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9 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
10 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

11 WILLIAM BAKER, Individually and
12 on behalf of all others similarly
13 situated,

14 Plaintiff,

15 v.

16 TWITTER, INC., JACK DORSEY,
17 NED SEGAL, and PARAG
18 AGRAWAL,

19 Defendants.

No.

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE
FEDERAL SECURITIES
LAWS**

CLASS ACTION

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

21 Plaintiff William Baker (“Plaintiff”), individually and on behalf of all other
22 persons similarly situated, by Plaintiff’s undersigned attorneys, for Plaintiff’s
23 complaint against Defendants (defined below), alleges the following based upon
24 personal knowledge as to Plaintiff and Plaintiff’s own acts, and information and
25 belief as to all other matters, based upon, *inter alia*, the investigation conducted by
26 and through his attorneys, which included, among other things, a review of the
27 Defendants’ public documents, conference calls and announcements made by
28

1 Defendants, public filings, wire and press releases published by and regarding
2 Twitter, Inc. (“Twitter” or the “Company”), and information readily obtainable on
3 the Internet. Plaintiff believes that substantial evidentiary support will exist for the
4 allegations set forth herein after a reasonable opportunity for discovery.

5 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

6 1. This is a class action on behalf of persons or entities who purchased
7 or otherwise acquired publicly traded Twitter securities between August 3, 2020
8 and August 23, 2022, inclusive (the “Class Period”). Plaintiff seeks to recover
9 compensable damages caused by Defendants’ violations of the federal securities
10 laws under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”).

11 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

12 2. The claims asserted herein arise under and pursuant to Sections 10(b)
13 and 20(a) of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. §§ 78j(b) and 78t(a)) and Rule 10b-5
14 promulgated thereunder by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
15 (“SEC”) (17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5).

16 3. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action
17 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331, and Section 27 of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C.
18 §78aa).

19 4. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §
20 1391(b) and Section 27 of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. § 78aa(c)) as the alleged
21 misstatements entered and the subsequent damages took place in this judicial
22 district.

23 5. In connection with the acts, conduct and other wrongs alleged in this
24 complaint, Defendants, directly or indirectly, used the means and instrumentalities
25 of interstate commerce, including but not limited to, the United States mails,
26 interstate telephone communications and the facilities of the national securities
27 exchange.

28 **PARTIES**

1 6. Plaintiff, as set forth in the accompanying certification, incorporated
2 by reference herein, purchased Twitter securities during the Class Period and was
3 economically damaged thereby.

4 7. Defendant Twitter purports to be a global social media platform for
5 public self-expression and conversation in real time. Twitter is incorporated in
6 Delaware with offices located all throughout the world, including in Los Angeles.
7 Twitter's common stock trades on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE")
8 under the ticker symbol "TWTR."

9 8. Defendant Jack Dorsey ("Dorsey") is the co-founder of Twitter and
10 served as its Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") from at least the start of the class
11 period to November 29, 2021.

12 9. Defendant Parag Agrawal ("Agrawal") served as the Company's
13 CEO from November 29, 2021 and at all relevant times thereafter.

14 10. Defendant Ned Segal ("Segal") served as the Company's Chief
15 Financial Officer ("CFO") at all relevant times.

16 11. Defendants Dorsey, Agrawal, and Segal are collectively referred to
17 herein as the "Individual Defendants."

18 12. Each of the Individual Defendants:

- 19 (a) directly participated in the management of the Company;
20 (b) was directly involved in the day-to-day operations of the
21 Company at the highest levels;
22 (c) was privy to confidential proprietary information concerning
23 the Company and its business and operations;
24 (d) was directly or indirectly involved in drafting, producing,
25 reviewing and/or disseminating the false and misleading statements
26 and information alleged herein;
27 (e) was directly or indirectly involved in the oversight or
28 implementation of the Company's internal controls;

1 (f) was aware of or recklessly disregarded the fact that the false
2 and misleading statements were being issued concerning the
3 Company; and/or

4 (g) approved or ratified these statements in violation of the federal
5 securities laws.

6 13. Twitter is liable for the acts of the Individual Defendants and its
7 employees under the doctrine of *respondeat superior* and common law principles
8 of agency because all of the wrongful acts complained of herein were carried out
9 within the scope of their employment.

10 14. The scienter of the Individual Defendants and other employees and
11 agents of the Company is similarly imputed to Twitter under *respondeat superior*
12 and agency principles.

13 15. Defendant Twitter and the Individual Defendants are collectively
14 referred to herein as “Defendants.”

15 **SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS**

16 **Background**

17 16. In 2010, the Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”) filed a complaint
18 against Twitter for mishandling users’ private information and the issue of too
19 many employees having access to Twitter’s central controls.

20 17. On March 11, 2011, the FTC agreed to a settlement with Twitter. As
21 part of the settlement, Twitter agreed it would be “barred for 20 years from
22 misleading consumers about the extent to which it protects the security, privacy,
23 and confidentiality of nonpublic consumer information, including the measures it
24 takes to prevent unauthorized access to nonpublic information and honor the
25 privacy choices made by consumers.”¹

26
27
28 ¹ [https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2011/03/ftc-accepts-final-settlement-
twitter-failure-safeguard-personal-information-0](https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2011/03/ftc-accepts-final-settlement-twitter-failure-safeguard-personal-information-0), (last accessed September 13, 2022)

1 **Materially False and Misleading Statements Issued During the Class Period**

2 18. On August 3, 2020, Twitter filed a form 10-Q for the quarterly period
3 ended June 30, 2020 (“2Q 2020 10-Q”). Attached to the 2Q 2020 10-Q were
4 certifications pursuant to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (“SOX”) signed by
5 Defendants Dorsey and Segal.

6 19. The 2Q 2020 10-Q stated, in pertinent part:

7 *Our products may contain errors or our security measures may be*
8 *breached, resulting in the exposure of private information. Our*
9 *products and services may be subject to attacks that degrade or deny*
10 *the ability of people to access our products and services. These*
11 *issues may result in the perception that our products and services*
12 *are not secure, and people on Twitter and advertisers may curtail or*
13 *stop using our products and services and our business and operating*
14 *results could be harmed.*

15 Our products and services involve the storage and transmission of
16 people's and advertisers' information, and security incidents,
17 including those caused by unintentional errors and those
18 intentionally caused by third parties, may expose us to a risk of loss
19 of this information, litigation, increased security costs and potential
20 liability. We and our third-party service providers experience cyber-
21 attacks of varying degrees on a regular basis. We expect to incur
22 significant costs in an effort to detect and prevent security breaches
23 and other security-related incidents, and we may face increased costs
24 in the event of an actual or perceived security breach or other security-
25 related incident. In particular, the COVID-19 pandemic is increasing
26 the opportunities available to criminals, as more companies and
27 individuals work online, and as such, the risk of a cybersecurity
28 incident potentially occurring is increasing. We cannot provide
assurances that our preventative efforts will be successful. If an
actual or perceived breach of our security occurs, the market
perception of the effectiveness of our security measures could be
harmed, people on Twitter and our advertisers may be harmed, lose
trust and confidence in us, decrease the use of our products and
services or stop using our products and services in their entirety. We
may also incur significant legal and financial exposure, including

1 legal claims, higher transaction fees and regulatory fines and
2 penalties. Any of these actions could have a material and adverse
3 effect on our business, reputation and operating results. While our
4 insurance policies include liability coverage for certain of these
5 matters, if we experienced a significant security incident, we could be
6 subject to liability or other damages that exceed our insurance
7 coverage.

8 * * *

9 In March 2011, to resolve an investigation into various incidents, we
10 entered into a consent order with the FTC that, among other things,
11 required us to establish an information security program designed to
12 protect non-public consumer information and also requires that we
13 obtain biennial independent security assessments. **The obligations**
14 **under the consent order remain in effect until the later of March 2,**
15 **2031, or the date 20 years after the date, if any, on which the U.S.**
16 **government or the FTC files a complaint in federal court alleging**
17 **any violation of the order.** We expect to continue to be the subject of
18 regulatory inquiries, investigations and audits in the future by the FTC
19 and other regulators around the world. Violation of existing or future
20 regulatory orders, settlements or consent decrees could subject us to
21 substantial fines and other penalties that would adversely impact our
22 financial condition and operating results. For example, on July 28,
23 2020, we received a draft complaint from the FTC alleging violations
24 of the 2011 consent order with the FTC and the FTC Act. The
25 allegations relate to our use of phone number and/or email address
26 data provided for safety and security purposes for targeted advertising
27 during periods between 2013 and 2019. We estimate that the range of
28 probable loss in this matter is \$150.0 million to \$250.0 million. The
matter remains unresolved, and there can be no assurance as to the
timing or the terms of any final outcome.

(Underlined emphasis added.)

20. On October 30, 2020, Twitter filed a form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 30, 2020 (“3Q 2020 10-Q”). Attached to the 3Q 2020 10-Q were SOX Certifications signed by Defendants Dorsey and Segal.

1 21. The 3Q 2020 10-Q stated, in relevant part:

2 *Our products may contain errors or our security measures may be*
3 *breached, resulting in the exposure of private information. Our*
4 *products and services may be subject to attacks that degrade or deny*
5 *the ability of people to access our products and services. These*
6 *issues may result in the perception that our products and services*
7 *are not secure, and people on Twitter and advertisers may curtail or*
8 *stop using our products and services and our business and operating*
9 *results could be harmed.*

10 Our products and services involve the storage and transmission of
11 people's and advertisers' information, and security incidents,
12 including those caused by unintentional errors and those
13 intentionally caused by third parties, may expose us to a risk of loss
14 of this information, litigation, increased security costs and potential
15 liability. We and our third-party service providers experience cyber-
16 attacks of varying degrees on a regular basis. We expect to incur
17 significant costs in an effort to detect and prevent security breaches
18 and other security-related incidents, and we may face increased costs
19 in the event of an actual or perceived security breach or other security-
20 related incident. In particular, the COVID-19 pandemic is increasing
21 the opportunities available to criminals, as more companies and
22 individuals work online, and as such, the risk of a cybersecurity
23 incident potentially occurring is increasing. We cannot provide
24 assurances that our preventative efforts will be successful. If an
25 actual or perceived breach of our security occurs, the market
26 perception of the effectiveness of our security measures could be
27 harmed, people on Twitter and our advertisers may be harmed, lose
28 trust and confidence in us, decrease the use of our products and
services or stop using our products and services in their entirety. We
may also incur significant legal and financial exposure, including
legal claims, higher transaction fees and regulatory fines and
penalties. Any of these actions could have a material and adverse
effect on our business, reputation and operating results. While our
insurance policies include liability coverage for certain of these
matters, if we experienced a significant security incident, we could be
subject to liability or other damages that exceed our insurance
coverage.

1 * * *

2 In March 2011, to resolve an investigation into various incidents, we
3 entered into a consent order with the FTC that, among other things,
4 required us to establish an information security program designed to
5 protect non-public consumer information and also requires that we
6 obtain biennial independent security assessments. *The obligations*
7 *under the consent order remain in effect until the later of March 2,*
8 *2031, or the date 20 years after the date, if any, on which the U.S.*
9 *government or the FTC files a complaint in federal court alleging*
10 *any violation of the order.* We expect to continue to be the subject of
11 regulatory inquiries, investigations and audits in the future by the FTC
12 and other regulators around the world. Violation of existing or future
13 regulatory orders, settlements or consent decrees could subject us to
14 substantial fines and other penalties that would adversely impact our
15 financial condition and operating results. For example, on July 28,
16 2020, we received a draft complaint from the FTC alleging violations
17 of the 2011 consent order with the FTC and the FTC Act. The
18 allegations relate to our use of phone number and/or email address
19 data provided for safety and security purposes for targeted advertising
20 during periods between 2013 and 2019. We estimate that the range of
21 probable loss in this matter is \$150.0 million to \$250.0 million. The
22 matter remains unresolved, and there can be no assurance as to the
23 timing or the terms of any final outcome.

18 (Underlined emphasis added.)

20 22. On February 17, 2021, Twitter filed a form 10-K for the fiscal year
21 ended December 31, 2020 (“2020 10-K”). Attached to the 2020 10-K were SOX
22 Certifications signed by Defendants Dorsey and Segal.

23 23. The 2020 10-K, in pertinent part, stated:

24 **Technology, Research and Development**

25 Twitter is composed of a set of core, scalable and distributed services
26 that are built from proprietary and open source technologies. These
27 systems are capable of delivering billions of messages, including
28 images and video, to hundreds of millions of people a day in an

1 efficient and reliable way. We continue to invest in our existing
2 products and services as well as develop new products and services
3 through research and product development. We also continue to
4 invest in protecting the safety, security and integrity of our platform
5 by investing in both people and technology, including machine
6 learning.

7 * * *

8 In March 2011, to resolve an investigation into various incidents, we
9 entered into a settlement agreement with the Federal Trade
10 Commission, or FTC, that, among other things, requires us to
11 establish an information security program designed to protect non-
12 public consumer information and also requires that we obtain biennial
13 independent security assessments. The obligations under the
14 settlement agreement remain in effect until the later of March 2,
15 2031, or the date 20 years after the date, if any, on which the U.S.
16 government or the FTC files a complaint in federal court alleging
17 any violation of the order. On July 28, 2020, we received a draft
18 complaint from the FTC alleging violation of the order and the
19 Federal Trade Commission Act (FTC Act). The allegations relate to
20 our use of phone number and/or email address data provided for
21 safety and security purposes for targeted advertising during periods
22 between 2013 and 2019. The matter remains unresolved, and there can
23 be no assurance as to the timing or the terms of any final outcome.
24 Violation of other existing or future regulatory orders, settlements, or
25 consent decrees could subject us to substantial monetary fines and
26 other penalties that could negatively affect our financial condition and
27 results of operations.

28 * * *

*Our products may contain errors or our security measures may be
breached, resulting in the exposure of private information. Our
products and services may be subject to attacks that degrade or deny
the ability of people to access our products and services. These
issues may result in the perception that our products and services
are not secure, and people on Twitter and advertisers may curtail or
stop using our products and services and our business and operating
results could be harmed.*

1 Our products and services involve the storage and transmission of
2 people's and advertisers' information, and security incidents,
3 including those caused by unintentional errors and those
4 intentionally caused by third parties, may expose us to a risk of loss
5 of this information, litigation, increased security costs and potential
6 liability. We and our third-party service providers experience cyber-
7 attacks of varying degrees on a regular basis. We expect to incur
8 significant costs in an effort to detect and prevent security breaches
9 and other security-related incidents, including those that our third-
10 party suppliers and service providers may suffer, and we may face
11 increased costs in the event of an actual or perceived security breach
12 or other security-related incident. In particular, the COVID-19
13 pandemic is increasing the opportunities available to criminals, as
14 more companies and individuals work online, and as such, the risk of
15 a cybersecurity incident potentially occurring is increasing. We cannot
16 provide assurances that our preventative efforts will be successful. If
17 an actual or perceived breach of our security occurs, the market
18 perception of the effectiveness of our security measures could be
19 harmed, people on Twitter and our advertisers may be harmed, lose
20 trust and confidence in us, decrease the use of our products and
21 services or stop using our products and services in their entirety. We
22 may also incur significant legal and financial exposure, including
23 legal claims, higher transaction fees and regulatory fines and
24 penalties. Any of these actions could have a material and adverse
25 effect on our business, reputation and operating results. While our
26 insurance policies include liability coverage for certain of these
27 matters, if we experienced a significant security incident, we could be
28 subject to liability or other damages that exceed our insurance
coverage.

(Underlined emphasis added.)

24. On February 16, 2022, Twitter filed a form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021 ("2021 10-K"). Attached to the 2021 10-K were SOX Certifications signed by Defendants Agrawal and Segal.

25. The 2021 10-K, in relevant part, stated:

1 *products and services may be subject to attacks that degrade or deny*
2 *the ability of people to access our products and services. These*
3 *issues may result in the perception that our products and services*
4 *are not secure, and people on Twitter and advertisers may curtail or*
5 *stop using our products and services and our business and operating*
6 *results could be harmed.*

7 Our products and services involve the storage and transmission of
8 people's and advertisers' information, and security incidents,
9 including those caused by unintentional errors and those
10 intentionally caused by third parties, may expose us to a risk of loss
11 of this information, litigation, increased security costs and potential
12 liability. We and our third-party service providers experience cyber-
13 attacks of varying degrees on a regular basis. We expect to incur
14 significant costs in an effort to detect and prevent security breaches
15 and other security-related incidents, including those that our third-
16 party suppliers and service providers may suffer, and we may face
17 increased costs in the event of an actual or perceived security breach
18 or other security-related incident. In particular, the COVID-19
19 pandemic has increased the opportunities available to criminals, as
20 more companies and individuals work online, and as such, the risk of
21 a cybersecurity incident potentially occurring has increased. We
22 cannot provide assurances that our preventative efforts will be
23 successful. If an actual or perceived breach of our security occurs,
24 the market perception of the effectiveness of our security measures
25 could be harmed, people on Twitter and our advertisers may be
26 harmed, lose trust and confidence in us, decrease the use of our
27 products and services or stop using our products and services in
28 their entirety. We may also incur significant legal and financial
exposure, including legal claims, higher transaction fees and
regulatory fines and penalties. Any of these actions could have a
material and adverse effect on our business, reputation and operating
results. While our insurance policies include liability coverage for
certain of these matters, if we experienced a significant security
incident, we could be subject to liability or other damages that exceed
our insurance coverage.

(Underlined emphasis added.)

1 *security, reporting directly to the CEO. Zatkan further alleges that*
2 *Twitter's leadership has misled its own board and government*
3 *regulators about its security vulnerabilities, including some that*
4 *could allegedly open the door to foreign spying or manipulation,*
5 *hacking and disinformation campaigns.* The whistleblower also
6 alleges Twitter does not reliably delete users' data after they cancel
7 their accounts, in some cases because the company has lost track of
8 the information, and that it has misled regulators about whether it
9 deletes the data as it is required to do. The whistleblower also says
10 Twitter executives don't have the resources to fully understand the
11 true number of bots on the platform, and were not motivated to.
12 The agency alleges male employees play video games during the
13 workday while delegating responsibilities to female employees,
14 engage in sexual banter, and joke openly about rape, among other
15 things.

16 * * *

17 Zatkan was fired by Twitter (TWTR) in January for what the company
18 claims was poor performance. According to Zatkan, *his public*
19 *whistleblowing comes after he attempted to flag the security lapses*
20 *to Twitter's board and to help Twitter fix years of technical*
21 *shortcomings and alleged non-compliance with an earlier privacy*
22 *agreement with the Federal Trade Commission.* Zatkan is being
23 represented by Whistleblower Aid, the same group that represented
24 Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen.

25 * * *

26 Some of Zatkan's most damning claims spring from his apparently
27 tense relationship with Parag Agrawal, the company's former chief
28 technology officer who was made CEO after Jack Dorsey stepped
down last November. According to the disclosure, *Agrawal and his*
lieutenants repeatedly discouraged Zatkan from providing a full
accounting of Twitter's security problems to the company's board of
directors. The company's executive team allegedly instructed Zatkan
to provide an oral report of his initial findings on the company's
security condition to the board rather than a detailed written
account, ordered Zatkan to knowingly present cherry-picked and
misrepresented data to create the false perception of progress on

1 *urgent cybersecurity issues, and went behind Zatkan's back to have a*
2 *third-party consulting firm's report scrubbed to hide the true extent*
3 *of the company's problems.*

4 * * *

5 But, the disclosure says, Zatkan soon learned *"it was impossible to*
6 *protect the production environment. All engineers had access. There*
7 *was no logging of who went into the environment or what they did....*
8 *Nobody knew where data lived or whether it was critical, and all*
9 *engineers had some form of critical access to the production*
10 *environment."* Twitter also lacked the ability to hold workers
11 *accountable for information security lapses because it has little*
12 *control or visibility into employees' individual work computers,*
13 *Zatkan claims, citing internal cybersecurity reports estimating that 4*
14 *in 10 devices do not meet basic security standards.*

15 Twitter's flimsy server infrastructure is a separate yet equally serious
16 vulnerability, the disclosure claims. *About half of the company's*
17 *500,000 servers run on outdated software that does not support basic*
18 *security features such as encryption for stored data or regular*
19 *security updates by vendors,* according to the letter to regulators and a
20 February email Zatkan wrote to Patrick Pichette, a Twitter board
21 member, that is included in the disclosure.

22 The company also *lacks sufficient redundancies and procedures to*
23 *restart or recover from data center crashes,* Zatkan's disclosure says,
24 meaning that even minor outages of several data centers at the same
25 time could knock the entire Twitter service offline, perhaps for good.

26 (Emphasis added.)

27 28. On this news, Twitter shares traded at unusually high volumes and
28 Twitter share prices fell \$3.15, or over 7%, to close at \$39.86 on August 23, 2022,
damaging investors.

1 29. As a result of Defendants’ wrongful acts and omissions, and the
2 precipitous decline in the market value of the Company’s common shares,
3 Plaintiff and other Class members have suffered significant losses and damages.

4 **PLAINTIFF’S CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

5 30. Plaintiff brings this action as a class action pursuant to Federal Rule
6 of Civil Procedure 23(a) and (b)(3) on behalf of a class consisting of all persons
7 other than Defendants who acquired Twitter securities publicly traded on the
8 NYSE during the Class Period, and who were damaged thereby (the “Class”).
9 Excluded from the Class are Defendants, the officers and directors of Twitter,
10 members of the Individual Defendants’ immediate families and their legal
11 representatives, heirs, successors or assigns and any entity in which Defendants
12 have or had a controlling interest.

13 31. The members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all
14 members is impracticable. Throughout the Class Period, Twitter securities were
15 actively traded on the NYSE. While the exact number of Class members is
16 unknown to Plaintiff at this time and can be ascertained only through appropriate
17 discovery, Plaintiff believes that there are hundreds, if not thousands of members
18 in the proposed Class.

19 32. Plaintiff’s claims are typical of the claims of the members of the
20 Class as all members of the Class are similarly affected by Defendants’ wrongful
21 conduct in violation of federal law that is complained of herein.

22 33. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the
23 members of the Class and has retained counsel competent and experienced in class
24 action and securities litigation. Plaintiff has no interests antagonistic to or in
25 conflict with those of the Class.

26 34. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the
27 Class and predominate over any questions solely affecting individual members of
28 the Class. Among the questions of law and fact common to the Class are:

1 • whether the Exchange Act was violated by Defendants' acts as
2 alleged herein;

3 • whether statements made by Defendants to the investing public
4 during the Class Period misrepresented material facts about the financial condition
5 and business of Twitter;

6 • whether Defendants' public statements to the investing public during
7 the Class Period omitted material facts necessary to make the statements made, in
8 light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading;

9 • whether the Defendants caused Twitter to issue false and misleading
10 filings during the Class Period;

11 • whether Defendants acted knowingly or recklessly in issuing false
12 filings;

13 • whether the prices of Twitter securities during the Class Period were
14 artificially inflated because of the Defendants' conduct complained of herein; and

15 • whether the members of the Class have sustained damages and, if so,
16 what is the proper measure of damages.

17 35. A class action is superior to all other available methods for the fair
18 and efficient adjudication of this controversy since joinder of all members is
19 impracticable. Furthermore, as the damages suffered by individual Class
20 members may be relatively small, the expense and burden of individual litigation
21 make it impossible for members of the Class to individually redress the wrongs
22 done to them. There will be no difficulty in the management of this action as a
23 class action.

24 36. Plaintiff will rely, in part, upon the presumption of reliance
25 established by the fraud-on-the-market doctrine in that:

26 • Twitter's shares met the requirements for listing, and were listed and
27 actively traded on the NYSE, an efficient market;

28 • As a public issuer, Twitter filed periodic public reports;

1 • Twitter regularly communicated with public investors via established
2 market communication mechanisms, including through the regular dissemination
3 of press releases via major newswire services and through other wide-ranging
4 public disclosures, such as communications with the financial press and other
5 similar reporting services;

6 • Twitter's securities were liquid and traded with sufficient volume
7 during the Class Period; and

8 • Twitter was followed by a number of securities analysts employed by
9 major brokerage firms who wrote reports that were widely distributed and
10 publicly available.

11 37. Based on the foregoing, the market for Twitter securities promptly
12 digested current information regarding Twitter from all publicly available sources
13 and reflected such information in the prices of the shares, and Plaintiff and the
14 members of the Class are entitled to a presumption of reliance upon the integrity
15 of the market.

16 38. Alternatively, Plaintiff and the members of the Class are entitled to
17 the presumption of reliance established by the Supreme Court in *Affiliated Ute*
18 *Citizens of the State of Utah v. United States*, 406 U.S. 128 (1972), as Defendants
19 omitted material information in their Class Period statements in violation of a duty
20 to disclose such information as detailed above.

21 **COUNT I**

22 **For Violations of Section 10(b) And Rule 10b-5 Promulgated Thereunder**
23 **Against All Defendants**

24 39. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained
25 above as if fully set forth herein.

26 40. This Count is asserted against Defendants based upon Section 10(b)
27 of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b), and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder
28 by the SEC.

1 41. During the Class Period, Defendants, individually and in concert,
2 directly or indirectly, disseminated or approved the false statements specified
3 above, which they knew or deliberately disregarded were misleading in that they
4 contained misrepresentations and failed to disclose material facts necessary in
5 order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they
6 were made, not misleading.

7 42. Defendants violated §10(b) of the 1934 Act and Rule 10b-5 in that
8 they:

- 9 • employed devices, schemes and artifices to defraud;
- 10 • made untrue statements of material facts or omitted to state material
11 facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances
12 under which they were made, not misleading; or
- 13 • engaged in acts, practices and a course of business that operated as a
14 fraud or deceit upon Plaintiff and others similarly situated in connection with their
15 purchases of Twitter securities during the Class Period.

16 43. Defendants acted with scienter in that they knew that the public
17 documents and statements issued or disseminated in the name of Twitter were
18 materially false and misleading; knew that such statements or documents would
19 be issued or disseminated to the investing public; and knowingly and substantially
20 participated, or acquiesced in the issuance or dissemination of such statements or
21 documents as primary violations of the securities laws. These Defendants by
22 virtue of their receipt of information reflecting the true facts of Twitter, their
23 control over, and/or receipt and/or modification of Twitter's allegedly materially
24 misleading statements, and/or their associations with the Company which made
25 them privy to confidential proprietary information concerning Twitter,
26 participated in the fraudulent scheme alleged herein.

27 44. Individual Defendants, who are the senior officers and/or directors of
28 the Company, had actual knowledge of the material omissions and/or the falsity of

1 the material statements set forth above, and intended to deceive Plaintiff and the
2 other members of the Class, or, in the alternative, acted with reckless disregard for
3 the truth when they failed to ascertain and disclose the true facts in the statements
4 made by them or other Twitter personnel to members of the investing public,
5 including Plaintiff and the Class.

6 45. As a result of the foregoing, the market price of Twitter securities
7 was artificially inflated during the Class Period. In ignorance of the falsity of
8 Defendants' statements, Plaintiff and the other members of the Class relied on the
9 statements described above and/or the integrity of the market price of Twitter
10 securities during the Class Period in purchasing Twitter securities at prices that
11 were artificially inflated as a result of Defendants' false and misleading
12 statements.

13 46. Had Plaintiff and the other members of the Class been aware that the
14 market price of Twitter securities had been artificially and falsely inflated by
15 Defendants' misleading statements and by the material adverse information which
16 Defendants did not disclose, they would not have purchased Twitter securities at
17 the artificially inflated prices that they did, or at all.

18 47. As a result of the wrongful conduct alleged herein, Plaintiff and other
19 members of the Class have suffered damages in an amount to be established at
20 trial.

21 48. By reason of the foregoing, Defendants have violated Section 10(b)
22 of the 1934 Act and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder and are liable to the
23 Plaintiff and the other members of the Class for substantial damages which they
24 suffered in connection with their purchase of Twitter securities during the Class
25 Period.

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COUNT II
Violations of Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act
Against the Individual Defendants

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3 49. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained in
4 the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

5 50. During the Class Period, the Individual Defendants participated in the
6 operation and management of Twitter, and conducted and participated, directly
7 and indirectly, in the conduct of Twitter’s business affairs. Because of their senior
8 positions, they knew the adverse non-public information about Twitter’s
9 misstatement of revenue and profit and false financial statements.

10 51. As officers and/or directors of a publicly owned company, the
11 Individual Defendants had a duty to disseminate accurate and truthful information
12 with respect to Twitter’s financial condition and results of operations, and to
13 correct promptly any public statements issued by Twitter which had become
14 materially false or misleading.

15 52. Because of their positions of control and authority as senior officers,
16 the Individual Defendants were able to, and did, control the contents of the
17 various reports, press releases and public filings which Twitter disseminated in the
18 marketplace during the Class Period concerning Twitter’s results of operations.
19 Throughout the Class Period, the Individual Defendants exercised their power and
20 authority to cause Twitter to engage in the wrongful acts complained of herein.
21 The Individual Defendants therefore, were “controlling persons” of Twitter within
22 the meaning of Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act. In this capacity, they
23 participated in the unlawful conduct alleged which artificially inflated the market
24 price of Twitter securities.

25 53. By reason of the above conduct, the Individual Defendants are liable
26 pursuant to Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act for the violations committed by
27 Twitter.
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PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and the Class, prays for judgment and relief as follows:

(a) declaring this action to be a proper class action, designating plaintiff as Lead Plaintiff and certifying plaintiff as a class representative under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and designating plaintiff’s counsel as Lead Counsel;

(b) awarding damages in favor of plaintiff and the other Class members against all defendants, jointly and severally, together with interest thereon;

(c) awarding plaintiff and the Class reasonable costs and expenses incurred in this action, including counsel fees and expert fees; and

(d) awarding plaintiff and other members of the Class such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury.

Dated: September 13, 2022

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This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: [Twitter Facing Investor Class Action After Whistleblower's Congressional Testimony](#)
