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6	Telephone: (858) 550-6000 Facsimile: (858) 550-6420
7	
8	Attorneys for Defendants SYNAPSE GROUP, INC., SYNAPSECONNECT, INC.,
9	and TIME INC.
10	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
11	SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
12	
13	SHANNON DALE PRICE and Case No. 16CV1524 BAS BLM
14	CHERYL EDGEMON, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated.  NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF ACTION
15	situated, Plaintiffs,  ACTION (28 U.S.C. §§ 1332, 1441, & 1453)
16	V.
17	SYNAPSE GROUP, INC., a Delaware
18	corporation; SYNAPSECONNECT, INC., a Delaware corporation; TIME
19	INC., a Delaware corporation; and DOES 1–50, inclusive,
20	Defendants.
21	
22	TO PLAINTIFFS, THEIR ATTORNEYS, AND THE ABOVE-CAPTIONEI
23	COURT:
24	PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that defendants Synapse Group, Inc. an
25	SynapseConnect, Inc. (collectively "Synapse"), and Time Inc. (collectively wit
26	Synapse, "Defendants") remove the above-captioned action from the Superior
27	Court of the State of California for the County of San Diego, where the action is
28	now pending, to the United States District Court for the Southern District of

COOLEY LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW SAN DIEGO 1.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF ACTION CASE NO.

California. This civil action is removed on the basis of diversity jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332, 1441, and 1453. For the reasons set forth below, this Court has subject matter jurisdiction under the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 ("CAFA"), codified in part at 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332 and 1453.

# PROCEDURAL HISTORY AND TIMELINESS OF REMOVAL

- 1. On or about May 17, 2016 plaintiffs Shannon Dale Price and Cheryl Edgemon ("Plaintiffs") commenced a civil action in the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of San Diego, entitled *Price v. Synapse Group, Inc.*, Case No. 37-2016-00016453-CU-MC-CTL, by filing a complaint (the "Complaint").
- 2. The Complaint, which is styled as a class action, alleges five causes of action, including false advertising, violation of California's Consumer Legal Remedies Act, conversion, unfair competition, and unjust enrichment. (Compl., ¶¶ 24–60.) Plaintiffs base their claims on Defendants' alleged violation of California's Automatic Renewal Law, California Business & Professions Code § 17600 *et seq*. (*Id.*, at ¶¶ 24–37.)
- 3. Defendant Time Inc. was subsequently served with the summons and Complaint on May 20, 2016. A true and correct copy of the summons and Complaint is attached as <u>Exhibit A</u>. A true and correct copy the proof of service of summons on Time Inc. is attached as <u>Exhibit B</u>.
- 4. Defendant SynapseConnect, Inc. was subsequently served with the summons and Complaint on May 23, 2016. A true and correct copy of the proof of service of summons on SynapseConnect, Inc. is attached as <u>Exhibit C</u>.
- 5. Defendant Synapse Group, Inc. was subsequently served with the summons and Complaint on May 24, 2016. A true and correct copy of the proof of service of summons on Synapse Group, Inc. is attached as Exhibit D.
- 6. Defendants are also aware that the superior court has calendared a case management conference on November 18, 2016.

- 7. Defendants are not aware of the filing of any other process or pleading.
- 8. This Notice of Removal is timely because Defendants filed it within thirty days of when Plaintiffs served them with the summons and Complaint. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b).
- 9. Defendants will give Plaintiffs written notice as required under 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d) by serving Plaintiffs, through their counsel of record, with this Notice of Removal and all documents filed in support thereof and concurrently herewith on the date of filing of this Notice of Removal.

# SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION

10. Under CAFA, a district court shall have original jurisdiction over any civil action styled as a class action in which: (1) the number of members of the proposed plaintiff class is not less than one hundred, in the aggregate; (2) "the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs"; and (3) "any member of a class of plaintiffs is a citizen of a State different from any defendant." 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332(d)(2) & (d)(5). If a state court putative class action meets all of these three requirements, it may be removed to federal court. 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a) ("[A]ny civil action brought in a State court of which the district courts of the United States have original jurisdiction, may be removed by the defendant[.]"). This action meets each of CAFA's requirements.

# THE PROPOSED CLASS DOES NOT HAVE FEWER THAN 100 MEMBERS

11. Plaintiffs seek to certify a class defined as: "All individuals in California who, within the applicable statute of limitations, and in connection with a magazine selection or subscription through defendants obtained for personal, family, or household purposes, were enrolled by defendants in an automatic renewal program or a continuous service program. Excluded from the class are all employees of defendants, all employees of plaintiffs' counsel, and the judicial officers to whom this case is assigned." (Compl., ¶ 17.)

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12. Plaintiffs allege that the class "consists of at least 100 members." (*Id.*, ¶ 20.)

- Without conceding liability, appropriateness of class treatment, 13. appropriateness of Plaintiffs' class definition, or the validity of Plaintiffs' claim for relief, if the allegations in Plaintiffs' Complaint are accepted as true, there are more that 100 proposed class members. (Id.,  $\P$  20); see Phillips v. Wellpoint, Inc., No. 10-cv-357-JPG, 2010 WL 4877718, at \*2 (S.D. Ill. Nov. 23, 2010) (relying on the allegation in plaintiff's complaint that "the proposed class will exceed 20,000 policyholders and group members" to support a finding of jurisdiction under CAFA).
- 14. Accordingly, CAFA's first requirement is satisfied. See 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(5)(B).

# THE AMOUNT IN CONTROVERSY EXCEEDS \$5 MILLION

- 15. Plaintiffs' Complaint does not plead a specific amount of damages. Accordingly, Defendants "need only include a plausible allegation that the amount in controversy exceeds the jurisdictional threshold, and the defendant's amount in controversy allegation should be accepted if not contested by the plaintiff or questioned by the court." Varsam v. Lab. Corp. of Am., No. 14CV2719 BTM JMA, 2015 WL 4199287, at \*1 (S.D. Cal. July 13, 2015). If contested, removal is proper so long as Defendants establish by a preponderance of evidence that Plaintiffs demand in excess of \$5 million in damages in the aggregate for themselves and the putative class. See Abrego Abrego v. Dow Chem. Co., 443 F.3d 676, 683 (9th Cir. 2006) ("Where the complaint does not specify the amount of damages sought, the removing defendant must prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the amount in controversy requirement has been met.").
- 16. "In measuring the amount in controversy, a court must assume that the allegations of the complaint are true and that a jury will return a verdict for the plaintiff on all claims made in the complaint." Korn v. Polo Ralph Lauren Corp.,

Sept. 2, 2008); *Muniz v. Pilot Travel Centers LLC*, No. CIV. S-07-0325 FCD EFB, 2007 WL 1302504, at \*3 (E.D. Cal. May 1, 2007).

17. Defendants' burden of proof on removal "is not daunting, as courts recognize that . . . a removing defendant is *not* obligated to research, state, and prove the plaintiff's claims for damages." *Korn*, 536 F. Supp. 2d at 1204–05 (emphasis in original; internal quotation marks removed).

18. Here, Plaintiffs seek restitution "of all amounts that defendants charged or caused to be charged to plaintiffs' and Class members' credit cards, debit cards, or third-party payment accounts during the four years preceding the filing of this Complaint." (Compl., ¶ 36.) Moreover, Plaintiffs have defined the class as "[a]ll individuals in California who . . . were enrolled by defendants in an

19. Without conceding liability, appropriateness of class treatment, appropriateness of Plaintiffs' class definition, or the validity of Plaintiffs' claim for relief, as pled by Plaintiffs, the Complaint assumes a 100% violation rate and a 100% refund rate for subscription fees collected on automatic renewal contracts over the last four years. *See Muniz*, 2007 WL 1302504, at \*4 (permitting a defendant to utilize a 100% violation rate when calculating amount in controversy since "plaintiff includes no fact-specific allegations that would result in a putative class or violation rate that is discernibly smaller than 100%" and plaintiff "is the master of [his] claims, and if [he] wanted to avoid removal, [he] could have alleged facts specific to [his] claims which would narrow the scope of the putative class or the damages sought. . . .") (internal alterations and quotation marks omitted); *accord Varsam*, 2015 WL 4199287, at \*2.

automatic renewal program or a continuous service program." (Compl., ¶ 17.)

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- 20. Without conceding liability, appropriateness of class treatment, appropriateness of Plaintiffs' class definition, or the validity of Plaintiffs' claim for relief, in the last four years Synapse has collected in excess of \$5 million in subscription fees from subscribers with California addresses who are in their second (or more) term of a subscription that renews. (Declaration of Eileen Peacock, ¶ 7.)
- 21. Moreover, under CAFA, the potential cost of an attorneys' fee award should also be considered when calculating the amount in controversy. *Lowdermilk* v. U.S. Bank Nat'l Ass'n, 479 F.3d 994, 1000 (9th Cir. 2007) ("We have held that attorneys' fees were properly included in the amount in controversy in a class action."), overruled on other grounds, Rodriguez v. AT&T Mobility Servs. LLC, 728 F.3d 975, 977 (9th Cir. 2013); Yeroushalmi v. Blockbuster, Inc., No. CV 05-225-AHM (RCX), 2005 WL 2083008, at \*3, \*5 & n.4 (C.D. Cal. July 11, 2005) (holding that under CAFA, the amount put in controversy includes the potential fee award); see also Tompkins v. Basic Research LL, No. CIV. S-08-244 LKK/DAD, 2008 WL 1808316, \*4 (E.D. Cal. Apr. 22, 2008) (including 25% of the common fund for attorneys' fees when calculating amount in controversy).
  - 22. Here, Plaintiffs also seek attorneys' fees. (Compl., Prayer, ¶¶ 4, 8.)
- 23. Without conceding liability or the appropriateness of Plaintiffs' request for attorneys' fees, such fees could also potentially be significant because this is a putative statewide class action with, according to Plaintiffs, a class of "at least 100 members." (Compl., at ¶ 20.) Plaintiffs' request for attorneys' fees further takes the amount in controversy far beyond the statutory threshold. See 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2).

# THE PARTIES ARE CITIZENS OF DIFFERENT STATES

- 24. Plaintiff Price and Plaintiff Edgemon each alleges he or she "is an individual residing in San Diego County, California." (Compl., ¶ 1.)
- 25. Plaintiffs admit that Defendants are all Delaware corporations, but make no reference to their principal places of business. (Id.,  $\P$  2–4); see Korn, 536 NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF ACTION

1	F. Supp. 2d at 1203 ("Plaintiff is bound by the allegations in his complaint").
2	Time Inc.'s principal place of business is New York. (Declaration of Eileen
3	Peacock, ¶ 3.) The principal place of business for Synapse Group, Inc. and
4	SynapseConnect, Inc. is Connecticut. (Id., ¶ 4.) See Phillips v. Wellpoint, Inc., No.
5	10-cv-357-JPG, 2010 WL 4877718, at *2 (S.D. Ill. Nov. 23, 2010) (finding
6	minimal diversity where defendant demonstrated via affidavit its principal place of
7	business).
8	26. Plaintiffs and purported putative class members are citizens of
9	California and not citizens of New York, Connecticut or Delaware, where
10	Defendants are citizens. (Compl., ¶¶ 1–4, 17.) Consequently, minimum diversity is
11	satisfied under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)(A).
12	VENUE IS PROPER
13	27. Removal to this judicial district and division is proper under 28 U.S.C.
14	§§ 1441(a) and 1446(a) because the state court action was originally pending in this
15	judicial district—namely, the Superior Court of the State of California for the
16	County of San Diego.
17	NOTICE TO THE SUPERIOR COURT OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY
18	28. Contemporaneously with the filing of this Notice of Removal,
19	Defendants are filing a true and correct copy of this Notice of Removal and all
20	documents filed in support thereof and concurrently therewith with the clerk of the
21	Superior Court of the State of California for the County of San Diego, under
22	28 U.S.C. § 1446(d).
23	Dated: June 17, 2016 COOLEY LLP
24	/s/ Darcie A. Tilly
25	Darcie A. Tilly
26	Attorneys for Defendants SYNAPSE GROUP INC
27	SYNAPSE GROUP, INC., SYNAPSECONNECT, INC., and TIME INC.
28	
	7 NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF ACTION

7.

CASE NO.

JS 44 (Rev. 12/12)

# **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS PRICE, SHANNON DAL EDGEMON, CHERYL	E			DEFENDAN SYNAPSE GRO DOES 1-50		SYNAPSECON	NECT, INC.,	ΓIME IN	IC, and
<b>(b)</b> County of Residence o	f First Listed Plaintiff  XCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF C	San Diego ASES)		NOTE: IN LANE	<i>(IN U.</i> D CONDEMN	Listed Defendant S. PLAINTIFF CASES OF ATION CASES, USE TO INVOLVED.		)F	***************************************
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, . See attachment	Address, and Telephone Numb	er)		Attorneys (If Kno See attachment		<u>'1</u>	6CV1524	BAS	BLN
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	ICTION (Place an "X" in G	One Box Only)		TIZENSHIP OF (For Diversity Cases On		IPAL PARTIES			
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	3 Federal Question (U.S. Government	Not a Party)		en of This State	PTF DE	I Incorporated or Poor Business In 1		PTF   4	DEF
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	■ 4 Diversity  (Indicate Citizens)	nip of Parties in Item III)	Citiz	en of Another State	C) 2 C)	2 Incorporated and of Business In		☐ 5	<b>X</b> 5
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				en or Subject of a reign Country	O 3 O	3 Foreign Nation		<b>O</b> 6	<b>1</b> 6
IV. NATURE OF SUIT		nly) ORTS		ORFEITURE/PENALT				a.v.o	
110 Insurance   120 Marine   130 Miller Act   140 Negotiable Instrument   150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment   151 Medicare Act   152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans)   153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits   160 Stockholders' Suits   160 Stockholders' Suits   190 Other Contract   195 Contract Product Liability   196 Franchise   REAL PROPERTY   210 Land Condemnation   220 Foreclosure   230 Rent Lease & Ejectment   240 Torts to Land	PERSONAL INJURY  310 Airplane  315 Airplane Product Liability  320 Assault, Libel &	PERSONAL INJUR    365 Personal Injury - Product Liability     367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability     368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability     368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability     PERSONAL PROPEF     370 Other Fraud     371 Truth in Lending     380 Other Personal Property Damage     385 Property Damage     70 Prisoner Petition     463 Alien Detainee     510 Motions to Vacate Sentence	X	LABOR  O Cher  LABOR  Fair Labor Standards Act Charles	PRO	Appeal 28 USC 158 Withdrawal 28 USC 157  PERTY RIGHTS Copyrights Patent Frademark  IAL SECURITY  IIA (1395ff) Black Lung (923) DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) SSID Title XVI RSI (405(g))  ERAL TAX SUITS Faxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) RS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	480 Consum   490 Cable/S:   850 Securitic   Exchan;   4890 Other St   891 Agricult   893 Environ   895 Freedon   Act   896 Arbitrati	aims Act apportiom t ad Banking cition er Influenc Organizati er Credit at TV ss/Commo ge atutory Ac ural Acts mental Ma a of Inform on cititative Pro- citiew or Api Decision tionality o	ment g ced and cons ditties/ ctions atters nation
245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property  V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in	Accommodations  445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other 448 Education	☐ 530 General ☐ 535 Death Penalty Other:		IMMIGRATION 2 Naturalization Applica 5 Other Immigration Actions		eo esc 7007	State Sta	incs	
□ 1 Original 🔀 2 Rea	moved from	Remanded from Appellate Court		stated or	other District				
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	N 28 U.S.C. §§ 133 Brief description of ca	ntute under which you at 2, 1441, and 1453 ause: ; violation of Calififo		Do not cite jurisdictional	statutes unles	· ·	enrichment		
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	☑ CHECK IF THIS UNDER RULE 2	IS A CLASS ACTION		EMAND \$		CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND	if demanded in	complain	it:
VIII. RELATED CASE IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE			DOC	CKET NUMBER			
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JS 44 Reverse (Rev. 12/12)

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- **1.(a)** Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.

  United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.

  Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

  Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the six boxes.
  - Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
  - Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
  - Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date
  - Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date. Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
  - Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.
- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.

  Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.

  Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

# **CIVIL COVER SHEET ATTACHMENT**

# 1. Plaintiffs' Counsel

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# 2. Defendants' Counsel

# COOLEY LLP

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Telephone:

(858) 550-6000

Facsimile:

(858) 550-6420

# Exhibit A

### SUM-100

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):

SYNAPSE GROUP, INC.,

a Delaware corporation;

SYNAPSECONNECT, INC., a Delaware corporation; TIME INC., a Delaware corporation

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):

SHANNON DALE PRICE and CHERYL EDGEMON

FOR COURT USE ONLY (SOLO PARA USO DE LA CORTE)

### ELECTRONICALLY FILED

Superior Court of California, County of San Diego

05/17/2016 at 10:39:19 AM

Clerk of the Superior Court By Jessica Pascual, Deputy Clerk

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filling fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. ¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 dias, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

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The name and address of the co	ourt is: te es): San Diego Superior Court	CASE NUMBER: (Número del Caso):
	330 West Broadway	37-2016-00016453-CU-MC-CTL ]
	San Diego, CA 92101	
(El nombre, la dirección y el núr	one number of plaintiffs attorney, or plaintiff without mero de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o c 7), Zach P. Dostart (255071); Tel No. (85	del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
DOSTART HANNINK & COVE DATE: 05/18/2016	NEY, LLP, 4180 La Jolla Vil Clerk, by (Secretario) _	1 Ste 530, La JollaputyCA  J. Passual (Adjunto) 203
(For proof of service of this sum	mons, use Proof of Service of Summons (form PO	S-010).) J. Pascual
(Para prueba de entrega de esta	a citatión use el formulario Proof of Service of Sum	
[SEAL]	NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are so	ervea
Sof Court of Calle	<ol> <li>as an individual defendant.</li> <li>as the person sued under the fictitious n</li> </ol>	name of (specify):
( A - ) = \	3. on behalf of (specify):	
	under: CCP 416.10 (corporation) CCP 416.20 (defunct corporation CCP 416.40 (association or par	
of San	other (specify):	
	4 by personal delivery on (date):	

	Case 3:16-cv-01524-BAS-BLM Document 1	-2 Filed 06/17/16 Page 3 of 29
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	JAMES T. HANNINK (131747) jhannink@sdlaw.com ZACH P. DOSTART (255071) zdostart@sdlaw.com DOSTART HANNINK & COVENEY LLP 4180 La Jolla Village Drive, Suite 530 La Jolla, California 92037-1474 Tel: 858-623-4200 Fax: 858-623-4299 Attorneys for Plaintiffs  SUPERIOR COURT OF TE	ELECTRONICALLY FILED Superior Court of California, County of San Diego  05/17/2016 at 10:39:19 AM Clerk of the Superior Court By Jessica Pascual, Deputy Clerk  IE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
9	COUNTY O	F SAN DIEGO
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11 12	SHANNON DALE PRICE and CHERYL EDGEMON, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,	CASE NO. 37-2016-00016453-CU-MC-CTL  CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR:
13 14	Plaintiffs, vs.	(1) FALSE ADVERTISING; (2) VIOLATION OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSUMERS LEGAL REMEDIES ACT; (3) CONVERSION;
15 16 17	SYNAPSE GROUP, INC., a Delaware corporation; SYNAPSECONNECT, INC., a Delaware corporation; TIME INC., a Delaware corporation; and DOES 1-50, inclusive,	(4) UNFAIR COMPETITION; (5) UNJUST ENRICHMENT DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
18	Defendants.	
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	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT	

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**INTRODUCTION** 

- 1. Plaintiff Shannon Dale Price ("Price") is an individual residing in San Diego County, California. Plaintiff Cheryl Edgemon ("Edgemon") is an individual residing in San Diego County, California. Edgemon and Price are collectively referred to herein as "plaintiffs."
- 2. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that defendant Synapse Group, Inc. ("Synapse") is a Delaware corporation that does business in San Diego County, including the marketing of magazine subscriptions.
- 3. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that defendant SynapseConnect, Inc. ("SynapseConnect") is a Delaware corporation that does business in San Diego County, including the marketing of magazine subscriptions.
- 4. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that defendant Time Inc. ("Time") is a Delaware corporation that does business in San Diego County, including the marketing of magazine subscriptions. Time is a publisher of numerous magazines, including Time, People, Sports Illustrated, Sunset, Fortune, and others, that it markets to consumers through a variety of channels, including through Synapse and/or SynapseConnect.
- 5. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that Synapse is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Time; that SynapseConnect is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Synapse; that there is such a unity of interest between these entities that their separateness has ceased; that Time so controls and conducts the affairs of Synapse so as to render Synapse a mere instrumentality, agency, conduit, or adjunct of Time, and that Time and Synapse so control and conduct the affairs of SynapseConnect so as to render SynapseConnect a mere instrumentality, agency, conduit, or adjunct of Time and Synapse; and that disregard of the corporate separateness of Synapse and SynapseConnect is necessary to avoid those entities from being used to circumvent the California Automatic Renewal Law, the California Consumers Legal Remedies Act, and/or the California Unfair Competition Law or otherwise cause an unjust result.
- 6. Plaintiffs do not know the names of the defendants sued as DOES 1 through 50 but will amend this complaint when that information becomes known. Plaintiffs allege on information and belief that each of the DOE defendants is affiliated with one or more of the named defendants

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in some respect and is in some manner responsible for the wrongdoing alleged herein, either as a direct participant, or as the principal, agent, successor, alter ego, or co-conspirator of or with one or more of the other defendants. For ease of reference, plaintiffs will refer to the named defendants and the DOE defendants collectively as "defendants."

Venue is proper in this judicial district because the complained of conduct occurred 7. in this judicial district.

# **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

- Defendants are engaged in an illegal "automatic renewal" scheme for magazine 8. subscriptions. Under the guise of providing consumers the opportunity to obtain magazines either free or at a discounted price for a specific term, defendants actually enroll consumers in a program that automatically renews the subscriptions from year-to-year and results in annual charges to the consumer's credit card, debit card, or third party payment account without providing the requisite disclosures and without obtaining the requisite authorizations required by California law.
- In or about February 2014, after plaintiff Price made an online purchase at a retailer 9. and filled out a follow-up survey, defendants presented Price with a "Complimentary \$100 Reward" stating that he was entitled to receive a "full year of issues" of "up to 5 complimentary magazines" at a cost of just \$2.00 per magazine (for either the magazine itself or "processing"). Price selected two magazines and paid the total cost of \$4.00 with his credit card by entering his credit card information.
- Unbeknownst to Price, defendants enrolled him in a program under which the 10. "subscriptions" would "automatically renew" each year, at a much higher price. The following year, without plaintiff Price's authorization, defendants charged Price's credit card approximately \$71—a price increase of about 1,700% —supposedly for renewal of the two magazines Price had selected the previous year in response to the survey's "Complimentary \$100 Reward."
- Based on information recently provided by an employee of one of the magazines, 11. Plaintiff Price is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Exhibit 1 attached hereto is the same as or substantially similar to the "reward" that was presented to him by defendants in or about February 2014. Although plaintiff Price was not aware of it when he selected the two

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magazines, at the bottom of the selection page (Ex. 1 at 8), above a large red button labeled "Continue," there is a paragraph in tiny print, the second to last sentence of which reads as follows:

All selections come with automatic renewal features. Click "Continue" for full details.

- 12. On information and belief, the next page presented to plaintiff Price (as "Step 2") was to enter his delivery information. Ex. 1 at 9.
- 13. On information and belief, the next page presented to plaintiff Price (as "Step 3") was to enter his credit card information. Ex. 1 at 10. Just above the space for entry of credit card information, in red font, appears the message: "Your Reward Selection is complete." Just below the space for entry of credit card information, under the large heading "Important Reward Details" and above a large red button labeled "Complete," there is a 10-sentence paragraph in small font, of which paragraph the fourth and fifth sentences read:

After the first term, all selections will continue. Each year, you'll receive a reminder notice specifying price plus processing (and any applicable sales tax) and billing terms for the next term of issues and you authorize the account you provide to be charged the rate on the notice for the next term of issues unless you choose to cancel: 1-800-429-2550.

- 14. Those sentences are a legal nullity because, as a matter of law, the selection of magazines in response to defendants' "Complimentary \$100 Reward" could not give rise to an agreement for automatic renewal or continuous service. That is so for at least the following reasons:
- a. Defendants failed to present automatic renewal offer terms or continuous service offer terms in a manner that is "clear and conspicuous" and "in visual proximity" to a request for consent to an offer, in violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17602(a)(l);
- b. Defendants charged plaintiff's credit card without first obtaining plaintiff's affirmative consent to an agreement containing clear and conspicuous disclosure of automatic renewal offer terms or continuous service offer terms, in violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17602(a)(2); and

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Defendants failed to provide an acknowledgment that includes automatic c. renewal or continuous service offer terms, cancellation policy, and information regarding how to cancel in a manner that was capable of being retained by plaintiff, in violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17602(a)(3).

- 15. Within the applicable limitations period, after plaintiff Edgemon completed an online survey, defendants presented Edgemon with the opportunity to select magazines at a cost of just \$2.00 per magazine (for either the magazine itself or "processing"). Edgemon selected four magazines (including Real Simple, a Time publication) at a total cost of \$8.00, and paid that amount with her credit card by entering her credit card information. Unbeknownst to Edgemon, defendants enrolled her in a program under which the "subscriptions" would "automatically renew" each year, at a much higher price. The following year, without plaintiff Edgemon's authorization, defendants charged Edgemon's credit card \$190.00—a price increase of 2,375%. Plaintiff Edgemon is informed and believes and thereon alleges that, in connection with her selection of the four magazines, the representations and disclosures made by defendants were similar in form and content to those reflected in Exhibit 1.
- Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that defendants have made 16. the same, or similar, offers for complimentary rewards or discounted magazine subscriptions to other California consumers, in connection with which defendants have charged the consumers' credit cards, debit cards, and/or third-party payment accounts without authorization under the guise that the magazine selections or subscriptions "automatically" renew and/or provide for continuous service until cancelled by the consumer when, in fact, the offers and subsequent charges are in violation of California law. Defendants engaged in such practices knowingly and willfully.

# **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

17. Plaintiffs bring this lawsuit as a class action under Code of Civil Procedure § 382. Plaintiffs seek to represent the following Class: "All individuals in California who, within the applicable statute of limitations, and in connection with a magazine selection or subscription through defendants obtained for personal, family, or household purposes, were enrolled by

defendants in an automatic renewal program or a continuous service program. Excluded from the class are all employees of defendants, all employees of plaintiffs' counsel, and the judicial officers to whom this case is assigned."

- 18. <u>Ascertainability</u>. The members of the Class may be ascertained by reviewing records in the possession of defendants and/or third parties, including without limitation defendants' marketing and promotion records, customer records, and billing records.
- 19. Common Questions of Fact or Law. There are questions of fact or law that are common to the members of the class, which predominate over individual issues. Common questions regarding the class include, without limitation: (1) defendants' policies, practices and procedures for obtaining affirmative consent from customers before charging a credit card, debit card, or third-party payment account for an automatic renewal or continuous service; (2) whether defendants presented automatic renewal offer terms or continuous service offer terms in a manner that is "clear and conspicuous" within the meaning of California law and in "visual proximity" to a request for consent to the offer (or in the case of an offer conveyed by voice, in temporal proximity to a request for consent to the offer); (3) whether defendants provide consumers with an acknowledgment that includes automatic renewal or continuous service offer terms, the cancellation policy, and information regarding how to cancel, in a manner that is capable of being retained by the consumer; (4) defendants' record-keeping practices; and (5) the appropriate remedies for defendants' conduct.
- 20. <u>Numerosity</u>. The Class is so numerous that joinder of all Class members would be impracticable. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that the Class consists of at least 100 members.
- 21. Typicality and Adequacy. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the members of the Class. Plaintiffs allege on information and belief that defendants enrolled Class members in automatic renewal or continuous service offer programs without presenting applicable terms in the manner required by law, charged Class members' credit cards, debit cards, or third-party accounts without first obtaining the Class members' affirmative consent in the manner required by California law, and failed to provide the requisite acknowledgment in a manner

capable of being retained by the Class members. Plaintiffs have no interests that are adverse to those of the other Class members. Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class members.

- 22. <u>Superiority</u>. A class action is superior to other methods for resolving this controversy. Because the amount of restitution to which each Class member may be entitled is low in comparison to the expense and burden of individual litigation, it would be impracticable for Class members to redress the wrongs done to them without a class action forum. Furthermore, on information and belief, Class members do not know that their legal rights have been violated. Class certification would also conserve judicial resources and avoid the possibility of inconsistent judgments.
- 23. <u>Defendants Have Acted on Grounds Generally Applicable to the Class</u>. Defendants has acted on grounds that are generally applicable to the Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief and/or declaratory relief with respect to the class as a whole.

# FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

# False Advertising

- 24. Plaintiffs incorporate the allegations of paragraphs 1-23 as though set forth herein.
- 25. As part of California's False Advertising Law, the California Automatic Renewal Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17600 et seq., became effective on December 1, 2010.
- 26. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17601(a) defines the term "automatic renewal" as meaning "a plan or arrangement in which a paid subscription or purchasing agreement is automatically renewed at the end of a definite term for a subsequent term."
- 27. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17601(b) defines "automatic renewal offer terms" as meaning "the following clear and conspicuous disclosures: (1) That the subscription or purchasing agreement will continue until the consumer cancels. (2) The description of the cancelation policy that applies to the offer. (3) The recurring charges that will be charged to the consumer's credit or debit card or payment account with a third party as part of the automatic renewal plan or arrangement, and that the amount of the charge may change, if that is the case, and the amount to which the charge will change, if known. (4) The length of the automatic renewal term or that the

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service is continuous, unless the length of the term is chosen by the consumer. (5) The minimum purchase obligation, if any."

- Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17601(e) defines the term "continuous service" as 28. meaning "a plan or arrangement in which a subscription or purchasing agreement continues until the customer cancels the service."
- Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17601(c) defines the terms "clear and conspicuous" and 29. "clearly and conspicuously" to means "in larger type than the surrounding text, or in contrasting type, font, or color to the surrounding text of the same size, or set off from the surrounding text of the same size by symbols or other marks, in a manner that clearly calls attention to the language. In the case of an audio disclosure, 'clear and conspicuous' and 'clearly and conspicuously' means in a volume and cadence sufficient to be readily audible and understandable."
- Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17602(a) makes it unlawful for any business making an 30. automatic renewal offer or a continuous service offer to a consumer in California to do any of the following:
  - Fail to present the automatic renewal offer terms or continuous service (1) offer terms in a clear and conspicuous manner before the subscription or purchasing agreement is fulfilled and in visual proximity, or in the case of an offer conveyed by voice, in temporal proximity, to the request for consent to the offer.
  - Charge the consumer's credit or debit card or the consumer's account (2) with a third party for an automatic renewal or continuous service without first obtaining the consumer's affirmative consent to the agreement containing the automatic renewal offer terms or continuous service offer terms.
  - Fail to provide an acknowledgment that includes the automatic renewal (3) or continuous service offer terms, cancellation policy, and information regarding how to cancel in a manner that is capable of being retained by the consumer. If the offer includes a free trial, the business shall also

disclose in the acknowledgment how to cancel and allow the consumer to cancel before the consumer pays for the goods or services.

- 31. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17602(b) requires that the acknowledgment specified in § 17602(a)(3) include a toll-free telephone number, electronic mail address, or other mechanism for cancellation.
- 32. In the case of a material change in the terms of an automatic renewal or continuous service offer that has been accepted, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17602(c) makes it unlawful to fail to provide the consumer with a clear and conspicuous notice of the material change.
- 33. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17603 provides: "In any case in which a business sends any goods, wares, merchandise, or products to a consumer, under a continuous service agreement or automatic renewal of a purchase, without first obtaining the consumer's affirmative consent as described in Section 17602, the goods, wares, merchandise, or products shall for all purposes be deemed an unconditional gift to the consumer, who may use or dispose of the same in any manner he or she sees fit without any obligation whatsoever on the consumer's part to the business, including, but not limited to, bearing the cost of, or responsibility for, shipping any goods, wares, merchandise, or products to the business."
- 34. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that, during the applicable statute of limitations period, defendants have enrolled consumers, including plaintiffs and Class members, in automatic renewal programs and/or continuous service programs and have violated the California Automatic Renewal Law by, among other things, (a) failing to present automatic renewal or continuous service offer terms in a clear and conspicuous manner before a selection, subscription, or purchasing agreement is fulfilled and in visual proximity, or in the case of an offer conveyed by voice, in temporal proximity, to a request for consent to the offer; (b) charging the consumer's credit card, debit card, or third-party payment account for an automatic renewal or continuous service without first obtaining the consumer's affirmative consent to an agreement containing clear and conspicuous disclosure of automatic renewal offer terms or continuous service offer terms; and (c) failing to provide an acknowledgment that includes automatic renewal or continuous service offer terms, cancellation policy, and information regarding how to cancel in

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a manner that is capable of being retained by the consumer, all in violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17602(a) and (b).

- As a result of defendants' statutory violations, any automatic renewal or continuous 35. service offers made or attempted to be made by defendants to plaintiffs and Class members were in violation of law and, therefore, such offers or attempted offers were not accepted by plaintiffs or Class members and did not give rise to an agreement for automatic renewal or continuous service. In the alternative, however, defendants would be in violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17602(c) by having failed to provide plaintiffs and Class members with a clear and conspicuous notice of a material change in price and information regarding how to cancel in a manner that is capable of being retained by the consumer.
- As a result of defendants' conduct, pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17603, 36. plaintiffs and Class members are entitled to restitution of all amounts that defendants charged or caused to be charged to plaintiffs' and Class members' credit cards, debit cards, or third-party payment accounts during the four years preceding the filing of this Complaint and continuing until defendants' statutory violations cease.
- As a result of defendants' conduct, pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17535, 37. plaintiffs and the Class members are entitled to an injunction enjoining defendants from making magazine selection or subscription offers that do not comply with California law, from making charges to credit cards, debit cards, or third-party payment accounts without prior affirmative consent to an agreement containing "clear and conspicuous" disclosures of automatic renewal offer terms or continuous service offer terms, and from failing to provide an acknowledgment that includes clear and conspicuous disclosure of automatic renewal or continuous service offer terms, cancellation policy, and information regarding how to cancel in a manner that is capable of being retained by the consumer.

# SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of the Consumers Legal Remedies Act

Plaintiffs incorporate the allegations of paragraphs 1-35 as though set forth herein. 38.

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- 39. Plaintiffs and the Class members are "consumers" within the meaning of Cal. Civil Code § 1761(d) in that plaintiffs and the Class members sought or acquired defendants' goods and/or services for personal, family, or household purposes.
- 40. Defendants' selection and/or subscription offers and the magazines pertaining thereto are "goods" and/or "services" within the meaning of Cal. Civil Code § 1761(a) and (b).
- 41. The purchases by plaintiffs and Class members are "transactions" within the meaning of Cal. Civil Code § 1761(e).
- 42. Defendants have violated Cal. Civil Code § 1770, subdivisions (a)(5), (a)(9), (a)(13) and (a)(17) by representing that defendants' goods and services have certain characteristics that they do not have; advertising goods and services with the intent not to sell them as advertised; making false and misleading statements of fact concerning the reasons for, existence of and amounts of price reductions; and by representing that the consumer will receive a rebate, discount, or other economic benefit, if the earning of the benefit is contingent on an event to occur subsequent to the consummation of the transaction.
- 43. Defendants' conduct alleged herein was undertaken by defendants knowingly, willfully, and with oppression, fraud, and/or malice, within the meaning of Cal. Civil Code § 3294(c).
- 44. Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and all other members the Class, seeks an injunction prohibiting defendants from continuing their unlawful practices in violation of the Consumers Legal Remedies Act, as described above.

# THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

# Conversion

- 45. Plaintiffs incorporate the previous allegations as though fully set forth herein.
- 46. As a result of charges made by defendants to plaintiffs' and Class members' credit cards, debit cards, and/or third-party payment accounts without authorization and in violation of California law, defendants have taken money that belongs to plaintiffs and Class members.
  - 47. The amount of money wrongfully taken by defendants is capable of identification.

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damages.

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27 28 fraud, and/or malice within the meaning of Cal. Civil Code § 3294(c). As a result of defendants' actions, plaintiffs and Class members have suffered 49.

Defendants engaged in this conduct knowingly, willfully, and with oppression,

# FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of the California Unfair Competition Law

- Plaintiffs incorporate the allegations of paragraphs 1-49 as though set forth herein. 50.
- The California Unfair Competition Law ("UCL"), Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 51. et seq., defines unfair competition as including "any unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business act or practice."
- In the course of conducting business within the applicable limitations period, 52. defendants committed "unlawful," "unfair," and/or "fraudulent" business practices by, inter alia and without limitation, (a) failing to present the terms of automatic renewal or continuous service offers in a clear and conspicuous manner before a magazine selection, subscription, or purchasing agreement is fulfilled and in visual proximity, or in the case of an offer conveyed by voice, in temporal proximity, to a request for consent to the offer, in violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17602(a)(l); (b) charging the consumer's credit card, debit card, or third-party payment account for an automatic renewal or continuous service without first obtaining the consumer's affirmative consent to an agreement containing clear and conspicuous disclosures of automatic renewal offer terms or continuous service offer terms, in violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17602(a)(2); (c) failing to provide an acknowledgment that includes clear and conspicuous disclosure of automatic renewal or continuous service offer terms, cancellation policy, and information regarding how to cancel in a manner that is capable of being retained by the consumer, in violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17602(a)(3); (d) representing that defendants' goods and services have certain characteristics that they do not, in violation of Cal. Civil Code § 1770(a)(5); (e) advertising goods and services with the intent not to sell them as advertised, in violation of Cal. Civil Code § 1770(a)(9); (f) making false and misleading statements of fact concerning the reasons for, existence of and amounts of price reductions, in violation of Cal. Civil Code § 1770(a)(13);

(g) representing that the consumer will receive a rebate, discount, or other economic benefit, if the earning of the benefit is contingent on an event to occur subsequent to the consummation of the transaction, in violation of Cal. Civil Code § 1770(a)(17); and (h) converting to defendants' own use and benefit money that rightfully belongs to plaintiffs and Class members. Plaintiffs reserve the right to allege other violations of law that constitute unlawful or unfair business acts or practices.

- 53. Defendants' acts and omissions as alleged herein violate obligations imposed by statute, are substantially injurious to consumers, offend public policy, and are immoral, unethical, oppressive, and unscrupulous as the gravity of the conduct outweighs any alleged benefits attributable to such conduct.
- 54. There were reasonably available alternatives to further defendants' legitimate business interests, other than the conduct described herein.
- 55. Defendants' acts, omissions, nondisclosures, and misleading statements as alleged herein were and are false, misleading, and/or likely to deceive the consuming public.
- 56. Plaintiffs have suffered injury in fact and lost money as a result of defendants' acts of unfair competition.
- 57. Pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203, plaintiffs and the Class members are entitled to an order: (1) requiring defendants to make restitution to plaintiffs and the Class members; (2) enjoining defendants from charging plaintiffs' and Class members' credit cards, debit cards, and/or third party payment accounts until such time as defendants obtain the consumer's affirmative consent to an agreement that contains clear and conspicuous disclosures of all automatic renewal or continuous service offer terms; and (3) enjoining defendants from making automatic renewal or continuous service offers in the State of California that do not comply with the California Automatic Renewal Law.

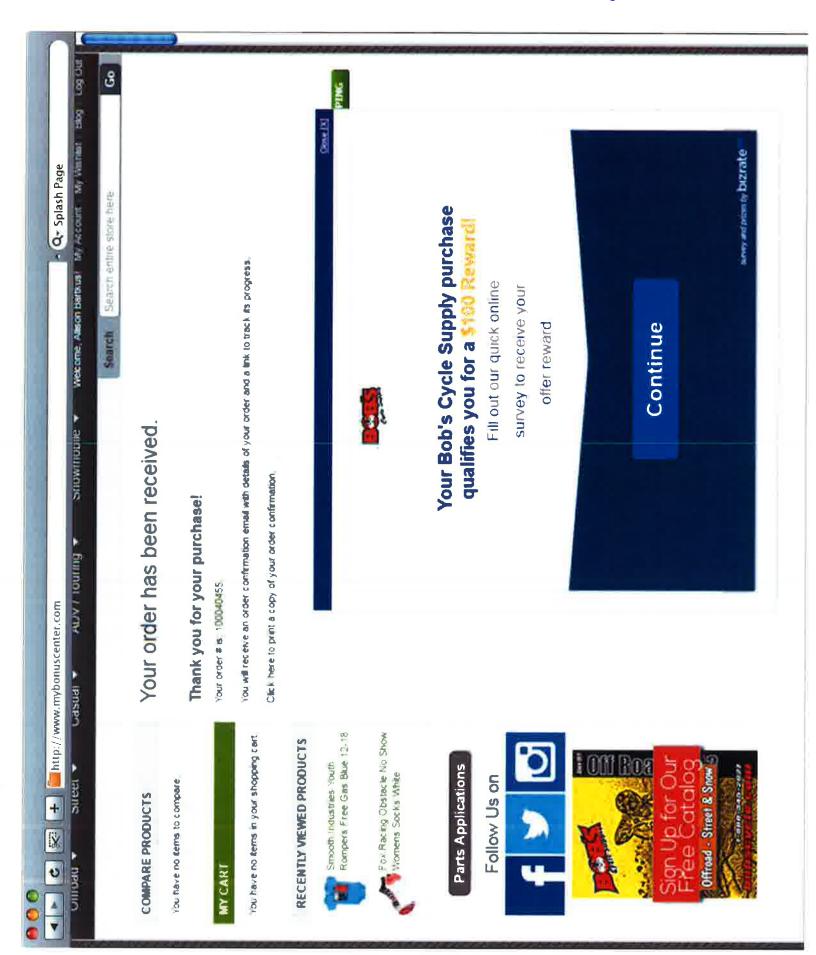
# FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

# Unjust Enrichment

58. Plaintiffs incorporate the allegations of paragraphs 1-44 as though fully set forth herein.

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	ase 3:16-cv-01524-BAS-BLM Document 1-2 Filed 06/17/16 Page 17 of 29
1	Dated: May 17, 2016 DOSTART HANNINK & COVENEY LLP
2	Zachrich Paul Brotant
3	ZACH P. DOSTART Attorneys for Plaintiffs
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6	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
7	Plaintiffs hereby demand a trial by jury of all claims and causes of action so triable.  Dated: May 17, 2016  DOSTART HANNINK & COVENEY LLP
8	Dated: May 17, 2016 DOSTART HANNINK & COVENEY LLP
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10	ZACH P. DOSTART Attorneys for Plaintiffs
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	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT



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O Splash Page

# How satisfied are you with each of the following aspects of this purchase?

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Including this order, how many online purchases have you made from Bob's Cycle Supply in the last six months?

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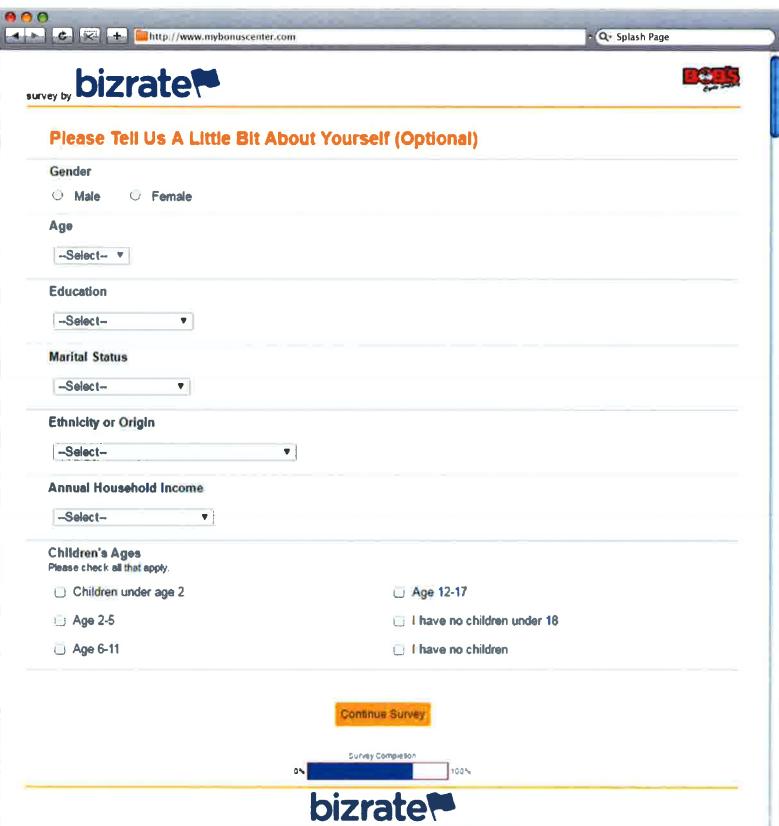
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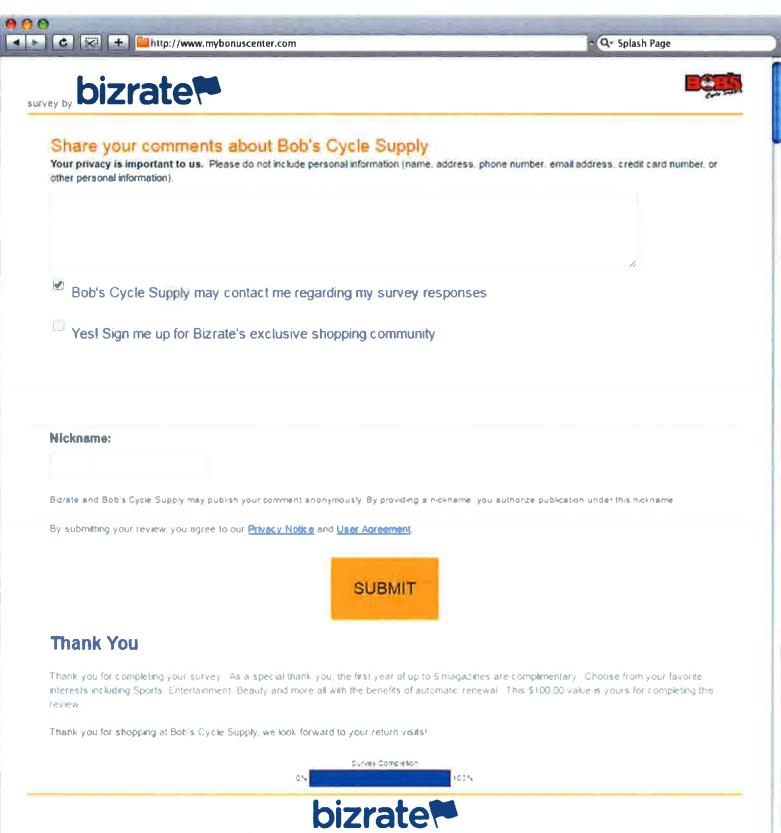
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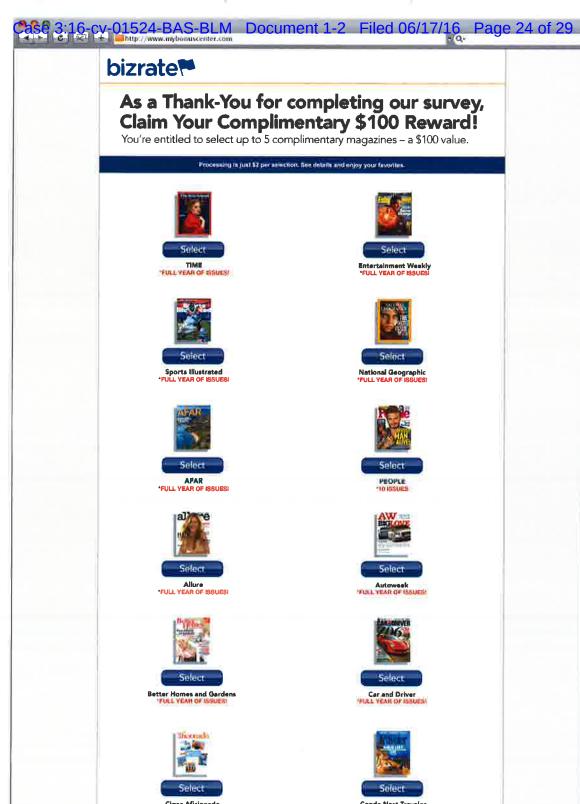
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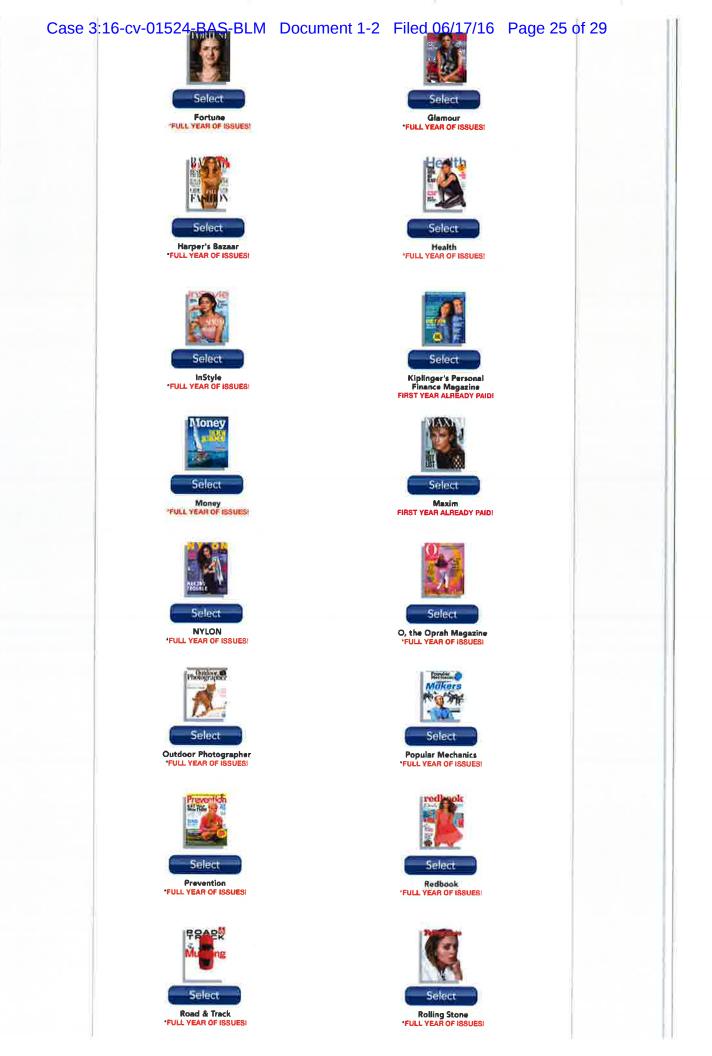


















Sunset 'FULL YEAR OF ISSUES!

Us Weekly
'3 MONTHS OF ISSUES!



Veranda 'FULL YEAR OF ISSUES!



Weight Watchers Magazine



Western Horseman



Black Enterprise FIRST YEAR ALREADY PAID!



Cooking Light



This Old House



Vanity Fair 'FULL YEAR OF ISSUES!





'Wine Spectator
'FULL YEAR OF ISSUES!



Coastal Living



Food + Wine



Woman's Day
'FULL YEAR OF ISSUES!

My Selections (I'm entitled to select up to five)

# Magazine outlet, a preferred service partner of Bizrate, will process and fulfill your selections.

Ter TIME Enternament West, Soors Issuitated National Cographic, Varian PEOPLE, Allura, Autoweek Better Homes and Gardens. Car and Driver, Cigar Aficonado Coride Nast Traveler, Cosmopolian Elle, Enterpreneur, Faal Company, Fortune, Glamour, Hamper's Bazzar Health in Isslyle, Money, NYLON, O the Oppth Magazine, Duldoor Photographer, Popular Mechance, Perittion, Redbook, Road & Track, Rolling Stone, Self, Seventeen Sunset, This Old House, Us Weekly Vanly Pair, Veranda, Vogue, Wine Spectator, Coastal, Luring, Dwell Food + Wine, Cooking Light and Woman's Clay Sci overs the cost of the issues and no phylappies. Other Selections include the first year already paid for by TownWitzard. All selections come with automatic renewal features. Cick "Consinue" for full ideals.

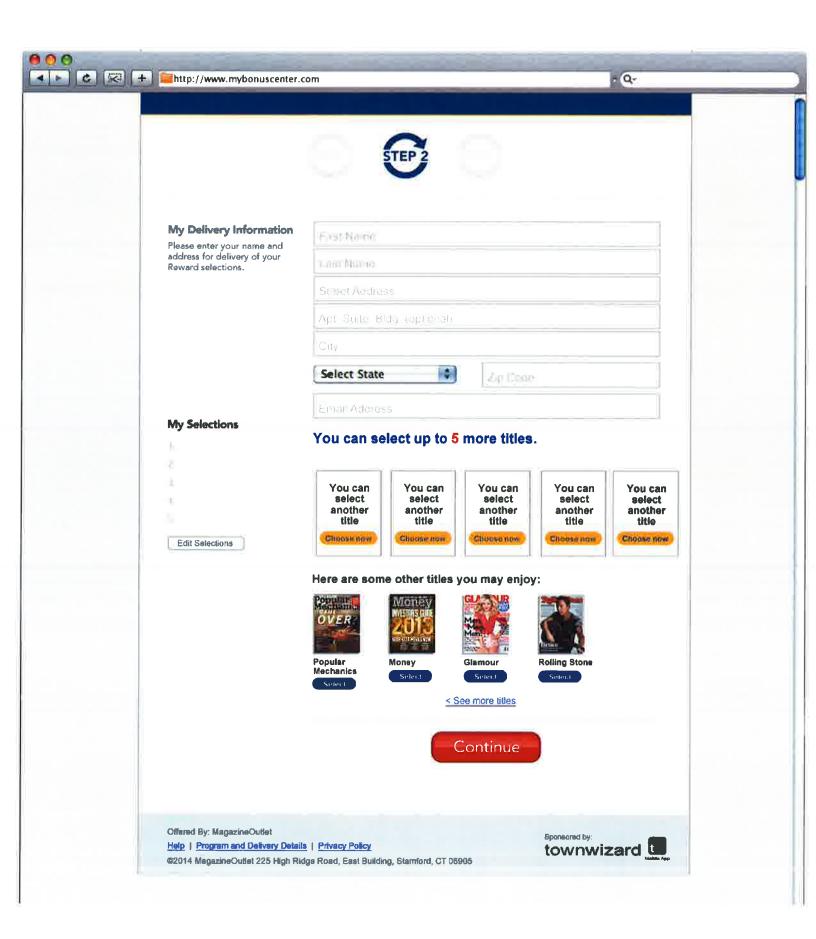


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From: Orders@mybonuscenter.com
Date: Monday, Month 0, 2014 12:00 PM
To: jsmith@sampleemail.com
Subject: Processing Your Request

## Dear Jane Smith,

selections appear as TWX\* on your statement and your account will be used to process your magazines with all Thank you for your magazine order. You can expect to receive your magazine(s) within 4-10 weeks. Your the renewal features described in the offer details.

P&H/Rate	\$XX.XX
Orly	Subtotal
leaves	
Order Summary	

Order Total: \$XX.XX

Billing Information

Jane Smith 123 Main St Starmford, CT 06905

Shipped To: Jane Smith 123 Main St Stamford, CT 06905

Please contact us at www.magcustomerservice.com if you have any questions about your order. For us to provide the best service possible, please allow 24-72 hours for your order to appear in our system. Please print this page for your records.

## Exhibit B

POS-010

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address) FOR COURT USE ONLY Zachariah Dostart, 255071 ELECTRONICALLY FILED Superior Court of California, Dostart Hannink & Coveney LLP County of San Diego 4370 La Jolla Village Drive San Diego, CA 92122 05/31/2016 at 03:19:00 PM TELEPHONE NO.: 858-623-4285 Clerk of the Superior Court ATTORNEY FOR (Name): By E. Filing Deputy Clerk SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO Central Branch 330 W. Broadway San Diego, CA 92101-3409 PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: Shannon Dale Price et al. CASE NUMBER: 37-2016-00016453-CU-MC-CTL DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: Synapse Group Inc. et al. Ref. No. or File No.: PROOF OF SERVICE OF SUMMONS 16685-1

- 1. At the time of service I was a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years of age and not a party to this action.
- I served copies of Complaint, Civil Case Cover Sheet, Declaration Other, Declaration Other, Original Summons, Notice of Case Assignment SD, Notice to Litigants SD, Stipulation to Alternative Dispute Resolution Process SD
- 3. a. Party served: Time Inc., a Delaware Corporation
  - b. Person Served: Amy McLaren, Corporate Operations Service Manager Corporation Trust Company Person Authorized to Accept Service of Process
- 4. Address where the party was served: 1209 Orange Street

209 Change Street

Wilmington, DE 19801

- 5. I served the party
  - a. **by personal service.** I personally delivered the documents listed in item 2 to the party or person authorized to receive service of process for the party (1) on *(date)*: 05/20/2016 (2) at *(time)*: 11:51AM
- 6. The "Notice to the Person Served" (on the summons) was completed as follows:
  - d. on behalf of:

Time Inc., a Delaware Corporation under: CCP 416.10 (corporation)

7. Person who served papers

a. Name:

Stephen A. Kempski

b. Address:

One Legal - 194-Marin

504 Redwood Blvd #223

Novato, CA 94947

- c. Telephone number: 415-491-0606
- d. The fee for service was: \$199.95
- e. Lam:
  - (1) Not a registered California process server.
- 8. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: 05/20/2016

Stephen A. Kempski

NAME OF PERSON WHO SERVED PAPERS)

Srephen A. Kempski

(SIGNATURE)

## Exhibit C

POS-010

	1 00-01
ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address):  Zachariah Dostart, 255071  Dostart Hannink & Coveney LLP  4370 La Jolla Village Drive  San Diego, CA 92122  TELEPHONE NO.: 858-623-4285  ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Shannon Dale Price et al.	FOR COURT USE ONLY  ELECTRONICALLY FILED Superior Court of California, County of San Diego  06/07/2016 at 03:46:00 PM  Clerk of the Superior Court By E- Filing, Deputy Clerk
Superior Court of California, San Diego County Central Branch	
330 W. Broadway	
San Diego, CA 92101-3409	
PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: Shannon Dale Price et al.	CASE NUMBER:
DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: Synapse Group, Inc. et al.	37-2016-00016453-CU-MC-CTL
PROOF OF SERVICE OF SUMMONS	Ref. No. or File No.: 16685-1

- 1. At the time of service I was a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years of age and not a party to this action.
- I served copies of: Complaint, Civil Case Cover Sheet, Declaration Other, Declaration Other, Original Summons, Notice of Case Assignment SD, Notice to Litigants SD, Stipulation to Alternative Dispute Resolution Process SD
- 3. a. Party served: SynapseConnect, Inc., a Delaware Corporation
  - b. Person Served: Amy McLaren The Corporation Trust Company Person Authorized to Accept Service of Process
- 4. Address where the party was served: 1209 Orange Street

Wilmington, DE 19801

5. I served the party

a, by personal service. I personally delivered the documents listed in item 2 to the party or person authorized to receive service of process for the party (1) on (date): 05/23/2016 (2) at (time): 12:08PM

BY FAX

6. The "Notice to the Person Served" (on the summons) was completed as follows:

d. on behalf of:

SynapseConnect, Inc., a Delaware Corporation under: CCP 416.10 (corporation)

7. Person who served papers

a. Name: Stephen Kempskib. Address: One Legal - 194-Marin

504 Redwood Blvd #223 Novato, CA 94947

c. Telephone 415-491-0606 d. The fee for service was: \$53.95

e I am:

(1) Not a registered California process server.

3X 5X 9355 W

Date: 06/01/2016

Stephen Kempski (NAME OF PERSON WHO SERVED PAPERS) Stephen Kempski

2011 F23-002 V

Code of Civil Procedure, § 417.10

8. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

(SIGNATURE)

## **Exhibit D**

POS-010

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address):  Zachariah Dostart, 255071	FOR COURT USE ONLY
Dostart Hannink & Coveney LLP 4370 La Jolla Village Drive San Diego, CA 92122  TELEPHONE NO.: 858-623-4285  ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Shannon Dale Price et al.	ELECTRONICALLY FILED Superior Court of California, County of San Diego 06/07/2016 at 03:48:00 PM Clerk of the Superior Court By E- Filing, Deputy Clerk
Superior Court of California, San Diego County	
Central Branch	
330 W. Broadway	
San Diego, CA 92101-3409	
PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: Shannon Dale Price et al.	CASE NUMBER:
DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: Synapse Group, Inc. et al.	37-2016-00016453-CU-MC-CTL
PROOF OF SERVICE OF SUMMONS	Ref. No. or File No.: 16685-1

1. At the time of service I was a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years of age and not a party to this action.

2. I served copies of:

Complaint, Civil Case Cover Sheet, Declaration - Other, Declaration - Other, Original Summons, Notice of Case Assignment SD, Notice to Litigants SD, Stipulation to Alternative Dispute Resolution Process SD

3. a. Party served: Synapse Group, Inc., a Delaware Corporation

b. Person Served: Amy McLaren - The Corporation Trust Company - Person Authorized to Accept Service of Process

4. Address where the party was served: 1209 Orange Street

Wilmington, DE 19801

5. I served the party

a. by personal service. I personally delivered the documents listed in item 2 to the party or person authorized to receive service of process for the party (1) on (date): 05/24/2016 (2) at (time): 9:08AM

6. The "Notice to the Person Served" (on the summons) was completed as follows:

d. on behalf of:

BY FAX

Synapse Group, Inc., a Delaware Corporation under: CCP 416.10 (corporation)

7. Person who served papers

a. Name:

Stephen Kempski

b. Address:

One Legal - 194-Marin 504 Redwood Blvd #223

Novato, CA 94947

c. Telephone

415-491-0606

d. The fee for service was: \$ 199.95

e l am

(1) Not a registered California process server.

8. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: 06/01/2016

Stephen Kempski (NAME OF PERSON WHO SERVED PAPERS) Stephen Kempski (SIGNATURE)

Code of Civil Procedure, § 417.10

Case 3:16-cv-01524-BAS-BLM Document 1-6 Filed 06/17/16 Page 1 of 3

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I, Eileen Peacock, declare:

- 1. I am Senior Vice President of Partnership Marketing and Sales at Synapse Group, Inc. In my capacity as Senior Vice President of Partnership Marketing and Sales, I have knowledge of and am familiar with the operations of Synapse Group, Inc. and SynapseConnect, Inc., (collectively "Synapse") and Time Inc. (collectively with Synapse, "Defendants"). Also, I have access to information about relevant aspects of Synapse's operations and sales information. I have personal knowledge of the following facts and if called as a witness, I could and would testify competently to the matters stated herein.
- 2. At all relevant times Defendants were and are corporations organized and existing under the laws of Delaware.
- 3. Time Inc.'s principal place of business at all relevant times was and is in New York. Time Inc.'s worldwide headquarters and executive offices are located at 225 Liberty Street, New York, New York 10281. Time Inc.'s executive officers and senior management team and most of its corporate officers work out of its New York headquarters and executive offices. Time Inc.'s corporate policies and procedures are primarily set by its officers at its New York offices.
- 4. Synapse's principal place of business at all relevant times was and is Connecticut. Synapse's worldwide headquarters and executive offices are located at 225 High Ridge Road, East Building, Stamford, Connecticut 06905. Synapse's executive officers and senior management team and most of its corporate officers work out of its Connecticut headquarters and executive offices. Synapse's corporate policies and procedures are primarily set by its officers at its Connecticut offices.
- 5. I have knowledge of and am familiar with the approximate annual volume of subscriptions of magazines associated with Synapse's business. Synapse makes and maintains records of subscriptions in the regular course of business for,

COOLEY LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
SAN DIEGO

among other reasons, fulfilling subscriptions, revenue recognition, and financial reporting.

- 6. I understand that Plaintiffs contend in the Complaint that they selected to receive certain magazines in connection with a promotional offering, and in connection with that offer, Synapse allegedly enrolled them in an automatic renewal plan without their authorization.
- 7. Without conceding liability, appropriateness of class treatment, appropriateness of Plaintiffs' class definition, or the validity of Plaintiffs' claim for relief, since May 17, 2012 Synapse has collected in excess of \$5 million in subscription fees from subscribers with California addresses who are in their second (or more) term of a subscription that renews.

I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on June 14, 2016, at Stamford, Connecticut.

Lilean Peacock

Eileen Peacock