
- 13. Upon information and belief, Gawker removed Sadowski's gutter credit and did not attribute the Photograph to anyone.

### FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF (COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT AGAINST GAWKER) (17 U.S.C. §§ 106, 501)

14. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1-13 above.

- 15. Gawker infringed Plaintiff's copyright in the Photograph by reproducing and publicly displaying the Photograph on the Websites. Gawker is not, and has never been, licensed or otherwise authorized to reproduce, publically display, distribute and/or use the Photograph.
- 16. The acts of Defendant complained of herein constitute infringement of Plaintiff's copyright and exclusive rights under copyright in violation of Sections 106 and 501 of the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. §§ 106 and 501.
- 17. Upon information and belief, the foregoing acts of infringement by Gawker have been willful, intentional, and purposeful, in disregard of and indifference to Plaintiff's rights.
- 18. As a direct and proximate cause of the infringement by the Defendant of Plaintiff's copyright and exclusive rights under copyright, Plaintiff is entitled to damages and defendant's profits pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(b) for the infringement.
- 19. Alternatively, Plaintiff is entitled to statutory damages up to \$150,000 per work infringed for Defendant's willful infringement of the Photograph, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(c).
- 20. Plaintiff further is entitled to his attorney's fees and full costs pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505.
- 21. Defendant's conduct, described above, is causing, and unless enjoined and restrained by this Court, will continue to cause Plaintiff irreparable injury that cannot be fully compensated by or measured in money damages. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law.

# SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF INTEGRITY OF COPYRIGHT MANAGEMENT INFORMATION AGAINST GAWKER (17 U.S.C. § 1202)

22. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1-21 above.

- 23. When the Photograph was published in an article in The New York Post, the article contained copyright management information protected under 17 U.S.C. § 1202(b).
- 24. Upon information and belief, in its article on the Website, Gawker intentionally and knowingly removed copyright management information identifying Plaintiff as the photographer of the Photograph.
  - 25. The conduct of Gawker violates 17 U.S.C. § 1202(b).
- 26. Upon information and belief, Gawker's falsification, removal and/or alteration of the aforementioned copyright management information was made without the knowledge or consent of Plaintiff.
- 27. Upon information and belief, the falsification, alteration and/or removal of said copyright management information was made by Gawker intentionally, knowingly and with the intent to induce, enable, facilitate, or conceal their infringement of Plaintiff's copyrights in the Photograph. Gawker also knew, or should have known, that such falsification, alteration and/or removal of said copyright management information would induce, enable, facilitate, or conceal their infringement of Plaintiff's copyrights in the Photograph.
- As a result of the wrongful conduct of Gawker as alleged herein, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Gawker the damages, that he sustained and will sustain, and any gains, profits and advantages obtained by Gawker because of their violations of 17 U.S.C. § 1202, including attorney's fees and costs.
- 29. Alternatively, Plaintiff may elect to recover from Gawker statutory damages pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 1203(c)(3) in a sum of at least \$2,500 up to \$25,000 for each violation of 17 U.S.C. § 1202.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests judgment as follows:

- 1. That Defendant Gawker be adjudged to have infringed upon Plaintiff's copyrights in the Photograph in violation of 17 U.S.C §§ 106 and 501;
- 2. The Defendant Gawker be adjudged to have falsified, removed and/or altered copyright management information in violation of 17 U.S.C. § 1202.
- 3. Plaintiff be awarded either: a) Plaintiff's actual damages and Defendant's profits, gains or advantages of any kind attributable to Defendant's infringement of Plaintiff's Photograph; or b) alternatively, statutory damages of up to \$150,000 per copyrighted work infringed pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504;
- 4. That, with regard to the Second Claim for Relief, Plaintiff be awarded either:

  a) Plaintiff's actual damages and Defendant's profits, gains or advantages of any kind attributable to Defendant's falsification, removal and/or alteration of copyright management information; or b) alternatively, statutory damages of at least \$2,500 and up to \$25,000 for each instance of false copyright management information and/or removal or alteration of copyright management information committed by Defendant pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 1203(c);
- 5. That Defendant be required to account for all profits, income, receipts, or other benefits derived by Defendant as a result of its unlawful conduct;
- 6. That Plaintiff be awarded his costs, expenses and attorneys' fees pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505;
- 7. That Plaintiff be awarded pre-judgment interest; and
- 8. Such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

#### **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable in accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38(b).

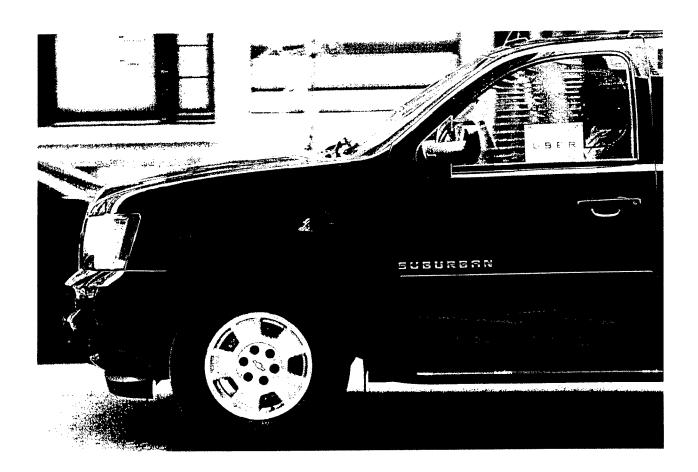
Dated: Valley Stream, New York June 5, 2016

LIEBOWITZ LAW FIRM, PLLC

By: /s/ Richard Liebowitz
Richard P. Liebowitz
11 Sunrise Plaza, Suite 301
Valley Stream, NY 11580
Tel: (516) 233-1660
RL@LiebowitzLawFirm.com

Attorney for Plaintiff Christopher Sadowski

### **EXHIBIT A**



## **EXHIBIT B**

### Uber users are mistakenly jumping into random cars

By Sophia Rosenbaum August 19, 2014 | 1:52am

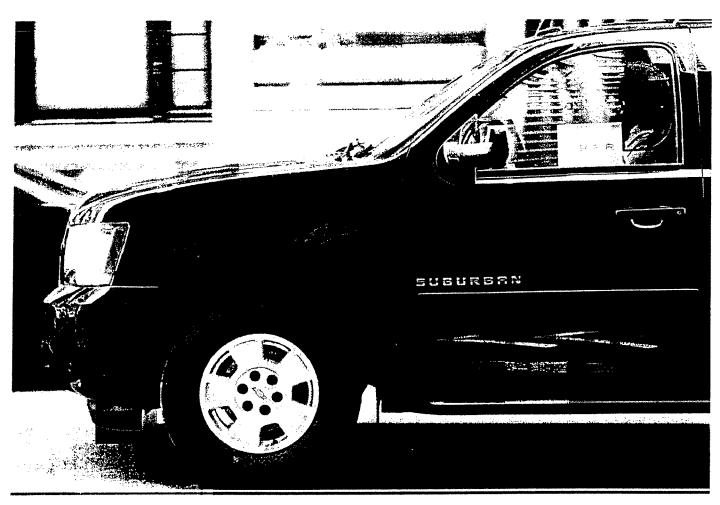


Photo Christopher Sadowski

Marko

Wacky Uber users think the ride-sharing app is so popular that everyone's in on it — jumping into random cars across the country.

"Basically, anytime I'm pulled over on the side of the street, someone tries to hail me or just opens my car door," one New Yorker told the media blog ValleyWag.

Tweets countrywide show it isn't limited to New York.

In DC, @KasibShah wrote, "Someone just got in my car thinking I was her uber."



Follow

Someone just got in my car thinking I was her uber.... I said no bitch this is my car.... Like she got in and got comfortable 12:03 AM - 23 Jun 2014

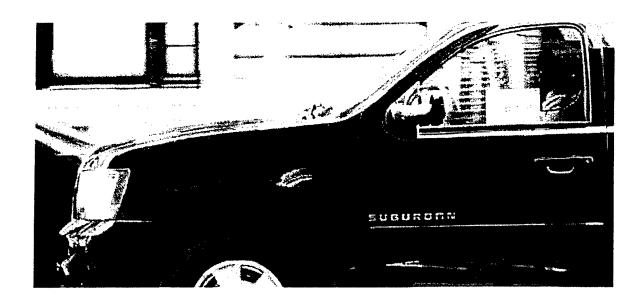
### **EXHIBIT C**

### Uber Drivers in California Will Be Employees, Not Contractors (Updated)



49.5K 450 2

24



An Uber driver is an employee, not a contractor, according to a ruling from the California labor commission. This is horrible news for Uber but good news for anyone concerned that the ruthless ride-hailing service is building a corporate empire by dicking over its drivers.

Uber insists that it's a merely a tech company peddling a mobile platform that happens to connect drivers with riders, not a driving service. That's a convenient way to think about the service, since it means Uber can shrug off the responsibility of treating is growing supply of drivers like they work for the company.

Semandes lister, this makes the artifal ober is a service that employs drivers.

"The defendants hold themselves out as nothing more than a neutral technological platform, designed simply to enable drivers and passengers to transact the business of transportation," the commissioner wrote. "The reality, however, is that defendants are involved in every aspect of the operation."

The ruling came after a San Francisco-based former Uber driver Barbara Berwick filed a claim against the company. Uber will have to pay her \$4000 in business expenses for her stint driving for them.

Even though Uber tries to paint itself as a matchmaking platform for riders and drivers, it sets strict controls on how drivers conduct their business. Uber sets fare rates and prohibits drivers from collecting tips, and it has rules about what kind of cars they can drive. It'll also boot drivers who receive low ratings on the app. As the ruling pointed out, that heavy level of control fits the profile of an employer.

While this ruling is just about Berwick, it will give drivers ammo in other cases, especially in California. This isn't the first time Uber drivers have tried to get employee status; some Uber drivers have filed a class action lawsuit in order to be considered employees instead of contractors. And in May, a Florida agency ruled that a former Uber driver injured on the job was an employee.

That doesn't mean that every Uber driver will be happy with this ruling. Many people driving as a side gig could be hemmed in by an "employee" designation, since 1099 workers have more flexibility. The divide between agreeing or disagreeing with the ruling may come down to whether a driver is picking rides up as a side gig or extra cash, or whether they're attempting to eke out a living.

This is bad news for the Pecause for the least to stay a "tech" company. The current model maximizes how much money Uber can make without being saddled with employment responsibilities.

This ruling means Uber may have to start doing stuff like paying for social security and medicare taxes for eligible drivers in California, and it could incentivize drivers in other states to make claims for similar employee standing. It's a blow to the contractor economy.

Uber is appealing the ruling.

**Update**: Uber pointed out that the ruling only applies to one driver. "Reuters' original headline was not accurate. The California Labor Commission's ruling is non-binding and applies to a single driver," a spokesperson said. "Indeed it is contrary to a previous ruling by the same commission, which concluded in 2012 that the driver 'performed services as an independent contractor, and not as a bona fide employee.' Five other states have also come to the same conclusion. It's important to remember that the number one reason drivers choose to use Uber is because they have complete flexibility and control. The majority of them can and do choose to earn their living from multiple sources, including other ride sharing companies."

[Reuters]

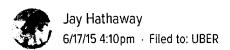
Contact the author at kate.knibbs@gizmodo.com.

Public PGP key

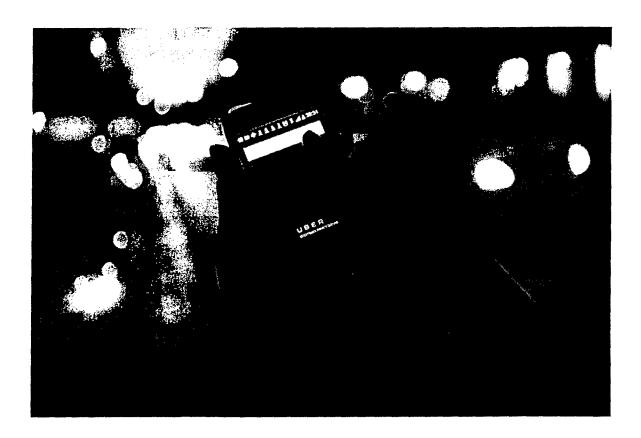
PGP fingerprint: FF8F oD7A AB19 6D71 C967 9576 8C12 9478 EE07 10C

Image via Getty

### NYC Has Impounded 500 Uber Cars Since April for Picking Up Illegal Fares



47.2K 174 27



On the same day that Uber got bad news from the California Labor Commission, the *New York Post* reports another ill omen for the technology-company-and-definitely-not-a-car-service everyone loves to hate and use anyway: NYC has impounded nearly 500 Uber cars since April in a sting against illegal "street hails."

Ads b Google:16-cv-04178-AJN Document 1-3 Filed 06/05/16 Page 7 of 8

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### Uber Drivers in California Will Be Employees, Not Contractors (Updated)

An Uber driver is an employee, not a contractor, according to a ruling from the California labor...

The NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission limits drivers of black cars and livery cars to pre-arranged trips. They're not allowed to compete with taxis for spontaneous street pickups. But that's apparently what 496 drivers did between late April and this week, and they had their cars seized for their trouble.

Uber officially prohibits its drivers from picking up random street fares, but it also doesn't pay for or own the cars its alleged non-employees drive. If those drivers start using their vehicles to make some money on the side, they bear all the risk themselves.

There were 14,000 Uber cars registered in NYC as of earlier this year, which is technically higher than the number of yellow cabs on the road, but Uber doesn't even come close to cabs when it comes to ride volume or hours driven.

One theory about the uptick in illegal fares, put forth by the New York State Federation of Taxi Drivers, is that Uber alone isn't enough for a driver to get by in NYC.

"If you're willing to risk breaking the law, you have to be willing to lose your car," taxi federation president Fernando Mateo told the *Post*, "I would recommend, go back to the basics. Everyone has an app. You can't make a living with just the Uber application."

Mateo is obviously biased wifer in comes to be something to that. At the beginning of this year, Uber cut its fares dramatically across the U.S.—great for passengers, but not so great for drivers. In a blog post, the company assured drivers that they'd actually make *more* money because demand would go up.

In practice, though, it doesn't work that way. A Philadelphia UberX driver, "Muhammad," put it very succinctly to the Philly *City Paper*'s Emily Guendelsberger in May:

Overall, demand has increased. But as a human being, we can only drive maybe three trips in one hour. If you give me 300 trips, that won't do me any good. That demand is for other people, not for me. So cutting the rate is increasing the total business, but the driver is worse off than before.

With Uber cutting profits for individual drivers (but profiting itself from the increased overall demand), it wouldn't be that surprising for struggling drivers—who in some cases invested in new cars just to drive for Uber—to risk going outside the system to ensure their cars actually make them money.

[h/t Consumerist, Photo: Getty Images]









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