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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

ADRIENNE BENSON, individually and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

DOUBLE DOWN INTERACTIVE, LLC, a
Washington limited liability company, and
INTERNATIONAL GAME TECHNOLOGY,
a Nevada corporation.

Defendant.

Case No.

COMPLAINT—CLASS ACTION

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff Adrienne Benson brings this case, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, against Double Down Interactive, LLC (“Double Down”) and International Game Technology (“IGT”) (collectively “Defendants”) to enjoin its operation of illegal online casino games. Plaintiff alleges as follows upon personal knowledge as to herself and her own acts and experiences, and upon information and belief, including investigation conducted by her attorneys, as to all other matters.

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. Defendants own and operate video game development companies in the so-called

1 “casual games” industry—that is, computer games designed to appeal to a mass audience of
2 casual gamers. Defendants (at all relevant times) owned and operated a popular online casino
3 under the name Double Down Casino.

4 2. Double Down Casino is available to play on Android, and Apple iOS devices, and
5 on Facebook.

6 3. Defendants provide a bundle of free “chips” to first-time visitors of its Double
7 Down Casino that can be used to wager on its games. After consumers inevitably lose their
8 initial allotment of chips, Defendants attempt to sell them additional chips starting at \$2.99 for
9 300,000 chips. Without chips, consumers cannot play the gambling game.

10 4. Freshly topped off with additional credits, consumers wager to win more credits.
11 The credits won by consumers playing Defendants’ games of chance are identical to the chips
12 that Defendants sells. Thus, by wagering 300,000 chips that have been purchased for \$2.99,
13 consumers have the chance to win hundreds of thousands of additional chips that they would
14 otherwise have to purchase.

15 5. By operating the Double Down Casino, Defendants have violated Washington
16 law and illegally profited from tens of thousands of consumers. Accordingly, Adrienne Benson,
17 on behalf of herself and a Class of similarly situated individuals, brings this lawsuit to recover
18 their losses, as well as costs and attorneys’ fees.

19 **PARTIES**

20 6. Plaintiff Adrienne Benson is a natural person and a citizen of the state of
21 Washington.

22 7. Defendant Double Down Interactive, LLC is a limited liability company
23 organized and existing under the laws of the State of Washington with its principal place of
24 business at 605 Fifth Avenue South, Suite 300, Seattle, Washington 98104. Defendant conducts
25 business throughout this District, Washington State, and the United States.

26 8. Defendant International Game Technology is a corporation existing and organized
27 under the laws of the State of Nevada with its principal place of business at 6355 South Buffalo

1 Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89113. Defendant conducts business throughout this District,
2 Washington State, and the United States.

3 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

4 9. Federal subject-matter jurisdiction exists under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2) because
5 (a) at least one member of the class is a citizen of a state different from any Defendants, (b) the
6 amount in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000, exclusive of interests and costs, and (c) none of the
7 exceptions under that subsection apply to this action.

8 10. The Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant conducts
9 significant business transactions in this District, and because the wrongful conduct occurred in
10 and emanated from this District.

11 11. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because a substantial
12 part of the events giving rise to Plaintiff’s claims occurred in and emanated from this District.

13 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

14 **I. Free-to-Play and the New Era of Online Gambling**

15 12. The proliferation of internet-connected mobile devices has led to the growth of
16 what are known in the industry as “free-to-play” videogames. The term is a misnomer. It refers
17 to a model by which the initial download of the game is free, but companies reap huge profits by
18 selling thousands of “in-game” items that start at \$0.99 (purchases known as “micro-
19 transactions” or “in-app purchases”).

20 13. The in-app purchase model has become particularly attractive to developers of
21 games of chance (*e.g.*, poker, blackjack, and slot machine mobile videogames, amongst others),
22 because it allows them to generate huge profits. In 2017, free-to-play games of chance generated
23 over \$3.8 billion in worldwide revenue, and they are expected to grow by ten percent annually.¹
24 Even “large land-based casino operators are looking at this new space” for “a healthy growth
25

26 ¹ GGRAsia – Social casino games 2017 revenue to rise 7pct plus says report, <http://www.ggrasia.com/social-casino-games-2017-revenue-to-rise-7pct-plus-says-report/> (last visited Apr. 9, 18)
27

1 potential.”²

2 14. With games of chance that employ the in-game purchase strategy, developers
3 have begun exploiting the same psychological triggers as casino operators. As one respected
4 videogame publication put it:

5 “If you hand someone a closed box full of promised goodies, many will happily
6 pay you for the crowbar to crack it open. The tremendous power of small random
7 packs of goodies has long been known to the creators of physical collectible card
8 games and companies that made football stickers a decade ago. For some ... the
9 allure of a closed box full of goodies is too powerful to resist. Whatever the worth
10 of the randomised [sic] prizes inside, the offer of a free chest and the option to
11 buy a key will make a small fortune out of these personalities. For those that like
12 to gamble, these crates often offer a small chance of an ultra-rare item.”³

13 15. Another stated:

14 “Games may influence ‘feelings of pleasure and reward,’ but this is an addiction
15 to the games themselves; micro-transactions play to a different kind of addiction
16 that has existed long before video games existed, more specifically, an addiction
17 similar to that which you could develop in casinos and betting shops.”⁴

18 16. The comparison to casinos doesn’t end there. Just as with casino operators,
19 mobile game developers rely on a small portion of their players to provide the majority of their
20 profits. These “whales,” as they’re known in casino parlance, account for just “0.15% of players”
21 but provide “over 50% of mobile game revenue.”⁵

22 17. Game Informer, another respected videogame magazine, reported on the rise (and
23 danger) of micro-transactions in mobile games and concluded:

24 “[M]any new mobile and social titles target small, susceptible populations for
25 large percentages of their revenue. If ninety-five people all play a [free-to-play]
26 game without spending money, but five people each pour \$100 or more in to
27 obtain virtual currency, the designer can break even. These five individuals are
what the industry calls whales, and we tend not to be too concerned with how
they’re being used in the equation. While the scale and potential financial ruin is

² Report confirms that social casino games have hit the jackpot with \$1.6B in revenue | GamesBeat, <https://venturebeat.com/2012/09/11/report-confirms-that-social-casino-games-have-hit-the-jackpot-with-1-6b-in-revenue/> (last visited Apr. 9, 18)

³ PC Gamer, *Microtransactions: the good, the bad and the ugly*, <http://www.pcgamer.com/microtransactions-the-good-the-bad-and-the-ugly/> (last visited Apr. 5, 2018).

⁴ The Badger, *Are micro-transactions ruining video games?* | *The Badger*, <http://thebadgeronline.com/2014/11/micro-transactions-ruining-video-games/> (last visited Apr. 5, 2018).

⁵ *Id.* (emphasis added).

of a different magnitude, a similar profitability model governs casino gambling.”⁶

18. Academics have also studied the socioeconomic effect games that rely on in-app purchases have on consumers. In one study, the authors compiled several sources analyzing so-called free-to-play games of chance (called “casino” games below) and stated that:

“[Researchers] found that [free-to-play] casino gamers share many similar sociodemographic characteristics (e.g., employment, education, income) with online gamblers. Given these similarities, it is perhaps not surprising that a strong predictor of online gambling is engagement in [free-to-play] casino games. Putting a dark line under these findings, over half (58.3%) of disordered gamblers who were seeking treatment stated that social casino games were their first experiences with gambling.”

...

“According to [another study], the purchase of virtual credits or virtual items makes the activity of [free-to-play] casino gaming more similar to gambling. Thus, micro-transactions may be a crucial predictor in the migration to online gambling, as these players have now crossed a line by paying to engage in these activities. Although, [sic] only 1–5% of [free-to-play] casino gamers make micro-transactions, those who purchase virtual credits spend an average of \$78. Despite the limited numbers of social casino gamers purchasing virtual credits, revenues from micro-transactions account for 60 % of all [free-to-play] casino gaming revenue. Thus, a significant amount of revenue is based on players’ desire to purchase virtual credits above and beyond what is provided to the player in seed credits.”⁷

19. The same authors looked at the link between playing free-to-play games of chance and gambling in casinos. They stated that “prior research indicated that winning large sums of virtual credits on social casino gaming sites was a key reason for [consumers’] migration to online gambling,” yet the largest predictor that a consumer will transition to online gambling was “micro-transaction engagement.” In fact, “the odds of migration to online gambling were approximately *eight times greater* among people who made micro-transactions on [free-to-play] casino games compared to [free-to-play] casino gamers who did not make micro-transactions.”⁸

⁶ Game Informer, *How Microtransactions Are Bad For Gaming - Features* - www.GameInformer.com, <http://www.gameinformer.com/b/features/archive/2012/09/12/how-microtransactions-are-bad-for-gaming.aspx?CommentPosted=true&PageIndex=3> (last visited Apr. 5, 2018)

⁷ Hyoun S. Kim, Michael J. A. Wohl, *et al.*, *Do Social Casino Gamers Migrate to Online Gambling? An Assessment of Migration Rate and Potential Predictors*, *Journal of gambling studies* / co-sponsored by the National Council on Problem Gambling and Institute for the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming (Nov. 14, 2014), available at <http://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2F978-0-14-9511-0.pdf> (citations omitted).

⁸ *Id.* (emphasis added).

1 20. The similarity between micro-transaction games of chance and games of chance
2 found in casinos has caused governments across the world to intervene to limit their availability.⁹
3 Unfortunately, such games have eluded regulation in the United States. As a result, and as
4 described below, Defendants’ online casino games have thrived and thousands of consumers
5 have spent millions of dollars unwittingly playing Defendants’ unlawful games of chance.

6 **II. A Brief Introduction to Double Down and IGT**

7 21. Double Down is a leading casual game developer with an extensive library of
8 free-to-play online casino games. Double Down sells in-app chips to consumers in the Double
9 Down Casino so that consumers can play its various online casino games.

10 22. IGT is a global leader in gaming industry with long ties to the traditional casino
11 market. It has developed a multitude of casino and lottery games, including traditional slot
12 machines and video lottery terminals. In 2012, IGT acquired Double Down and its library of
13 online casino games, and has since “grown into one of the largest and most successful brands in
14 the North American social casino market.”¹⁰

15 23. In 2017, IGT sold Double Down for \$825 million to DoubleU Games.¹¹ In
16 addition to the sale, IGT has also entered into a long-term game development and distribution
17 agreement with DoubleU to offer its online casino games in Double Down Casino.¹² IGT notes
18 that it will continue to collect royalties from its online casino game content.¹³

19 24. Defendants have made large profits through their online casino games. In 2016,

21 ⁹ In late August 2014, South Korea began regulating “social gambling” games, including games similar to
22 Defendant’s, by “ban[ning] all financial transactions directed” to the games. PokerNews.com, *Korea Shuts Down All
23 Facebook Games In Attempt To Regulate Social Gambling* / *PokerNews*,
24 <https://www.pokernews.com/news/2014/09/korea-shuts-down-facebook-games-19204.htm> (last visited Apr. 5,
25 2018). Similarly, “the Maltese Lotteries and Gambling Authority (LGA) invited the national Parliament to regulate
26 all digital games with prizes by the end of 2014.” *Id.*

27 ¹⁰ *IGT To Sell Online Casino Unit DoubleDown To South Korean Firm For \$825 Million - Poker News*,
[https://www.cardplayer.com/poker-news/21554-igt-to-sell-online-casino-unit-doubledown-to-south-korean-firm-for-
825-million](https://www.cardplayer.com/poker-news/21554-igt-to-sell-online-casino-unit-doubledown-to-south-korean-firm-for-825-million) (last visited Ap. 6, 2018).

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *IGT Completes Sale Of Double Down Interactive LLC To DoubleU Games*,
[https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/igt-completes-sale-of-double-down-interactive-llc-to-doubleu-games-
300467524.html](https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/igt-completes-sale-of-double-down-interactive-llc-to-doubleu-games-300467524.html) (last visited Apr. 6, 2018).

¹³ *Id.*

1 alone, Double Down generated \$280 million in revenue. As explained further below, however,
 2 the revenue Defendants receives from Double Down Casino is the result of operating unlawful
 3 games of chance camouflaged as innocuous videogames.

4 **III. Defendants' Online Casino Contains Unlawful Games of Chance**

5 25. Consumers visiting Double Down Casino for the first time are awarded 1 million
 6 free chips. *See* [Figure 1](#). These free sample chips offer a taste of gambling and are designed to
 7 encourage player to get hooked and buy more chips for real money.



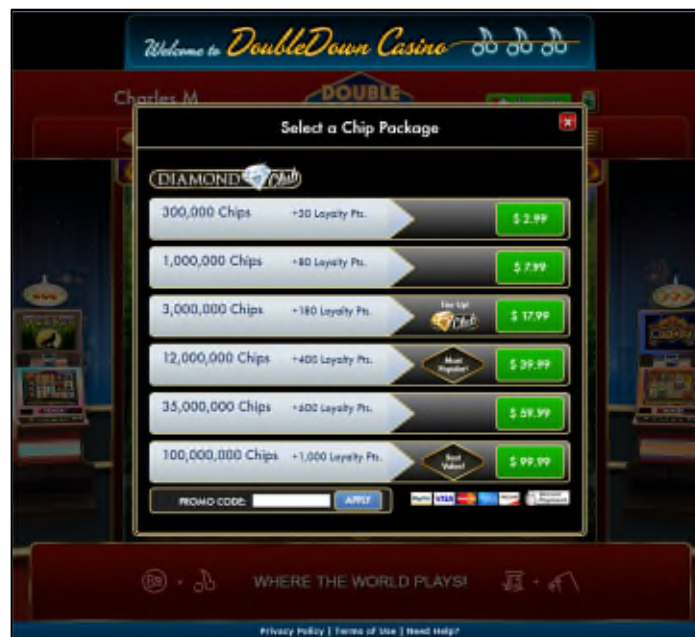
18 **(Figure 1.)**

19 26. After they begin playing, consumers quickly lose their initial allotment of chips.
 20 Immediately thereafter, Double Down Casino informs them via a “pop up” screen that they have
 21 “insufficient funds.” *See* [Figure 2](#). Once a player runs out of their allotment of free chips, they
 22 cannot continue to play the game without buying more chips for real money.



(Figure 2.)

27. To continue playing the online casino game, consumers navigate to Double Down Casino’s electronic store to purchase chips ranging in price from \$2.99 for 300,000 chips to \$99.99 for 100,000,000 chips. See Figure 3.



(Figure 3.)

28. The decision to sell chips by the thousands isn’t an accident. Rather, Defendants attempt to lower the perceived cost of the chips (costing just a fraction of a penny per chip) while simultaneously maximizing the value of the award (awarding millions of chips in jackpots),

1 further inducing consumers to bet on its games.

2 29. To begin wagering, players select the “LINE BET” that will be used for a spin, as
 3 illustrated in Figure 4. Double Down Casino allows players to increase or decrease the amount
 4 he or she can wager and ultimately win (or lose). Double Down Casino allows players to
 5 multiply their bet by changing the number of “lines” (*i.e.*, combinations) on which the consumer
 6 can win, shown in Figure 4 as the “LINE” button.



10 **(Figure 4.)**

11 30. Once a consumer spins the slot machine by pressing “SPIN” button, no action on
 12 his or her part is required. Indeed, none of the Double Down Casino games allow (or call for)
 13 any additional user action. Instead, the consumer’s computer or mobile device communicates
 14 with and sends information (such as the “TOTAL BET” amount) to the Double Down Casino
 15 servers. Its servers then execute the game’s algorithms that determine the spin’s outcome.
 16 Notably, none of Defendants’ games depend on any amount of skill to determine their
 17 outcomes—all outcomes are based entirely on chance.

18 31. Consumers can continue playing with the chips that they won, or they can exit the
 19 game and return at a later time to play because Double Down Casino maintains win and loss
 20 records and account balances for each consumer. Indeed, once Defendants’ algorithms determine
 21 the outcome of a spin and Double Down Casino displays the outcome to the consumer,
 22 Defendants adjust the consumer’s account balance. Defendants keep records of each wager,
 23 outcome, win, and loss for every player.

24 **FACTS SPECIFIC TO PLAINTIFF BENSON**

25 32. Since 2013, Plaintiff Benson has been playing Double Down Casino on
 26 Facebook. After Plaintiff lost the balance of her initial allocation of free chips, she purchased
 27 chips from the Double Down Casino electronic store.

1 33. Thereafter, Benson continued playing various slot machines and other games of
2 chance within the Double Down Casino where she would wager chips for the chance of winning
3 additional chips. Since 2016, Plaintiff Benson wagered and lost (and Defendants therefore won)
4 over \$1,000 at Defendants' games of chance.

5 **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

6 34. **Class Definition:** Plaintiff Benson brings this action pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P.
7 23(b)(2) and (b)(3) on behalf of herself and a Class of similarly situated individuals, defined as
8 follows:

9 All persons in the State of Washington who purchased and lost chips by
10 wagering at the Double Down Casino.

11 The following people are excluded from the Class: (1) any Judge or Magistrate presiding over
12 this action and members of their families; (2) Defendants, Defendants' subsidiaries, parents,
13 successors, predecessors, and any entity in which the Defendants or its parents have a controlling
14 interest and its current or former employees, officers and directors; (3) persons who properly
15 execute and file a timely request for exclusion from the Class; (4) persons whose claims in this
16 matter have been finally adjudicated on the merits or otherwise released; (5) Plaintiff's counsel
17 and Defendants' counsel; and (6) the legal representatives, successors, and assigns of any such
18 excluded persons.

19 35. **Numerosity:** On information and belief, tens of thousands of consumers fall into
20 the definition of the Class. Members of the Class can be identified through Defendants' records,
21 discovery, and other third-party sources.

22 36. **Commonality and Predominance:** There are many questions of law and fact
23 common to Plaintiff's and the Class's claims, and those questions predominate over any
24 questions that may affect individual members of the Class. Common questions for the Class
25 include, but are not necessarily limited to the following:

26 a. Whether Double Down Casino games are "gambling" as defined by RCW
27 9.46.0237;

- 1 b. Whether Defendants are the proprietors for whose benefit the online
- 2 casino games are played;
- 3 c. Whether Plaintiff and each member of the Class lost money or anything of
- 4 value by gambling;
- 5 d. Whether Defendants violated the Washington Consumer Protection Act,
- 6 RCW 19.86.010, *et seq.*; and
- 7 e. Whether Defendants have been unjustly enriched as a result of its conduct.

8 37. **Typicality:** Plaintiff’s claims are typical of the claims of other members of the
9 Class in that Plaintiff’s and the members of the Class sustained damages arising out of
10 Defendant’s wrongful conduct.

11 38. **Adequate Representation:** Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and
12 protect the interests of the Class and has retained counsel competent and experienced in complex
13 litigation and class actions. Plaintiff’s claims are representative of the claims of the other
14 members of the Class, as Plaintiff and each member of the Class lost money playing Defendants’
15 games of chance. Plaintiff also has no interests antagonistic to those of the Class, and Defendants
16 have no defenses unique to Plaintiff. Plaintiff and her counsel are committed to vigorously
17 prosecuting this action on behalf of the Class and have the financial resources to do so. Neither
18 Plaintiff nor her counsel have any interest adverse to the Class.

19 39. **Policies Generally Applicable to the Class:** This class action is appropriate for
20 certification because Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to
21 the Class as a whole, thereby requiring the Court’s imposition of uniform relief to ensure
22 compatible standards of conduct toward the members of the Class and making final injunctive
23 relief appropriate with respect to the Class as a whole. Defendants’ policies that Plaintiff
24 challenges apply and affect members of the Class uniformly, and Plaintiff’s challenge of these
25 policies hinges on Defendants’ conduct with respect to the Class as a whole, not on facts or law
26 applicable only to Plaintiff. The factual and legal bases of Defendants’ liability to Plaintiff and to
27 the other members of the Class are the same.

1 40. **Superiority:** This case is also appropriate for certification because class
 2 proceedings are superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of
 3 this controversy. The harm suffered by the individual members of the Class is likely to have been
 4 relatively small compared to the burden and expense of prosecuting individual actions to redress
 5 Defendants' wrongful conduct. Absent a class action, it would be difficult if not impossible for
 6 the individual members of the Class to obtain effective relief from Defendants. Even if members
 7 of the Class themselves could sustain such individual litigation, it would not be preferable to a
 8 class action because individual litigation would increase the delay and expense to all parties and
 9 the Court and require duplicative consideration of the legal and factual issues presented. By
 10 contrast, a class action presents far fewer management difficulties and provides the benefits of
 11 single adjudication, economy of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single Court.
 12 Economies of time, effort, and expense will be fostered and uniformity of decisions will be
 13 ensured.

14 41. Plaintiff reserves the right to revise the foregoing "Class Allegations" and "Class
 15 Definition" based on facts learned through additional investigation and in discovery.

16 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**
 17 **Violations of Revised Code of Washington 4.24.070**
 18 **(On behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)**

19 42. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

20 43. Plaintiff, members of the Class, and Defendants are all "persons" as defined by
 21 RCW 9.46.0289.

22 44. The state of Washington's "Recovery of money lost at gambling" statute, RCW
 23 4.24.070, provides that "all persons losing money or anything of value at or on any illegal
 24 gambling games shall have a cause of action to recover from the dealer or player winning, or
 25 from the proprietor for whose benefit such game was played or dealt, or such money or things of
 26 value won, the amount of the money or the value of the thing so lost."
 27

1 45. “Gambling,” defined by RCW 9.46.0237, “means staking or risking something of
2 value upon the outcome of a contest of chance or a future contingent event not under the person's
3 control or influence.”

4 46. Defendants’ “chips” sold for use at the Double Down Casino are “thing[s] of
5 value” under RCW § 9.46.0285.

6 47. Double Down Casino games are illegal gambling games because they are online
7 games at which players wager things of value (the chips) and by an element of chance (*e.g.*, by
8 spinning an online slot machine) are able to obtain additional entertainment and extend gameplay
9 (by winning additional chips).

10 48. Defendants Double Down and IGT are the proprietors for whose benefit the
11 online gambling games are played because they operate the Double Down Casino games and/or
12 derive profit from its operation.

13 49. As such, Plaintiff and the Class gambled when they purchased chips to wager at
14 Double Down Casino. Plaintiff and each member of the Class staked money, in the form of chips
15 purchased with money, at Defendants’ games of chance (*e.g.*, Double Down Casino slot
16 machines and other games of chance) for the chance of winning additional things of value (*e.g.*,
17 chips that extend gameplay without additional charge).

18 50. In addition, Double Down Casino games are not “pinball machine[s] or similar
19 mechanical amusement device[s]” as contemplated by the statute because:

- 20 a. the games are electronic rather than mechanical;
- 21 b. the games confer replays but they are recorded and can be redeemed on
22 separate occasions (*i.e.*, they are not “immediate and unrecorded”); and
- 23 c. the games contain electronic mechanisms that vary the chance of winning
24 free games or the number of free games which may be won (*e.g.*, the games allow
25 for different wager amounts).

26 51. RCW 9.46.0285 states that a “‘Thing of value,’ as used in this chapter, means any
27 money or property, any token, object or article exchangeable for money or property, or any form

1 of credit or promise, directly or indirectly, contemplating transfer of money or property or of any
2 interest therein, or involving extension of a service, entertainment or a privilege of playing at a
3 game or scheme without charge.”

4 52. The “chips” Plaintiff and the Class had the chance of winning in Double Down
5 Casino games are “thing[s] of value” under Washington law because they are credits that involve
6 the extension of entertainment and a privilege of playing a game without charge.

7 53. Double Down Casino games are “Contest[s] of chance,” as defined by RCW
8 9.46.0225, because they are “contest[s], game[s], gaming scheme[s], or gaming device[s] in
9 which the outcome[s] depend[] in a material degree upon an element of chance, notwithstanding
10 that skill of the contestants may also be a factor therein.” Defendants’ games are programmed to
11 have outcomes that are determined entirely upon chance and a contestant’s skill does not affect
12 the outcomes.

13 54. RCW 9.46.0201 defines “Amusement game[s]” as games where “The outcome
14 depends in a material degree upon the skill of the contestant,” amongst other requirements.
15 Double Down Casino games are not “Amusement game[s]” because their outcomes are
16 dependent entirely upon chance and not upon the skill of the player and because the games are
17 “contest[s] of chance,” as defined by RCW 9.46.0225.

18 55. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants’ operation of its Double Down
19 Casino games, Plaintiff Benson and each member of the Class have lost money wagering at
20 Defendants’ games of chance. Plaintiff Benson, on behalf of herself and the Class, seeks an order
21 (1) requiring Defendants to cease the operation of its gambling games; and/or (2) awarding the
22 recovery of all lost monies, interest, and reasonable attorneys’ fees, expenses, and costs to the
23 extent allowable.

24
25 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**
26 **Violations of the Washington Consumer Protection Act, RCW 19.86.010, *et seq.***
27 **(On behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)**

1 56. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

2 57. Washington’s Consumer Protection Act, RCW § 19.86.010 *et seq.* (“CPA”),
3 protects both consumers and competitors by promoting fair competition in commercial markets
4 for goods and services.

5 58. To achieve that goal, the CPA prohibits any person from using “unfair methods of
6 competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce. . . .”
7 RCW § 19.86.020.

8 59. The CPA states that “a claimant may establish that the act or practice is injurious
9 to the public interest because it . . . Violates a statute that contains a specific legislative
10 declaration of public interest impact.”

11 60. Defendants violated RCW § 9.46.010, *et seq.* which declares that:

12 “The public policy of the state of Washington on gambling is to keep the criminal
13 element out of gambling and to promote the social welfare of the people by limiting
the nature and scope of gambling activities and by strict regulation and control.

14 It is hereby declared to be the policy of the legislature, recognizing the close
15 relationship between professional gambling and organized crime, to restrain all
16 persons from seeking profit from professional gambling activities in this state; to
17 restrain all persons from patronizing such professional gambling activities; to
18 safeguard the public against the evils induced by common gamblers and common
19 gambling houses engaged in professional gambling; and at the same time, both to
20 preserve the freedom of the press and to avoid restricting participation by
21 individuals in activities and social pastimes, which activities and social pastimes
22 are more for amusement rather than for profit, do not maliciously affect the public,
23 and do not breach the peace.”

24 61. Defendants have violated RCW § 9.46.010, *et seq.*, because the Double Down
25 Casino games are illegal online gambling games as described in ¶¶ 42-55 *supra*.

26 62. Defendant’s wrongful conduct occurred in the conduct of trade or commerce—
27 *i.e.*, while Defendants were engaged in the operation of making computer games available to the
public.

63. Defendants’ acts and practices were and are injurious to the public interest
because Defendant, in the course of its business, continuously advertised to and solicited the
general public in Washington state and throughout the United States to play its unlawful online

1 casino games of chance. This was part of a pattern or generalized course of conduct on the part
2 of Defendants, and many consumers have been adversely affected by Defendants' conduct and
3 the public is at risk.

4 64. Defendants have profited immensely from its operation of unlawful games of
5 chance, amassing hundreds of millions of dollars from the losers of its games of chance.

6 65. As a result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff and the Class members were injured
7 in their business or property—*i.e.*, economic injury—in that they lost money wagering on
8 Defendants' unlawful games of chance.

9 66. Defendants' unfair or deceptive conduct proximately caused Plaintiff's and the
10 Class members' injury because, but for the challenged conduct, Plaintiff and the Class members
11 would not have lost money wagering at or on Defendants' games of chance, and they did so as a
12 direct, foreseeable, and planned consequence of that conduct.

13 67. Plaintiff, on her own behalf and on behalf of the Class, seeks to enjoin further
14 violation and recover actual damages and treble damages, together with the costs of suit,
15 including reasonable attorneys' fees.

16 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**
17 **Unjust Enrichment**
18 **(On behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)**

19 68. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth
20 herein.

21 69. Plaintiff and the Class have conferred a benefit upon Defendants in the form of
22 the money Defendants received from them for the purchase of chips to wager on Double Down
23 Casino games.

24 70. Defendants appreciate and/or have knowledge of the benefits conferred upon
25 them by Plaintiff and the Class.

26 71. Under principles of equity and good conscience, Defendants should not be
27 permitted to retain the money obtained from Plaintiff and the members of the Class, which
28 Defendants have unjustly obtained as a result of its unlawful operation of unlawful online

1 gambling games. As it stands, Defendants have retained millions of dollars in profits generated
2 from their unlawful games of chance and should not be permitted to retain those ill-gotten
3 profits.

4 72. Accordingly, Plaintiff and the Class seek full disgorgement and restitution of any
5 money Defendants have retained as a result of the unlawful and/or wrongful conduct alleged
6 herein.

7 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

8 Plaintiff Adrienne Benson, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,
9 respectfully requests that this Court enter an Order:

10 a) Certifying this case as a class action on behalf of the Class defined above,
11 appointing Adrienne Benson as representative of the Class, and appointing her counsel as class
12 counsel;

13 b) Declaring that Defendants' conduct, as set out above, violates the CPA;

14 c) Entering judgment against Defendants, in the amount of the losses suffered by
15 Plaintiff and each member of the Class;

16 d) Enjoining Defendants from continuing the challenged conduct;

17 e) Awarding damages to Plaintiff and the Class members in an amount to be
18 determined at trial, including trebling as appropriate;

19 f) Awarding restitution to Plaintiff and Class members in an amount to be
20 determined at trial, and requiring disgorgement of all benefits that Defendants unjustly received;

21 g) Awarding reasonable attorney's fees and expenses;

22 h) Awarding pre- and post-judgment interest, to the extent allowable;

23 i) Entering judgment for injunctive and/or declaratory relief as necessary to protect
24 the interests of Plaintiff and the Class; and

25 j) Awarding such other and further relief as equity and justice require.

26 **JURY DEMAND**

27 Plaintiff requests a trial by jury of all claims that can be so tried.

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Dated: April 9, 2018

By: /s/Janissa A. Strabuk
/s/Cecily C. Shiel

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**Pro hac vice admission to be sought.*

Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Putative Class

CIVIL COVER SHEET

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

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

ADRIENNE BENSON, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Spokane County, WA (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Janissa Strabuk; Tousley Brain Stephens PLLC; 1700 7th Avenue, Ste. 2200, Seattle, WA 98101; 206-682-5600

DEFENDANTS

DOUBLE DOWN INTERACTIVE, LLC, a Washington limited liability company, and INTERNATIONAL GAME TECHNOLOGY, a Nevada Corporation

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant King County, WA (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff, 2 U.S. Government Defendant, 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party), 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

Table with columns for Plaintiff (PTF) and Defendant (DEF) citizenship and business location (Citizen of This State, Citizen of Another State, Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country, Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State, Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State, Foreign Nation).

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

Large table with categories: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, CIVIL RIGHTS, TORTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES.

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 Original Proceeding, 2 Removed from State Court, 3 Remanded from Appellate Court, 4 Reinstated or Reopened, 5 Transferred from Another District (specify), 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer, 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2), RCW § 4.24.070, RCW § 19.86.010, et seq. Brief description of cause: Violations of RCW § 4.24.070, RCW § 19.86.010, et seq., and Unjust Enrichment

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. DEMAND \$ 5,000,000.00 CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions): JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER

DATE 04/06/2018 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD /s/ Janissa A. Strabuk

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # AMOUNT APPLYING IFP JUDGE MAG. JUDGE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

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

- I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence.** For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys.** Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
 United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.
 United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.
 Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
 Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions](#).
- V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.
 Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
 Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
 Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
 Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
 Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
 Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.
 Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.
PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.
- VI. Cause of Action.** Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.
 Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.
 Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases.** This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.
- Date and Attorney Signature.** Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

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

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Western District of Washington

ADRIENNE BENSON, individually and on behalf of
all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff(s)

v.

DOUBLE DOWN INTERACTIVE, LLC, a Washington
limited liability company, and INTERNATIONAL
GAME TECHNOLOGY, a Nevada corporation,

Defendant(s)

Civil Action No.

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) Double Down Interactive, LLC
605 Fifth Avenue South, Ste. 300
Seattle, Washington 98104

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

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

Janissa Strabuk
Tousley Brain Stephens PLLC
1700 7th Avenue, Ste. 2200
Seattle, WA 98101
206-682-5600

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

CLERK OF COURT

Date:

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. _____

PROOF OF SERVICE

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

This summons for *(name of individual and title, if any)* _____
was received by me on *(date)* _____ .

I personally served the summons on the individual at *(place)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____ ; or

I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* _____
_____, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,
on *(date)* _____ , and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

I served the summons on *(name of individual)* _____ , who is
designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____ ; or

I returned the summons unexecuted because _____ ; or

Other *(specify)*:

My fees are \$ _____ for travel and \$ _____ for services, for a total of \$ _____ 0.00 .

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: _____

Server's signature

Printed name and title

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

Print

Save As...

Reset

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

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Western District of Washington

ADRIENNE BENSON, individually and on behalf of
all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff(s)

v.

DOUBLE DOWN INTERACTIVE, LLC, a Washington
limited liability company, and INTERNATIONAL
GAME TECHNOLOGY, a Nevada corporation,

Defendant(s)

Civil Action No.

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) International Game Technology
c/o Corporate Secretary
9295 Prototype Drive
Reno, Nevada 89521

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

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

Janissa Strabuk
Tousley Brain Stephens PLLC
1700 7th Avenue, Ste. 2200
Seattle, WA 98101
206-682-5600

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

CLERK OF COURT

Date:

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. _____

PROOF OF SERVICE

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

This summons for *(name of individual and title, if any)* _____
was received by me on *(date)* _____ .

I personally served the summons on the individual at *(place)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____ ; or

I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* _____
_____, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,
on *(date)* _____ , and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

I served the summons on *(name of individual)* _____ , who is
designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____ ; or

I returned the summons unexecuted because _____ ; or

Other *(specify)*: _____

My fees are \$ _____ for travel and \$ _____ for services, for a total of \$ _____ 0.00 _____ .

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: _____

Server's signature

Printed name and title

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

Print

Save As...

Reset

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: [Double Down Interactive, International Game Technology Latest Cos. to Face Online Gambling Suit in Washington](#)
