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Assigned for all purposes to: Spring Street Courthouse, Judicial Officer: William Highberger

| Electronically FILE | by Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles on 01/06/2023 08:4 | 2 AM David W. Slayton, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court, by G. Carini,Deputy Cle |
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| 17 | SUPERIOR COURT OF T | THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA . |
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| 19 | FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES | |
| 20 | CALLA GANZ, on behalf of herself and all | Case No. 23STCV00297 |
| 21 | others similarly situated, | CLASS ACTION |
| 22 | Plaintiff, | COMPLAINT |
| 22 | v. | COMPLAINT |
| 23 | | (1) Common Law Fraud |
| 24 | THE LEAGUE APP, INC., a California Corporation; and DOES 1 through 50, | (2) Negligent Misrepresentation (3) Violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § |
| 25 | Inclusive, | 17200 et seq. (4) Violation of Cal. Civ. Code § 1750 et seq. |
| 26 | Defendants. | (5) Unjust enrichment |
| 27 | | JURY TRIAL DEMANDED |
| 28 | | |

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Calla Ganz ("Plaintiff"), by and through her attorneys, brings this action on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated (the "Class," defined below) against The League App, Inc. ("Defendant League" or "Defendant") and Does 1 through 50, inclusive. Plaintiff hereby alleges, on information and belief, except as to those allegations which pertain to the named Plaintiff, which allegations are based on personal knowledge, as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

- 1. This is a consumer class action that arises out of Defendant League's deceptive advertising and marketing of its "The League" dating app and "The League" membership (the "Product").
- 2. Through its uniform advertising claims, Defendant League perpetuates deceptive marketing about the Product's benefits and engages in illegal drip pricing tactics. Furthermore, after tricking consumers into purchasing the Product, Defendant League continues to reap ill-gotten gains by implementing autorenewal schemes in connection with its membership programs.
- 3. Consequently, the advertising, marketing, sale, and autorenewal of the Product violate California law. Additionally, the cancellation policies that Defendant League implements for the Product also contravene the legislative intent of California's autorenewal laws. Moreover, Defendant League's deceptive autorenewal tactics fail to comply with California Business and Professions Code Section 17602(d)(1).
- 4. At all relevant times, Defendant League designed, advertised, and marketed the Product to consumers and profited from the Product throughout California based on the misrepresentations about the Product's purported value and price. Furthermore, Defendant League owns, controls, and oversees the distribution of the Product.
- 5. Based on the fact that Defendant League's advertising misled Plaintiff and all others like her, Plaintiff brings this class action against Defendant League to seek reimbursement of the monetary damages she and the Class members incurred due to Defendant League's false and deceptive representations about the benefits, advantages, and prices of the Product.

6. Plaintiff brings causes of action on behalf of the California state Class for common law fraud, negligent misrepresentation, violation of California's Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 et seq. ("UCL"), violation of California's Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code § 1750 et seq. ("CLRA"), and unjust enrichment. Additionally, Plaintiff seeks redress for Defendant's League's violation of California's autorenewal laws, which itself violates the UCL.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 7. Plaintiff brings this action pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 382 and California Civil Code Section 1781.
- 8. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to the California Constitution, Article XI, Section 10, and California Code of Civil Procedure Section 410.10, because Defendant League transacted business and committed the acts alleged in California. Plaintiff and the Class members are citizens and residents of the State of California.
- 9. Venue is proper in this County pursuant to California Civil Code Section 1780(d) because Defendant League has numerous places of business in California, including in Los Angeles County. Additionally, Defendant League conducts significant business here and engages in substantial transactions in this County, and many of the transactions and material acts complained of herein occurred in this County, including, specifically, the transactions between Plaintiff and Defendant League, and many of the transactions between Defendant League and the putative Class. Venue is proper in this Court because Defendant League receives substantial compensation from sales in Los Angeles County, and Defendant League made numerous misrepresentations which had a substantial effect in Los Angeles County.

PARTIES

- 10. Plaintiff Calla Ganz is a resident of California and Los Angeles County.
- 11. Defendant League is a Delaware corporation with corporate headquarters located at 8750 North Central Expressway, Suite 1400, Dallas, Texas 75231. Furthermore, according to a November 20, 2022, filing with the California Secretary of State, the street address of Defendant League's California office is 8833 Sunset Boulevard, 4 Floor, West Hollywood,

California 90069. Defendant League owns, controls, oversees, manages, mass markets, and distributes the Product throughout California.

12. Does 1 through 50 are individuals and/or entities that are responsible for the illegal conduct described herein. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that at all times relevant hereto each of these individuals and/or entities was the agent, servant, employee, subsidiary, affiliate, partner, assignee, successor-in-interest, alter ego, or other representative of Defendant League and was acting in such capacity in doing the things herein complained of and alleged. The true names and capacities of Defendants sued herein under California Code of Civil Procedure Section 474, and Does 1 through 50, inclusive, are presently unknown to Plaintiff, who therefore sues these Defendants by fictitious names. Plaintiff will amend this Complaint to show their true names and capacities when they have been ascertained. Each of the Doe Defendants is responsible in some manner for the conduct alleged herein.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CAUSES OF ACTION

step, Defendant League requires the individual to input and provide a substantial amount of personal and confidential information, which Defendant League purportedly uses to verify the consumer's identity and educational background. After the individual has provided the information, but before Defendant League has started the supposed verification process, s/he receives a prompt about how many people are in line to be verified ahead of him/her. The number indicated by Defendant League is usually an exponential five-figure amount. For example, a consumer will be shown a message such as "there are currently 80,000 profiles ahead of you that need to be verified." After advertising this statement, Defendant League proceeds to tell the consumer that if s/he pays for a membership, his/her profile verification process will be expedited and completed within twenty-four hours. Defendant League offers three membership pricing options: one week of membership for \$99.99, one month of membership for \$299.99, or three months of membership for \$399.99. That is, for the additional cost (for one week, one month, or three months), the consumer will receive the purported benefit of being verified more quickly, and have faster access to potential dates. Further

exacerbating its tortious advertising tactics, to deceive consumers into buying the Product and paying for a membership, Defendant League creates an even more heightened sense of urgency by providing false reports about how the consumer has moved up incrementally in the queue. Consequently, Defendant League misleads the individual into thinking that if a membership is not purchased, s/he will be waiting several months or possibly even years before verification is completed or access to potential dates is permitted.

- 14. In reality, however, Defendant League fabricates the number of profiles that need to be verified. Hence, when a consumer is told that 100,000 individuals are in line before him/her waiting to be verified, there are not actually 100,000 profiles preceding the consumer at all. By perpetuating this deceptive marketing strategy, Defendant League misrepresents the number of profiles on its application, and also creates a false sense of urgency and benefit. Thus, the Product does not confer any of its marketed value, and no genuine benefit is being provided to the consumer in exchange for paying for a membership. That is, the Product, i.e., "the League" membership, does not actually provide its advertised advantages because Defendant League deliberately misrepresents how much a person is moving up in the verification process and lies to consumers about the existence of a waiting line.
- herein reflect conduct that the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") has identified as prohibited. Similarly, Defendant League's advertising scheme of the Product constitutes an unlawful form of drip pricing, which the FTC defines as "a pricing technique in which firms only advertise only part of a product's price, and reveal other charges as the customer goes through the buying process." Moreover, Defendant League's application design for the Product and the method by which the Product's app presents information to consumers are tantamount to various types of dark patterns that the FTC has proscribed for online retail marketing practices. Furthermore, Defendant League's design of the Product also tricks consumers into paying for a membership or expedited verification fee by obligating consumers to navigate through a specific sequence of questions and prompts that Defendant League controls. For example, consumers are not apprised of the fact that they will have to pay an extra fee for verification until after they have provided all their sensitive information to

Defendant League. Hence, there was no way for Plaintiff or the Class members to know about the membership cost or verification fee before they had already turned over their confidential personal details to Defendant League. The FTC has regularly singled out such marketing strategies as deceptive and dishonest.

Defendant League's Unlawful Autorenewal Scheme

16. When an individual signs up for a one-week membership, s/he is told that the cost will be \$99.99 for "1 WEEK MEMBER" (see image below):



\$99.99 for one week of membership. The reality that Defendant League conveniently hides from individuals is that they will actually be charged \$99.99 automatically per week. Defendant League's methods of auto-renewing memberships patently fail to comply with California's autorenewal requirements on multiple fronts. See Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17600 et seq. For example, if a business allows a consumer to sign up for an automatically renewing subscription online, the business must provide a method to terminate the subscription online as well. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17602(d)(1). Yet, as demonstrated by Plaintiff's experience, Defendant League blocks consumers from terminating subscriptions entirely, let alone providing the same platform for subscription signup and termination. When Plaintiff contacted Defendant League about stopping her subscription and providing her a refund for unauthorized charges, Defendant wholly refused to rectify its misconduct or provide any modicum of remedy. Hence, even if Defendant League disclosed the truth, that it will automatically charge \$99.99 per week, its marketing tactics still constitute

violations of the CLRA, UCL, and California autorenewal laws.

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- 18. Hence, Defendant League is reaping substantial ill-gotten profits at the expense of consumers. Consequently, Defendant League has made, and continues to make, false, deceptive, and misleading claims and promises to consumers about the characteristics, cost, quality, and advantages of the Product in a pervasive statewide marketing scheme that falsely touts the benefits of Defendant League's services and pricing. Defendant League's dating app, membership tiers, and the Product do not live up to the advertising claims made by Defendant League. Accordingly, Defendant League's actions violate sections 1770(a)(5), (a)(7), (a)(9), and (a)(16) of the CLRA. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant League's violations of the CLRA, Plaintiff and the members of the Class paid Defendant League for the Product and made purchases that they otherwise would not have completed and therefore seek restitution of monies in an amount to be determined at trial.
- 19. Plaintiff is a senior citizen California resident who paid the so-called "1 WEEK" fee of \$99.99 to Defendant League in October 2022 for the purported benefit of being moved ahead of approximately 55,719 individuals in Defendant League's profile verification line. Plaintiff reasonably made her purchasing decision based on Defendant League's fabricated tallies about how many people were waiting to be verified. Had Plaintiff known that the number "55719" was fake and entirely manufactured by Defendant League, and that there were not actually 55,719 individuals waiting to be verified, Plaintiff would not have paid for the Product. In the time span during which Plaintiff paid for the Product, Defendant League failed to provide her with the Product's advertised benefit, since there were never truly 55,719 pending verifications ahead of Plaintiff's profile. Plaintiff purchased the Product, and paid a "1 WEEK" membership fee for the Product in reliance upon the challenged advertising claims, without knowledge of the fact that buying Defendant League's Product and paying the "1 WEEK" membership fee failed to provide the marketed benefit and that Defendant League lied to consumers about the number of profiles that had to be verified. Plaintiff used the Product as instructed and would not have purchased the Product if she had known that the advertising as described herein was false, misleading, and deceptive. Furthermore, Plaintiff was subjected to Defendant League's unlawful autorenewal scheme.

- 20. Plaintiff reasonably relied on Defendant League's advertising of the Product. Plaintiff relied on Defendant League's advertising and advertising scheme for the Product, without knowledge of the fact that Defendant League was lying about the Product's price, autorenewal system, or purported benefits. Defendant League knows or has reason to know that consumers like Plaintiff would find the challenged attribute important in their decision to retain the Product. In opting to purchase the Product and pay the \$99.99 fee for Defendant League's "1 WEEK" membership, Plaintiff relied on the misrepresentations Defendant League disseminated for the Product, including the attribute of moving up in the verification queue. Without doubt, these characteristics and faster verification are material to the reasonable consumer, especially in the context of dating apps. Plaintiff would not have bought the Product from Defendant League if she had known that the advertising as described herein was false, misleading, and deceptive. All members of the putative Class were exposed to Defendant League's deceptive marketing of the Product. Defendant League's false and misleading statements and omissions tricked Plaintiff and the putative Class and subjected them all to numerous legal and monetary injuries.
- 21. The malicious actions taken by Defendant League caused significant harm to consumers. Plaintiff and similarly situated Class members paid monies for the Product and dating app membership schemes and services they did not receive because they were reasonably misled by Defendant League's misrepresentations about the Product. Had Plaintiff and the other Class members known that the Product actually failed to provide its advertised benefits, they would not have bought it or would have paid less for the Product. As a result, Plaintiff and similar situated Class members have been deceived and suffered economic injury. Plaintiff was economically harmed by Defendant League's deceptive marketing and misleading advertising about the Product's cost and value.
- 22. California consumers who have been deceived by Defendant's advertising and billing practices have complained to the Better Business Bureau. *See* https://www.bbb.org/us/ca/san-francisco/profile/online-dating-services/the-league-app-inc-1116-879957/complaints. For example, one disappointed user complains to the San Francisco Better Business Bureau, in part:

I have not opened the app all year and now I discovered they sneakily auto-renewed 8

my membership, hidden behind apple pay without a description. I saw the charge on my credit card and thought it was for Apple Music - since it said Apple. The League was not identified in the charge. The app and service are useless. I requested a cancellation several times in 2019 on the app through their "concierge" and was charged again. I spent \$500 and got nothing in return. A total sham.

Id.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

23. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of herself individually and all other Californians similarly situated, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 382, California Civil Code Section 1781, and California Business and Professions Code Section 17203. The proposed class is defined as follows (the "Class"):

All California consumers who purchased the Product in California for personal use and not for resale during the time period of November 17, 2018, through the present. Excluded from the class are Defendant League, its affiliates, employees, officers, and directors, any individual who received remuneration from Defendant League in connection with that individual's use or endorsement of the Product, the Judge(s) assigned to this case, and the attorneys of record in this case.

Plaintiff reserves the right to amend the Class definition if discovery and further investigation reveal that the Class should be expanded or otherwise modified.

- 24. Class certification is proper because Defendant League acted (or refused to act) on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby making appropriate injunctive relief for the entire Class. Plaintiff reserves the right to modify the definition of the Class after further discovery, and further reserves the right to only seek class certification for injunctive relief and not to seek class certification for monetary damages.
 - 25. This action is properly brought as a class action for the following reasons:
 - (a) The members in the proposed Class, which contains no less than 1,000 members and based on good information and belief is comprised of several thousands of individuals, are so numerous that individual joinder of all members is impracticable, and disposition of the Class members' claims in a single class action will provide substantial benefits to the parties and Court, and is in the best interests of the parties and judicial economy;

- (b) The disposition of Plaintiff's and the proposed Class members' claims in a class action will provide substantial benefits to the parties and the Court;
- (c) Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the members of the proposed Class. Plaintiff and all Class members have been injured by the same wrongful practices of Defendant League. Plaintiff's claims arise from the same practices and conduct that give rise to the claims of all Class members and are based on the same legal theories;
- (d) Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the proposed Class in that she has no interests antagonistic to those of the other proposed Class members, and Plaintiff has retained attorneys experienced in consumer class actions and complex litigation as counsel;
- (e) The proposed class is ascertainable, and there is a well-defined community of interest in the questions of law or fact alleged herein, since the rights of each proposed Class member were infringed or violated in the same fashion;
- (f) Questions of law and fact common to the Class predominate over any questions affecting only individual Class members. Such questions of law and fact common to Plaintiff and the Class include, without limitation:
 - i. Whether the Class members suffered an ascertainable loss as a result of Defendant League's misrepresentations;
 - ii. Whether, as a result of Defendant League's misconduct alleged herein, Plaintiff and the Class members are entitled to restitution, injunctive relief, and or/monetary relief, and if so, the amount and nature of such relief;
 - iii. Whether Defendant League made any statement it knew or should have known was false or misleading;
 - iv. Whether the utility of Defendant League's practices, if any, outweighed the gravity of the harm to its victims;
 - v. Whether Defendant League's conduct violated public policy, including as declared by specific constitutional, statutory, or regulatory provisions;

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- vi. Whether Defendant League's conduct violated the UCL; and
- vii. Whether Defendant League's conduct violated the CLRA;
- (g) Plaintiff knows of no difficulty that will be encountered in the management of this litigation which would preclude its maintenance as a class action. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy because individual litigation of the claims, respectively, is impracticable. Requiring each individual Class member to file an individual lawsuit would unreasonably consume the amounts that may be recovered. Even if every Class Member could afford individual litigation, the adjudication of tens of thousands of claims would be unduly burdensome to the courts. Individualized litigation would also present the potential for varying, inconsistent, or contradictory judgments and would magnify the delay and expense to all parties and to the court system resulting from multiple trials of the same factual issues. By contrast, the conduct of this action as a class action, with respect to some or all of the issues presented herein, presents no management difficulties, conserves the resources of the parties and of the court system, and protects the rights of the Class members. Plaintiff anticipates no difficulty in the management of this action as a class action. The prosecution of separate actions by individual Class members may create a risk of adjudications with respect to them that would, as a practical matter, be dispositive of the interests of the other Class members not parties to such adjudications or that would substantially impair or impede the ability of such non-party Class members to protect their interests.
- (h) Defendant League has, or has access to, address information for the Class members, which may be used for the purpose of providing notice of the pendency of this class action. Defendant League is in an especially bolstered position to access Class members' contact information because all affected individuals had to and must provide their names, sensitive billing details, and contact information to Defendant League before they could obtain the Product.
- (i) Plaintiff seeks damages and equitable relief on behalf of the proposed class on grounds

generally applicable to the entire proposed class.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Common Law Fraud

By Plaintiff on Behalf of the Class

- 26. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in the paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein.
- 27. Plaintiff brings this cause of action for common law fraud individually and on behalf of the members of her proposed Class against Defendant League.
- 28. Defendant League represented to Plaintiff and the other Class members that important facts were true. More specifically, Defendant League represented to Plaintiff and the other Class members through its advertising for the Product, that the Product provided benefits which it actually did not. Defendant League's representations were false. Defendant League knew that the misrepresentations were false when it made them, or Defendant League made the misrepresentations recklessly and without regard for their truth. Defendant League intended that Plaintiff and the other Class members rely on the representations.
- 29. Plaintiff and the other Class members reasonably and justifiably relied on Defendant League's representations.
- 30. Plaintiff and the other Class members were financially harmed and suffered other damages. Defendant League's misrepresentations and/or nondisclosures were the immediate cause of Plaintiff and the other Class members purchasing the Product. Plaintiff's and the other Class members' reliance on Defendant League's representations was the immediate cause of the financial loss and legal injuries. In absence of the Defendant League's misrepresentations and/or nondisclosures, as described above, Plaintiff and the other Class members, in all reasonable probability, paid monies and provided confidential information to Defendant League that they otherwise would not have provided.
- 31. The fraudulent actions of Defendant League caused damage to Plaintiff and the Class members, who seek damages and other legal and equitable relief as a result.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Negligent Misrepresentation

By Plaintiff on Behalf of the Class

- 32. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in the paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein.
- 33. Plaintiff brings this cause of action for negligent misrepresentation individually and on behalf of the proposed Class against Defendant League.
- 34. As discussed above, Defendant League represented the Product provided a certain value and quantified benefit. Yet, Defendant League failed to disclose that the Product did not in fact possess its advertised value or identity. Defendant League had a duty to disclose this information.
- 35. At the time Defendant League made these misrepresentations, Defendant League knew or should have known that these misrepresentations were false or made them without knowledge of their truth or veracity. At an absolute minimum, Defendant League negligently misrepresented or negligently omitted material facts about the Product.
- 36. The negligent misrepresentations and omissions made by Defendant League, upon which Plaintiff and the Class members reasonably and justifiably relied, were intended to induce and actually induced Plaintiff and the Class members to pay monies to Defendant League that they otherwise would not have paid, as well as retain services that they otherwise would not have.
- 37. The negligent actions of Defendant League caused damage to Plaintiff and the Class members, who seek damages and other legal and equitable relief as a result.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of California's Unfair Competition Law

California Business and Professions Code Section 17200 et seq.

By Plaintiff on Behalf of the Class

38. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in the paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

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- 39. Plaintiff brings this cause of action for violation of the UCL individually and on behalf of the proposed Class against Defendant League.
- 40. The UCL prohibits acts of "unfair competition," including any unlawful, unfair, fraudulent, or deceptive business act or practice as well as "unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading advertising."
- Defendant League's failure to disclose the truth about the Product's pricing, value, and benefits is likely to deceive a reasonable consumer and therefore constitutes a fraudulent or deceptive business practice.
- Defendant League's sale of the Product without disclosing the truth about the 42. Product's true value and benefits offends established public policy and constitutes an unfair business practice. This injury is not outweighed by any countervailing benefits to consumers or competition.
- 43. Defendant League's conduct is unlawful in that it violated numerous statutes, including California Civil Code Section 1770(a); California Civil Code Sections 1709-1710; and California Civil Code Sections 1572-1573, as well as constituted common law fraud.
- 44. Defendant League further violated California Business and Professions Code Section 17200's prohibition against engaging in "unlawful" business acts or practices by, interalia, failing to comply with California Civil Code Section 1750 et seq.
- Additionally, the acts, omissions, misrepresentations, practices, and nondisclosures of Defendant League, as alleged herein, constitute "unlawful" business acts and practices in that they violate California's Autorenewal Law (the "ARL"). See Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17601(e). By enacting the "ARL", the State legislature has made it clear that subjecting consumers to deceptive autorenewal tactics amounts to a legal injury.
- Defendant League's membership constitutes a "continuous service" under the ARL. Moreover, the ARL specifically provides: "(a) It shall be unlawful for any business to make an automatic renewal offer or continuous service offer to a consumer in this state to do any of the following: (1) fail to present the automatic renewal offer terms or continuous service offer terms in a clear and conspicuous manner before the subscription or purchase agreement is

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- 47. Defendant League's conduct violates each provision of the ARL. Specifically:
 - a. Defendant League failed to disclose to Plaintiff and the Class members, in a clear and conspicuous manner, that they would be signed up for the Product and charged \$99.99 per week for the Product ad infinitum. Specifically, by the purchase icon, there was not a statement that: (i) subscription or purchasing agreement will continue until the consumer cancels; (ii) a description of the cancellation policy that applies to the offer; or (iii) that the service is continuous; nor were these statements "clear and conspicuous."
 - b. Defendant League charged Plaintiff and the Class members \$99.99 per week for the Product without first obtaining consumers' affirmative consent and agreement to the terms.
 - c. Defendant League failed to provide an acknowledgement to Plaintiff and the Class members that included Defendant League's terms and cancellation policy for its dating app membership, and information regarding how to cancel the subscription for the Product.
- 48. Had Defendant League made clear that Plaintiff was going to be charged \$99.99 per week indefinitely for the Product, she would not have bought Defendant League's membership. Similarly, had the Class members known that Defendant League was going to charge them *ad infinitum* for the Product, they would not have paid for any subscription of the Product or purchased any time increment of Defendant League's membership services. As a

result, Plaintiff and the Class members expended money they would not have otherwise spent had they been aware they were going to be charged for the Product and that those charges were ongoing. Had Plaintiff and the members of the Class been aware of Defendant League's unlawful tactics, they would not have purchased Defendant League's Product at all or would have paid less than what they did for it.

- 49. Plaintiff and the Class members have suffered injury in fact and have lost money and/or property as a result of Defendant League's fraudulent, unfair, and/or unlawful business practices, in that as a result of Defendant League's violations of the UCL, Plaintiff and the Class paid for dating app memberships and services that they would not have bought or paid more than they would have if Defendant League had not violated the UCL.
- 50. Plaintiff and the Class reserve the right to allege other violations of law which constitute other unlawful business acts and practices. Such conduct is ongoing and continues to this date.
- 51. Pursuant to California Business and Professions Code Sections 17203 and 17535, Plaintiff and the Class seek an order of this Court enjoining Defendant League from continuing to engage, use, or employ their practice of advertising and marketing the Product in an untruthful manner. Likewise, Plaintiff and the Class seek an order requiring Defendant League to disclose such misrepresentations, and additionally request an order awarding Plaintiff restitution of the money wrongfully acquired by Defendant League by means of Defendant League's failure to disclose the existence and significance of said misrepresentations in an amount to be determined at trial. Additionally, Plaintiff seeks an order for the disgorgement of all monies from the sale of Defendant League's Product that were unjustly acquired through unlawful acts and practices. Plaintiff and the Class members also seek full restitution of all monies paid to Defendant League as a result of its deceptive practices, interest at the highest rate allowable by law, and the payment of Plaintiff's attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to, *inter alia*, California Civil Code Procedure Section 1021.5. Plaintiff reserves the right to seek additional preliminary or permanent injunctive relief.
 - 52. Plaintiff lacks an adequate remedy at law because the ARL does not contain a

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 CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

for damages. In addition, Plaintiff lacks an adequate remedy at law for future harm.

private right of action, and therefore Plaintiff and the Class members' sole recourse for

Defendant League's violation of the ARL is a cause of action via the UCL, which does not provide

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4 FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION 5 Violation of California's Consumers Legal Remedies Act 6 California Civil Code Section 1750 et seq. 7 By Plaintiff on Behalf of the Class 8 53. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in the 9 paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein. 10 54. Plaintiff brings this cause of action for violation of the CLRA individually and on 11 behalf of the proposed Class against Defendant League. 12 55. The CLRA prohibits any unfair, deceptive, and/or unlawful practices, as well as 13 unconscionable commercial practices in connection with the sales of any goods or services to 14 consumers. See Cal. Civ. Code § 1770. The CLRA "shall be liberally construed and applied to promote its underlying 15 56. purposes, which are to protect consumers against unfair and deceptive business practices and to 16 17 provide efficient economical procedures to secure such protection." Cal. Civ. Code § 1760. 18 57. Defendant League is a "person" under the CLRA. Cal. Civ. Code § 1761(c). 19 58. Plaintiff and the putative Class members are "consumers" under the CLRA. Cal. 20 Civ. Code § 1761 (d). 21 59. The Product constitutes a "good" under the CLRA. Cal. Civ. Code § 1761(a). 22 60. Plaintiff and the putative Class members' payment and purchases of the Product 23 within the Class Period constitute "transactions" under the CLRA. Cal. Civ. Code § 1761(e). 24 61. Defendant League's actions and conduct described herein reflect transactions that 25 have resulted in the sale and/or intended sale of services to consumers. 26 62. Defendant League's failure to market the Product in accordance with California 27 advertising and marketing requirements constitutes an unfair, deceptive, unlawful, and 28 unconscionable commercial practice. CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

- 63. Defendant League's actions have violated at least four provisions of the CLRA, including Sections 1770(a)(5), 1770(a)(7), 1770(a)(9), and 1770(a)(16).
- 64. As a result of Defendant League's violations, Plaintiff and the Class suffered, and continue to suffer, ascertainable losses they would not have incurred had the Product been marketed correctly, or in the form of the reduced value of the Product relative to the Product as advertised and the retail price they paid.
- 65. Pursuant to Section 1782 of the CLRA, on approximately November 17, 2022, Plaintiff notified Defendant League in writing of the particular violations of Section 1770 of the CLRA, and demanded Defendant League rectify the actions described above by providing monetary relief, agreeing to be bound by its legal obligations, and to give notice to all affected consumers of its intent to do so.
- 66. Defendant League has failed to rectify or agree to rectify at least some of the violations associated with actions detailed above and give notice to all affected consumers within 30 days of receipt of the Section 1782 notice. Thus, Plaintiff seeks actual damages and punitive damages for violation of the CLRA.
- 67. In addition, pursuant to Section 1780(a)(2), Plaintiff seeks a Court order enjoining the above-described wrongful acts and practices that violate California Civil Code Section 1770.
- 68. Plaintiff and the Class members also seek to recover attorneys' fees, costs, expenses, disbursements, and punitive damages pursuant to California Civil Code Sections 1780 and 1781.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Unjust Enrichment

By Plaintiff on Behalf of the Class

- 69. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in the paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein.
- 70. Plaintiff brings this cause of action for unjust enrichment individually and on behalf of the proposed Class against Defendant League.
 - 71. Plaintiff and the Class members conferred benefit on Defendant by purchasing the

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 CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Product.

2.1

- 72. Defendant has been unjustly enriched in retaining the revenues derived from Plaintiff's and the Class members' purchases of the Product. Retention of those moneys under these circumstances is unjust and inequitable because the Product is not in fact being provided and resulted in purchasers being denied the full benefit of their purchase and also being charged more than the Product's advertised price.
- 73. Because Defendant's retention of the non-gratuitous benefits conferred on it by Plaintiff and the Class members is unjust and inequitable, Defendant must pay restitution to Plaintiff and the Class members for its unjust enrichment, as ordered by the Court.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and on behalf of the Class defined herein, prays for judgment and relief on all Causes of Action as follows:

- A. That this action be certified and maintained as a class action and the Court certify the proposed Class as defined, appointing Plaintiff as representative of the Class, and appointing the attorneys and law firms representing Plaintiff as counsel for the Class;
- B. For an order declaring that Defendant League's conduct violates the statutes referenced herein;
- C. That the Court award compensatory, statutory, and/or punitive damages as to all Causes of Action where such relief is permitted;
- D. That the Court award Plaintiff and the proposed Class members the costs of this action, including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses, including attorneys' fees awarded as costs pursuant to California Civil Code Section 1717.5;
- E. For an order enjoining Defendant League from continuing to engage in the unlawful conduct and practices described herein;
- F. That the Court award equitable monetary relief, including restitution and disgorgement of all ill-gotten gains, and the imposition of a constructive trust upon, or otherwise restricting the proceeds of Defendant League's ill-gotten gains,

1 to ensure that Plaintiff and the proposed Class members have an effective remedy; 2 G. That the Court award pre-judgment and post-judgment interest at the legal rate; Imposition of a constructive trust to prevent unjust enrichment and to compel the 3 H. 4 restoration of property (money) to Plaintiff and the Class which Defendant League 5 acquired through fraud; That the Court order appropriate declaratory relief; and 6 I. 7 J. That the Court grant such other and further as may be just and proper. 8 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL** 9 Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all claims so triable. 10 Dated: January 6, 2023 Respectfully Submitted, 11 12 By: 13 REESE LLP Michael R. Reese (SBN 206773) 14 mreese@reesellp.com 15 Sue J. Nam (SBN 206729) snam@reesellp.com 16 100 West 93rd, 16th Floor 17 New York, NY 10025 Telephone: (212) 643-0500 18 Facsimile: (212) 253-4272 19 REESE LLP 20 George V. Granade (SBN 316050) ggranade@reesellp.com 21 8484 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 515 22 Los Angeles, CA 90211 Telephone: (310) 393-0070 23 Facsimile: (212) 253-4272 24 DOGRA LAW GROUP PC 25 Shalini Dogra (SBN 309024) 26 shalini@dogralawgroup.com 2219 Main Street, Unit 239 27 Santa Monica, CA 90405 28

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