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10	* Motion for pro hac vice admission forthcoming	
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12	COUNSEL APPEAR ON SIGNATURE PAGE]	
13 14	UNITED STATES I NORTHERN DISTRIC	
15 16 17	KATHERINE CHABOLLA, Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,	Civil Case No.
18 19	Plaintiff, v.	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
20 21 22	CLASSPASS INC., Defendant.	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
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	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT	

Plaintiff Katherine Chabolla ("Plaintiff"), by her undersigned attorneys, Bramson, Plutzik, Mahler & Birkhaeuser, LLP, and Wittels McInturff Palikovic, brings this consumer protection action in her individual capacity and on behalf of a class of consumers defined below against Defendant ClassPass Inc. ("ClassPass"), and hereby alleges the following, with knowledge as to her own acts and upon information and belief as to all other matters alleged:

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. This is a proposed class action lawsuit against fitness marketplace ClassPass for engaging in illegal "automatic renewal" practices with respect to its subscription plans. To protect Californians from deceptive autorenewal practices, California enacted its Automatic Renewal Law, BUS. & PROF. CODE §§ 17600–06 (the "ARL"). The ARL requires companies that offer automatically renewing purchases to provide "clear and conspicuous" disclosures about the autorenewal plan, obtain consumers' "affirmative consent" to autorenewal, and provide a "cost-effective, timely, and easy-to-use mechanism" for cancelling the subscription.

2. ClassPass is one of the nation's biggest health club aggregators, with over 30,000 partner studios worldwide.<sup>1</sup> In exchange for subscription fees, ClassPass allows consumers to access fitness classes at partner studios across a spectrum of activities. Although ClassPass's revenue plummeted by as much as 95% during the first year of COVID-19 pandemic, by the fall of 2021 the company's CEO claimed that "pent-up demand for in-person fitness classes" had brought ClassPass back to pre-pandemic numbers.<sup>2</sup> At that time ClassPass was valued at over \$1 billion.<sup>3</sup>

3. Yet much of ClassPass's revenue comes from its aggressive and deceptive marketing of free or low-cost trial periods that then convert into automatically renewing monthly subscriptions

<sup>1</sup> Sara Ashley O'Brien, CNN, *Fitness startup ClassPass is now a unicorn*, Jan. 8, 2020,

https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/08/tech/classpass-valuation-unicorn/index.html (last visited Jan. 30, 2023).

<sup>2</sup> Abigail Gentrup, FRONT OFFICE SPORTS, *Mindbody Acquires ClassPass, Raises \$500M*, Oct. 14, 2021, https://frontofficesports.com/mindbody-acquires-classpass-raises-500m/ (last visited Jan. 30, 2023).

<sup>3</sup> Jordan Crook, TECHCRUNCH, *Mindbody acquires ClassPass in all-stock deal and secures \$500 million investment*, Oct. 13, 2021, https://techcrunch.com/2021/10/13/mindbody-acquires-classpass-in-all-stock-deal-and-secures-500-million-investment/ (last visited Jan. 30, 2023).

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and saddle unsuspecting consumers with hundreds of dollars in unauthorized charges. To make matters worse, at the beginning the COVID-19 lockdowns ClassPass "paused" consumers' subscriptions and refrained from collecting monthly membership fees while in-person fitness and recreational activities were discouraged. But when in-person activities began resuming and ClassPass's partner studios began reopening more than a year later, ClassPass quietly "unpaused" consumers' subscriptions and used the credit card and other payment information it had previously collected from consumers to begin extracting unauthorized subscriptions and stop the accompanying unauthorized charges. ClassPass's cancellation process violates the ARL because it is not cost-effective, timely, and easy-to-use. Instead, consumers are required to navigate a multistep, confusing process that obstructs and delays consumers' ability to turn off recurring billing. Further, the ARL mandates that online sellers provide one of two online cancellation methods described in the statute. ClassPass offers neither.

4. Yet that is not all. ClassPass's initial enrollment process is deceptive and further violates the ARL. The enrollment process fails to make the ARL-mandated clear and conspicuous disclosures regarding ClassPass's automatic renewal terms, does not obtain consumers' affirmative consent to automatic renewal, and overshadows any (insufficient) automatic renewal disclosures with prominent misleading and deceptive features that grab consumers' attention.

5. Under the ARL ClassPass is also required to send consumers an acknowledgement that includes the cancellation policy and explains how to cancel the recurring charges. ClassPass's acknowledgement email following enrollment fails these requirements as well. Specifically, the email fails to disclose that consumers must cancel the trial by 12:00 PM Eastern (9:00 AM Pacific) on the day *before* the last day of the trial and fails explain how to cancel.

6. Only through a class action can consumers remedy ClassPass's unlawful practices. Because the monetary damages suffered by each customer are small compared to the much higher cost a single customer would incur in trying to challenge ClassPass's improper conduct, it makes no financial sense for an individual customer to bring his or her own lawsuit. Furthermore, many customers do not realize they are victims of ClassPass's unlawful acts and continue to be charged to this day. With this class action, Plaintiff and the Class seek to level the playing field, enjoin ClassPass's unfair business practices, and recover the charges ClassPass has imposed on Plaintiff and the Class in violation of the law.

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

7. This Court has jurisdiction over the claims asserted in this action pursuant to the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, 28 U.S.C. §1332(d), because the aggregate claims of the Class exceed the sum or value of \$5,000,000, the Class has more than 100 members, and diversity of citizenship exists between at least one member of the Class and Defendant.

8. This Court may exercise supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff's state law claims under 28 U.S.C. §1367 because all of the claims arise from a common nucleus of operative facts and are such that Plaintiff ordinarily would expect to try them in one judicial proceeding.

9. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant under 18 U.S.C. § 1965. The Court also has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because ClassPass has sufficient contacts in this jurisdiction.

10. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a). Substantial acts in furtherance of the alleged improper conduct occurred within this District, as ClassPass does business in this District, maintains an office in this District, and Plaintiff resided in this District when she became a ClassPass customer and when ClassPass "unpaused" her account.

## **PARTIES**

Plaintiff Katherine Chabolla is a citizen of Colorado and lives in Boulder, Colorado.
 When Plaintiff enrolled in ClassPass, she was a citizen of California and lived in San Francisco,
 California until July 2021. She became a customer of ClassPass in January 2020 and moved to
 Boulder in July 2021.

12. Plaintiff is a consumer who was victimized by ClassPass's unlawful auto-enrollment practices, suffered injury in fact and lost money because of ClassPass's violations of California's

consumer protection statutes and thus has standing to pursue public injunctive and other relief to protect California consumers from ClassPass's continuing violations.

13. Defendant ClassPass Inc. is a fitness and wellness company whose headquarters is located at 275 7th Ave, New York, NY 10001. ClassPass does business throughout California, including in this District, and maintains an office in this District located at 33 New Montgomery St., San Francisco, CA 94105.

#### FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

### A. ClassPass's Trial-Period Enrollment Process Violates the ARL

14. On or around January 30, 2020, Plaintiff visited ClassPass's website to view Defendants' offerings.

15. Plaintiff chose to enroll in a month-long ClassPass trial, costing \$39.00, and began Defendant's enrollment process.

16. Plaintiff completed the ClassPass trial-period enrollment process and authorized Defendant to charge \$39.00 to her credit card for the trial.

17. Upon information and belief, the payment screen for the trial-period enrollment process Plaintiff used in January 2020 was materially similar to ClassPass's current payment page copied below:

5 of 5
What's your payment
What's your payment info for future reference?
into for fotorer elefence.
Don't worry, during your trial we won't charge yo unless you miss or cancel a booking last-minute
or purchase add-ons. You can cancel your trial a
any time.
1 month free
20 free credits \$0
Save your billing information
Why do you need my billing info?
Name on card
Card number
Exp date CVC
MM 7YY
Postal code
Powered by stripe VISA 🌒 🛲
I have a gift code
By clicking the button below, you agree to the Terms, and your free 1 month 20 -credittrial will begin. If you don't
cancel before the trial ends, you'll automatically be charged for a full-priced monthly credit plan (currently
\$89 + any tax for 43 credits per month), until you can cel or chan ge your plan. Can cel any time in Settings to avoid
renewal. Rees apply for reservations missed or cancelled late. No refunds. Newmembers only: Inventory varies per location and may be limited during trial. Privacy Notice
applies
Start your free trial
🖆 Pay

18. ClassPass's payment page violates the ARL in several respects.

19. First, the terms and conditions of ClassPass's automatic renewal offer are not presented to consumers in a "clear and conspicuous" manner, as defined in the ARL. The terms and conditions are not in larger type than the surrounding font, are colored gray rather than a more conspicuous color, and although a portion of the terms are somewhat bolded, the combination of the font size and color do not make even this bolded snippet stand out, let alone the other automatic renewal offer terms on the payment page. *See* BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17601(c). Nor are the automatic renewal terms set off by symbols or other marks. *Id*.

20. Moreover, any supposed "disclosures" on the ClassPass payment page are far overshadowed by the page's other deceptive components. The very first text consumers see on the page is the large, bold, black text asking for consumers' payment information merely "**for future reference**" and then further deceptively claiming that this supposed "reference" is in case "you miss or cancel a booking last-minute or purchase add ons." This language at the very top of ClassPass's payment page does not disclose that the "future reference" is going to be used to extract monthly subscription fees if the consumer fails to navigate ClassPass' cancellation process. Worse, the top of the page reassures consumers by telling them "Don't worry, during your trial we won't charge you[.]" The "don't worry" statement is made in darker, larger, and more readable text than the deficient autorenewal disclosures. ClassPlass's "for future reference" and "don't worry" statements substantially distract from the minimal and inconspicuous "disclosures" regarding ClassPass's automatic renewal offer terms elsewhere on the page.

21. Second, the ClassPass payment screen fails to include a clear and conspicuous disclosure of the cancellation policy that applies to the offer, instead stating only that consumers can "[c]ancel anytime in Settings to avoid renewal." *See* BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17601(b)(2). ClassPass' incomplete and inconspicuous disclosure fails to describe the "cancellation policy that applies to the offer" as required by the ARL, including that (i) consumers must actually cancel by 12:00 PM Eastern on the day *before* the last day of the trial to avoid charges, and (ii) that if consumers cancel during their trial, they will lose the credits they paid for, they will not be able to schedule any new

classes, and they will have any upcoming reservations cancelled—even if those classes were scheduled to occur during the trial period.

22. Third, the ClassPass acceptance page fails to obtain consumers' affirmative consent to the automatic renewal terms. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17602(a)(2). The ClassPass page contains no mechanism for affirmatively consenting to the automatic renewal terms. For example, there is no checkbox that consumers must click to indicate that they accept those terms.

23. After Plaintiff enrolled in ClassPass's trial, ClassPass sent Plaintiff an email on January 30, 2022 with the subject line "Your ClassPass membership is now active!" This email does not meet the requirements the ARL imposes after purchase of an automatically renewing product or service. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17602(a)(3).

24. The relevant portions of the acknowledgement email sent to Plaintiff are shown below:

	class	pass						
Welcome to ClassPass!								
	Your membersh	ip is now active						
[	Confirmation	#11210774						
	Billed to	Katie Chabolla						
	Credit card							
	Special offer	45-credit plan						
	45-credit plan	\$39.00						
	Total Charged	\$39.00						
	After your offer period, you will	auto-renew to the 45 Credits						
	at \$79 + applicable tax per mo							
	Offer terms: Trial begins at mo	ment of purchase and ends						
	one month later. During trial, ca immediately; classes cannot be							
	cancel request. After trial, your	membership will automatically						
	renew to the \$79 per month pla cancel. Class cancellation fees							
	auto-enrollment plan or cancel	at any time. Exact number of						
	classes per month depends or you choose.	i credit value of the classes						
Мо	nth-to-month							
		renew according to the offer terms						
a	bove until you cancel - which you							
W	vebsite.							
	acknowledgement email vio							

BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17602(a)(3). Instead, it merely states that Plaintiff could "cancel at any time" via her account on ClassPass's website.

26. Moreover, the ClassPass acknowledgement email fails to describe a "cost-effective, timely, and easy-to-use mechanism for cancellation." BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17602(c).

27. The acknowledgment email also disclosed, for the first time after Plaintiff had already paid, that if Plaintiff canceled her account during the *paid* trial, she would lose all credits, *i.e.*, not receive any of the services she paid for. The email did not, however, advise that consumers must cancel by 12:00 PM Eastern on the day *before* the last day of the trial.

#### B. ClassPass's Cancellation Process Violates the ARL

28. ClassPass's cancellation process is neither timely nor easy-to-use. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17602(c). Furthermore, it requires consumers to engage in further steps that obstruct and/or delay the consumer's ability to terminate the automatic renewal immediately. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17602(d)(1). ClassPass also does not offer either of the cancellation methods required by the ARL for offers of automatic renewal services made online; cancellation is not provided by either a "prominently located direct link or button" in customers' account profile, or an "immediately accessible termination email formatted and provided by [ClassPass] that a consumer can send to [ClassPass] without additional information." BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17602(d)(1)(A)–(B). Nor does ClassPass offer a toll-free telephone number or email address consumers can contact to cancel. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17602(c).

29. Instead, canceling a ClassPass subscription requires consumers to take multiple, confusing steps that hinder cancellations. The consumer must first log into their customer account and navigate to their account page. After this, the remaining steps are misleading, confusing, and violate the ARL.

30. Once consumers access their account page, there is no "prominently located direct link or button" to cancel. Instead, consumers must figure out that they need to click on the button labeled "Manage plan," as seen below:

classpass		Gifts Videos Upcoming Get \$300 20 credits
Account Personal Information Contact Billing Recent charges Refer Friends	Account Prove Paragram Service Servic	
prominently features opt to different ClassPass sul the eye and are nearly i bottom of the page. The	ions to skip their trial and beg bscriptions. These options are mpossible to miss. The cance text is tiny and light red, which ss subscription, does not drav	n brings consumers to a landing pay in paying full price immediately, or to all available via bright blue buttons the cellation option, conversely, is hidden ch is much less prominent than the opt w the eye, and is designed to be overl

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classpass		📅 Gifts V	ideos Upcoming Get \$300 20 credits
Account	< Back to account Your plan You can change your plan immediately or select th YOUR CURRENT TRIAL		YOUR PLAN AFTER TRIAL
Contact Billing Recent charges Refer Friends	Free 20 credit trial Free 1 month trial • 20 credits free for 1 month • Roll over up to 43 unused credits onto you after trial 20 credits left · Trial ends February 18	\$89.00 • Rol	edits )/mo - \$2.07/credit I over up to 43 unused credits Start now
	Available plans Explore more plans that work best for you.		
	23 credits \$49.00/mo·\$2.13/credit • Roll over up to 23 unused credits Select this plan	\$139.0	edits O/mo-\$2.04/credit I over up to 68 unused credits Select this plan
		See more plans	
	Cancel your membership		
Company About us Why studio fitness Gifts	Contact Us Br Help Center In	artners acome a Partner tegration API Docs iter Class Blog	Community Refer a Friend Locations Blog
	e consumers who find the h		
	does not clearly explain t and instead suggests that the		
-	for changing your members		

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1 classpass 📅 Gifts Videos Upcoming Get \$300 20 credits 🛛 🕒 🗸 2 3 B 4 Help us understand your reasons for changing your membership. 5 Account 6 My situation has changed due to COVID-19 > Personal Information 7 Contact ClassPass doesn't work for me > Billing 8 Recent charges I have another workout routine > 9 **Refer Friends** I've had a life change 10 > 11 My schedule is too busy > 12 It's too expensive for me > 13 There aren't enough studios near me > 14 Issues with my subscription > 15 16 17 33. For the consumers that understand that cancelling requires them to click on one of the 18 survey options, the cancellation process is still incomplete. Consumers are instead taken to yet 19 another unclear survey page that does not indicate either way whether the subscription has been 20 canceled. For example, consumers who click the option reading "ClassPass doesn't work for me" 21 are taken to the following page: 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 **CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT** 12

classpass		📅 Gifts Videos	Upcoming Get \$300 20 c
	B	Help us understand your reason changing your membership.	s for
	Account Personal Information	New studio(s)   like are not on ClassPass	>
	Contact Billing	There aren't studio options near me	>
	Recent charges	No classes available during the times I'm free	
	Refer melus	No spots available in the classes I want to attend	>
		Studio(s) I like are no longer on ClassPass	>
		Other	>
page, deliberatel button that leads "Continue with r	y designed to obstruc consumers to believe ny plan." The "Cance	ther option, consumers are taken to y et cancellation. This page features a it is the correct choice, but that button el my membership" button is de-emphas	prominent brigh instead is the op
page, deliberatel button that leads	y designed to obstruc consumers to believe ny plan." The "Cance	ct cancellation. This page features a it is the correct choice, but that button	prominent brigh instead is the op
page, deliberatel button that leads "Continue with r	y designed to obstruc consumers to believe ny plan." The "Cance	ct cancellation. This page features a it is the correct choice, but that button	prominent brigh instead is the op
page, deliberatel button that leads "Continue with r	y designed to obstruc consumers to believe ny plan." The "Cance	ct cancellation. This page features a it is the correct choice, but that button	prominent brigh instead is the op
page, deliberatel button that leads "Continue with r	y designed to obstruc consumers to believe ny plan." The "Cance	ct cancellation. This page features a it is the correct choice, but that button	prominent brigh instead is the op
page, deliberatel button that leads "Continue with r	y designed to obstruc consumers to believe ny plan." The "Cance	ct cancellation. This page features a it is the correct choice, but that button	prominent brigh instead is the op
page, deliberatel button that leads "Continue with r	y designed to obstruc consumers to believe ny plan." The "Cance	ct cancellation. This page features a it is the correct choice, but that button	prominent brigh instead is the op
page, deliberatel button that leads "Continue with r	y designed to obstruc consumers to believe ny plan." The "Cance	ct cancellation. This page features a it is the correct choice, but that button	prominent brigh instead is the op
page, deliberatel button that leads "Continue with r	y designed to obstruc consumers to believe ny plan." The "Cance	ct cancellation. This page features a it is the correct choice, but that button	prominent brigh instead is the op

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1 classpass 📅 Gifts Videos Upcoming Get \$300 20 credits 🛛 🔒 🗸 2 3 B Before you cancel 4 5 Please note cancellations take effect immediately. Account ✓ By cancelling, you will no longer be able to make additional reservations. 6 Personal Information Any upcoming reservations you have will be automatically cancelled. 7 Contact ✓ If you choose to continue with your trial, you have 24 days remaining. Your trial will auto renew to a paid monthly plan on Feb 18. Billing 8 Recent charges 9 **Refer Friends** 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 Continue with my plan Cancel my membership 23 24 The cancellation process shown above is not timely, cost-effective, and easy-to-use, 35. 25 and therefore violates the ARL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17602(c). 26 27 28 **CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT** 14

# c. ClassPass Violated the ARL When it "Unpaused" Consumers' Accounts During the COVID-19 Pandemic

36. In March 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the government mandated that among other businesses, ClassPass partner studios throughout the state of California had to close to the general public.

37. On March 17, 2020, Plaintiff received an email from ClassPass with the subject line "Membership changes regarding COVID-19," informing her that ClassPass would suspend billing on her subscription sometime in "the next few days."

38. On July 1, 2020, Plaintiff received an email from ClassPass with the subject line "Information about your ClassPass account." This email notified Plaintiff that her account was "currently <u>paused</u>," would "**remain paused**," and ClassPass would "**not resume billing without notifying you ahead of time**." (Emphases in original). The email further gave consumers the option of resuming their subscriptions by logging into their account and manually reactivating.

39. Over a year after her account was paused, on May 13, 2021, Plaintiff received an email from ClassPass with the subject line "Important details about your ClassPass membership." This email, shown below, violated the ARL in multiple ways:

# **CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

1			1
2		get	
3		back	
4		to	
5			
6		JI	
7		Businesses conversible Kuma Con 10th	
8		Businesses near you like Kume Spa - 19th, Baptiste Yoga San Francisco, and Crunch Gym have officially reopened and we're excited to help you get back to your routine. Expect	
9		help you get back to your routine. Expect smaller class sizes and increased sanitation measures, but the same great workout and self care you deserve.	
10		Now that local restrictions have lifted and fitness and wellness reservations are available for booking in your area:	
11		g., j	
12		Your membership will unpause on May 20, 2021, and your 45-credit plan for \$79.00/mo.	
13		will resume and begin auto-renewing monthly. Plus, to restart strong, book your first 2 reservations through June 3rd and get 50% off each (up to 10 credits off).*	
14			
15		Some important updates:	
16		Updated rollover policy – Rather than capping rollover to 10 credits/mo., you can now roll over up to the total number of credits in	
17		your upcoming plan. For example, on your 45- credit plan, you can roll over up to 45 unused credits into your next month. All unused credits in your account currently will roll over into your	
18		first paid month. Learn more about how the new rollover policy works <u>here</u> .	
19		Safety & cleanliness details – From smaller class sizes to mask policies and ventilation systems, safety details can now be accessed directly from a business's page.	
20		More ways to use your credits – Use credits to book in-person or outdoor classes, or for	
21		services like massages, facials, manicures and more. You can also book at-home experiences like virtual personal training, nutrition sessions and digital workouts from 5,000+ global	
22		partners. + Easily adjust your plan – Flexibility is key. Add	
23		more credits, change your plan or cancel anytime. You can <u>unpause your account early</u> if you're	
24		ready to go or make changes to your upcoming plan. Pauses or plan changes need to be made by May 19, 2021 to take effect.	
25		Thank you for being a valued member of our ClassPass community. We're here if you have	
26		any questions or concerns.	
27	40. The top of the	he email contained a flashing graphic feat	uring a rotating carousel of
28		E	
	<b>CLASS ACTION COMPL</b>	AINT	16

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images (here, in a static screenshot, an image of a man rock-climbing) and the next two paragraphs did not pertain to ClassPass subscriptions at all. It was not until the email's third paragraph that ClassPass mentions that the automatically renewing subscription would "unpause" after a 1+ year hiatus and ClassPass would "begin auto-renewing monthly" in just one week, on May 20, 2021.

41. Unilaterally restarting an automatically renewing subscription after over a year of no payments without requiring any action by the consumer whatsoever is a "material change in the terms of the automatic renewal," under the ARL which requires "clear and conspicuous notice of the material change" and the furnishing of "information regarding how to cancel in a manner that is capable of being retained by the consumer." BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17602(e).

42. By burying the "unpause" language in the May 13, 2021 email, ClassPass did not provide "clear and conspicuous notice" about Defendant's resuming charges after a year-plus hiatus.

43. Moreover, ClassPass can access detailed information about consumers' response to mass emails like its "unpause" email. This information includes the number of emails sent that are opened by consumers, as well as whether any given consumer opened an email. In the aggregate, the open rate can be used to determine whether bulk email campaigns like the "unpause" email are generally received and read by consumers, are received but not read, or whether such emails are overwhelmingly caught by spam or promotions filters that inhibit delivery. Upon information and belief, ClassPass had access to such data (and potentially more sophisticated data) regarding the results of its "unpause" email that could shed light on whether consumers received, read, or understood the true import of ClassPass's "unpause" email.

44. The "unpause" email also did not provide any information on how to cancel other than saying consumers could "cancel anytime."

45. The "unpause" email further stated that consumers could unpause their account early or "make changes to your upcoming plan," and ClassPass required any changes to be made by May 19, 2021. In other words, after over a year of not charging consumers for automatically renewing accounts, ClassPass gave consumers 6 days to make changes in a deceptive email that did not mention cancellation other than in passing.

46. ClassPass's May 2021 "unpause" email was a material change to Plaintiff's subscription and violated the ARL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17602(e).

D. ClassPass's Numerous ARL Violations Injured Plaintiff

47. Plaintiff was injured by ClassPass's ARL violations in its enrollment process email because had she known the truth of the ClassPass trial cancellation policy, namely, that she would lose her paid credits for canceling the trial before it became a full-fledged automatically renewing subscription, she would not have enrolled in the trial plan.

48. Plaintiff was further injured by ClassPass's ARL violations in its email acknowledgement and cancellation process because had she known the truth of ClassPass's misleading and intentionally difficult cancellation process, she would not have enrolled in a ClassPass subscription.

49. Plaintiff was further injured by ClassPass's ARL violations in its cancellation process because she tried to cancel her subscription but was unable, leading to additional unintended charges.

50. Plaintiff was injured by Defendant's ARL violations in its "unpause" email because she was re-entered into an automatically renewing subscription without her knowledge or consent, and was charged over \$1,000 before she realized that she was being charged by ClassPass each month.

51. When Plaintiff contacted ClassPass customer service, she was given the runaround by various ClassPass employees and eventually was refused a refund for most of the unwanted and unauthorized charges.

52. Plaintiff intends to purchase services in the future for herself and her family from online health and wellness companies, including ClassPass, as long as she can gain some confidence in ClassPass's representations about its services and automatic enrollment, renewal, and cancellation practices. Moreover, ClassPass still has Plaintiff's payment information and could use it to process further unauthorized payments.

1

#### **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

2 53. As alleged throughout this Complaint, the Class claims all derive directly from a 3 single course of conduct by ClassPass. ClassPass has engaged in uniform and standardized conduct 4 toward the Class and this case is about the responsibility of ClassPass, at law and in equity, for its 5 knowledge and conduct in deceiving its customers. Defendant's conduct did not meaningfully differ 6 among individual Class Members in its degree of care or candor, its actions or inactions, or in its 7 false and misleading statements or omissions. The objective facts on these subjects are the same for 8 all Class Members. 9 54. Plaintiff sues on her own behalf and on behalf of a Class for monetary and equitable 10 relief under Rules 23(a), (b)(2), (b)(3), and (c)(4) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. 11 55. The Class is preliminarily defined as follows: 12 All California consumers who have been charged by ClassPass for an auto-renewing 13 subscription for any product or service in connection with a purchase made via the ClassPass website from January 30, 2019 to the date of judgment. 14 15 56. Excluded from the Class are: Defendant; any parent, subsidiary, or affiliate of 16 Defendant; any entity in which Defendant has or had a controlling interest, or which Defendant 17 otherwise controls or controlled; and any officer, director, employee, legal representative, 18 predecessor, successor, or assignee of Defendant. Also excluded are federal, state and local 19 government entities; and any judge, justice, or judicial officer presiding over this action and the 20 members of their immediate families and judicial staff. 21 57. Plaintiff reserves the right, as might be necessary or appropriate, to modify or amend 22 the definition of the Class and/or add Subclasses, when Plaintiff files her motion for class 23 certification. 24 58. Plaintiff does not know the exact size of the Class since such information is in the 25 exclusive control of ClassPass. Plaintiff believes, however, that the Class encompasses at least tens 26 of thousands of consumers whose identities can be readily ascertained from ClassPass records. 27 28

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Accordingly, the members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all such persons is impracticable.

59. The Class is ascertainable because its members can be readily identified using data and information kept by ClassPass in the usual course of business and within its control. Plaintiff anticipates providing appropriate notice to each Class Member in compliance with all applicable federal rules.

60. Plaintiff is an adequate class representative. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class and do not conflict with the interests of any other members of the Class. Plaintiff and the other members of the Class were subject to the same or similar conduct engineered by ClassPass. Further, Plaintiff and members of the Class sustained substantially the same injuries and damages arising out of Defendant's conduct.

61. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of all Class Members. Plaintiff has retained competent and experienced class action attorneys to represent her interests and those of the Class.

62. Questions of law and fact are common to the Class and predominate over any questions affecting only individual Class Members, and a class action will generate common answers to the questions below, which are apt to drive the resolution of this action:

- a. whether Defendant's conduct violates the applicable California consumer protection statutes;
- b. whether Class Members have been injured by Defendant's conduct;
- c. whether, and to what extent, equitable relief should be imposed on ClassPass to prevent it from continuing its unlawful practices; and
- d. the extent of class-wide injury and the measure of damages for those injuries.

63. A class action is superior to all other available methods for resolving this controversy because (1) the prosecution of separate actions by Class Members will create a risk of adjudications with respect to individual Class Members that will, as a practical matter, be dispositive of the interests

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of the other C	Class Members not parties to this action, or substantially impair or impede their ability
to protect the	ir interests; (2) the prosecution of separate actions by Class Members will create a risk
of inconsiste	nt or varying adjudications with respect to individual Class Members, which will
establish inco	ompatible standards for Defendant's conduct; (3) ClassPass has acted or refused to act
on grounds g	enerally applicable to all Class Members; and (4) questions of law and fact common to
the Class pre	dominate over any questions affecting only individual Class Members.
64.	Further, the following issues are also appropriately resolved on a class-wide basis
ınder Federa	l Rule of Civil Procedure 23(c)(4):
	a. whether Defendant's conduct violates the applicable California consumer protection statutes;
	b. whether Class Members have been injured by Defendant's conduct;
	c. whether, and to what extent, equitable relief should be imposed on ClassPass to prevent it from continuing its unlawful practices; and
	d. the extent of class-wide injury and the measure of damages for those injuries.
65.	Accordingly, this action satisfies the requirements set forth under Rules 23(a), (b)(2),
(b)(3), and (c)	(4) of the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure.
	CAUSES OF ACTION
	COUNT 1
	CALIFORNIA AUTOMATIC RENEWAL LAW
66.	Plaintiff incorporates by reference all preceding and subsequent paragraphs.
67.	Plaintiff brings this claim on her own behalf and on behalf of each Class member.
68.	The California Automatic Renewal Law, BUS. & PROF. CODE §§ 17600 et seq.,
became effec	tive on December 1, 2010.
69.	BUS. & PROF. CODE §§ 17600 et seq., declares unlawful "the practice of ongoing
charging of c	onsumer credit or debit cards or third-party payment accounts without the consumers'

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.									
1 2	explicit consent for ongoing shipments of a product or ongoing deliveries of service." To ensure that								
	result, the law requires certain clear and conspicuous disclosures be made to any California consume								
3	being offered a product or service which will automatically renew at some point in the future								
4	ClassPass's conduct as alleged in this Complaint was unlawful because it failed to comply with								
5	requirements of BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17602. ClassPass's failures to comply include at least the								
6	following independent violations:								
7	a.	ClassPass failed to present the terms of its automatic renewal or continuous service							
8 9		offer in a clear and conspicuous manner before fulfilling the subscription and in visual proximity to the request for consent to the offer, as required by BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17602(a)(1);							
10	1.								
11	b.	ClassPass charged Plaintiff's and the Class's credit or debit cards, or the consumer's account with a third party, for an automatic renewal or continuous service without							
12		first obtaining the consumer's affirmative consent to the agreement containing the automatic renewal offer terms or continuous offer terms, as required by BUS. & PROF.							
13		CODE § 17602(a)(2);							
14 15	с.	ClassPass failed to provide an acknowledgment that includes its cancellation policy and information regarding how to cancel as required by BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17602(a)(3);							
16	1								
17	d.	ClassPass failed to provide a "cost-effective, timely, and easy-to-use mechanism for cancellation," as required by BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17602(c);							
18 19	e.	ClassPass required consumers to engage in steps to cancel that obstruct or delay the consumer's ability to terminate the automatic renewal or continuous service immediately in wieldtion of Dug. & Dug. 6 Dug. 6 17(02(d))							
20		immediately, in violation of BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17602(d);							
20	f.	ClassPass failed to offer either of the cancellation methods required under BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17602(d)(1)(A)–(B);							
22	g.	ClassPass failed to provide clear and conspicuous notice of its material change to its							
23		existing automatic renewal or continuous service terms, as required by BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17602(e); and							
24	h.	To the extent ClassPass provided any notice of its material change to its existing							
25		automatic renewal or continuous service terms, ClassPass failed to provide information regarding how to cancel, as required by BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17602(e).							
26		mormation regarding now to cancel, as required by DUS. & FROF. CODE § 17002(C).							
27									
28									
	CLASS ACT	TION COMPLAINT22							
I									

70. Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to a declaration that ClassPass's conduct was and is unlawful in that it's ongoing practices fail to comply with the requirements of the Automatic Renewal Law.

#### COUNT 2

### CALIFORNIA UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW-UNLAWFUL BUSINESS PRACTICES

71. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all preceding and subsequent paragraphs.

72. Plaintiff brings this claim on her own behalf and on behalf of the Class.

73. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17200 *et seq.* (the "Unfair Competition Law" or "UCL") prohibits acts of "unfair competition," including any unlawful, fraudulent or unfair business acts or practices as well as any acts contrary to the requirements of BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17500.

74. Under the "unlawful" prong of the UCL, a violation of another law is treated as unfair competition and is independently actionable.

75. ClassPass committed unlawful business practices under the UCL because it imposed charges without complying with all applicable requirements of BUS. & PROF. CODE §§ 17600 *et seq.*, as alleged above.

76. As a result of ClassPass's unlawful business practices, Plaintiff suffered an injury in fact and lost money or property.

77. Pursuant to BUS. & PROF CODE §17203, Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to an order: (1) requiring ClassPass to make restitution to Plaintiff and the Class; (2) enjoining ClassPass from charging Plaintiff's and Class members' credit cards, debit cards, and/or third party payment accounts until such time as ClassPass obtains the consumer's affirmative consent to an agreement that contains clear and conspicuous disclosures of all automatic renewal or continuous service offer terms and meets all other legal requirements; and (3) enjoining ClassPass from making automatic renewal or continuous service offers in the State of California that do not comply with the California Automatic Renewal Law.

#### COUNT 3

# CALIFORNIA UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW–UNFAIR BUSINESS PRACTICES

78. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all preceding and subsequent paragraphs.

79. Plaintiff brings this claim on her own behalf and on behalf of the Class.

80. BUS. & PROF. CODE §§ 17200 *et seq.* (the "Unfair Competition Law" or "UCL") prohibits acts of "unfair competition," including any unlawful, fraudulent or unfair business acts or practices as well as any acts contrary to the requirements of BUS. & PROF. Code § 17500.

81. The courts have adopted differing tests for determining whether a business act or practice is "unfair" under the UCL. ClassPass's practices as alleged above were and are "unfair" and therefore violative of the UCL, under any and all of these tests. ClassPass's practices have resulted in substantial injury to consumers that was not outweighed by any countervailing benefits to consumers or to competition and was not reasonably avoidable by the consumers themselves. Alternatively, ClassPass's practices offended an established public policy and/or were immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous or substantially injurious to consumers. Alternatively, ClassPass's practices were contrary to a public policy "tethered" to a specific constitutional, statutory or regulatory provision.

82. As a result of ClassPass's unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent business practices, Plaintiff suffered an injury in fact and lost money or property.

83. Pursuant to BUS. & PROF CODE §17203, Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to an order: (1) requiring ClassPass to make restitution to Plaintiff and the Class; (2) enjoining ClassPass from charging Plaintiff's and Class members' credit cards, debit cards, and/or third party payment accounts until such time as ClassPass obtains the consumer's affirmative consent to an agreement that contains clear and conspicuous disclosures of all automatic renewal or continuous service offer terms and meets all other legal requirements; (3) enjoining ClassPass from making automatic renewal or continuous service offers in the State of California that do not comply with California Automatic Renewal Law; and (4) enjoining ClassPass from "unpausing" Class member's accounts and using their credit cards, debit cards, and/or third party payment accounts to process charges until such time

as ClassPass obtains the consumer's affirmative consent to such "unpausing" that contains clear and conspicuous disclosures of all material terms and meets all other legal requirements.

#### COUNT 4

#### CALIFORNIA UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW–FRAUDULENT PRACTICES AND FALSE ADVERTISING

84. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all preceding and subsequent paragraphs.

85. Plaintiff brings this claim on her own behalf and on behalf of the Class.

86. BUS. & PROF. CODE §§ 17200, *et seq.* (the "Unfair Competition Law" or "UCL") prohibits acts of "unfair competition," including any unlawful, fraudulent or unfair business acts or practices as well as any acts contrary to the requirements of BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17500.

87. ClassPass's acts, omissions, nondisclosures, and misleading statements as alleged herein were and are false, misleading, and/or likely to deceive the consuming public, and thus constituted fraudulent business practices in violation of the UCL. Moreover, those acts, omissions, nondisclosures, and misleading statements were contrary to the provisions of the False Advertising Law, BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17500 and constitute violations of the UCL for that reason as well.

88. As a result of ClassPass's unlawful and unfair business practices, Plaintiff suffered an injury in fact and lost money or property.

89. Pursuant to BUS. & PROF. CODE §17203, Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to an order: (1) requiring ClassPass to make restitution to Plaintiff and the Class; (2) enjoining ClassPass from charging Plaintiff's and Class members' credit cards, debit cards, and/or third party payment accounts until such time as Best Buy obtains the consumer's affirmative consent to an agreement that contains clear and conspicuous disclosures of all automatic renewal or continuous service offer terms and meets all other legal requirements; and (3) enjoining ClassPass from making automatic renewal or continuous service offers in the State of California that do not comply with California Automatic Renewal Law.

#### COUNT 5

#### CALIFORNIA CONSUMERS LEGAL REMEDIES ACT

90. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all preceding and subsequent paragraphs.

91. Plaintiff brings this claim on her own behalf and on behalf of the Class.

92. The California Consumers Legal Remedies Act (the "CLRA"), CIV. CODE § 1770(a)(14), prohibits certain specified unlawful acts and practices if utilized in connection with any transaction involving the sale or lease of goods or services to a consumer.

93. ClassPass violated CIV. CODE § 1770, subdivisions (a)(5), (a)(9), (a)(14) and (a)(16) by, inter alia, representing that ClassPass's goods and services have certain characteristics that they do not have; advertising goods and services with the intent not to sell them as advertised; representing that a transaction confers or involves rights, remedies, or obligations that it does not have or involve, or that are prohibited by law; and representing that the subject of a transaction has been supplied in accordance with a previous representation when it has not.

94. Plaintiff and the Class members are "consumers" within the meaning of CIV. CODE § 1761(d) in that Plaintiff and the Class members were charged by ClassPass in connection with transactions involving goods or services sought or acquired for personal, family, or household purposes.

95. ClassPass's auto-renewing subscriptions constitute "services" within the meaning of CIV. CODE § 1761(b). ClassPass platform enables consumers to reserve, schedule, purchase, access and attend fitness and recreational classes offered and operated by fitness studios, gyms, trainers, venues or other third parties. ClassPass acknowledges in its Terms of Use that it provides "our services" to consumers. ClassPass's Terms of Use also repeatedly acknowledge that ClassPass provides "services" directly to consumers.

96. Plaintiff has standing to pursue these claims because she suffered injury in fact and a loss of money and/or property as a result of the wrongful conduct alleged herein.

97. The charges imposed by ClassPass, purportedly in exchange for auto-renewing subscriptions, to Plaintiff and Class Members are "transactions" within the meaning of CIV. CODE § 1761(e).

98. As a direct and proximate result of result of ClassPass's violations of the CLRA, Plaintiff and the Class were wrongfully charged fees for ClassPass's auto-renewing subscriptions.

99. ClassPass's conduct alleged herein was undertaken by knowingly, willfully, and with oppression, fraud, and/or malice, within the meaning of CAL. CIV. CODE § 3294(c).

100. Accordingly, Plaintiff and the Class Members seek an injunction prohibiting ClassPass from engaging in the unlawful practices alleged herein. If ClassPass fails to rectify or agree to rectify the unlawful acts detailed above and give notice to all affected consumers within 30 days of written notice pursuant to § 1782 of the CLRA, Plaintiff will amend this Complaint to add claims for compensatory damages, and restitution of any ill-gotten gains due to ClassPass's acts and practices, as well as any other remedies the Court may deem appropriate.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court:

- (a) Issue an order certifying the Class defined above, appointing Plaintiff as Class representative, and designating Bramson, Plutzik, Mahler & Birkhaeuser, LLP and Wittels McInturff Palikovic as Class Counsel;
- (b) Find that ClassPass has committed the violations of law alleged herein;
- (c) Enter an appropriate order awarding restitution and monetary damages to the Class;
- (d) Enter an order granting appropriate injunctive relief on behalf of the Class;
  - (e) Award pre-judgment interest, costs, reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses; and
    - (f) Grant all such other relief as the Court deems appropriate.

# **CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

	Case 3:23-cv-00429	Document 1 Filed 01/30/23 Page 29 of 29
1	Dated: January 30, 2023	BRAMSON, PLUTZIK, MAHLER & BIRKHAEUSER, LLP
2	Den	
3	By:	/s/ Alan R. Plutzik Alan R. Plutzik (Bar No. 77785)
4		aplutzik@bramsonplutzik.com Robert M. Bramson (Bar No. 102006)
5		rbramson@bramsonplutzik.com Daniel E. Birkhaeuser (Bar No. 136646)
6		dbirkhaeuser@bramsonplutzik.com
7		2125 Oak Grove Road, Suite 125 Walnut Creek, California 94598
8		Telephone: (925) 945-0200
9		WITTELS MCINTURFF PALIKOVIC
10		
11	By:	<u>/s/ Ethan D. Roman</u> Ethan D. Roman*
12		edr@wittelslaw.com 305 Broadway, 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor
13		New York, New York 10007
14		Telephone: (917) 775-8862 Facsimile: (917) 775-8862
15		Counsel for Plaintiff and the Proposed Class
16		* Motion for pro hac vice admission forthcoming
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	CLASS ACTION COMPLA	AINT 28

#### JS-CAND 44 (Rev. 10/2020) Case 3:23-cv-00429 Document 1-1 Filed 01/30/23 Page 1 of 2 CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS-CAND 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 in its original form by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the Clerk of Court to initiate the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS						DEFEN	NDANTS	5				
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)							f Residenc <i>LAINTIFF (</i> IN LAND ( THE TRAC	CASES ON CONDEM	<i>LY)</i> NATION	CASES, USE THE LOCATION O	F	
(c)	Attorneys (Firm Name, Addr	ess, a	nd Telephone Number)			Attorney	s (If Known)	)				
II.	BASIS OF JURISDIC	CTI	<b>ON</b> (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	Ш		<b>TIZENSH</b> Diversity Case		RINCIE	PAL PA	<b>ARTIES</b> (Place an "X" in One Bo and One Box for Defend		aintiff
						-		PTF	DEF		PTF	DEF
1	U.S. Government Plaintiff	3	Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)		Citize	en of This State		1	1	Incorporated <i>or</i> Principal Place of Business In This State	4	4
2	U.S. Government Defendant	4	Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)		Citize	en of Another S	tate	2	2	Incorporated <i>and</i> Principal Place of Business In Another State	5	5
			(indecate Cuizensnip Of I drites in item iii)			en or Subject of gn Country	a	3	3	Foreign Nation	6	6

#### IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

CONTRACT	TOF		FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES				
CONTRACT         110 Insurance         120 Marine         130 Miller Act         140 Negotiable Instrument         150 Recovery of         Overpayment Of         Veteran's Benefits         151 Medicare Act         152 Recovery of Defaulted         Student Loans (Excludes         Veteran's Benefits         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         245 Tort Product Liability         290 All Other Real Property	TOPERSONAL INJURY         310 Airplane       315 Airplane Product Liability         320 Assault, Libel & Slander       330 Federal Employers' Liability         340 Marine       345 Marine Product Liability         350 Motor Vehicle       355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability         360 Other Personal Injury       362 Personal Injury -Medical Malpractice         CIVIL RIGHTS         440 Other Civil Rights         441 Voting       442 Employment         443 Housing/ Accommodations       445 Amer. w/Disabilities- Employment         446 Amer. w/Disabilities- Limployment       448 Education	PERSONAL INJURY         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         369 Other Fraud         371 Truth in Lending         380 Other Personal Property Damage         385 Property Damage Product Liability         PRISONER PETITIONS         HABEAS CORPUS         463 Alien Detainee         510 Motions to Vacate Sentence         530 General         535 Death Penalty         OTHER         540 Mandamus & Other         550 Civil Rights         555 Prison Condition         560 Civil Detainee– Conditions of	FORFEITURE/PENALTY 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC § 881 690 Other LABOR 710 Fair Labor Standards Act 720 Labor/Management Relations 740 Railway Labor Act 751 Family and Medical Leave Act 790 Other Labor Litigation 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION 462 Naturalization Application 465 Other Immigration Actions	BANKRUPTCY         422 Appeal 28 USC § 158         423 Withdrawal 28 USC § 157         PROPERTY RIGHTS         820 Copyrights         830 Patent         835 Patent-Abbreviated New Drug Application         840 Trademark         880 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016         SOCIAL SECURITY         861 HIA (1395ff)         862 Black Lung (923)         863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))         864 SSID Title XVI         865 RSI (405(g))         FEDERAL TAX SUITS         870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)         871 IRS-Third Party 26 USC § 7609	OTHER STATUTES         375 False Claims Act         376 Qui Tam (31 USC § 3729(a))         400 State Reapportionment         410 Antitrust         430 Banks and Banking         450 Commerce         460 Deportation         470 Racketeer Influenced & Corrupt Organizations         480 Consumer Credit         485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act         490 Cable/Sat TV         850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange         890 Other Statutory Actions         891 Agricultural Acts         895 Freedom of Information Act         896 Arbitration         899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision         950 Constitutionality of State Statutes				
V.       ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Bax Only)         1       Original Proceeding       2       Removed from State Court       3       Remanded from Appellate Court       4       Reinstated or Reopened       5       Transferred from Another District (specify)       6       Multidistrict Litigation-Transfer       8       Multidistrict Litigation-Direct File         VI.       CAUSE OF ACTION Brief description of cause:       Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):       CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:         VII.       REQUESTED IN CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION OPENAND \$       DEMAND \$       CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:         VIII.       RELATED CASE(S), IF ANY (See instructions):       JUDGE       DOCKET NUMBER									
IX.       DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT (Civil Local Rule 3-2)         (Place an "X" in One Box Only)       SAN FRANCISCO/OAKLAND         SAN JOSE       EUREKA-MCKINLEYVILLE									

#### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS-CAND 44**

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet. The JS-CAND 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 in its original form by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the Clerk of Court to initiate 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:

- **I.** 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 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a), 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.
  - (1) United States plaintiff. Jurisdiction based on 28 USC §§ 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.
  - (2) <u>United States defendant</u>. When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.
  - (3) Federal question. This refers to suits under 28 USC § 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.
  - (4) <u>Diversity of citizenship</u>. This refers to suits under 28 USC § 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-CAND 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.
  - (1) Original Proceedings. Cases originating in the United States district courts.
  - (2) <u>Removed from State Court</u>. Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 USC § 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
  - (3) <u>Remanded from Appellate Court</u>. Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
  - (4) <u>Reinstated or Reopened</u>. Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
  - (5) <u>Transferred from Another District</u>. For cases transferred under Title 28 USC § 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
  - (6) <u>Multidistrict Litigation Transfer</u>. Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 USC § 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.
  - (8) <u>Multidistrict Litigation Direct File</u>. Check this box when a multidistrict litigation case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.

Please note that there is no Origin Code 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.

- 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 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23.

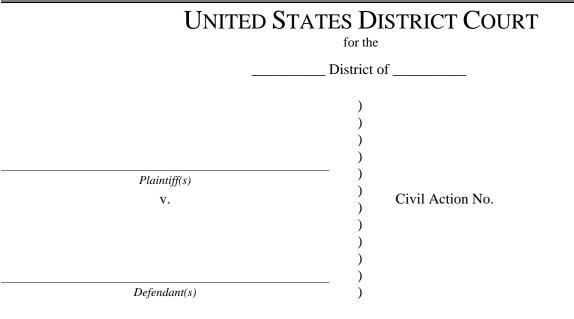
Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.

Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.

- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS-CAND 44 is used to identify related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.
- IX. Divisional Assignment. If the Nature of Suit is under Property Rights or Prisoner Petitions or the matter is a Securities Class Action, leave this section blank. For all other cases, identify the divisional venue according to Civil Local Rule 3-2: "the county in which a substantial part of the events or omissions which give rise to the claim occurred or in which a substantial part of the property that is the subject of the action is situated."

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

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action



#### SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address)

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

CLERK OF COURT

Date:

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No.

#### **PROOF OF SERVICE**

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

	This summons for (nan	ne of individual and title, if any)				
was re	ceived by me on (date)	·				
	□ I personally served	I personally served the summons on the individual at (place)				
	1 5		on (date)	; or		
	☐ I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with ( <i>name</i> ), a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,					
	on (date), and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or					
	□ I served the summons on ( <i>name of individual</i> )				, who is	
designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of (name of organization)					-	
			on (date)	; or		
	□ I returned the summons unexecuted because				; or	
	<b>Other</b> ( <i>specify</i> ):					
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$			
	I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.					
Date:						
			Server's signature			
			Printed name and title			

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc: