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Philly's UberBlack drivers can pursue class action suit, judge rules

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[ALEJANDRO A. ALVAREZ / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER, FILE](#)

UberBlack drivers Ali Razak (left) and Kenan Sabani stand next to a vehicle along Walnut Street near 17th Street in Center City.

by **[Jane M. Von Bergen](#)**, Staff Writer

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On Thursday, U.S. District Judge Michael Baylson denied Uber's attempt to quash a wage and overtime lawsuit filed earlier this year by Philadelphia UberBlack drivers. They are seeking class action status. Uber argued that the drivers had signed documents agreeing to arbitration which precluded them from filing a class action suit.

The drivers, who drive for UberBlack's premium limousine division, said the company misclassified them as independent contractors when they were actually employees who sometimes weren't properly paid overtime, were forced to cover their own expenses and were undercut by Uber's lower-cost UberX service. Uber denied all those charges and had no comment Thursday on the judge's decision.

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