

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG DIVISION**

JENNIFER FARST, *individually and
on behalf of all others similarly situated,*

Plaintiff,

v.

MICHAELS STORES, INC.,

Defendant.

Case No.

CLASS ACTION

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Jennifer Farst brings this class action against Defendant Michaels Stores, Inc. and alleges as follows upon personal knowledge as to Plaintiff and Plaintiff's own acts and experiences, and, as to all other matters, upon information and belief, including investigation on conducted by Plaintiff's attorneys.

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. "Since the advent of online behavioral advertising ('OBA') in the late 1990s, businesses have become increasingly adept at tracking users visiting their websites." *Popa v. Harriet Carter Gifts, Inc.*, 426 F. Supp. 3d 108, 111 (W.D. Pa. 2019) (citations omitted). This case involves one of the most egregious examples of such consumer tracking and Internet privacy violations.

2. Plaintiff brings this case as a class action under the Pennsylvania Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance Control Act, 18 Pa. Cons. Stat. 5701, *et seq.* ("WESCA"). The case stems from Defendant's unlawful interception of Plaintiff's and Class members' electronic

communications through the use of “session replay” spyware that allowed Defendant to watch and record Plaintiff’s and the Class members’ visits to its website.

3. As discussed in detail below, Defendant utilized “session replay” spyware to intercept Plaintiff’s and the Class members’ electronic computer-to-computer data communications with Defendant’s website, including how they interacted with the website, their mouse movements and clicks, keystrokes, search terms, information inputted into the website, and pages and content viewed while visiting the website. Defendant intercepted, stored, and recorded electronic communications regarding the webpages visited by Plaintiff and the Class members, as well as everything Plaintiff and the Class members did on those pages, *e.g.*, what they searched for, what they looked at, the information they inputted, and what they clicked on.

4. Defendant intercepted the electronic communications at issue without the knowledge or prior consent of Plaintiff or the Class members. Defendant did so for its own financial gain and in violation of Plaintiff’s and the Class members’ substantive legal privacy rights under the WESCA.

5. The “session replay” spyware utilized by Defendant is not a traditional website cookie, tag, web beacon, or analytics tool. It is a sophisticated computer software that allows Defendant to contemporaneously intercept, capture, read, observe, re-route, forward, redirect, and receive incoming electronic communications to its website. Plaintiff’s and the Class members’ electronic communications are then stored by Defendant using an outside vendor’s services and can later be viewed and utilized by Defendant to create a session replay, which is essentially a video of a Class member’s entire visit to Defendant’s website.

6. “Technological advances[,]” such as Defendant’s use of session replay technology, “provide ‘access to a category of information otherwise unknowable’ and ‘implicate

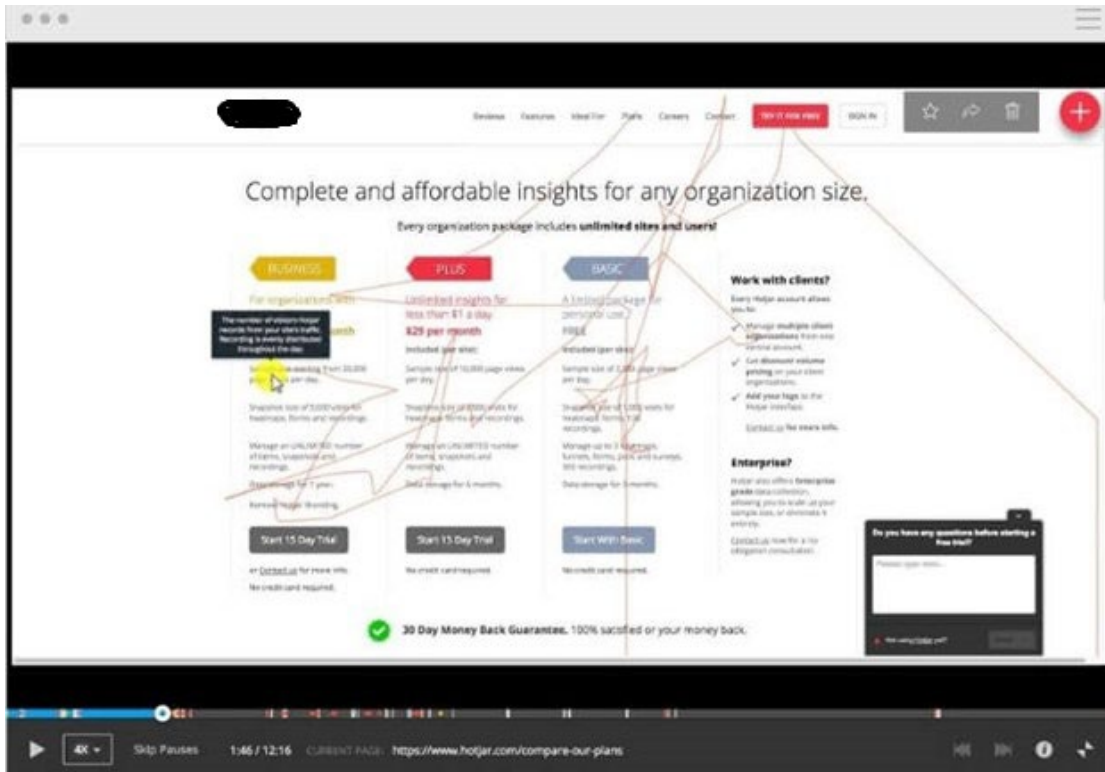
privacy concerns’ in a manner different from traditional intrusions as a ‘ride on horseback’ is different from ‘a flight to the moon.’” *Patel v. Facebook, Inc.*, 932 F.3d 1264, 1273 (9th Cir. 2019) (quoting *Riley v. California*, 573 U.S. 373, 393 (2014)).

7. The CEO of a major “session replay” software company – while discussing the merger of his company with another “session replay” provider – publicly exposed why companies like Defendant engage in recording visitors to their websites: “The combination of Clicktale and Contentsquare heralds an ***unprecedented goldmine of digital data*** that enables companies to interpret and predict the impact of any digital element -- including user experience, content, price, reviews and product -- on visitor behavior[.]” *See Contentsquare Acquires Clicktale to Create the Definite Global Leader in Experience Analytics*, available at www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/contentsquare-acquires-clicktale-to-create-the-definitive-global-leader-in-experience-analytics-300878232.html (last accessed May 10, 2021) (emphasis supplied). This CEO further admitted that “this unique data can be used to activate custom digital experiences in the moment via an ecosystem of over 50 martech partners. With a global community of customers and partners, ***we are accelerating the interpretation of human behavior online and shaping a future of addictive customer experiences.***” *Id.* (emphasis supplied).

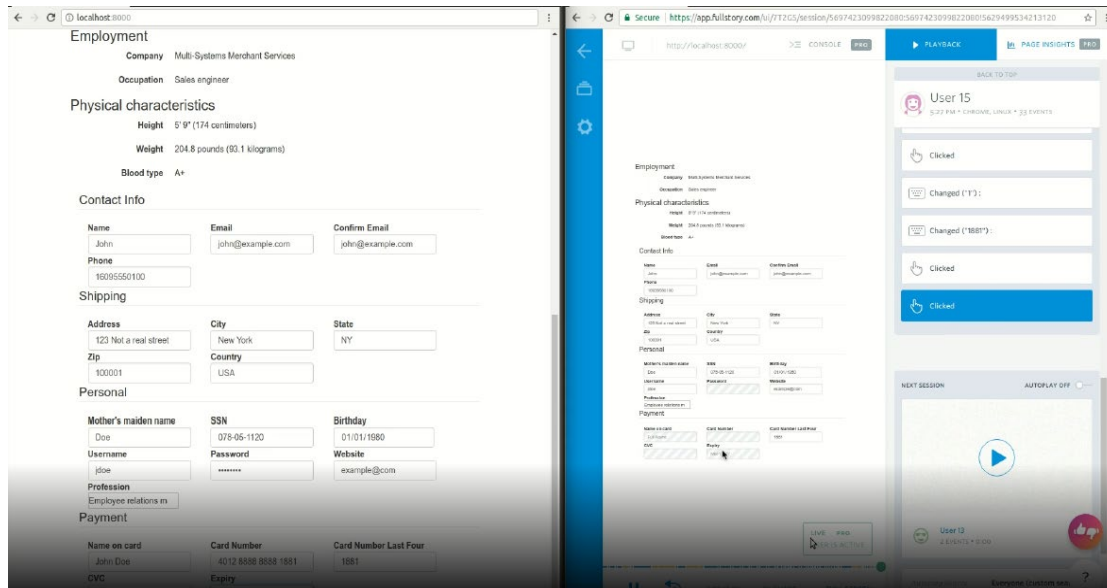
8. Unlike typical website analytics services that provide aggregate statistics, the session replay technology utilized by Defendant is intended to record and playback individual browsing sessions, as if someone is looking over a Class members’ shoulder when visiting Defendant’s website. The technology also permits companies like Defendant to view the interactions of visitors on their website in live in real-time.

9. The following screenshots provide an example of a typical recording of a visit to a website captured utilizing session replay software, which includes mouse movements, keystrokes and clicks, search terms, content viewed, and information inputted by the website visitor:

Mouse Movements, Keystrokes, and Clicks:



Information Inputted During Live Website Session:



LIVE WEBSITE

SESSION REPLAY DASHBOARD

10. The purported use of session replay technology is to monitor and discover broken website features. However, the extent and detail of the data collected by users of the technology, including Defendant, far exceeds the stated purpose and Plaintiff's and the Class members' expectations when visiting websites like Defendant's. The technology not only allows the recording and viewing of a visitor's electronic communications with a website, but also allows the user to create a detailed profile for each visitor to the site. Indeed, in an ongoing patent dispute, a well-known session replay provider openly admitted that this type of technology is utilized by companies like Defendant to make a profit: “[the] software computes billions of touch and mouse movements and transforms this knowledge into profitable actions that increase engagement, reduce operational costs, and maximize conversion rates (i.e., the percentage of users who take desired actions on a website, such as purchasing a product offered for sale).” *Content Square SAS v. Quantum Metric, Inc.*, Case No. 1:20-cv-00832-LPS, Compl. at ¶8, [DE 1] (D. Del. Jun. 22, 2020) (emphasis supplied).

11. Moreover, the collection and storage of page content may cause sensitive information and other personal information displayed on a page to leak to third parties. This may expose website visitors to identity theft, online scams, and other unwanted behavior.

12. In 2019, Apple warned application developers using session replay technology that they were required to disclose such tracking and recording to their users, or face being immediately removed from the Apple Store: “Protecting user privacy is paramount in the Apple ecosystem. Our App Store Review Guidelines require that apps request explicit user consent and provide a clear visual indication when recording, logging, or otherwise making a record of user activity.” <https://techcrunch.com/2019/02/07/apple-glassbox-apps/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2021).

13. Consistent with Apple’s concerns, countless articles have been written about the privacy implications of recording user interactions during a visit to a website, including the following examples:

- (a) *The Dark Side of ‘Replay Sessions’ That Record Your Every Move Online*, located at <https://www.wired.com/story/the-dark-side-of-replay-sessions-that-record-your-every-move-online/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2021);
- (b) *Session-Replay Scripts Disrupt Online Privacy in a Big Way*, located at <https://www.techrepublic.com/article/session-replay-scripts-are-disrupting-online-privacy-in-a-big-way/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2021);
- (c) *Are Session Recording Tools a Risk to Internet Privacy?*, located at <https://mopinion.com/are-session-recording-tools-a-risk-to-internet-privacy/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2021);

(d) *Session Replay is a Major Threat to Privacy on the Web*, located at <https://www.itnews.com.au/news/session-replay-is-a-major-threat-to-privacy-on-the-web-477720> (last visited Mar. 16, 2021);

(e) *Session Replay Scripts Could be Leaking Sensitive Data*, located at <https://medium.com/searchencrypt/session-replay-scripts-could-be-leaking-sensitive-data-5433364b2161> (last visited Mar. 16, 2021); and

(f) *Website Owners can Monitor Your Every Scroll and Click*, located at <https://www.digitalinformationworld.com/2020/02/top-brands-and-websites-can-monitor-your-every-scroll-and-click.html> (last visited Mar. 16, 2021).

14. In sum, Defendant intercepted the electronic communications of Plaintiff and the Class members through their visits to its website, causing them injuries, including violations of their substantive legal privacy rights under the WESCA, invasion of their privacy, and potential exposure of their private information.

15. Through this action, Plaintiff seeks damages authorized by the WESCA on behalf of herself and the Class members, defined below, and any other available legal or equitable remedies to which they are entitled.

PARTIES

16. Plaintiff is, and at all times relevant hereto was, a natural person and a permanent resident of the State of Pennsylvania.

17. Defendant is, and at all times relevant hereto was, a corporation duly organized and validly existing under the laws of Delaware and maintains its principal place of business in Texas. Defendant is therefore a citizen of Delaware and Texas.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

18. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant directs, markets, and provides its business activities throughout the State of Pennsylvania, and makes its active commercial website available to residents of Pennsylvania for those interested in entering into contracts over the Internet with Defendant. Indeed, Defendant's website allows residents of Pennsylvania to make purchases utilizing the website. During the relevant time frame, Defendant entered into contracts for the sale of goods with residents of Pennsylvania that involved the knowing and repeated transmission of computer data over the Internet. This resulted in Defendant generating revenue from sales to residents of Pennsylvania, as well accepting payments from Pennsylvania residents through the site and ultimately shipping products to Pennsylvania. Plaintiff's and the Class members' claims arise directly from Defendant's operation of its website.

19. Further, this Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant's tortious conduct against Plaintiff occurred in substantial part within this District and because Defendant committed the same wrongful acts to other individuals within this judicial District, such that Defendant's acts complained of herein occurred within this District, subjecting Defendant to jurisdiction here. Thus, Defendant knew or should have known that it was causing harm to those individuals while they were in Pennsylvania such that it was foreseeable to Defendant that its interceptions would harm Plaintiff and other similarly-situated individuals located in Pennsylvania.

20. This court has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2) because at least one member of the putative class, including Plaintiff, is a citizen of Pennsylvania, and Defendant is a citizen of Delaware and Texas, thus CAFA's minimal diversity requirement is met. Additionally, Plaintiff seeks, at minimum, \$1,000.00 in damages for each violation, which, when

aggregated among a proposed class of over 5,000, exceeds the \$5,000,000 threshold for federal court jurisdiction under the Class Action Fairness Act (“CAFA”).

21. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and (c) because Defendant is deemed to reside in any judicial district in which it is subject to personal jurisdiction, and because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred in this District, and because Plaintiff was injured in this District.

FACTS

22. Defendant owns and operates the following website: www.michaels.com.

23. Over the past year, Plaintiff visited Defendant’s website approximately 12 or more times.

24. Plaintiff most recently visited Defendant’s website on or about August 2022.

25. Plaintiff was in Pennsylvania during each visit to Defendant’s website.

26. During her visits to the website, Plaintiff, through her computer and/or mobile device, transmitted electronic communications in the form of instructions to Defendant’s computer servers utilized to operate the website. The commands were sent as messages instructing Defendant what content was being viewed, clicked on, requested and/or inputted by Plaintiff. The communications sent by Plaintiff to Defendant’s servers included, but were not limited to, the following actions taken by Plaintiff while on the website: mouse clicks and movements, keystrokes, search terms, information inputted by Plaintiff, pages and content viewed by Plaintiff, scroll movements, and copy and paste actions.

27. Defendant responded to Plaintiff’s electronic communications by supplying – through its website – the information requested by Plaintiff. *See Revitch v. New Moosejaw, LLC*,

No. 18-cv-06827-VC, 2019 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 186955, at *3 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 23, 2019) (“This series of requests and responses — whether online or over the phone — is communication.”).

28. Plaintiff reasonably expected that her visits to Defendant’s website would be private and that Defendant would not be tracking, recording, and/or watching Plaintiff as she browsed and interacted with the website, particularly because Plaintiff was never presented with any type of pop-up disclosure or consent form alerting Plaintiff that her visits to the website were being recorded by Defendant.

29. Plaintiff reasonably believed that she was interacting privately with Defendant’s website, and not that she was being recorded and that those recordings could later be watched by Defendant’s employees, or worse yet, live while Plaintiff was on the website.

30. Upon information and belief, over at least the past two years, Defendant has had embedded within its website code and has continuously operated at least one session replay script¹ that was provided by a third party (a “Session Replay Provider”). The session replay spyware was always active and intercepted every incoming data communication to Defendant’s website the moment a visitor accessed the site.

31. The Session Replay Provider(s) that provided the session replay spyware to Defendant is not a provider of wire or electronic communication services, or an internet service provider.

32. Defendant is not a provider of wire or electronic communication services, or an internet service provider.

33. Defendant’s use of session replay spyware was not instrumental or necessary to the operation or function of Defendant’s website or business.

¹ A script is a sequence of computer software instructions.

34. Defendant's use of a session replay spyware to intercept Plaintiff's electronic communications was not instrumental or necessary to Defendant's provision of any of its goods or services. Rather, the level and detail of information surreptitiously collected by Defendant indicates that the only purpose was to gain an unlawful understanding of the habits and preferences of users to its website, and the information collected was solely for Defendant's own benefit.

35. Defendant's use of a session replay spyware to intercept Plaintiff's electronic communications did not facilitate, was not instrumental, and was not incidental to the transmission of Plaintiff's electronic communications with Defendant's website.

36. Upon information and belief, during one or more of Plaintiff's visits to Defendant's website, Defendant utilized session replay spyware to intentionally and contemporaneously intercept the substance of Plaintiff's electronic communications with Defendant's website, including mouse clicks and movements, keystrokes, search terms, information inputted by Plaintiff, pages and content viewed by Plaintiff, and scroll movements, and copy and paste actions. In other words, Defendant intercepted, stored, and recorded the webpages visited by Plaintiff, as well as everything Plaintiff did on those pages, what Plaintiff searched for, what Plaintiff looked at, and the information Plaintiff inputted.

37. The session replay spyware intentionally utilized by Defendant contemporaneously intercepted the electronic computer-to-computer data communications between Plaintiff's computer and/or mobile device and the computer servers and hardware utilized by Defendant to operate its website – as the communications were transmitted from Plaintiff's computer and/or mobile device to Defendant's computer servers and hardware – and copied and sent and/or re-routed the communications to a storage file within the Session Replay Provider(s)'s server(s). The

intercepted data was transmitted contemporaneously to the Session Replay Provider(s) server(s) as it was sent from Plaintiff's computer and/or mobile device.

38. The relevant facts regarding the full parameters of the communications intercepted and how the interception occurred are solely within the possession and control of Defendant.

39. The session replay spyware utilized by Defendant is not a website cookie, standard analytics tool, tag, web beacon, or other similar technology.

40. Unlike the harmless collection of an internet protocol address, the data collected by Defendant identified specific information inputted and content viewed, and thus revealed personalized and sensitive information about Plaintiff's internet activity and habits.

41. The electronic communications intentionally intercepted by Defendant by Defendant was content generated through Plaintiff's intended use, interaction, and communication with Defendant's website relating to the substance, purport, and/or meaning of Plaintiff's communications with the website, *i.e.*, mouse clicks and movements, keystrokes, search terms, information inputted by Plaintiff, and pages and content clicked on and viewed by Plaintiff.

42. The electronic communications intentionally intercepted by Defendant were not generated automatically and were not incidental to Plaintiff's communications.

43. The session replay spyware utilized by Defendant intercepted, copied, replicated, and sent the data in a manner that was undetectable by Plaintiff.

44. Plaintiff's electronic data communications were then stored by Defendant and/or the Session Replay Provider(s).

45. The electronic data communications were not only intercepted and stored, but could also be used by Defendant to create a video playback of Plaintiff's visit to the website.

Additionally, upon information and belief, the session replay technology utilized by Defendant gave Defendant the ability to view Plaintiff's website visits live in real-time as they were occurring.

46. Defendant's interception of Plaintiff's electronic communications allowed Defendant to capture, observe, and divulge Plaintiff's personal interests, browsing history, queries, and habits as she interacted with and browsed Defendant's website.

47. Upon information and belief, Defendant similarly intercepted the electronic communications of at least 5,000 individuals located in Pennsylvania who visited Defendant's website.

48. Defendant utilized a spyware embedded within its website to intercept the communications at issue.

49. Defendant never alerted or asked Plaintiff or the Class Members for permission to intercept and record their visits to Defendant's website using "session replay" spyware.

50. Plaintiff and the Class members never consented to interception of their electronic communications by Defendant or anyone acting on Defendant's behalf, and they were never given the option to opt out of Defendant's recording.

51. At no point in time did Plaintiff or the Class members provide Defendant, its employees, or agents with consent to intercept their electronic communications using "session replay" spyware.

52. At no point in time did Plaintiff or the Class members specifically, clearly, and unmistakably consent to Defendant's interception and recording of their electronic communications using "session replay" spyware.

53. At no point in time did Plaintiff or the Class members specifically, clearly, and unmistakably consent to Defendant's interception and recording of their visits to Defendant's website using "session replay" spyware.

54. Plaintiff and the Class members did not have a reasonable opportunity to discover Defendant's unlawful interceptions because Defendant did not disclose its interception nor seek consent from Plaintiff and the Class members prior to interception of their communications.

55. Plaintiff and the Class members never clicked or otherwise agreed to any disclosure or consent form authorizing Defendant to intercept Plaintiff's and the Class members' electronic communications using "session replay" spyware.

56. Defendant intercepted Plaintiff's and the Class members' electronic communications from the moment they landed on Defendant's website, and before they had an opportunity to even consider consenting or agreeing to any privacy or terms of use policy on the website. In other words, Defendant's unlawful interception occurred before Plaintiff and the Class members were given an opportunity to review, let alone consent, to any language that Defendant may claim purportedly authorized its violations of the WESCA.

57. Moreover, Defendant's website failed to explicitly alert or otherwise notify Plaintiff and the Class members that Defendant would be utilizing session replay spyware to monitor and record their interactions with Defendant's website.

58. Additionally, upon immediately landing on Defendant's website, Plaintiff and the Class members were not alerted that by entering the website Defendant would unilaterally attempt to bind them Defendant's terms and policies or privacy policy. Indeed, the landing page to Defendant's website not only fails to advise visitors that Defendant is intercepting their electronic

communications, it does not contain any type of conspicuous disclosure regarding Defendant's terms of use or privacy policy.

59. Plaintiff and the Class members were not immediately required to click on any box or hyperlink containing Defendant's terms of use or privacy policy upon visiting the website or in order to navigate through the website.

60. Plaintiff and the Class members were not placed on notice of Defendant's terms and policies or privacy policy upon immediately visiting the website. Instead, Defendant's terms of use and privacy policy are buried at the bottom of Defendant's website where Plaintiff and the Class members were unable to see them.

61. Defendant does not require visitors to its website to immediately and directly acknowledge that the visitor has read Defendant's terms of use or privacy policy before proceeding to the site. In other words, Defendant's website does not immediately direct visitors to the site to the terms of use or privacy policy, and does not require visitors to click on a box to acknowledge that they have reviewed the terms and conditions/policy in order to proceed to the website.

62. Upon information and belief, at least one of the purposes of Defendant's interception of Plaintiff's and the Class members' electronic communications was to allow Defendant to learn of Plaintiff's and the Class members' personal preferences and likes, which would then be used to market Defendant's services and goods to Plaintiff and the Class members.

63. Defendant's surreptitious interception of Plaintiff's and the Class members' electronic communications caused Plaintiff and the Class members harm, including violations of their substantive legal privacy rights under the WESCA, invasion of privacy, invasion of their rights to control information concerning their person, and/or the exposure of their private information. Moreover, Defendant's practices caused harm and a material risk of harm to

Plaintiff's and the Class Members' privacy and interest in controlling their personal information, habits, and preferences.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

PROPOSED CLASS

64. Plaintiff brings this lawsuit as a class action on behalf of all other similarly situated persons pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23. The "Class" that Plaintiff seeks to represent is defined as:

All persons residing within the State of Pennsylvania (1) who visited Defendant's website and (2) whose electronic communications were intercepted by Defendant or on Defendant's behalf (3) without their prior consent.

65. Defendant and its employees or agents are excluded from the Class. Plaintiff reserves the right to modify or amend the Class definitions, as appropriate, during the course of this litigation.

NUMEROSITY

66. The Class members are so numerous that individual joinder of all Class members is impracticable. Upon information and belief, Defendant intercepted the electronic communications of over 5,000 individuals. Class members may be notified of the pendency of this action by recognized, Court-approved notice dissemination methods, which may include notice on Defendant's website, U.S. Mail, electronic mail, Internet postings, and/or published notice.

67. The identities of the Class members are unknown at this time and can be ascertained only through discovery. Identification of the Class members is a matter capable of ministerial determination from Defendant's records kept in connection with its unlawful interceptions.

COMMON QUESTIONS OF LAW AND FACT

68. There are numerous questions of law and fact common to the Class which predominate over any questions affecting only individual members of the Class. Among the questions of law and fact common to the Class are:

- (1) Whether Defendant violated the WESCA;
- (2) Whether Defendant intercepted Plaintiff's and the Class members' electronic communications;
- (3) Whether Defendant disclosed to Plaintiff and the Class Members that it was intercepting their electronic communications;
- (4) Whether Defendant secured prior consent before intercepting Plaintiff's and the Class members' electronic communications; and
- (5) Whether Defendant is liable for damages, and the amount of such damages.

69. The common questions in this case are capable of having common answers. If Plaintiff's claim that Defendants routinely intercepts electronic communications without securing prior consent is accurate, Plaintiff and the Class members will have identical claims capable of being efficiently adjudicated and administered in this case.

TYPICALITY

70. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class members, as they are all based on the same factual and legal theories.

PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF THE CLASS MEMBERS

71. Plaintiff is a representative who will fully and adequately assert and protect the interests of the Class and has retained competent counsel. Accordingly, Plaintiff is an adequate representative and will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class.

SUPERIORITY

72. A class action is superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this lawsuit because individual litigation of the claims of all members of the Class is economically unfeasible and procedurally impracticable. While the aggregate damages sustained by the Class are potentially in the millions of dollars, the individual damages incurred by each member of the Class resulting from Defendant's wrongful conduct are too small to warrant the expense of individual lawsuits. The likelihood of individual Class members prosecuting their own separate claims is remote, and, even if every member of the Class could afford individual litigation, the court system would be unduly burdened by individual litigation of such cases.

73. The prosecution of separate actions by members of the Class would create a risk of establishing inconsistent rulings and/or incompatible standards of conduct for Defendant. For example, one court might enjoin Defendant from performing the challenged acts, whereas another may not. Additionally, individual actions may be dispositive of the interests of the Class, although certain class members are not parties to such actions.

COUNT I
Violations of the WESCA, 18 Pa. Cons. Stat. 5701, et seq.
(On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)

74. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

75. The Pennsylvania Wiretap and Electronic Surveillance Control Act (the "Act") prohibits (1) the interception or procurement of another to intercept any wire, electronic, or oral communication; (2) the intentional disclosure of the contents of any wire, electronic, or oral communication that the discloser knew or should have known was obtained through the interception of a wire, electronic, or oral communication; and (3) the intentional use of the contents of any wire, electronic, or oral communication that the discloser knew or should have known was

obtained through the interception of a wire, electronic, or oral communication. 18 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 5703.

76. Any person who intercepts, discloses, or uses or procures any other person to intercept, disclose, or use, a wire, electronic, or oral communication in violation of the Act is subject to a civil action for (1) actual damages, not less than liquidated damages computed at the rate of \$100/day for each violation or \$1,000, whichever is higher; (2) punitive damages; and (3) reasonable attorneys' fees and other litigation costs incurred. 18 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 5725(a).

77. Defendant procured Session Replay software to automatically and secretly spy on, and intercept, Defendant's website visitor's electronic communications with Defendant in real-time.

78. To facilitate this wiretap, Defendant installed its Session Replay Provider's code on its website.

79. Upon information and belief, Defendant knew that its Session Replay Provider would add its visitor's information, procured through the wiretap, to its back-end database and disclose that information to other users of its Session Replay Provider's code as part of its effort to de-anonymize visitors.

80. Upon information and belief, Defendant intentionally used information of its visitors, obtained through its Session Replay Provider's wiretap on other websites, to de-anonymize users of Defendant's site.

81. Defendant intentionally intercepted Defendant's website visitors' electronic communications in real-time.

82. Plaintiff and the putative class members engaged in communications with Defendant through use of Defendant's website.

83. Plaintiff and the putative class members had a justified and reasonable expectation under the circumstances that their electronic communications would not be intercepted.

84. Defendant employed its Session Replay Provider to intercept Plaintiff and the putative class members' electronic communications with Defendant.

85. Because the code is secret and encrypted, Plaintiff and the putative class members were not aware that their electronic communications were being intercepted by Defendant's Session Replay Provider.

86. Plaintiff and the putative class members did not consent to having their communications intercepted by Defendant or its Session Replay Provider.

87. As a result of Defendant's conduct, and pursuant to § 5725 of the WESCA, Plaintiff and the other members of the putative Class were harmed and are each entitled to actual damages, liquidated damages, punitive damages, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. 18 Pa. Cons. Stat § 5725(a).

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the other members of the Class, prays for the following relief:

- a. An order certifying the Class and appointing Plaintiff as Class Representative and her counsel as Class Counsel;
- b. An award of actual damages, statutory damages, liquidated damages, and/or punitive damages;
- c. An aware of reasonable attorney's fees and costs; and
- d. Such further and other relief the Court deems reasonable and just.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff and Class Members hereby demand a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

DOCUMENT PRESERVATION DEMAND

Plaintiff demands that Defendant take affirmative steps to preserve all records, lists, electronic databases or other itemizations associated with the allegations herein, including all records, lists, electronic databases or other itemizations in the possession of any vendors, individuals, and/or companies contracted, hired, or directed by Defendant to assist in sending the alleged communications.

Dated: September 14, 2022

Respectfully Submitted,

By: **MARCUS ZELMAN LLC**

/s/ Ari H. Marcus
Ari H. Marcus, Esq. (Pennsylvania Bar
No. 322283)
701 Cookman Avenue, Suite 300
Asbury Park, New Jersey 07712
Telephone: (732) 695-3282
Fascimile: (732) 298-6256
Ari@marcuszelman.com
Counsel for Plaintiff and Proposed Class

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO LOCAL RULE 11.2

I, Ari H. Marcus, the undersigned attorney of record for Plaintiff, do hereby certify to my own knowledge and based upon information available to me at my office, the matter in controversy is not the subject of any other action now pending in any court or in any arbitration or administrative proceeding.

Dated: September 14, 2022

/s/ Ari H. Marcus
Ari H. Marcus, Esq.

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

JENNIFER FARST

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

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Marcus & Zelman, LLC 701 Cookman Ave Ste 300 Asbury Park NJ 07712 732-695-3282

DEFENDANTS

MICHAEL'S STORES, INC.

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (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)

- Citizen of This State, Citizen of Another State, Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country, PTF DEF, 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)

Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.

Table with columns: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, CIVIL RIGHTS, TORTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES. Includes various legal categories like Personal Injury, Labor, Intellectual Property Rights, etc.

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): 18 Pa. Cons. Stat. 5701, et seq. Brief description of cause: Violations of WESCA - Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance Control

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

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

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions): JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER

DATE SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

September 14, 2022 /s/ Jennifer Farst

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.
 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.

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: [Consumer Sues Michaels, AutoZone, Chewy Over Alleged 'Spyware' Software on Websites](#)
