

Uber and Lyft drivers are employees, California appeals court affirms

Stillman Advance: Stillman College

October 24, 2020 Saturday

University Wire

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Section: MARKETS; Pg. 1

Length: 447 words

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Body

The bombshell decision Thursday comes less than two weeks before an election in which the ride-hailing companies are counting on voters to approve a ballot measure that would partially exempt them from the labor law at issue in the legal fight.

The state has argued that by classifying their drivers as contractors, Uber and Lyft deprive those workers of benefits they are entitled to under a law that took effect January 1.

More specifically, a report from Washington Post reveals that drivers claim Uber violated their employment rights and the company got involved in what is being described as "illegal political coercion."

A Californian appeals court has unanimously upheld a ruling that the ride-hailing companies' drivers must be classified as employees, meaning they're eligible for healthcare, paid sick leave, and other such benefits. "But these adjectives perhaps say more about the reach of modern technology and the scale of today's technology-driven commerce than they do about the order itself".

Uber said it is considering its appeal options, but pointed to coming statewide vote on the status of drivers and urged voters to settle the matter then.

"This is a huge victory for workers", driver advocacy group Gig Workers Rising said in a statement. Lyft also said it also is considering appealing to the California Supreme Court.

Apurva Asrani reacts on US President Donald Trump's 'filthy' comment

Trump charged that Biden's climate plan was an "economic disaster" for oil states such as Texas and Oklahoma. Trump has been accused by his critics over his handling of climate change issues at the worldwide level.

The companies sponsored **Prop 22** in response to state lawmakers' passage of AB5 a year ago, the legislation that aimed to usher in minimum wage and health care requirements for gig workers including gig drivers. A California judge in August ordered the companies to reclassify their drivers as employees, a ruling the companies appealed under the threat of leaving the state altogether.

The group further dismissed Uber and Lyft's threats to suspend services or withdraw from California if forced to treat drivers as employees, calling it "a bluff meant to scare voters during this election".

Uber and Lyft must classify their drivers as employees, an appellate court ruled yesterday evening.

The court ruling will not go into effect before a November 3 company-sponsored ballot initiative that will let voters decide the future status of gig workers.

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If the vote doesn't go their way, Uber and Lyft are threatening to shut down in their home state.

The ruling would not take effect until a remittitur, the final step in the appeals process, is sent down by the court.

Load-Date: October 25, 2020

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