	1	Case 4:16-cv-07133-KAW Docume	nt 1 Filed 12/14/16 Page 1 of 9				
	<ul> <li>VINCENT J. BARTOLOTTA, JR., ESQ. (SBN 055139) E-mail: Bartolotta@tbmlawyers.com</li> <li>KAREN R. FROSTROM, ESQ. (SBN 207044) E-mail: Frostrom@tbmlawyers.com</li> <li>CHARLYNNE I. REJAIAN. (SBN 299705) E-mail: Rejaian@tbmlawyers.com</li> <li>THORSNES BARTOLOTTA McGUIRE LLP 2550 Fifth Avenue, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor</li> <li>San Diego, California 92103 Tel: (619) 236-9363 Fax: (619) 236-9653</li> <li>Attorneys for Plaintiff Christopher Jenkins</li> <li>IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT</li> <li>NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA</li> </ul>						
	10						
	11	Christopher Jenkins	Case No.:				
	12	Plaintiff,	[CLASS ACTION]				
63 -9653	13	v.	COMPLAINT				
(619) 236-9363 FAX (619) 236-9653	14	Dickey's Barbecue Restaurants, Inc.,	[DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL]				
(619 FAX (6	15	Defendant.					
	16						
	17	Plaintiff alleges as follows under information and belief:					
	18	<u>P</u>	ARTIES				
	19	1. Plaintiff Christopher Jenkins, and at all times relevant herein was, a resident of the					
	20	State of California. Mr. Jenkins obtained a Dickey's Franchise Disclosure Document and					
	21	subsequently purchased a Dickey's franchise in Tracy, California.					
	22	2. Defendant Dickey's Barbecue Restaurant is a Texas corporation with its principal					
	23	place of business at 4514 Cole Avenue, Suite 1015, Dallas, Texas 75205. Defendant operates a					
	24	chain of corporate and franchise restaurants known as Dickey's Barbecue Pits.					
	25	JURISDICTION					
	26	3. The Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(1) in that					
	27	there is complete diversity of citizenship between all of the Plaintiffs and all of the Defendants and					
	28	the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.					
lv1			1 Case No.				
. v 1			Case No.				

4. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) in that a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in the judicial district.

#### **FACTS**

#### **Defendants:**

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

5. Defendant Dickey's was formed in 1994 for the purpose of selling Dickey's Barbecue Pit franchises. Dickey's has affiliated companies, Dickey's Barbecue Pit, Inc., Restaurant Growth, Inc. and Pitmaster Team, Inc., that operates corporate Dickey's Barbecue Pit restaurants in Texas and South Dakota. The first Dickey's Barbecue Pit opened in 1941.

6. Dickey's Barbecue Pit is a combination quick service/fast casual dining experience.
Customers place protein orders at the beginning of the service counter, then move down cafeteriastyle picking side dishes. When they reach the cash register, their protein order is waiting, allowing them to pay and immediately eat.

#### THE FRANCHISE

7. The Dickey's FDD provided to Plaintiff contained the following representations:

a. It would cost approximately \$60,000 to build out a restaurant conversion franchise location;

b. Dickey's would allow a franchise to request an alternate supplier, which request would be granted upon evaluation of objective and reasonable criteria.

19 c. Dickey's would protect Plaintiff's territory, which territory was to be selected20 by Plaintiff;

d. Dickey's would provide on-site evaluation to assist in the establishment of the
franchise;

e. Dickey's would provide an initial training prior to the opening of the
franchise;

25 f. Dickey's would allow a franchise to request menu changes, which request
26 would be granted upon evaluation of objective and reasonable criteria; and

g. Plaintiff owed a total of 9% of **net** sales to Dickey's to cover its royalty and
marketing fund.

8. Outside of the FDD, Dickey's employees made the following representations to
 Plaintiff:

a. Dickey's employees represented to the Plaintiff that Dickey's was
experiencing "tremendous growth" with store revenues increasing at a rate of 5% each year, that
Dickey's was the fastest growing barbecue concept in the country and that they were beating their
"record low build out costs" at just under \$60,000 including the franchise fee and purchase of initial
inventory;

8 b. It would cost Plaintiff nothing in "build out" costs to convert a restaurant
9 because Plaintiff would be taking over an already existing Dickey's franchise location from another
10 franchisee;

c. Dickey's would provide everything that a bank would need to approve a loan
to open the franchise;

d. Dickey's had never had a franchise that ever had trouble finding financing once they saw Dickey's business plan;

e. Dickey's would only sell one franchise in each Northern California city;

16 f. If Plaintiff did not accept the locations chosen by Dickey's, they would lose
17 their deposit and not be given another opportunity to open a franchise store in that city;

g. Plaintiff did not need to have prior restaurant experience because they would
be trained completely by Dickey's;

20 h. Dickey's was willing to overlook Plaintiff's lack of experience because he had
21 \$100,000 cash to invest in the franchise;

i. Plaintiff's store would make at least \$800,000 in the first year and it would
only go up from there. Plaintiff would make so much money that he would want a second and then a
third restaurant, at which point he could retire and just collect the income;

j. Plaintiff should get a secondary, not a prime, location because a Dickey's will
draw as a destination restaurant;

k. Dickey's provided national advertising for the franchisees out of the
marketing fund;

THORSNES BARTOLOTTA MCGUIRE LLP 2550Fifth Avenue, 11th Floor San Diego, California 92103 (619) 236-9363 FaX (619) 236-9653

13

14

15

#### 1. Plaintiff was required to buy a dedicated van to support the catering business; 1 Dickey's would provide accountings showing how it used the marketing fund; 2 m. Franchisees could purchase used equipment; 3 n. Dickey's required the stores to purchase from US Foods at a price that 4 о. 5 Dickey's negotiated for the benefit of its stores; Dickey's would cover Plaintiff's first order of inventory with the US Foods up 6 p. to \$10,000; and 7 A franchise could be sold, including transfer of all store obligations. 8 q. 9 **CLASS ALLEGATIONS** 9. The joinder of all class members as parties is impracticable. The disposition of these 10 claims in a class action will provide substantial benefits to both the parties and the Court. The class 11 is ascertainable and maintains a sufficient community of interest. The rights of each class member 12 13 were violated in a similar fashion upon Defendant's wrongful conduct. The remedy requested will involve all class members. 14 15 10. The class representative's claims are typical of the claims of the members of the class because of class representatives and all other members of the class were damaged by the same 16 17 wrongful conduct committed by Defendant as alleged more fully above and below. 18 11. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class. The interests of the class representative are coincident with, and not antagonistic to, the interests of the other 19 members of the class. 2021 12. The class representative has retained competent class counsel who are experienced in the prosecution of class-action litigation. 22 23 13. Questions of law and fact common to the members of the class are central here and 24 predominate over questions which may affect only individual members. 14. 25 Plaintiff brings this lawsuit individually and on behalf of those similarly situated. The class is defined as follow: All companies and individuals who own or have owned some portion 26 27 of a Dickey's Barbecue Pit franchise restaurant in the State of California. 28 15. Common issues amongst class members include: Δ

Case 4:16-cv-07133-KAW Document 1 Filed 12/14/16 Page 4 of 9

Case No.

	I	Case 4	4:16-c	v-07133-KAW Document 1 Filed 12/14/16 Page 5 of 9
	1		a.	They were sold a franchise based on a false FDD.
	2 b. They were misled about the cost of opening the restaurant.			They were misled about the cost of opening the restaurant.
	3 c. They were not provided with appropriate marketing and promotional s			They were not provided with appropriate marketing and promotional support.
	4 d. They were not provided a protected territory.			
5 e. They were forced to purchase goods at above-market prices			They were forced to purchase goods at above-market prices.	
6 f. They were subjected to excessive expenses.			They were subjected to excessive expenses.	
	7		g.	They were not provided adequate training.
	8			FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION
	9	Fraud		
	10	16.	All p	receding allegations are incorporated by reference.
	11	17.	Defe	ndant made the following representations to Plaintiff:
	12		a.	It would cost Plaintiff nothing in "build out" costs to convert a restaurant
9653	13	because Plaintiff would be taking over an already existing Dickey's franchise location from another		
FAX (619) 236-9653	14	franchisee;		
FAX (6	15		b.	Dickeys' would cover Plaintiff's first opening order up to \$10,000;
	16		c.	Dickey's was selling franchises in Northern California pursuant to a lawful
	17	FDD;		
	18		d.	Dickey's would provide a protected territory;
	19		e.	Dickey's would provide an on-site evaluation prior to lease execution;
	20		f.	Dickey's would provide pre-opening training;
/	21		g.	Royalties and marketing fees would be based on the "net" sales;
/	22		h.	Dickey's provided a valid basis for estimating anticipated restaurant revenues;
/	23		i.	Franchisees could use alternate suppliers so long as they suggested sources
/	24	that could be objectively evaluated as reliable;		
25 26			j.	Franchisees could add new menu items so long as they could demonstrate that
		they were con	nducive	e to the Dickey's image and standards;
	27		k.	Dickey's operated a national marketing program and conducted promotions;
	28		1.	Dickey's would provide accountings related to its marketing program;
-1				5
/1				Case No.

Case 4:16-cv-07133-KAW Document 1 Filed 12/14/16 Page 6 of 9				
1	m. The franchisees could purchase used equipment;			
2	n. A senior member of Dickey's would be present for the restaurant opening; and			
3	o. That Dickey's negotiated competitive prices at group discount rates.			
4	18. Those representations were false as follows:			
5	a. The cost of opening the store exceeded specific and written representation			
6	6 b. Dickey's did not cover the cost of Plaintiff's initial order of \$10,000 with			
7	Foods;			
8	c. The FDD contained material falsities;			
9	d. Dickey's did not provide a protected territory;			
10	e. Dickey's did not provide a pre-opening evaluation of the restaurants;			
11	f. Dickey's did not provide pre-opening training, instead, they made the			
12	franchisees travel to Texas to wash dishes in their affiliates' corporate stores;			
13	g. Royalties and marketing fees were not calculated based on the net sales, but			
14	rather, were calculated based on gross sales. Had they been calculated based on net sales, no			
15	royalties would ever have been due because the store was never profitable;			
16	h. Pre-contract representations created an unreasonable expectation of how much			
17	Plaintiff's store would earn;			
18	i. Plaintiff requested a change in vendors to decrease costs and improve product			
19	quality, and each time the new vendor was either superior or equal to the existing vendor, but no			
20	approval was forthcoming;			
21	j. Plaintiff requested permission to offer new menu items such as BBQ chicken			
22	salad or breakfast items, all of which are offered by other Dickey's stores, however, Dickey's			
23	refused each request;			
24	k. Dickey's did not offer a marketing program in Northern California, those			
25	dollars were spent in Texas where they provided no benefit to Plaintiff's restaurant;			
26	1. Dickey's also did not provide promotions; the franchisees, Plaintiff included,			
27	were on their own to come up with their own promotions on a case by case basis;			
28	m. Plaintiff never received any marketing fund accountings;			
	6			
	Case No.			

THORSNES BARTOLOTTA MCGUIRE LLP 2550 FIFTH AVENUE, 11 TH FLOOR San Diego, CALIPORNA 92 103 (619) 236-9363 FAX (619) 236-9653

Dickey's required Plaintiff to purchase expensive oversized and new 1 n. 2 equipment; A senior member of Dickey's did not attend Plaintiff's store opening; and 3 0. 4 Dickey's franchisees, including Plaintiff, were forced to purchase product at p. 5 over-market prices and were not permitted to source cheaper equivalent quality replacement. 19. At the time each of the above misrepresentations was made, Defendants knew or 6 should have known of the falsity. 7 20. Plaintiff relied on the representations in deciding to pay the application fee and open a 8 Dickey's Barbecue Pit. 9 21. As a result of Defendant's bad conduct, Plaintiff suffered injury in an amount to be 10 proven at the time of trial. 11 22. 12 Defendant committed the above-described conduct with oppression, fraud, and 13 malice, entitling Plaintiff to an award of punitive damages. 14 SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION Violation of California Franchise Investment Law 15 16 23. All preceding allegations are incorporated by reference. 17 24. California Corporations Code §§ 31200 and 31201 prohibits misrepresentation or material omission in a Franchise Disclosure Document. 18 19 25. California Corporations Code § 31302 provides that anyone who participates in the violation of the California Franchise Investment Law is jointly and severally liable for all damages 20awarded. 21 22 26. Defendant violated each of the above-referenced laws. 27. Defendant's violation of the Franchise Investment Laws caused damage to Plaintiff in 23 an amount to be proven at the time of trial. 24 25 28. Plaintiff will also seek an award of attorneys' fees, declaratory relief and injunctive 26 relief as provided by California Corporations Code § 31302.5. 27 /// 28 /// 7 Case No.

Case 4:16-cv-07133-KAW Docu	
1 <u>THIRD</u>	1
2 Violation of	
3 29. All preceding allegations ar	
4 30. Defendant engaged in unfai	
5 31. Defendant engaged in fraud	5
6 32. Defendant engaged in unlaw	
7 33. Plaintiff was proximately h	7
8 and/or unlawful conduct.	8
9 <u>FOURT</u>	9
10 D	10
1134.All preceding allegations ar	11 II
12 35. Section 27 of the franchise	
2 13 Plaintiff and Dickey's to be resolved by A	17H FLOC
Plaintiff seeks a judicial declaration to that	LOTT Zaliforn (236-936 [19)236-9
$\frac{1}{2}$ from enforcing the provision unlawfully.	ARTO Diedo, O FAX (6) FAX (6)
16 <b><u>DEMAN</u></b>	NES 2550 B SAN 7550 B
17 Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by	17 ITHOKS
18 action.	
19 <u>PRA</u>	19
20 Wherefore, Plaintiff prays for relie	20
21 <u>On the First Cause of Action</u> :	21
221.For damages according to p	22
232.For punitive damages;	23
243.For costs of suit;	24
254.For such and other relief as	25
26 <u>On the Second Cause of Action</u> :	26
271.For damages according to p	27
282.For an award of attorneys' to	28
1	1209091v1

#### **CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### f Unfair Competition Laws

re incorporated by reference.

r conduct as is set forth above.

lulent conduct as is set forth above.

wful conduct as is set forth above.

armed as the result of Defendant's unfair, fraudulent

### H CAUSE OF ACTION

#### eclaratory Relief

re incorporated by reference.

agreement purports to require all disputes between

AA arbitration. This provision is unenforceable and

end and, if necessary, an injunction to prevent Dickey's

## ND FOR JURY TRIAL

jury, on all issues triable by a jury, in the above-entitled

#### YER FOR RELIEF

f as follows:

- proof;
  - the Court deems appropriate.
- proof;
- fees:

	I	Case	4:16-cv-07133-KAW Document 1 Filed 12/14/16 Page 9 of 9	I			
	1	3. For costs of suit; and					
	2	4. For such and other relief as the Court deems appropriate.					
	3	On the Third Cause of Action:					
	4	1.	For declaratory relief;				
	5	2.	For injunctive relief;				
	6	3.	3. For restitution and disgorgement.				
	7	4.	4. For costs of suit; and				
	8	5. For such and other relief as the Court deems appropriate.					
	9	On the Fourth Cause of Action:					
	10	1.	For declaratory relief;				
	11	2.	2. For injunctive relief;				
1	12	3.	For costs of suit; and				
363 5-9653	13	4.	For such and other relief as the Court deems appropriate.				
(619) 236-9363 FAX (619) 236-9653	14						
(61 FAX (	15	Dated: Decer	mber 14, 2016 THORSNES BARTOLOTTA McGUIRE LLP				
	16		By: /s/Karen R. Frostrom				
	17		VINCENT J. BARTOLOTTA, JR., ESQ. KAREN R. FROSTROM, ESQ.				
	18		CHARLYNNE I. REJAIAN, ESQ. Attorneys for Christopher Jenkins				
	19						
	20						
	21						
	22						
	23						
	24						
	25						
	26						
	27						
	28						
1v1			9	Case No.			
	1	1					

## JS-CAND 44 (Rev. 07/16) Case 4:16-cv-07133-KAW Document 1 1 Filed 12/14/16 Page 1 of 2

The JS-CAND 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 in its original form by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the Clerk of Court to initiate the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS		DEFEND	DEFENDANTS				
Christopher Jenki	ns	Dickey's H	Dickey's Barbecue Restaurants, Inc.				
(E) Attorneys (Firm Name, Vincent J. Bartolotta, Thorsnes Bartolotta N	of First Listed Plaintiff San Joaquin EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) Address, and Telephone Number) Jr., Esq./Karen R. Frostrom, Esq. AcGuire LLP 1th Floor, San Diego, CA 92103 (619);	NOTE: IN TH Attorneys ( Paul J. Ferak, Greenberg Tr	THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED. Attorneys ( <i>If Known</i> ) Paul J. Ferak, Esq. Greenberg Traurig, LLP				
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)		F PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Plac				
U.S. Government Plaintiff	3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)	(For Diversity Cases Only) <b>PTF DEF</b> Citizen of This State <b>I</b> 1 1 Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State <b>I</b> 4 1 4					
2 U.S. Government Defendant	<b>*</b> 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	Citizen of Another State22Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State55Citizen or Subject of a33566				
IV. NATURE OF SUIT	(Place an "X" in One Box Only)	Toroigh Country					
CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENA	ALTY BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES			
<ul> <li>110 Insurance</li> <li>120 Marine</li> <li>130 Miller Act</li> <li>140 Negotiable Instrument</li> <li>150 Recovery of Overpayment Of Veteran's Benefits</li> <li>151 Medicare Act</li> <li>152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans)</li> <li>153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits</li> <li>160 Stockholders' Suits</li> <li>190 Other Contract</li> <li>195 Contract Product Liability</li> <li>196 Franchise</li> </ul>	PERSONAL INJURY       PERSONAL INJ         310 Airplane       365 Personal Injury         315 Airplane Product       1367 Health Care/         120 Assault, Libel &       Pharmaceutica         130 Federal Employers'       Product Liability         130 Federal Employers'       Injury         1340 Marine       Injury Product Liability         1345 Marine       Injury Product	URY 625 Drug Related Seizi of Property 21 USC of Property 21 USC 690 Other ity 690 Other <b>LABOR</b> <b>ERTY</b> 710 Fair Labor Standar Act 710 Fair Labor Standar Act 720 Labor/Managemen Relations age 740 Railway Labor Act age 740 Railway Labor Act age 751 Family and Medica Leave Act 790 Other Labor Litiga 790 Other Labor Litiga 791 Employee Retirem Income Security A e cate <b>IMMIGRATION</b> 462 Naturalization App 00ther Actions	Irre       422 Appeal 28 USC § 158         2 § 881       423 Withdrawal 28 USC § 157         PROPERTY RIGHTS         820 Copyrights         830 Patent         840 Trademark         SOCIAL SECURITY         ds       861 HIA (1395ff)         862 Black Lung (923)         t       863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))         864 SSID Title XVI         s65 RSI (405(g))         al         tion         ent         FEDERAL TAX SUITS         ct         870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)         871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC § 7609         N         viscation	<ul> <li>375 False Claims Act</li> <li>376 Qui Tam (31 USC § 3729(a))</li> <li>400 State Reapportionment</li> <li>410 Antitrust</li> <li>430 Banks and Banking</li> <li>450 Commerce</li> <li>460 Deportation</li> <li>470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations</li> <li>480 Consumer Credit</li> <li>490 Cable/Sat TV</li> <li>850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange</li> <li>890 Other Statutory Actions</li> <li>891 Agricultural Acts</li> <li>895 Freedom of Information Act</li> <li>896 Arbitration</li> <li>896 Arbitration</li> <li>896 Arbitration</li> <li>896 Arbitration</li> <li>950 Constitutionality of State Statutes</li> </ul>			
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only) 1 Original 2 Removed from State Court 3 Remanded from Appellate Court 4 Reinstated or Reopened 5 Transferred from Another District 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 Section 1332(a)(1)         Brief description of cause: Violation of CA Franchise Investment Law; Fraud, Violationi of Unfair Competition Laws and Declaratory Relief							
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:       CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, Fed. R. Civ. P.       DEMAND \$       CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND:         Image: State of the state							
VIII. RELATED CASE(S), IF ANY (See instructions):       JUDGE Hon. Jon S. Tigar         JUDGE Hon. Jon S. Tigar       DOCKET NUMBER 15-cv-02139-JST         IX. DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT (Civil Local Rule 3-2)       DOCKET NUMBER 15-cv-02139-JST							
(Place an "X" in One Box Only) ■ SAN FRANCISCO/OAKLAND ■ SAN JOSE ■ EUREKA-MCKINLEYVILLE							
<b>DATE:</b> 12/13/2016			ECORD: /s/ Karen R. Frostro				

Print

Reset

#### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS-CAND 44**

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet. The JS-CAND 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 in its original form by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the Clerk of Court to initiate 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 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a), 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.
  - (1) United States plaintiff. Jurisdiction based on 28 USC §§ 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.
  - (2) <u>United States defendant</u>. When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.
  - (3) Federal question. This refers to suits under 28 USC § 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.
  - (4) <u>Diversity of citizenship</u>. This refers to suits under 28 USC § 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-CAND 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 the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the six boxes.
  - (1) Original Proceedings. Cases originating in the United States district courts.
  - (2) <u>Removed from State Court</u>. Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 USC § 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
  - (3) <u>Remanded from Appellate Court</u>. Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
  - (4) <u>Reinstated or Reopened</u>. Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
  - (5) <u>Transferred from Another District</u>. For cases transferred under Title 28 USC § 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
  - (6) <u>Multidistrict Litigation Transfer</u>. Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 USC § 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.
  - (8) <u>Multidistrict Litigation Direct File</u>. Check this box when a multidistrict litigation case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.

<u>Please note that there is no Origin Code 7</u>. 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. <u>Example</u>: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC § 553. <u>Brief Description</u>: 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 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23.

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-CAND 44 is used to identify related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.
- **IX.** Divisional Assignment. If the Nature of Suit is under Property Rights or Prisoner Petitions or the matter is a Securities Class Action, leave this section blank. For all other cases, identify the divisional venue according to Civil Local Rule 3-2: "the county in which a substantial part of the events or omissions which give rise to the claim occurred or in which a substantial part of the property that is the subject of the action is situated."

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: Lawsuit: Dickey's Barbecue Restaurants, Inc. Lied to Franchisees