

John J. Nelson (SBN 317598)  
**MILBERG COLEMAN BRYSON**  
**PHILLIPS GROSSMAN, PLLC**  
280 S. Beverly Drive, Penthouse  
Beverly Hills, CA 90212  
Tel: (858) 209-6941  
jnelson@milberg.com

*Counsel for Plaintiff*

*[Additional counsel listed on signature page]*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

**SHANNON SPENCER, GERRY  
MCAULEY, and RYAN JOSSART**  
individually and on behalf of all others  
similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

**TICKETMASTER, LLC, and  
LIVE NATION  
ENTERTAINMENT, INC.,**

Defendants.

Case No.

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

Plaintiffs Shannon Spencer, Gerry McAuley, and Ryan Jossart (“Plaintiffs”),  
individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated individuals (the “Class  
Members,” as defined below), by and through their counsel, files this Class Action

1 Complaint against Ticketmaster, LLC and Live Nation Entertainment, Inc.  
2 (“Ticketmaster” or “Live Nation” or collectively “Defendants”) and alleges the  
3 following based on personal knowledge of facts pertaining to themselves and on  
4 information and belief based on the investigation of counsel as to all other matters.  
5

6 **SUMMARY OF ACTION**  
7

8 1. Plaintiffs bring this class action against Defendants for their failure to  
9 properly secure and safeguard personally identifiable information (“PII”) of  
10 hundreds of millions of individuals, including but not limited to, names, contact  
11 information, and payment card information such as encrypted credit or debit card  
12 numbers and expiration dates (the “Data Breach”).  
13

14 2. Defendant Ticketmaster is the wholly owned subsidiary of Live Nation  
15 headquartered in West Hollywood, California. Defendant Ticketmaster is one of the  
16 largest ticket marketplaces in the world, specializing in sales, marketing, and  
17 distribution.<sup>1</sup>  
18

19 3. Plaintiffs’ and Class Members’ sensitive personal information—which  
20 they entrusted to Defendants on the mutual understanding that Defendants would  
21 protect it against disclosure—was compromised and unlawfully exfiltrated due to  
22 the Data Breach.  
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27 <sup>1</sup> See <https://www.livenation.com/ticketmaster/> (last visited July 7, 2024)  
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1           4.     The PII compromised in the Data Breach was exfiltrated by cyber-  
2 criminals and remains in the hands of those cyber-criminals who target PII for its  
3 value to identity thieves. Even worse, hacking group, ShinyHunters, publicly  
4 confirmed it obtained the PII of hundreds of millions of Defendants' customers.<sup>2</sup>  
5 Further, ShinyHunters has also confirmed that it has posted the stolen data and has  
6 made it available for purchase for \$500,000 in a "one-time sale".<sup>3</sup> According to  
7 ShinyHunters, the data stolen in the Data Breach is connected to over 500 million  
8 of Defendants' customers.<sup>4</sup>  
9

10  
11           5.     As a result of the Data Breach, Plaintiffs and Class Members, suffered  
12 concrete injuries in fact including, but not limited to: (i) invasion of privacy; (ii)  
13 theft of their PII; (iii) lost or diminished value of PII due to its theft and release for  
14 sale by hacking group, ShinyHunters; (iv) lost time and opportunity costs associated  
15 with attempting to mitigate the actual consequences of the Data Breach; (v) loss of  
16 benefit of the bargain; (vi) lost opportunity costs associated with attempting to  
17 mitigate the actual consequences of the Data Breach; (vii) statutory damages; (viii)  
18 nominal damages; (ix) the continued and certainly increased risk to their PII, which:  
19 (a) remains unencrypted and available for unauthorized third parties to access and  
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24 <sup>2</sup> See [https://completemusicupdate.com/ticketmaster-data-breach-new-details-](https://completemusicupdate.com/ticketmaster-data-breach-new-details-emerge-from-official-filings/)  
25 [emerge-from-official-filings/](https://completemusicupdate.com/ticketmaster-data-breach-new-details-emerge-from-official-filings/) (last visited July 7, 2024)

26 <sup>3</sup> See [https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ticketmaster-breach-shinyhunters-560-](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ticketmaster-breach-shinyhunters-560-million-customers/)  
27 [million-customers/](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ticketmaster-breach-shinyhunters-560-million-customers/) (last visited July 7, 2024)

28 <sup>4</sup> See <https://mashable.com/article/ticketmaster-data-breach-shinyhunters-hack>  
(last visited July 7, 2024)

1 abuse; and (b) remains backed up in Defendants' possession and is subject to further  
2 unauthorized disclosures so long as Defendants fail to undertake appropriate and  
3 adequate measures to protect the PII.

4  
5 6. The Data Breach was a direct result of Defendants' failure to  
6 implement adequate and reasonable cyber-security procedures and protocols  
7 necessary to protect its customers' PII from a foreseeable and preventable cyber-  
8 attack.

9  
10 7. Defendants maintained, used, and shared the PII in a reckless manner.  
11 In particular, the PII was used and transmitted by Defendants in a condition  
12 vulnerable to cyberattacks. Upon information and belief, the mechanism of the  
13 cyberattack and potential for improper disclosure of Plaintiffs' and Class Members'  
14 PII was a known risk to Defendants, and thus, Defendants were on notice that failing  
15 to take steps necessary to secure the PII from those risks left that property in a  
16 dangerous condition.

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19 8. Defendants disregarded the rights of Plaintiffs and Class Members by,  
20 *inter alia*, intentionally, willfully, recklessly, or negligently failing to take adequate  
21 and reasonable measures to ensure its data systems were protected against  
22 unauthorized intrusions; failing to take standard and reasonably available steps to  
23 prevent the Data Breach; and failing to provide Plaintiffs and Class Members  
24 prompt and accurate notice of the Data Breach.  
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1           9.     Plaintiffs' and Class Members' identities are now at risk because of  
2 Defendants' negligent conduct because the PII that Defendants collected and  
3 maintained is now in the hands of data thieves and is for sale to the public.  
4

5           10.    As a result of the Data Breach, Plaintiffs and Class Members have been  
6 exposed to a heightened and imminent risk of fraud and identity theft. Plaintiffs and  
7 Class Members must now and in the future closely monitor their financial accounts  
8 to guard against identity theft.  
9

10          11.    Plaintiffs and Class Members may also incur out of pocket costs, *e.g.*,  
11 for purchasing credit monitoring services, credit freezes, credit reports, or other  
12 protective measures to deter and detect identity theft.  
13

14          12.    Plaintiffs brings this class action lawsuit on behalf of all those similarly  
15 situated to address Defendants' inadequate safeguarding of Class Members' PII that  
16 it collected and maintained, and for failing to provide timely and adequate notice to  
17 Plaintiffs and other Class Members that their information was stolen and released  
18 by cybercriminals in the Data Breach.  
19  
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21          13.    Through this Complaint, the Plaintiffs seek to remedy these harms on  
22 behalf of themselves and all similarly situated individuals whose PII was acquired  
23 during the Data Breach.  
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1           14. Plaintiffs and Class Members have a continuing interest in ensuring  
2 that their information is and remains safe, and they should be entitled to injunctive  
3 and other equitable relief.  
4

#### 5                           **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

6           15. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action under 28  
7 U.S.C. § 1332(d) because this is a class action wherein the amount in controversy  
8 exceeds the sum or value of \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs, there are  
9 more than 100 members in the proposed class, and at least one member of the class  
10 is a citizen of a state different from the Defendants, including the Plaintiffs.  
11  
12

13           16. This Court has personal jurisdiction over the Defendants because its  
14 principal place of business is in this District and the acts and omissions giving rise  
15 to Plaintiffs' claims occurred in and emanated from this District.  
16

17           17. Venue is proper under 18 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) because Defendants'  
18 principal place of business is in this District and the acts and omissions giving rise  
19 to Plaintiffs' claims occurred in and emanated from this District.  
20

#### 21                           **PARTIES**

22           18. Plaintiff Shannon Spencer is a resident and citizen of Anacortes,  
23 Washington. Mr. Spencer received the Notice Letter, via U.S. mail, directly from  
24 Defendant Ticketmaster, dated June 22, 2024.<sup>5</sup>  
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27 <sup>5</sup> See **Exhibit 1**.  
28

1           19. Plaintiff Gerry McAuley is a resident and citizen of Puyallup,  
2 Washington. Mr. McAuley received the Notice Letter, via U.S. mail, directly from  
3 Defendant Ticketmaster, dated June 22, 2024.<sup>6</sup>  
4

5           20. Plaintiff Ryan Jossart is a resident and citizen of Des Moines,  
6 Washington. Mr. Jossart received the Notice Letter, via U.S. mail, directly from  
7 Defendant Ticketmaster, dated June 22, 2024.<sup>7</sup>  
8

9           21. Defendant Ticketmaster is the wholly owned subsidiary of Defendant  
10 Live Nation and is a limited liability company with its principal place of business  
11 in Hollywood, California.  
12

13           22. Defendant Live Nation is a corporation incorporated in Delaware with  
14 its principal place of business in Beverly Hills, California.  
15

### 16                           **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

#### 17                   ***Defendants' Business***

18           23. Defendant Ticketmaster is a ticket management company for large-  
19 scale sports and entertainment, focusing on sales, marketing, and distribution.<sup>8</sup>  
20 Ticketmaster is the wholly owned subsidiary of Live Nation serving millions of  
21 customers within the United States and internationally.  
22  
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26 <sup>6</sup> See **Exhibit 2**.

27 <sup>7</sup> See **Exhibit 3**.

28 <sup>8</sup> See <https://www.livenation.com/ticketmaster/> (last visited July 7, 2024).

1           24. As a condition of receiving ticketing services, Plaintiffs and Class  
2 Members are required to provide their PII to Defendants, including their names,  
3 contact information, and payment card information such as encrypted credit or debit  
4 card numbers and expiration dates.

5  
6           25. In the course of collecting PII from Plaintiffs and Class Members,  
7 Defendants promised to provide confidentiality and adequate security for customer  
8 data through its applicable privacy policy and through other disclosures in  
9 compliance with statutory privacy requirements.

10  
11           26. Indeed, the Privacy Statement posted on Defendant Ticketmaster's  
12 website promises to keep customer information safe, specifically stating that it has  
13 “security measures in place to protect your information.”<sup>9</sup>

14  
15           27. Plaintiffs and the Class Members relied on these promises and on this  
16 sophisticated business entity to keep their sensitive PII confidential and securely  
17 maintained, to use this information for business purposes only, and to make only  
18 authorized disclosures of this information.

19  
20  
21           ***The Data Breach***

22           28. On or about June 22, 2024, Defendants began sending Plaintiffs and  
23 other Data Breach victims a Notice of Data Security Incident letter (the "Notice  
24 Letter"), informing them that:

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<sup>9</sup> See <https://privacy.ticketmaster.com/privacy-policy> (last visited July 7, 2024),



1 **What Happened.** Ticketmaster recently discovered that an unauthorized  
2 third party obtained information from a cloud database hosted by a third-  
3 party service provider. Based on our investigation, we determined that the  
4 unauthorized activity occurred between April 2, 2024 and May 18, 2024. On  
5 May 23, 2024, we determined that some of your personal information may  
6 have been affected by the incident. We have not seen any additional  
7 unauthorized activity in the cloud database since we began our investigation.

8 **What Information Was Involved.** The personal information that may have  
9 been obtained by the third party may have included your name, basic contact  
10 information, and payment card information such as encrypted credit or debit  
11 card numbers and expiration dates.<sup>10</sup>

12 29. Nearly a month after Defendants notified Plaintiffs and Class Members  
13 of the Data Breach, hacking group, ShinyHunters, claimed responsibility for the  
14 Data Breach and is selling 1.3 terabytes worth of data stolen in the Data Breach for  
15 a one-time price of \$500,000.<sup>11</sup>

16 30. Omitted from the Notice Letter were the details of the root cause of the  
17 Data Breach, the vulnerabilities exploited, when the Data Breach was discovered,  
18 and the remedial measures undertaken to ensure such a breach does not occur again.  
19 To date, these omitted details have not been explained or clarified to Plaintiffs and  
20 Class Members, who retain a vested interest in ensuring that their PII remains  
21 protected.

22 31. This “disclosure” amounts to no real disclosure at all, as it fails to  
23 inform, with any degree of specificity, Plaintiffs and Class Members of the Data  
24  
25

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26 <sup>10</sup> See **Exhibit 1.**

27 <sup>11</sup> See <https://mashable.com/article/ticketmaster-data-breach-shinyhunters-hack>  
28 (last visited July 7, 2024)

1 Breach's critical facts. Without these details, Plaintiffs' and Class Members' ability  
2 to mitigate the harms resulting from the Data Breach is severely diminished.

3 32. Defendants did not use reasonable security procedures and practices  
4 appropriate to the nature of the sensitive information they were maintaining for  
5 Plaintiffs and Class Members, causing the exposure of PII, such as encrypting the  
6 information or deleting it when it is no longer needed.  
7

8 33. The attacker accessed and acquired files maintained by Defendants in  
9 a negligent manner.  
10

11 34. Defendants had obligations created by the FTC Act, contract, common  
12 law, and industry standards to keep Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII confidential  
13 and to protect it from unauthorized access and disclosure.  
14

15 ***Data Breaches Are Preventable***  
16

17 35. Defendants could have prevented this Data Breach by, among other  
18 things, properly encrypting or otherwise protecting their equipment and computer  
19 files containing PII.  
20

21 36. Defendants did not use reasonable security procedures and practices  
22 appropriate to the nature of the sensitive information they were maintaining for  
23 Plaintiffs and Class Members, causing the exposure of PII, such as encrypting the  
24 information or deleting it when it is no longer needed.  
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1           37. The unencrypted PII of Plaintiffs and Class Members is already on sale  
2 to the public on a popular hacking forum. Now, unauthorized individuals can easily  
3 access the PII of Plaintiffs and Class Members.  
4

5           38. As explained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, “[p]revention is  
6 the most effective defense against ransomware and it is critical to take precautions  
7 for protection.”<sup>12</sup>  
8

9           39. To prevent and detect cyber-attacks and/or ransomware attacks  
10 Defendants could and should have implemented, as recommended by the United  
11 States Government, the following measures:  
12

- 13           • Implement an awareness and training program. Because end users are  
14 targets, employees and individuals should be aware of the threat of  
15 ransomware and how it is delivered.
- 16           • Enable strong spam filters to prevent phishing emails from reaching  
17 the end users and authenticate inbound email using technologies like  
18 Sender Policy Framework (SPF), Domain Message Authentication  
19 Reporting and Conformance (DMARC), and DomainKeys Identified  
20 Mail (DKIM) to prevent email spoofing.
- 21           • Scan all incoming and outgoing emails to detect threats and filter  
22 executable files from reaching end users.
- 23           • Configure firewalls to block access to known malicious IP addresses.
- 24           • Patch operating systems, software, and firmware on devices. Consider  
25 using a centralized patch management system.

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26 <sup>12</sup> How to Protect Your Networks from RANSOMWARE, at 3, available at:  
27 [https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/ransomware-prevention-and-response-for-](https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/ransomware-prevention-and-response-for-cisos.pdf/view)  
28 [cisos.pdf/view](https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/ransomware-prevention-and-response-for-cisos.pdf/view) (last visited July 7, 2024).

- 1       • Set anti-virus and anti-malware programs to conduct regular scans  
2       automatically.
- 3       • Manage the use of privileged accounts based on the principle of least  
4       privilege: no users should be assigned administrative access unless  
5       absolutely needed; and those with a need for administrator accounts  
6       should only use them when necessary.
- 7       • Configure access controls—including file, directory, and network  
8       share permissions— with least privilege in mind. If a user only needs  
9       to read specific files, the user should not have write access to those  
10      files, directories, or shares.
- 11      • Disable macro scripts from office files transmitted via email. Consider  
12      using Office Viewer software to open Microsoft Office files  
13      transmitted via email instead of full office suite applications.
- 14      • Implement Software Restriction Policies (SRP) or other controls to  
15      prevent programs from executing from common ransomware  
16      locations, such as temporary folders supporting popular Internet  
17      browsers or compression/decompression programs, including the  
18      AppData/LocalAppData folder.
- 19      • Consider disabling Remote Desktop protocol (RDP) if it is not being  
20      used.
- 21      • Use application whitelisting, which only allows systems to execute  
22      programs known and permitted by security policy.
- 23      • Execute operating system environments or specific programs in a  
24      virtualized environment.
- 25      • Categorize data based on organizational value and implement physical  
26      and logical separation of networks and data for different organizational  
27      units.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> *Id.* at 3-4.

1           40. To prevent and detect cyber-attacks or ransomware attacks Defendants  
2  
3 could and should have implemented, as recommended by the Microsoft Threat  
4 Protection Intelligence Team, the following measures:

5           **Secure internet-facing assets**

- 6           - Apply latest security updates  
7           - Use threat and vulnerability management  
8           - Perform regular audit; remove privileged credentials;

9           **Thoroughly investigate and remediate alerts**

- 10           - Prioritize and treat commodity malware infections as  
11           potential full compromise;

12           **Include IT Pros in security discussions**

- 13           - Ensure collaboration among [security operations], [security  
14           admins], and [information technology] admins to configure  
15           servers and other endpoints securely;

16           **Build credential hygiene**

- 17           - Use [multifactor authentication] or [network level  
18           authentication] and use strong, randomized, just-in-time  
19           local admin passwords;

20           **Apply principle of least-privilege**

- 21           - Monitor for adversarial activities  
22           - Hunt for brute force attempts  
23           - Monitor for cleanup of Event Logs  
24           - Analyze logon events;

25           **Harden infrastructure**

- 26           - Use Windows Defender Firewall  
27           - Enable tamper protection  
28           - Enable cloud-delivered protection  
            - Turn on attack surface reduction rules and [Antimalware]

Scan Interface] for Office [Visual Basic for Applications].<sup>14</sup>

41. Given that Defendants were storing the PII of those who provided their information for ticketing services, Defendants could and should have implemented all of the above measures to prevent and detect cyberattacks.

42. The occurrence of the Data Breach indicates that Defendants failed to adequately implement one or more of the above measures to prevent cyberattacks, resulting in the Data Breach and the publication of the PII of millions of individuals, including that of Plaintiffs and Class Members.

43. Defendants' negligence in safeguarding the PII of Plaintiffs and Class Members is exacerbated by the repeated warnings and alerts directed to protecting and securing sensitive data.

***Defendants Acquire, Collect, and Store Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII***

44. Defendants acquire, collect, and store a massive amount of PII in its ordinary course of business.

45. Defendants received Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII in connection with providing ticketing services.

46. By obtaining, collecting, and using Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII, Defendants assumed legal and equitable duties and knew or should have known that

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<sup>14</sup> See Human-operated ransomware attacks: A preventable disaster (Mar 5, 2020), available at: <https://www.microsoft.com/security/blog/2020/03/05/human-operated-ransomware-attacks-a-preventable-disaster/>

1 it was responsible for protecting Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII from  
2 disclosure.

3 47. Plaintiffs and the Class Members have taken reasonable steps to  
4 maintain the confidentiality of their PII and would not have entrusted it to  
5 Defendants absent a promise to safeguard that information.  
6

7 48. Upon information and belief, in the course of collecting PII from  
8 Plaintiffs and Class Members, Defendants promised to provide confidentiality and  
9 adequate security for customer data through its applicable privacy policy and  
10 through other disclosures in compliance with statutory privacy requirements.  
11

12 49. Indeed, the Privacy Policy posted on Ticketmaster's website promises  
13 to keep customer information safe, specifically stating that it has "security measures  
14 in place to protect your information."<sup>15</sup>  
15

16 50. Plaintiffs and the Class Members relied on Defendants to keep their  
17 PII confidential and securely maintained, to use this information for business  
18 purposes only, and to make only authorized disclosures of this information.  
19

20  
21 ***Defendants Knew, Or Should Have Known of the Risk Because Companies***  
22 ***in Possession of PII Are Particularly Susceptible to Cyber Attacks***

23 51. In light of recent high profile data breaches at other industry leading  
24 companies, including, Microsoft (250 million records, December 2019), Wattpad  
25 (268 million records, June 2020), Facebook (267 million users, April 2020), Estee  
26

27  
28 <sup>15</sup> See <https://privacy.ticketmaster.com/privacy-policy> (last visited July 7, 2024).

1 Lauder (440 million records, January 2020), Whisper (900 million records, March  
2 2020), and Advanced Info Service (8.3 billion records, May 2020), Defendants  
3 knew or should have known that the PII that they collected and maintained would  
4 be targeted by cybercriminals.  
5

6 52. Indeed, cyber-attacks, such as the one experienced by Defendants,  
7 have become so notorious that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) and U.S.  
8 Secret Service have issued a warning to potential targets so they are aware of, and  
9 prepared for, a potential attack.  
10

11 53. Additionally, as companies became more dependent on computer  
12 systems to run their business,<sup>16</sup> *e.g.*, working remotely as a result of the Covid-19  
13 pandemic, and the Internet of Things (“IoT”), the danger posed by cybercriminals  
14 is magnified, thereby highlighting the need for adequate administrative, physical,  
15 and technical safeguards.<sup>17</sup>  
16  
17

18 54. Defendants knew and understood unprotected or exposed PII in the  
19 custody of institutions, like Defendants, is valuable and highly sought after by  
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21  
22

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23 <sup>16</sup> See Danny Brando, Implications of Cyber Risk for Financial Stability (May 12,  
24 2022), available at: [https://www.federalreserve.gov/econres/notes/feds-](https://www.federalreserve.gov/econres/notes/feds-notes/implications-of-cyber-risk-for-financial-stability-20220512.html)  
25 [notes/implications-of-cyber-risk-for-financial-stability-20220512.html](https://www.federalreserve.gov/econres/notes/feds-notes/implications-of-cyber-risk-for-financial-stability-20220512.html) (last visited  
26 July 7, 2024).

27 <sup>17</sup> See Dr. Suleyman Ozarslan, Key Threats and Cyber Risks Facing Financial  
28 Services and Banking Firms in 2022 (March 24, 2022), available at:  
[https://www.picussecurity.com/key-threats-and-cyber-risks-facing-financial-](https://www.picussecurity.com/key-threats-and-cyber-risks-facing-financial-services-and-banking-firms-in-2022)  
[services-and-banking-firms-in-2022](https://www.picussecurity.com/key-threats-and-cyber-risks-facing-financial-services-and-banking-firms-in-2022) (last visited July 7, 2024).



1 nefarious third parties seeking to illegally monetize that PII through unauthorized  
2 access.

3         55. At all relevant times, Defendants knew, or reasonably should have  
4 known, of the importance of safeguarding the PII of Plaintiffs and Class Members  
5 and of the foreseeable consequences that would occur if Defendants' data security  
6 system was breached, including, specifically, the significant costs that would be  
7 imposed on Plaintiffs and Class Members as a result of a breach.  
8  
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10         56. Plaintiffs and Class Members now face years of constant surveillance  
11 of their financial and personal records, monitoring, and loss of rights. The Class is  
12 incurring and will continue to incur such damages in addition to any fraudulent use  
13 of their PII.  
14

15         57. The injuries to Plaintiffs and Class Members were directly and  
16 proximately caused by Defendants' failure to implement or maintain adequate data  
17 security measures for the PII of Plaintiffs and Class Members.  
18

19         58. The ramifications of Defendants' failure to keep secure the PII of  
20 Plaintiffs and Class Members are long lasting and severe. Once PII is stolen, use of  
21 that information and damage to victims may continue for years.  
22

23         59. In the Notice Letter, Defendants makes an offer of 12 months of credit  
24 monitoring and credit score services. This is wholly inadequate to compensate  
25 Plaintiffs and Class Members as it fails to provide for the fact that victims of data  
26  
27  
28

1 breaches and other unauthorized disclosures commonly face multiple years of  
2 ongoing identity theft, financial fraud, and it entirely fails to provide sufficient  
3 compensation for the unauthorized release and disclosure of Plaintiffs' and Class  
4 Members' PII.  
5

6 60. Defendants' offer of credit monitoring establishes that Plaintiffs' and  
7 Class Members' sensitive PII was in fact affected, accessed, compromised,  
8 exfiltrated from Defendants' computer systems, and released for sale by hacking  
9 gang, ShinyHunters.  
10

11 61. Defendants knew, or should have known, the importance of  
12 safeguarding PII entrusted to it by Plaintiffs and Class Members, and of the  
13 foreseeable consequences if its data security systems were breached. This includes  
14 the significant costs imposed on Plaintiffs and Class Members as a result of a  
15 breach. Defendants failed, however, to take adequate cybersecurity measures to  
16 prevent the Data Breach.  
17  
18

19 ***Value of Personally Identifying Information***  
20

21 62. The Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") defines identity theft as "a  
22 fraud committed or attempted using the identifying information of another person  
23 without authority."<sup>18</sup> The FTC describes "identifying information" as "any name or  
24 number that may be used, alone or in conjunction with any other information, to  
25  
26

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27 <sup>18</sup> 17 C.F.R. § 248.201 (2013).  
28

1 identify a specific person,” including, among other things, “[n]ame, Social Security  
2 number, date of birth, official State or government issued driver’s license or  
3 identification number, alien registration number, government passport number,  
4 employer or taxpayer identification number.”<sup>19</sup>

6 63. The PII of individuals is of high value to criminals, as evidenced by  
7 the prices they will pay through the dark web. Numerous sources cite dark web  
8 pricing for stolen identity credentials.<sup>20</sup> For example, PII can be sold at a price  
9 ranging from \$40 to \$200.<sup>21</sup> Criminals can also purchase access to entire company  
10 data breaches from \$900 to \$4,500.<sup>22</sup>

13 64. Among other forms of fraud, identity thieves may obtain driver’s  
14 licenses, government benefits, medical services, and housing or even give false  
15 information to police.

17 65. The fraudulent activity resulting from the Data Breach may not come  
18 to light for years. There may be a time lag between when harm occurs versus when  
19

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21 <sup>19</sup> *Id.*

22 <sup>20</sup> Your personal data is for sale on the dark web. Here’s how much it costs, Digital  
Trends, Oct. 16, 2019, available at:

23 <https://www.digitaltrends.com/computing/personal-data-sold-on-the-dark-web-how-much-it-costs/> (last visited July 7, 2024).

24 <sup>21</sup> Here’s How Much Your Personal Information Is Selling for on the Dark Web,  
Experian, Dec. 6, 2017, available at: <https://www.experian.com/blogs/ask-experian/heres-how-much-your-personal-information-is-selling-for-on-the-dark-web/> (last visited July 7, 2024).

27 <sup>22</sup> <https://vpnoverview.com/privacy/anonymous-browsing/in-the-dark/> (last visited  
28 July 7, 2024).

1 it is discovered, and also between when PII is stolen and when it is used. According  
2 to the U.S. Government Accountability Office (“GAO”), which conducted a study  
3 regarding data breaches:

4  
5 [L]aw enforcement officials told us that in some cases, stolen data may  
6 be held for up to a year or more before being used to commit identity  
7 theft. Further, once stolen data has been sold or posted on the Web,  
8 fraudulent use of that information may continue for years. As a result,  
studies that attempt to measure the harm resulting from data breaches  
cannot necessarily rule out all future harm.<sup>23</sup>

9  
10 66. Plaintiffs and Class Members now face years of constant surveillance  
11 of their financial and personal records, monitoring, and loss of rights. The Class is  
12 incurring and will continue to incur such damages in addition to any fraudulent use  
13 of their PII.

14  
15 67. Moreover, the hacking group, ShinyHunters, has already published  
16 Plaintiffs’ and Class Members’ PII for sale to the public on a popular hacking  
17 website. As such, Plaintiffs and Class Members are at an imminent risk of future  
18 identity theft and fraud.

19  
20 ***Defendants Failed to Comply with FTC Guidelines***

21  
22 68. The Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”) has promulgated numerous  
23 guides for businesses which highlight the importance of implementing reasonable

24  
25  
26  
27 <sup>23</sup> Report to Congressional Requesters, GAO, at 29 (June 2007), available at:  
28 <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-07-737.pdf> (last visited July 7, 2024).

1 data security practices. According to the FTC, the need for data security should be  
2 factored into all business decision-making.

3 69. In 2016, the FTC updated its publication, Protecting Personal  
4 Information: A Guide for Business, which established cyber-security guidelines for  
5 businesses. These guidelines note that businesses should protect the personal  
6 consumer information that they keep; properly dispose of personal information that  
7 is no longer needed; encrypt information stored on computer networks; understand  
8 their network's vulnerabilities; and implement policies to correct any security  
9 problems.<sup>24</sup>

10 70. The guidelines also recommend that businesses use an intrusion  
11 detection system to expose a breach as soon as it occurs; monitor all incoming  
12 traffic for activity indicating someone is attempting to hack the system; watch for  
13 large amounts of data being transmitted from the system; and have a response plan  
14 ready in the event of a breach.<sup>25</sup>

15 71. The FTC further recommends that companies not maintain PII longer  
16 than is needed for authorization of a transaction; limit access to sensitive data;  
17 require complex passwords to be used on networks; use industry-tested methods for  
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25 <sup>24</sup> Protecting Personal Information: A Guide for Business, Federal Trade  
26 Commission (2016). Available at  
27 [https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/plain-language/pdf-0136\\_proteting-](https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/plain-language/pdf-0136_proteting-personal-information.pdf)  
28 [personal-information.pdf](https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/plain-language/pdf-0136_proteting-personal-information.pdf) (last visited July 7, 2024).

<sup>25</sup> *Id.*

1 security; monitor for suspicious activity on the network; and verify that third-party  
2 service providers have implemented reasonable security measures.

3 72. The FTC has brought enforcement actions against businesses for  
4 failing to adequately and reasonably protect consumer data, treating the failure to  
5 employ reasonable and appropriate measures to protect against unauthorized access  
6 to confidential consumer data as an unfair act or practice prohibited by Section 5 of  
7 the Federal Trade Commission Act (“FTCA”), 15 U.S.C. § 45. Orders resulting  
8 from these actions further clarify the measures businesses must take to meet their  
9 data security obligations.  
10

11 73. Section 5 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45, prohibits “unfair . . .  
12 practices in or affecting commerce,” including, as interpreted and enforced by the  
13 FTC, the unfair act or practice by businesses, such as Defendants, of failing to use  
14 reasonable measures to protect PII. The FTC publications and orders described  
15 above also form part of the basis of Defendants’ duty in this regard.  
16

17 74. Defendants failed to properly implement basic data security practices.  
18

19 75. Defendants’ failure to employ reasonable and appropriate measures to  
20 protect against unauthorized access to consumers’ PII or to comply with applicable  
21 industry standards constitutes an unfair act or practice prohibited by Section 5 of  
22 the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45.  
23  
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1        76. Upon information and belief, Defendants were at all times fully aware  
2 of its obligation to protect the PII of Plaintiffs and Class Members. Defendants were  
3 also aware of the significant repercussions that would result from its failure to do  
4 so. Accordingly, Defendants' conduct was particularly unreasonable given the  
5 nature and amount of PII it obtained and stored and the foreseeable consequences  
6 of the immense damages that would result to Plaintiffs and the Class.  
7

8  
9        ***Defendants Failed to Comply with Industry Standards***

10        77. As noted above, experts studying cyber security routinely identify  
11 entities in possession of PII as being particularly vulnerable to cyberattacks because  
12 of the value of the PII which they collect and maintain.  
13

14        78. Several best practices have been identified that, at a minimum, should  
15 be implemented by institutions in possession of PII, like Defendants, including but  
16 not limited to: educating all employees; strong passwords; multi-layer security,  
17 including firewalls, anti-virus, and anti-malware software; encryption, making data  
18 unreadable without a key; multi-factor authentication; backup data and limiting  
19 which employees can access sensitive data. Defendants failed to follow these  
20 industry best practices, including a failure to implement multi-factor authentication.  
21

22        79. Other best cybersecurity practices that are standard for institutions  
23 include installing appropriate malware detection software; monitoring and limiting  
24 the network ports; protecting web browsers and email management systems; setting  
25  
26  
27  
28

up network systems such as firewalls, switches and routers; monitoring and protection of physical security systems; protection against any possible communication system; training staff regarding critical points. Defendants failed to follow these cybersecurity best practices, including failure to train staff.

80. Defendants failed to meet the minimum standards of any of the following frameworks: the NIST Cybersecurity Framework Version 1.1 (including without limitation PR.AC-1, PR.AC-3, PR.AC-4, PR.AC-5, PR.AC-6, PR.AC-7, PR.AT-1, PR.DS-1, PR.DS-5, PR.PT-1, PR.PT-3, DE.CM-1, DE.CM-4, DE.CM-7, DE.CM-8, and RS.CO-2), and the Center for Internet Security's Critical Security Controls (CIS CSC), which are all established standards in reasonable cybersecurity readiness.

81. These foregoing frameworks are existing and applicable industry standards for software institutions, and upon information and belief, Defendants failed to comply with at least one—or all—of these accepted standards, thereby opening the door to the threat actor and causing the Data Breach.

### ***Common Injuries and Damages***

82. As a result of Defendant's' ineffective and inadequate data security practices, the Data Breach, and the foreseeable consequences of PII ending up in the possession of criminals, the risk of identity theft to the Plaintiffs and Class Members has materialized and is imminent, and Plaintiffs and Class Members have



1 all sustained actual injuries and damages, including: (i) invasion of privacy; (ii)  
2 theft of their PII and publishing of their PII for sale by hacking group,  
3 ShinyHunters; (iii) lost or diminished value of PII; (iv) lost time and opportunity  
4 costs associated with attempting to mitigate the actual consequences of the Data  
5 Breach; (v) loss of benefit of the bargain; (vi) lost opportunity costs associated with  
6 attempting to mitigate the actual consequences of the Data Breach; (vii) statutory  
7 damages; (viii) nominal damages; and (ix) the continued and certainly increased  
8 risk to their PII, which: (a) remains unencrypted and available for unauthorized third  
9 parties to access and abuse; and (b) remains backed up in Defendants' possession  
10 and is subject to further unauthorized disclosures so long as Defendants fail to  
11 undertake appropriate and adequate measures to protect the PII.  
12

13  
14  
15 ***Data Breaches Increase Victims' Risk of Identity Theft***  
16

17 83. The unencrypted PII of Class Members has already ended up for sale  
18 to the public by criminal hackers.

19 84. In fact, the unencrypted PII of Plaintiffs and Class Members has  
20 already been published for sale by hacking group, ShinyHunters. The publication  
21 and release of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII creates an imminent threat of  
22 future identity theft and fraud.  
23

24 85. Unencrypted PII may also fall into the hands of companies that will  
25 use the detailed PII for targeted marketing without the approval of Plaintiffs and  
26  
27  
28

1 Class Members. Simply put, unauthorized individuals can easily access the PII of  
2 Plaintiffs and Class Members, especially considering it has already been released  
3 for sale to the public.

4  
5 86. The link between a data breach and the risk of identity theft is simple  
6 and well established. Criminals acquire and steal PII to monetize the information.  
7 Criminals monetize the data by selling the stolen information on the black market  
8 to other criminals who then utilize the information to commit a variety of identity  
9 theft related crimes discussed below.  
10

11 87. Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII is of great value to hackers and  
12 cyber criminals, and the data stolen in the Data Breach has been used and will  
13 continue to be used in a variety of sordid ways for criminals to exploit Plaintiffs and  
14 Class Members and to profit off their misfortune.  
15

16  
17 88. One such example of criminals piecing together bits and pieces of  
18 compromised PII for profit is the development of "Fullz" packages.<sup>26</sup>  
19

20 <sup>26</sup> "Fullz" is fraudster speak for data that includes the information of the victim,  
21 including, but not limited to, the name, address, credit card information, social  
22 security number, date of birth, and more. As a rule of thumb, the more information  
23 you have on a victim, the more money that can be made off of those credentials.  
24 Fullz are usually pricier than standard credit card credentials, commanding up to  
25 \$100 per record (or more) on the dark web. Fullz can be cashed out (turning  
26 credentials into money) in various ways, including performing bank transactions  
27 over the phone with the required authentication details in-hand. Even "dead Fullz,"  
28 which are Fullz credentials associated with credit cards that are no longer valid, can  
still be used for numerous purposes, including tax refund scams, ordering credit  
cards on behalf of the victim, or opening a "mule account" (an account that will

1        89. With “Fullz” packages, cyber-criminals can cross-reference two  
2 sources of PII to marry unregulated data available elsewhere to criminally stolen  
3 data with an astonishingly complete scope and degree of accuracy in order to  
4 assemble complete dossiers on individuals.  
5

6        90. The development of “Fullz” packages means here that the stolen PII  
7 from the Data Breach can easily be used to link and identify it to Plaintiffs’ and  
8 Class Members’ phone numbers, email addresses, and other unregulated sources  
9 and identifiers. In other words, even if certain information such as emails, phone  
10 numbers, or credit card numbers may not be included in the PII that was exfiltrated  
11 in the Data Breach, criminals may still easily create a Fullz package and sell it at a  
12 higher price to unscrupulous operators and criminals (such as illegal and scam  
13 telemarketers) over and over.  
14  
15  
16

17        91. The existence and prevalence of “Fullz” packages means that the PII  
18 stolen from the data breach can easily be linked to the unregulated data (like  
19 insurance information) of Plaintiffs and the other Class Members.  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24

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25 accept a fraudulent money transfer from a compromised account) without the  
26 victim’s knowledge. *See, e.g.,* Brian Krebs, *Medical Records for Sale in*  
27 *Underground Stolen From Texas Life Insurance Firm*, Krebs on Security (Sep. 18,  
28 2014), <https://krebsonsecurity.com/2014/09/medical-records-for-sale-in-underground-stolen-from-texas-life-insurance-firm/> (last visited July 7, 2024).

1        92. Thus, even if certain information (such as insurance information) was  
2 not stolen in the data breach, criminals can still easily create a comprehensive  
3 “Fullz” package.  
4

5        93. Then, this comprehensive dossier can be sold—and then resold in  
6 perpetuity—to crooked operators and other criminals (like illegal and scam  
7 telemarketers).  
8

9        ***Loss of Time to Mitigate Risk of Identity Theft & Fraud***

10       94. As a result of the recognized risk of identity theft, when a Data Breach  
11 occurs, and an individual is notified by a company that their PII was compromised,  
12 as in this Data Breach, the reasonable person is expected to take steps and spend  
13 time to address the dangerous situation, learn about the breach, and otherwise  
14 mitigate the risk of becoming a victim of identity theft or fraud. Failure to spend  
15 time taking steps to review accounts or credit reports could expose the individual to  
16 greater financial harm – yet, the resource and asset of time has been lost.  
17  
18

19       95. Thus, due to the actual and imminent risk of identity theft, Defendants,  
20 in its Notice Letter instructs Plaintiffs and Class Members to enroll in credit  
21 monitoring, remain vigilant for fraud and identity theft by reviewing account  
22 statements and credit reports, place a security freeze on credit files, report  
23 suspicious activity, and contact authorities.<sup>27</sup>  
24  
25  
26

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27 <sup>27</sup> See **Exhibit 1**.  
28

1           96.     Plaintiffs and Class Members have spent, and will spend additional  
2 time in the future, on a variety of prudent actions, such as researching and verifying  
3 the legitimacy of the Data Breach, contacting credit bureaus to place freezes on their  
4 accounts, and signing up for the credit monitoring and identity theft protection  
5 services offered by Defendant.  
6

7           97.     Plaintiffs' mitigation efforts are consistent with the U.S. Government  
8 Accountability Office that released a report in 2007 regarding data breaches ("GAO  
9 Report") in which it noted that victims of identity theft will face "substantial costs  
10 and time to repair the damage to their good name and credit record."<sup>28</sup>  
11

12           98.     Plaintiffs' mitigation efforts are also consistent with the steps that the  
13 FTC recommends that data breach victims take several steps to protect their  
14 personal and financial information after a data breach, including: contacting one of  
15 the credit bureaus to place a fraud alert (consider an extended fraud alert that lasts  
16 for seven years if someone steals their identity), reviewing their credit reports,  
17 contacting companies to remove fraudulent charges from their accounts, placing a  
18 credit freeze on their credit, and correcting their credit reports.<sup>29</sup>  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23

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24 <sup>28</sup> United States Government Accountability Office, GAO-07-737, Personal  
25 Information: Data Breaches Are Frequent, but Evidence of Resulting Identity Theft  
26 Is Limited; However, the Full Extent Is Unknown (June 2007),  
<https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-07-737> (last visited July 7, 2024).

27 <sup>29</sup> See Federal Trade Commission, Identity Theft.gov,  
28 <https://www.identitytheft.gov/Steps> (last visited July 7, 2024).

1           99.     And for those Class Members who experience actual identity theft and  
2 fraud, the United States Government Accountability Office released a report in  
3 2007 regarding data breaches (“GAO Report”) in which it noted that victims of  
4 identity theft will face “substantial costs and time to repair the damage to their good  
5 name and credit record.”

7           ***Diminution of Value of PII***

8  
9           100.   PII is a valuable property right.<sup>30</sup> Its value is axiomatic, considering  
10 the value of Big Data in corporate America and the consequences of cyber thefts  
11 include heavy prison sentences. Even this obvious risk to reward analysis illustrates  
12 beyond a doubt that PII has considerable market value.

13  
14           101.   Sensitive PII can sell for as much as \$363 per record according to the  
15 Infosec Institute.<sup>31</sup>

16  
17           102.   An active and robust legitimate marketplace for PII also exists. In  
18 2019, the data brokering industry was worth roughly \$200 billion.<sup>32</sup>

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19  
20 <sup>30</sup> See “Data Breaches Are Frequent, but Evidence of Resulting Identity Theft Is  
21 Limited; However, the Full Extent Is Unknown,” p. 2, U.S. Government  
22 Accountability Office, June 2007, <https://www.gao.gov/new.items/d07737.pdf>  
23 (“GAO Report”) (last visited July 7, 2024).

24 <sup>31</sup> See, e.g., John T. Soma, et al, Corporate Privacy Trend: The “Value” of Personally  
25 Identifiable Information (“PII”) Equals the “Value” of Financial Assets, 15 Rich.  
26 J.L. & Tech. 11, at \*3-4 (2009) (“PII, which companies obtain at little cost, has  
27 quantifiable value that is rapidly reaching a level comparable to the value of  
28 traditional financial assets.”) (citations omitted) (last visited July 7, 2024).

<sup>32</sup> See Ashiq Ja, Hackers Selling Healthcare Data in the Black Market, InfoSec (July  
27 27, 2015), [https://resources.infosecinstitute.com/topic/hackers-selling-healthcare-  
28 data-in-the-black-market/](https://resources.infosecinstitute.com/topic/hackers-selling-healthcare-data-in-the-black-market/) (last visited July 7, 2024).

1        103. In fact, the data marketplace is so sophisticated that consumers can  
2 actually sell their non-public information directly to a data broker who in turn  
3 aggregates the information and provides it to marketers or app developers.<sup>33</sup>  
4

5        104. As a result of the Data Breach, Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII,  
6 which has an inherent market value in both legitimate and dark markets, has been  
7 damaged and diminished by its compromise and unauthorized release. However,  
8 this transfer of value occurred without any consideration paid to Plaintiffs or Class  
9 Members for their property, resulting in an economic loss. Moreover, the PII is now  
10 readily available, and the rarity of the Data has been lost, thereby causing additional  
11 loss of value.  
12  
13

14        105. At all relevant times, Defendants knew, or reasonably should have  
15 known, of the importance of safeguarding the PII of Plaintiffs and Class Members,  
16 and of the foreseeable consequences that would occur if Defendants' data security  
17 system was breached, including, specifically, the significant costs that would be  
18 imposed on Plaintiffs and Class Members as a result of a breach.  
19  
20

21        106. The fraudulent activity resulting from the Data Breach may not come  
22 to light for years.  
23  
24

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25 <sup>33</sup> See David Lazarus, Column: Shadowy data brokers make the most of their  
26 invisibility cloak, Los Angeles Times (Nov. 5, 2019), available at:  
27 <https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2019-11-05/column-data-brokers> (last  
28 visited July 7, 2024).

1        107. Plaintiffs and Class Members now face years of constant surveillance  
2 of their financial and personal records, monitoring, and loss of rights. The Class is  
3 incurring and will continue to incur such damages in addition to any fraudulent use  
4 of their PII.  
5

6        108. Defendants were, or should have been, fully aware of the unique type  
7 and the significant volume of data on Defendants' network, amounting to millions  
8 of individuals' detailed personal information and, thus, the significant number of  
9 individuals who would be harmed by the exposure of the unencrypted data.  
10

11        109. The injuries to Plaintiffs and Class Members were directly and  
12 proximately caused by Defendants' failure to implement or maintain adequate data  
13 security measures for the PII of Plaintiffs and Class Members.  
14

15        ***Future Cost of Credit and Identity Theft Monitoring is Reasonable and***  
16        ***Necessary***

17        110. Given the type of targeted attack in this case, sophisticated criminal  
18 activity, the type of PII involved, entire batches of stolen information have been  
19 placed, or will be placed, on the black market/dark web for sale and purchase by  
20 criminals intending to utilize the PII for identity theft crimes –e.g., opening bank  
21 accounts in the victims' names to make purchases or to launder money; file false  
22 tax returns; take out loans or lines of credit; or file false unemployment claims.  
23  
24

25        111. Such fraud may go undetected until debt collection calls commence  
26 months, or even years, later. An individual may not know that his or her PII was  
27  
28



1 used to file unemployment benefits until law enforcement notifies the individual's  
2 employer of the suspected fraud. Fraudulent tax returns are typically discovered  
3 only when an individual's authentic tax return is rejected.  
4

5 112. Consequently, Plaintiffs and Class Members are at an increased risk of  
6 fraud and identity theft for many years into the future.

7 113. The retail cost of credit monitoring and identity theft monitoring can  
8 cost around \$200 a year per Class Member. This is a reasonable and necessary cost  
9 to monitor to protect Class Members from the risk of identity theft that arose from  
10 Defendants' Data Breach.  
11

12  
13 ***Plaintiff Shannon Spencer's Experience***

14 114. Defendants obtained Plaintiff Spencer's PII in connection with  
15 providing him ticketing services.  
16

17 115. At the time of the Data Breach, Defendants retained Plaintiffs' PII in  
18 its system.

19 116. Plaintiff Spencer is very careful about sharing his sensitive PII.  
20 Plaintiff stores any documents containing his PII in a safe and secure location. He  
21 has never knowingly transmitted unencrypted sensitive PII over the internet or any  
22 other unsecured source. Plaintiff would not have entrusted his PII to Defendants  
23 had he known of Defendants' lax data security policies.  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

1           117. Plaintiff Spencer received the Notice Letter, by U.S. mail, directly  
2 from Ticketmaster, dated June 22, 2024. According to the Notice Letter, Plaintiffs'  
3 PII was improperly accessed and stolen by unauthorized third parties, including his  
4 name, basic contact information, and payment card information such as encrypted  
5 credit or debit card numbers and expiration dates.  
6

7           118. As a result of the Data Breach, and at the direction of Defendants'  
8 Notice Letter, Plaintiff made reasonable efforts to mitigate the impact of the Data  
9 Breach, including researching and verifying the legitimacy of the Data Breach.  
10 Plaintiff has spent significant time dealing with the Data Breach--valuable time  
11 Plaintiff otherwise would have spent on other activities, including but not limited  
12 to work and/or recreation. This time has been lost forever and cannot be recaptured.  
13  
14

15           119. Plaintiff suffered actual injury from having his PII compromised as a  
16 result of the Data Breach including, but not limited to: (i) invasion of privacy; (ii)  
17 theft of his PII and release of such PII for sale by hacking group, ShinyHunters; (iii)  
18 lost or diminished value of PII; (iv) lost time and opportunity costs associated with  
19 attempting to mitigate the actual consequences of the Data Breach; (v) loss of  
20 benefit of the bargain; (vi) lost opportunity costs associated with attempting to  
21 mitigate the actual consequences of the Data Breach; (vii) statutory damages; (viii)  
22 nominal damages; and (ix) the continued and certainly increased risk to his PII,  
23 which: (a) remains unencrypted and available for unauthorized third parties to  
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1 access and abuse; and (b) remains backed up in Defendants' possession and is  
2 subject to further unauthorized disclosures so long as Defendants fail to undertake  
3 appropriate and adequate measures to protect the PII.

4  
5 120. The Data Breach has caused Plaintiff to suffer fear, anxiety, and stress,  
6 which has been compounded by the fact that Defendants have still not fully  
7 informed him of key details about the Data Breach's occurrence.

8  
9 121. As a result of the Data Breach, Plaintiff anticipates spending  
10 considerable time and money on an ongoing basis to try to mitigate and address  
11 harms caused by the Data Breach.

12  
13 122. As a result of the Data Breach, Plaintiff is at a present risk and will  
14 continue to be at increased risk of identity theft and fraud for years to come.

15  
16 123. Plaintiff has a continuing interest in ensuring that his PII, which, upon  
17 information and belief, remains backed up in Defendants' possession, is protected  
18 and safeguarded from future breaches.

19  
20 ***Plaintiff Gerry McAuley's Experience***

21 124. Defendants obtained Plaintiff McAuley's PII in connection with  
22 providing him ticketing services.

23  
24 125. At the time of the Data Breach, Defendants retained Plaintiff's PII in  
25 its system.

1           126. Plaintiff McAuley is very careful about sharing his sensitive PII.  
2 Plaintiff stores any documents containing his PII in a safe and secure location. He  
3 has never knowingly transmitted unencrypted sensitive PII over the internet or any  
4 other unsecured source. Plaintiff would not have entrusted his PII to Defendants  
5 had he known of Defendants' lax data security policies.  
6

7           127. Plaintiff McAuley received the Notice Letter, by U.S. mail, directly  
8 from Ticketmaster, dated June 22, 2024. According to the Notice Letter, Plaintiff's  
9 PII was improperly accessed and stolen by unauthorized third parties, including his  
10 name, basic contact information, and payment card information such as encrypted  
11 credit or debit card numbers and expiration dates.  
12

13           128. As a result of the Data Breach, and at the direction of Defendants'  
14 Notice Letter, Plaintiff made reasonable efforts to mitigate the impact of the Data  
15 Breach, including researching and verifying the legitimacy of the Data Breach.  
16 Plaintiff has spent significant time dealing with the Data Breach--valuable time  
17 Plaintiff otherwise would have spent on other activities, including but not limited  
18 to work and/or recreation. This time has been lost forever and cannot be recaptured.  
19

20           129. Plaintiff suffered actual injury from having his PII compromised as a  
21 result of the Data Breach including, but not limited to: (i) invasion of privacy; (ii)  
22 theft of his PII and release of such PII for sale by hacking group, ShinyHunters; (iii)  
23 lost or diminished value of PII; (iv) lost time and opportunity costs associated with  
24  
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1 attempting to mitigate the actual consequences of the Data Breach; (v) loss of  
2 benefit of the bargain; (vi) lost opportunity costs associated with attempting to  
3 mitigate the actual consequences of the Data Breach; (vii) statutory damages; (viii)  
4 nominal damages; and (ix) the continued and certainly increased risk to his PII,  
5 which: (a) remains unencrypted and available for unauthorized third parties to  
6 access and abuse; and (b) remains backed up in Defendants' possession and is  
7 subject to further unauthorized disclosures so long as Defendants fail to undertake  
8 appropriate and adequate measures to protect the PII.  
9

10  
11 130. The Data Breach has caused Plaintiff to suffer fear, anxiety, and stress,  
12 which has been compounded by the fact that Defendants have still not fully  
13 informed him of key details about the Data Breach's occurrence.  
14

15 131. As a result of the Data Breach, Plaintiff anticipates spending  
16 considerable time and money on an ongoing basis to try to mitigate and address  
17 harms caused by the Data Breach.  
18

19 132. As a result of the Data Breach, Plaintiff is at a present risk and will  
20 continue to be at increased risk of identity theft and fraud for years to come.  
21

22 133. Plaintiff has a continuing interest in ensuring that his PII, which, upon  
23 information and belief, remains backed up in Defendants' possession, is protected  
24 and safeguarded from future breaches.  
25  
26  
27  
28

***Plaintiff Ryan Jossart's Experience***

134. Defendants obtained Plaintiff Jossart's PII in connection with providing him ticketing services.

135. At the time of the Data Breach, Defendants retained Plaintiff's PII in its system.

136. Plaintiff Jossart is very careful about sharing his sensitive PII. Plaintiff stores any documents containing his PII in a safe and secure location. He has never knowingly transmitted unencrypted sensitive PII over the internet or any other unsecured source. Plaintiff would not have entrusted his PII to Defendants had he known of Defendants' lax data security policies.

137. Plaintiff Jossart received the Notice Letter, by U.S. mail, directly from Ticketmaster, dated June 22, 2024. According to the Notice Letter, Plaintiff's PII was improperly accessed and stolen by unauthorized third parties, including his name, basic contact information, and payment card information such as encrypted credit or debit card numbers and expiration dates.

138. As a result of the Data Breach, and at the direction of Defendants' Notice Letter, Plaintiff made reasonable efforts to mitigate the impact of the Data Breach, including researching and verifying the legitimacy of the Data Breach. Plaintiff has spent significant time dealing with the Data Breach--valuable time

1 Plaintiff otherwise would have spent on other activities, including but not limited  
2 to work and/or recreation. This time has been lost forever and cannot be recaptured.

3 139. Plaintiff suffered actual injury from having her PII compromised as a  
4 result of the Data Breach including, but not limited to: (i) invasion of privacy; (ii)  
5 theft of his PII and release of such PII for sale by hacking group, ShinyHunters; (iii)  
6 lost or diminished value of PII; (iv) lost time and opportunity costs associated with  
7 attempting to mitigate the actual consequences of the Data Breach; (v) loss of  
8 benefit of the bargain; (vi) lost opportunity costs associated with attempting to  
9 mitigate the actual consequences of the Data Breach; (vii) statutory damages; (viii)  
10 nominal damages; and (ix) the continued and certainly increased risk to his PII,  
11 which: (a) remains unencrypted and available for unauthorized third parties to  
12 access and abuse; and (b) remains backed up in Defendants' possession and is  
13 subject to further unauthorized disclosures so long as Defendants fail to undertake  
14 appropriate and adequate measures to protect the PII.  
15

16 140. The Data Breach has caused Plaintiff to suffer fear, anxiety, and stress,  
17 which has been compounded by the fact that Defendants have still not fully  
18 informed him of key details about the Data Breach's occurrence.  
19

20 141. As a result of the Data Breach, Plaintiff anticipates spending  
21 considerable time and money on an ongoing basis to try to mitigate and address  
22 harms caused by the Data Breach.  
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1 142. As a result of the Data Breach, Plaintiff is at a present risk and will  
2 continue to be at increased risk of identity theft and fraud for years to come.

3 143. Plaintiff has a continuing interest in ensuring that his PII, which, upon  
4 information and belief, remains backed up in Defendants' possession, is protected  
5 and safeguarded from future breaches.  
6

7 **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**  
8

9 144. Plaintiffs bring this nationwide class action on behalf of themselves  
10 and on behalf of all others similarly situated pursuant to Rule 23(b)(2), 23(b)(3),  
11 and 23(c)(4) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.  
12

13 145. The Class that Plaintiffs seek to represent is defined as follows:

14 **Nationwide Class**

15 All individuals residing in the United States whose PII was accessed and/or  
16 acquired by an unauthorized party as a result of the Data Breach (the "Class").

17 146. Excluded from the Class are the following individuals and/or entities:  
18 Defendants and Defendant's' parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers and directors,  
19 and any entity in which Defendants have a controlling interest; all individuals who  
20 make a timely election to be excluded from this proceeding using the correct  
21 protocol for opting out; and all judges assigned to hear any aspect of this litigation,  
22 as well as their immediate family members.  
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1           147. Plaintiffs reserve the right to amend the definitions of the Class or add  
2 a Class or Subclass if further information and discovery indicate that the definitions  
3 of the Class should be narrowed, expanded, or otherwise modified.  
4

5           148. Numerosity: The members of the Class are so numerous that joinder  
6 of all members is impracticable, if not completely impossible. The Class is  
7 apparently identifiable within Defendants' records, and Defendants have already  
8 identified these individuals (as evidenced by sending them breach notification  
9 letters). It is believed that there are hundreds of millions of Class Members.  
10

11           149. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class  
12 and predominate over any questions affecting solely individual members of the  
13 Class. Among the questions of law and fact common to the Class that predominate  
14 over questions which may affect individual Class members, including the  
15 following:  
16  
17

- 18           i. Whether and to what extent Defendants had a duty to protect the PII  
19           of Plaintiffs and Class Members;  
20
- 21           ii. Whether Defendants had respective duties not to disclose the PII of  
22           Plaintiffs and Class Members to unauthorized third parties;  
23
- 24           iii. Whether Defendants had respective duties not to use the PII of  
25           Plaintiffs and Class Members for non-business purposes;  
26  
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28

- iv. Whether Defendants failed to adequately safeguard the PII of Plaintiffs and Class Members;
- v. Whether and when Defendants actually learned of the Data Breach;
- vi. Whether Defendants adequately, promptly, and accurately informed Plaintiffs and Class Members that their PII had been compromised;
- vii. Whether Plaintiffs' PII is for sale to the public;
- viii. Whether Defendants violated the law by failing to promptly notify Plaintiffs and Class Members that their PII had been compromised;
- ix. Whether Defendants failed to implement and maintain reasonable security procedures and practices appropriate to the nature and scope of the information compromised in the Data Breach;
- x. Whether Defendants adequately addressed and fixed the vulnerabilities which permitted the Data Breach to occur;
- xi. Whether Plaintiffs and Class Members are entitled to actual damages, statutory damages, and/or nominal damages as a result of Defendants' wrongful conduct;
- xii. Whether Plaintiffs and Class Members are entitled to injunctive relief to redress the imminent and currently ongoing harm faced as a result of the Data Breach.

1           150. Typicality: Plaintiffs' claims are typical of those of the other members  
2 of the Class because Plaintiffs, like every other Class Member, were exposed to  
3 virtually identical conduct and now suffers from the same violations of the law as  
4 each other member of the Class.  
5

6           151. Policies Generally Applicable to the Class: This class action is also  
7 appropriate for certification because Defendants acted or refused to act on grounds  
8 generally applicable to the Class, thereby requiring the Court's imposition of  
9 uniform relief to ensure compatible standards of conduct toward the Class Members  
10 and making final injunctive relief appropriate with respect to the Class as a whole.  
11 Defendants' policies challenged herein apply to and affect Class Members  
12 uniformly and Plaintiffs' challenges of these policies hinge on Defendants' conduct  
13 with respect to the Class as a whole, not on facts or law applicable only to Plaintiffs.  
14  
15  
16

17           152. Adequacy: Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent and protect  
18 the interests of the Class Members in that they have no disabling conflicts of interest  
19 that would be antagonistic to those of the other Class Members. Plaintiffs seek no  
20 relief that is antagonistic or adverse to the Class Members and the infringement of  
21 the rights and the damages they have suffered are typical of other Class Members.  
22 Plaintiffs have retained counsel experienced in complex class action and data breach  
23 litigation, and Plaintiffs intend to prosecute this action vigorously.  
24  
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1           153. Superiority and Manageability: The class litigation is an appropriate  
2 method for fair and efficient adjudication of the claims involved. Class action  
3 treatment is superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient  
4 adjudication of the controversy alleged herein; it will permit a large number of Class  
5 Members to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously,  
6 efficiently, and without the unnecessary duplication of evidence, effort, and  
7 expense that hundreds of individual actions would require. Class action treatment  
8 will permit the adjudication of relatively modest claims by certain Class Members,  
9 who could not individually afford to litigate a complex claim against large  
10 corporations, like Defendants. Further, even for those Class Members who could  
11 afford to litigate such a claim, it would still be economically impractical and impose  
12 a burden on the courts.

13           154. The nature of this action and the nature of laws available to Plaintiffs  
14 and Class Members make the use of the class action device a particularly efficient  
15 and appropriate procedure to afford relief to Plaintiffs and Class Members for the  
16 wrongs alleged because Defendants would necessarily gain an unconscionable  
17 advantage since they would be able to exploit and overwhelm the limited resources  
18 of each individual Class Member with superior financial and legal resources; the  
19 costs of individual suits could unreasonably consume the amounts that would be  
20 recovered; proof of a common course of conduct to which Plaintiffs were exposed  
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1 is representative of that experienced by the Class and will establish the right of each  
2 Class Member to recover on the causes of action alleged; and individual actions  
3 would create a risk of inconsistent results and would be unnecessary and duplicative  
4 of this litigation.  
5

6 155. The litigation of the claims brought herein is manageable. Defendants'  
7 uniform conduct, the consistent provisions of the relevant laws, and the  
8 ascertainable identities of Class Members demonstrate that there would be no  
9 significant manageability problems with prosecuting this lawsuit as a class action.  
10

11 156. Adequate notice can be given to Class Members directly using  
12 information maintained in Defendant's' records.  
13

14 157. Unless a Class-wide injunction is issued, Defendants may continue in  
15 its failure to properly secure the PII of Class Members, additional PII will be  
16 released for sale to the public and dark web, Defendants may continue to refuse to  
17 provide proper notification to Class Members regarding the Data Breach, and  
18 Defendants may continue to act unlawfully as set forth in this Complaint.  
19  
20

21 158. Further, Defendants have acted on grounds that apply generally to the  
22 Class as a whole, so that class certification, injunctive relief, and corresponding  
23 declaratory relief are appropriate on a class-wide basis.  
24

25 159. Likewise, particular issues under Rule 42(d)(1) are appropriate for  
26 certification because such claims present only particular, common issues, the  
27  
28

1 resolution of which would advance the disposition of this matter and the parties'  
2 interests therein. Such particular issues include, but are not limited to:

- 3 i. Whether Defendants failed to timely notify the Plaintiffs and the class  
4 of the Data Breach;
- 5 ii. Whether Defendants owed a legal duty to Plaintiffs and the Class to  
6 exercise due care in collecting, storing, and safeguarding their PII;
- 7 iii. Whether Defendants' security measures to protect their data systems  
8 were reasonable in light of best practices recommended by data  
9 security experts;
- 10 iv. Whether Defendants' failure to institute adequate protective security  
11 measures amounted to negligence;
- 12 v. Whether Defendants failed to take commercially reasonable steps to  
13 safeguard consumer PII; and
- 14 vi. Whether adherence to FTC data security recommendations, and  
15 measures recommended by data security experts would have  
16 reasonably prevented the Data Breach.
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**CAUSES OF ACTION**

**COUNT I**

**Negligence**

**(On Behalf of Plaintiffs and the Class)**

160. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference all preceding allegations, as if fully set forth herein.

161. Defendants gathered and stored the PII of Plaintiffs and Class Members as part of its ticketing services, which solicitations and services affect commerce.

162. Plaintiffs and Class Members entrusted Defendants with their PII with the understanding that Defendants would safeguard their information.

163. Defendants had full knowledge of the sensitivity of the PII and the types of harm that Plaintiffs and Class Members could and would suffer if the PII were wrongfully disclosed.

164. By assuming the responsibility to collect and store this data, and in fact doing so, and sharing it and using it for commercial gain, Defendants had a duty of care to use reasonable means to secure and safeguard their computer property—and Class Members' PII held within it— to prevent disclosure of the information, and to safeguard the information from theft. Defendants' duty included a responsibility to implement processes by which they could detect a breach of its security systems

1 in a reasonably expeditious period of time and to give prompt notice to those  
2 affected in the case of a data breach.

3 165. Defendants had a duty to employ reasonable security measures under  
4 Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45, which prohibits  
5 “unfair . . . practices in or affecting commerce,” including, as interpreted and  
6 enforced by the FTC, the unfair practice of failing to use reasonable measures to  
7 protect confidential data.  
8  
9

10 166. Defendants owed a duty of care to Plaintiffs and Class Members to  
11 provide data security consistent with industry standards and other requirements  
12 discussed herein, and to ensure that its systems and networks adequately protected  
13 the PII.  
14

15 167. Defendant's' duty of care to use reasonable security measures arose as  
16 a result of the special relationship that existed between Defendants and Plaintiffs  
17 and Class Members. That special relationship arose because Plaintiffs and the Class  
18 entrusted Defendants with their confidential PII.  
19  
20

21 168. Defendants' duty to use reasonable care in protecting confidential data  
22 arose not only as a result of the statutes and regulations described above, but also  
23 because Defendants are bound by industry standards to protect confidential PII.  
24

25 169. Defendants were subject to an “independent duty,” untethered to any  
26 contract between Defendants and Plaintiffs or the Class.  
27  
28



1 170. Defendants also had a duty to exercise appropriate clearinghouse  
2 practices to remove PII it was no longer required to retain pursuant to regulations.

3 171. Moreover, Defendants had a duty to promptly and adequately notify  
4 Plaintiffs and the Class of the Data Breach.  
5

6 172. Defendants had and continue to have a duty to adequately disclose that  
7 the PII of Plaintiffs and the Class within Defendants' possession might have been  
8 compromised, how it was compromised, precisely the types of data that were  
9 compromised and when, and whether additional PII is published for sale to the  
10 public or to the dark web. Such notice was necessary to allow Plaintiffs and the  
11 Class to take steps to prevent, mitigate, and repair any identity theft and the  
12 fraudulent use of their PII by third parties.  
13  
14

15 173. Defendants breached their duties, pursuant to the FTC Act and other  
16 applicable standards, and thus were negligent, by failing to use reasonable measures  
17 to protect Class Members' PII. The specific negligent acts and omissions committed  
18 by Defendants include, but are not limited to, the following:  
19  
20

- 21 i. Failing to adopt, implement, and maintain adequate security measures  
22 to safeguard Class Members' PII;
- 23 ii. Failing to adequately monitor the security of their networks and  
24 systems;
- 25 iii. Allowing unauthorized access to Class Members' PII;
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- iv. Failing to detect in a timely manner that Class Members' PII had been compromised;
- v. Failing to remove PII it was no longer required to retain pursuant to regulations;
- vi. Failing to timely and adequately notify Class Members about the Data Breach's occurrence and scope, so that they could take appropriate steps to mitigate the potential for identity theft and other damages; and
- vii. Failing to secure its stand-alone personal computers, such as the reception desk computers, even after discovery of the data breach.

174. Defendants violated Section 5 of the FTC Act by failing to use reasonable measures to protect PII and not complying with applicable industry standards, as described in detail herein. Defendants' conduct was particularly unreasonable given the nature and amount of PII it obtained and stored and the foreseeable consequences of the immense damages that would result to Plaintiffs and the Class.

175. Plaintiffs and Class Members were within the class of persons the Federal Trade Commission Act was intended to protect and the type of harm that resulted from the Data Breach was the type of harm this statute was intended to guard against.

1 176. Defendants' violation of Section 5 of the FTC Act constitutes  
2 negligence.

3 177. The FTC has pursued enforcement actions against businesses, which,  
4 as a result of their failure to employ reasonable data security measures and avoid  
5 unfair and deceptive practices, caused the same harm as that suffered by Plaintiffs  
6 and the Class.  
7

8 178. A breach of security, unauthorized access, and resulting injury to  
9 Plaintiffs and the Class was reasonably foreseeable, particularly in light of  
10 Defendants' inadequate security practices.  
11

12 179. It was foreseeable that Defendants' failure to use reasonable measures  
13 to protect Class Members' PII would result in injury to Class Members. Further, the  
14 breach of security was reasonably foreseeable given the known high frequency of  
15 cyberattacks and data breaches in Defendants' industry.  
16

17 180. Defendants have full knowledge of the sensitivity of the PII and the  
18 types of harm that Plaintiffs and the Class could and would suffer if the PII were  
19 wrongfully disclosed.  
20

21 181. Plaintiffs and the Class were the foreseeable and probable victims of  
22 any inadequate security practices and procedures. Defendants knew or should have  
23 known of the inherent risks in collecting and storing the PII of Plaintiffs and the  
24 Class, the critical importance of providing adequate security of that PII, and the  
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1 necessity for encrypting PII stored on Defendants' systems or transmitted through  
2 third party systems.

3 182. It was therefore foreseeable that the failure to adequately safeguard  
4 Class Members' PII would result in one or more types of injuries to Class Members,  
5 including publication for sale by hacking group, ShinyHunters.  
6

7 183. Plaintiffs and the Class had no ability to protect their PII that was in,  
8 and possibly remains in, Defendants' possession.  
9

10 184. Defendants were in a position to protect against the harm suffered by  
11 the Plaintiffs and the Class as a result of the Data Breach.  
12

13 185. Defendants' duty extended to protecting Plaintiffs and the Class from  
14 the risk of foreseeable criminal conduct of third parties, which has been recognized  
15 in situations where the actor's own conduct or misconduct exposes another to the  
16 risk or defeats protections put in place to guard against the risk, or where the parties  
17 are in a special relationship. See Restatement (Second) of Torts § 302B. Numerous  
18 courts and legislatures have also recognized the existence of a specific duty to  
19 reasonably safeguard personal information.  
20  
21

22 186. But for Defendants' wrongful and negligent breach of duties owed to  
23 Plaintiffs and the Class, the PII of Plaintiffs and the Class would not have been  
24 compromised.  
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1 187. There is a close causal connection between Defendants' failure to  
2 implement security measures to protect the PII of Plaintiffs and the Class and the  
3 harm, or risk of imminent harm, suffered by Plaintiffs and the Class. The PII of  
4 Plaintiffs and the Class was lost and accessed as the proximate result of Defendants'  
5 failure to exercise reasonable care in safeguarding such PII by adopting,  
6 implementing, and maintaining appropriate security measures.  
7

8 188. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligence, Plaintiffs  
9 and the Class have suffered and will suffer injury, including but not limited to: (i)  
10 invasion of privacy; (ii) theft of their PII and release and publication of such PII for  
11 sale by hacking group, ShinyHunters; (iii) lost or diminished value of PII; (iv) lost  
12 time and opportunity costs associated with attempting to mitigate the actual  
13 consequences of the Data Breach; (v) loss of benefit of the bargain; (vi) lost  
14 opportunity costs associated with attempting to mitigate the actual consequences of  
15 the Data Breach; (vii) statutory damages; (viii) nominal damages; and (ix) the  
16 continued and certainly increased risk to their PII, which: (a) remains unencrypted  
17 and available for unauthorized third parties to access and abuse; and (b) remains  
18 backed up in Defendants' possession and is subject to further unauthorized  
19 disclosures so long as Defendants fail to undertake appropriate and adequate  
20 measures to protect the PII.  
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1 189. Additionally, as a direct and proximate result of Defendants'  
2 negligence, Plaintiffs and the Class have suffered and will suffer the continued risks  
3 of exposure of their PII, which remain in Defendants' possession and are subject to  
4 further unauthorized disclosures so long as Defendants fail to undertake appropriate  
5 and adequate measures to protect the PII in its continued possession.  
6

7 190. Plaintiffs and Class Members are entitled to compensatory and  
8 consequential damages suffered as a result of the Data Breach.  
9

10 191. Plaintiffs and Class Members are also entitled to injunctive relief  
11 requiring Defendants to (i) strengthen its data security systems and monitoring  
12 procedures; (ii) submit to future annual audits of those systems and monitoring  
13 procedures; and (iii) continue to provide adequate credit monitoring to all Class  
14 Members.  
15

16  
17 **COUNT II**  
18 **Negligence *Per Se***  
19 **(On Behalf of Plaintiffs and the Class)**

20 192. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference all preceding  
21 allegations, as if fully set forth herein.

22 193. Pursuant to the Federal Trade Commission Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45,  
23 Defendants had a duty to provide fair and adequate computer systems and data  
24 security practices to safeguard Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII.  
25  
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1           194. Defendants breached its duties to Plaintiffs and Class Members under  
2 the FTCA by failing to provide fair, reasonable, or adequate computer systems and  
3 data security practices to safeguard Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII.

4  
5           195. Defendants' failure to comply with applicable laws and regulations  
6 constitutes negligence per se.

7  
8           196. Plaintiffs and Class Members are within the class of persons the FTC  
9 Act was intended to protect and the harm to Plaintiffs and Class Members resulting  
10 from the Data Breach was the type of harm against which the statutes were intended  
11 to prevent.

12  
13           197. But for Defendants' wrongful and negligent breach of their duties  
14 owed to Plaintiffs and Class Members, Plaintiffs and Class Members would not  
15 have been injured.

16  
17           198. The injury and harm suffered by Plaintiffs and Class Members was the  
18 reasonably foreseeable result of Defendants' breach of their duties. Defendants  
19 knew or should have known that the failure to meet its duties, and that Defendants'  
20 breach would cause Plaintiffs and Class Members to experience the foreseeable  
21 harms associated with the exposure of their PII.

22  
23           199. Plaintiffs and Class Members were damaged as a result of Defendants'  
24 negligence, including having their PII released and published for sale by hacking  
25 group, ShinyHunters.  
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1 PII, (e) reasonably safeguard and protect the PII of Plaintiffs and Class Members  
2 from unauthorized disclosure or uses, (f) retain the PII only under conditions that  
3 kept such information secure and confidential.

4  
5 205. The mutual understanding and intent of Plaintiffs and Class Members  
6 on the one hand, and Defendants, on the other, is demonstrated by their conduct and  
7 course of dealing.

8  
9 206. Defendants solicited, offered, and invited Plaintiffs and Class  
10 Members to provide their PII as part of Defendants' regular business practices.  
11 Plaintiffs and Class Members accepted Defendants' offers and provided their PII to  
12 Defendants.

13  
14 207. In accepting the PII of Plaintiffs and Class Members, Defendants  
15 understood and agreed that it was required to reasonably safeguard the PII from  
16 unauthorized access or disclosure.

17  
18 208. On information and belief, at all relevant times Defendants  
19 promulgated, adopted, and implemented written privacy policies whereby it  
20 expressly promised Plaintiffs and Class Members that it would only disclose PII  
21 under certain circumstances, none of which relate to the Data Breach.

22  
23 209. On information and belief, Defendants further promised to comply  
24 with industry standards and to make sure that Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII  
25 would remain protected.  
26  
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1           210. Plaintiffs and Class Members would not have entrusted their PII to  
2 Defendants in the absence of the implied contract between them and Defendants to  
3 keep their information reasonably secure.  
4

5           211. Plaintiffs and Class Members would not have entrusted their PII to  
6 Defendants in the absence of their implied promise to monitor their computer  
7 systems and networks to ensure that it adopted reasonable data security measures.  
8

9           212. Plaintiffs and Class Members fully and adequately performed their  
10 obligations under the implied contracts with Defendants.  
11

12           213. Defendants breached the implied contracts it made with Plaintiffs and  
13 the Class by failing to safeguard and protect their personal information, by failing  
14 to delete the information of Plaintiffs and the Class once the relationship ended, and  
15 by failing to provide accurate notice to them that personal information was  
16 compromised as a result of the Data Breach.  
17

18           214. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' breach of the implied  
19 contracts, Plaintiffs and Class Members sustained damages, as alleged herein,  
20 including the loss of the benefit of the bargain. Specifically, Plaintiffs and Class  
21 Members were damaged as a result of Defendants' breach, including having their  
22 PII released and published for sale by hacking group, ShinyHunters.  
23  
24

25           215. Plaintiffs and Class Members are entitled to compensatory,  
26 consequential, and nominal damages suffered as a result of the Data Breach.  
27  
28



1 retaining the PII entrusted to it. Defendants profited from Plaintiffs' retained data  
2 and used Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII for business purposes.

3 221. Defendants failed to secure Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII and,  
4 therefore, did not fully compensate Plaintiffs or Class Members for the value that  
5 their PII provided.  
6

7 222. Defendants acquired the PII through inequitable record retention as it  
8 failed to investigate and/or disclose the inadequate data security practices  
9 previously alleged.  
10

11 223. If Plaintiffs and Class Members had known that Defendants would not  
12 use adequate data security practices, procedures, and protocols to adequately  
13 monitor, supervise, and secure their PII, they would not have entrusted their PII to  
14 Defendants.  
15

16 224. Plaintiffs and Class Members have no adequate remedy at law.  
17

18 225. Under the circumstances, it would be unjust for Defendants to be  
19 permitted to retain any of the benefits that Plaintiffs and Class Members conferred  
20 upon it.  
21

22 226. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiffs and  
23 Class Members have suffered and will suffer injury, including but not limited to: (i)  
24 invasion of privacy; (ii) theft of their PII and release of such PII for sale to the public  
25 by hacking group, ShinyHunters; (iii) lost or diminished value of PII; (iv) lost time  
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1 and opportunity costs associated with attempting to mitigate the actual  
2 consequences of the Data Breach; (v) loss of benefit of the bargain; (vi) lost  
3 opportunity costs associated with attempting to mitigate the actual consequences of  
4 the Data Breach; (vii) statutory damages; (viii) nominal damages; and (ix) the  
5 continued and certainly increased risk to their PII, which: (a) remains unencrypted  
6 and available for unauthorized third parties to access and abuse; and (b) remains  
7 backed up in Defendants' possession and is subject to further unauthorized  
8 disclosures so long as Defendants fail to undertake appropriate and adequate  
9 measures to protect the PII.  
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12  
13 227. Plaintiffs and Class Members are entitled to full refunds, restitution,  
14 and/or damages from Defendants and/or an order proportionally disgorging all  
15 profits, benefits, and other compensation obtained by Defendants from its wrongful  
16 conduct. This can be accomplished by establishing a constructive trust from which  
17 the Plaintiffs and Class Members may seek restitution or compensation.  
18

19 228. Plaintiffs and Class Members may not have an adequate remedy at law  
20 against Defendants, and accordingly, they plead this claim for unjust enrichment in  
21 addition to, or in the alternative to, other claims pleaded herein.  
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**COUNT V**  
**VIOLATION OF THE CALIFORNIA UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW**  
**CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 7200, *et seq.***  
**(On Behalf of Plaintiffs and Class Members)**

229. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference all preceding allegations, as if fully set forth herein.

230. Defendants' acts and omissions as alleged herein emanated and were directed from California.

231. By reason of the conduct alleged herein, Defendants engaged in unlawful and unfair business practices within the meaning of California's Unfair Competition Law ("UCL"), Business and Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.*

232. Defendants stored the PII of Plaintiffs and Class Members in its computer systems.

233. Defendants knew or should have known it did not employ reasonable, industry standard, and appropriate security measures that complied with federal regulations that would have kept Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII secure and prevented the loss or misuse of that PII.

234. Defendants did not disclose at any time that Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII was vulnerable to hackers because Defendants' data security measures were inadequate and outdated, and Defendants were the only ones in possession of that material information, which Defendants had a duty to disclose.

**Unlawful Business Practices**

235. As noted above, Defendants violated Section 5(a) of the FTC Act (which is a predicate legal violation for this UCL claim) by misrepresenting, by omission, the safety of its computer systems, specifically the security thereof, and its ability to safely store Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII.

236. Defendants also violated Section 5(a) of the FTC Act by failing to implement reasonable and appropriate security measures or follow industry standards for data security.

237. If Defendants had complied with these legal requirements, Plaintiffs and Class Members would not have suffered the damages related to the Data Breach, and consequently from Defendants' failure to timely notify Plaintiffs and Class Members of the Data Breach.

238. Defendants' acts and omissions as alleged herein were unlawful and in violation of, inter alia, Section 5(a) of the FTC Act.

239. Plaintiffs and Class Members suffered injury in fact and lost money or property as the result of Defendants' unlawful business practices. In addition, Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII was taken and is in the hands of those who will use it for their own advantage, or is being sold for value, making it clear that the hacked information is of tangible value. Plaintiffs and Class Members have also suffered consequential out of pocket losses for procuring credit freeze or protection

1 services, identity theft monitoring, and other expenses relating to identity theft  
2 losses or protective measures.

3 **Unfair Business Practices**  
4

5 240. Defendants engaged in unfair business practices under the “balancing  
6 test.” The harm caused by Defendants’ actions and omissions, as described in detail  
7 above, greatly outweighs any perceived utility. Indeed, Defendants’ failure to follow  
8 basic data security protocols and failure to disclose the inadequacies of Defendants’  
9 data security cannot be said to have had any utility at all. All of these actions and  
10 omissions were clearly injurious to Plaintiffs and Class Members, directly causing  
11 the alleged harm.  
12  
13

14 241. Defendants engaged in unfair business practices under the “tethering  
15 test.” Defendants’ actions and omissions, as described in detail above, violated  
16 fundamental public policies expressed by the California Legislature. *See, e.g.*, Cal.  
17 Civ. Code § 1798.1 (“The Legislature declares that . . . all individuals have a right  
18 of privacy in information pertaining to them . . . . The increasing use of computers . . .  
19 has greatly magnified the potential risk to individual privacy that can occur from  
20 the maintenance of personal information.”); Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.81.5(a) (“It is  
21 the intent of the Legislature to ensure that personal information about California  
22 residents is protected.”); Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 22578 (“It is the intent of the  
23 Legislature that this chapter [including the Online Privacy Protection Act] is a  
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1 matter of statewide concern.”). Defendants’ acts and omissions thus amount to a  
2 violation of the law.

3         242. Defendants engaged in unfair business practices under the “FTC test.”  
4  
5 The harm caused by Defendants’ actions and omissions, as described in detail above,  
6 is substantial in that it affects millions of Class Members and has caused those  
7 persons to suffer actual harm. Such harms include a substantial risk of identity theft,  
8 disclosure of Plaintiffs’ and Class Members’ PII to third parties without their  
9 consent, diminution in value of their Personal Information, consequential out of  
10 pocket losses for procuring credit freeze or protection services, identity theft  
11 monitoring, and other expenses relating to identity theft losses or protective  
12 measures. This harm continues given the fact that Plaintiffs’ and Class Members’  
13 PII remains in Defendants’ possession, without adequate protection, and is also in  
14 the hands of hacking group, ShinyHunters. Defendants’ actions and omissions  
15 violated Section 5(a) of the Federal Trade Commission Act. See 15 U.S.C. § 45(n)  
16 (defining “unfair acts or practices” as those that “cause[ ] or [are] likely to cause  
17 substantial injury to consumers which [are] not reasonably avoidable by consumers  
18 themselves and not outweighed by countervailing benefits to consumers or to  
19 competition”); *see also, e.g., In re LabMD, Inc.*, FTC Docket No. 9357, FTC File  
20 No. 102-3099 (July 28, 2016) (failure to employ reasonable and appropriate  
21 measures to secure personal information collected violated §5(a) of FTC Act).  
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1           243. Plaintiffs and Class Members suffered injury in fact and lost money or  
2 property as the result of Defendants' unfair business practices. Plaintiffs' and Class  
3 Members' PII was taken and in the hands of those who will use it for their own  
4 advantage, and is being sold for value, making it clear that the hacked information  
5 is of tangible value. Plaintiffs and Class Members have also suffered consequential  
6 out-of-pocket losses for procuring credit freeze or protection services, identity theft  
7 monitoring, and other expenses relating to identity theft losses or protective  
8 measures.  
9

10  
11           244. As a result of Defendants' unlawful and unfair business practices in  
12 violation of the UCL, Plaintiffs and Class Members are entitled to damages,  
13 injunctive relief, and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.  
14

15  
16                           **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

17           **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and Class Members,  
18 request judgment against Defendants and that the Court grants the following:  
19

- 20           A. For an Order certifying the Class, and appointing Plaintiffs and their  
21 Counsel to represent the Class;  
22  
23           B. For equitable relief enjoining Defendants from engaging in the wrongful  
24 conduct complained of herein pertaining to the misuse and/or disclosure  
25 of the PII of Plaintiffs and Class Members;  
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1 C. For injunctive relief requested by Plaintiffs, including but not limited to,  
2 injunctive and other equitable relief as is necessary to protect the interests  
3 of Plaintiffs and Class Members, including but not limited to an order:  
4

- 5 i. prohibiting Defendants from engaging in the wrongful and  
6 unlawful acts described herein;  
7  
8 ii. requiring Defendants to protect, including through  
9 encryption, all data collected through the course of its  
10 business in accordance with all applicable regulations,  
11 industry standards, and federal, state or local laws;  
12  
13 iii. requiring Defendants to delete, destroy, and purge the  
14 personal identifying information of Plaintiffs and Class  
15 Members unless Defendants can provide to the Court  
16 reasonable justification for the retention and use of such  
17 information when weighed against the privacy interests of  
18 Plaintiffs and Class Members;  
19  
20 iv. requiring Defendants to provide out-of-pocket expenses  
21 associated with the prevention, detection, and recovery from  
22 identity theft, tax fraud, and/or unauthorized use of their PII  
23 for Plaintiffs' and Class Members' respective lifetimes;  
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- v. requiring Defendants to implement and maintain a comprehensive Information Security Program designed to protect the confidentiality and integrity of the PII of Plaintiffs and Class Members;
- vi. prohibiting Defendants from maintaining the PII of Plaintiffs and Class Members on a cloud-based database;
- vii. requiring Defendants to engage independent third-party security auditors/penetration testers as well as internal security personnel to conduct testing, including simulated attacks, penetration tests, and audits on Defendants' systems on a periodic basis, and ordering Defendants to promptly correct any problems or issues detected by such third-party security auditors;
- viii. requiring Defendants to engage independent third-party security auditors and internal personnel to run automated security monitoring;
- ix. requiring Defendants to audit, test, and train its security personnel regarding any new or modified procedures;
- x. requiring Defendants to segment data by, among other things, creating firewalls and controls so that if one area of

Defendants' network is compromised, hackers cannot gain access to portions of Defendants' systems;

xi. requiring Defendants to conduct regular database scanning and securing checks;

xii. requiring Defendants to establish an information security training program that includes at least annual information security training for all employees, with additional training to be provided as appropriate based upon the employees' respective responsibilities with handling personal identifying information, as well as protecting the personal identifying information of Plaintiffs and Class Members;

xiii. requiring Defendants to routinely and continually conduct internal training and education, and on an annual basis to inform internal security personnel how to identify and contain a breach when it occurs and what to do in response to a breach;

xiv. requiring Defendants to implement a system of tests to assess its respective employees' knowledge of the education programs discussed in the preceding subparagraphs, as well as randomly and periodically testing employees' compliance

1 with Defendants' policies, programs, and systems for  
2 protecting personal identifying information;

3 xv. requiring Defendants to implement, maintain, regularly  
4 review, and revise as necessary a threat management  
5 program designed to appropriately monitor Defendants'  
6 information networks for threats, both internal and external,  
7 and assess whether monitoring tools are appropriately  
8 configured, tested, and updated;

9 xvi. requiring Defendants to meaningfully educate all Class  
10 Members about the threats that they face as a result of the  
11 loss of their confidential personal identifying information to  
12 third parties, as well as the steps affected individuals must  
13 take to protect themselves;

14 xvii. requiring Defendants to implement logging and monitoring  
15 programs sufficient to track traffic to and from Defendants'  
16 servers; and

17 xviii. for a period of 10 years, appointing a qualified and  
18 independent third-party assessor to conduct a SOC 2 Type 2  
19 attestation on an annual basis to evaluate Defendants'  
20 compliance with the terms of the Court's final judgment, to  
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1 provide such report to the Court and to counsel for the class,  
2 and to report any deficiencies with compliance of the Court's  
3 final judgment;  
4

5 D. For an award of damages, including actual, nominal, statutory,  
6 consequential, and punitive damages, as allowed by law in an amount  
7 to be determined;  
8

9 E. For an award of attorneys' fees, costs, and litigation expenses, as  
10 allowed by law;  
11

12 F. For prejudgment interest on all amounts awarded; and  
13

14 G. Such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

15 **JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

16 Plaintiffs hereby demand a trial by jury on all claims so triable.

17 Dated: July 9, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

18  
19 /s/ John J. Nelson

20 John J. Nelson (SBN 317598)

21 **MILBERG COLEMAN BRYSON**

22 **PHILLIPS GROSSMAN, PLLC**

23 280 S. Beverly Drive, Penthouse

24 Beverly Hills, CA 90212

25 Tel: (858) 209-6941

26 jnelson@milberg.com

27 William B. Federman\*

28 **FEDERMAN & SHERWOOD**

10205 North Pennsylvania Avenue

Oklahoma City, OK 73120

1 Telephone: (405) 235-1560  
2 -and-  
3 212 W. Spring Valley Road  
4 Richardson, TX 75081

5 *\*Pro Hac Vice forthcoming*

6 ***Counsel for the Plaintiffs and the***  
7 ***Proposed Class***  
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