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10	Facsimile: (415) 512-4077	
11	Attorneys for AFFINITY INSURANCE SERVICES INC.	
12	UNITED STATES	DISTRICT COURT
13	CENTRAL DISTRIC	CT OF CALIFORNIA
14		
15	LANCE JOHNSON, individually and	Case No. 2:20-cv-07020
16	on behalf of all others similarly situated,	NOTICE OF REMOVAL
17	Plaintiff,	
18	VS.	
19		
19	AFFINITY INSURANCE SERVICES INC WHICH WILL DO BUSINESS	
20	INC., WHICH WILL DO BUSINESS IN CALIFORNIA AS AON AFFINITY	
	INC., WHICH WILL DO BUSINESS IN CALIFORNIA AS AON AFFINITY INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.;	
20	INC., WHICH WILL DO BUSINESS IN CALIFORNIA AS AON AFFINITY INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.; VIRGINIA SURETY COMPANY, INC., and DOES 1-10 Inclusive,	
20 21	INC., WHICH WILL DO BUSINESS IN CALIFORNIA AS AON AFFINITY INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.;	
20 21 22	INC., WHICH WILL DO BUSINESS IN CALIFORNIA AS AON AFFINITY INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.; VIRGINIA SURETY COMPANY, INC., and DOES 1-10 Inclusive,	
20 21 22 23	INC., WHICH WILL DO BUSINESS IN CALIFORNIA AS AON AFFINITY INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.; VIRGINIA SURETY COMPANY, INC., and DOES 1-10 Inclusive,	
20 21 22 23 24	INC., WHICH WILL DO BUSINESS IN CALIFORNIA AS AON AFFINITY INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.; VIRGINIA SURETY COMPANY, INC., and DOES 1-10 Inclusive,	
20 21 22 23 24 25	INC., WHICH WILL DO BUSINESS IN CALIFORNIA AS AON AFFINITY INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.; VIRGINIA SURETY COMPANY, INC., and DOES 1-10 Inclusive,	

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Defendant Affinity Insurance Services, Inc. dba Aon Affinity Insurance Services Inc. ("Affinity") hereby removes the above-captioned matter, commenced as Case Number 20STCV22641 in the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles (the "Action"), to the United States District Court for the Central District of California, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332(d), 1441, 1446, and 1453. In support of its Notice of Removal, Affinity states the following:

- 1. On June 11, 2020, Plaintiff Lance Johnson, individually and on behalf of a putative class, filed the Action in the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles against Affinity and Virginia Surety Company, Inc. ("Virginia Surety") (collectively, "Defendants").
- 2. At the earliest, Plaintiff first served Affinity with a summons and a copy of the Complaint on July 22, 2020. This removal petition is therefore timely under 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b).
- 3. Plaintiff asserts claims for (1) violation of California's Unfair Competition Law ("UCL"), Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*; (2) breach of contract; and (3) bad faith breach of an insurance contract. Plaintiff seeks an order requiring Defendants to "engage in corrective advertising" regarding the insurance products at issue. Compl. ¶ 97; Prayer D. Plaintiff also seeks, *inter alia*, compensatory damages, punitive damages, statutory enhanced damages, and attorneys' fees and costs. Prayer ¶¶ C–H.
- 4. The Action is a putative class action over which this Court has original jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)(A) (the "Class Action Fairness Act" or "CAFA"). It is (i) a class action; (ii) in which at least one member of the putative class of plaintiffs is a citizen of a state different from that of a Defendant; (iii) the number of members of the putative class of plaintiffs is not less than 100; and (iv) the amount allegedly in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and

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costs. See 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2), (d)(5)(B). Because the Action meets CAFA's requirements, it may be removed to this Court under the provisions of 28 U.S.C. §§ 1446 and 1453.

5. Where CAFA's requirements are met, as they are here, CAFA permits any defendant to remove unilaterally "without the consent of all defendants." See 28 U.S.C. § 1453(b); see also United Steel v. Shell Oil Co., 549 F.3d 1204, 1208-1209 (9th Cir. 2008). In addition, Affinity's co-defendant Virginia Surety need not join or consent to Affinity's notice of removal because it appears that Virginia Surety has not yet been served in the state court action. See Salveson v. W. States Bankcard Ass'n, 731 F.2d 1423, 1429 (9th Cir. 1984).

CAFA's Requirements for Removal Are Satisfied

- Covered Class Action. A case satisfies CAFA's class action 6. requirement if it is "filed under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or similar State statute . . . authorizing an action to be brought by 1 or more representative persons as a class action." 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(1)(B). The Action satisfies this definition, because Plaintiff brings his suit "as a class action pursuant to California [Civil Code] § 382," Compl. ¶ 8, which is California's equivalent to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. See Baumann v. Chase Inv. Serv. Co., 747 F.3d 1117, 1121 (9th Cir. 2014) (referring to Cal. Civ. Code § 382 as "the California class action statute").
- 7. Diversity. The diversity requirement of § 1332(d) is satisfied if at least one putative class member is a citizen of a different state than at least one defendant. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)(A). Here, Plaintiff is a citizen of California, and Affinity is a citizen of Pennsylvania, where it is incorporated and headquartered. Compl.
- ¶¶ 11, 13. CAFA's diversity requirement is therefore satisfied. Furthermore,
- Plaintiff purports to bring the Action on behalf of "[a]ll consumers who, between the

applicable statute of limitations and the present, purchased trip protection/insurance

policies guaranteed by" either Affinity or Virginia Surety "and were denied

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coverage." Compl. ¶ 47. So defined, the class includes members nationwide, and CAFA's diversity requirement is satisfied.

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The Putative Class Exceeds 100 Members. Plaintiff alleges "the proposed class is composed of thousands of persons," exceeding CAFA's 100member requirement. Compl. ¶ 55; 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(5)(B).

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is met if the claims of individual class members, when aggregated, exceed

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\$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2), (6). That is the

Amount in Controversy. CAFA's amount in controversy requirement

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case here. As noted, Plaintiff brings the Action on behalf of a putative class

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consisting of "[a]ll consumers who, between the applicable statute of limitations and

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the present, purchased trip protection/insurance policies guaranteed by" either

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Affinity or Virginia Surety "and were denied coverage." Compl. ¶ 47. The

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applicable statute of limitations for Plaintiff's claims is four years. Aryeh v. Canon

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Bus. Sols., Inc., 55 Cal. 4th 1185, 1193 (2013) (UCL); Gilkyson v. Disney

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Enterprises, Inc., 244 Cal. App. 4th 1336, 1341 (2016) (breach of contract);

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Hewlett-Packard Co. v. ACE Prop. & Cas. Ins. Co., 2009 WL 10694998, at *3

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of insurance contract).² In the four years preceding this Action, Affinity has denied

(N.D. Cal. Jan. 30, 2009), aff'd, 378 F. App'x 658 (9th Cir. 2010) (bad faith breach

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over 25,000 claims. The \$5,000,000 amount in controversy would be satisfied if the

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average claim paid during this period was as little as \$200 per claim, and in fact the

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accepted when not contested by the plaintiff or questioned by the court."). The notice of removal need include no more than a "plausible assertion" that the amount

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in controversy exceeds CAFA's jurisdictional requirements. Ibarra v. Manheim Invs., Inc., 775 F.3d 1193, 1197–98 (9th Cir. 2015).

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² To the extent Plaintiff's bad faith breach of insurance contract claim is premised on a tort theory, the applicable statute of limitations is two years. *Id.*

¹ An evidentiary showing of the amount in controversy is unnecessary to support a notice of removal. Dart Cherokee Basin Operating Co., LLC v. Owens, 574 U.S. 81, 87 (2014) ("[T]he defendant's amount-in-controversy allegation should be

average claim paid during that period is far greater. If one assumes that the value of granted and denied claims are comparable, the amount in controversy more than plausibly exceeds \$5,000,000.

- 10. In addition, the value of any injunctive relief—including requiring Affinity to engage in corrective advertising—as well as the amount of any attorneys' fees award, are included within the amount in controversy, further ensuring that the \$5,000,000 figure is easily satisfied here. *See Gonzales v. CarMax Auto Superstores, LLC*, 840 F.3d 644, 648–49 (9th Cir. 2016) ("[T]he amount in controversy includes, *inter alia*, damages (compensatory, punitive, or otherwise) and the cost of complying with an injunction, as well as attorneys' fees "); *Cohn v. Petsmart, Inc.*, 281 F.3d 837, 840 (9th Cir. 2002); *Perez v. Nidek Co. Ltd.*, 657 F. Supp. 2d 1156, 1162 (S.D. Cal. 2009).
- 11. <u>No CAFA Exceptions.</u> The Action does not fall within any exclusion to removal jurisdiction recognized by 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d).

Other Procedural Requirements for Removal Are Satisfied

- 12. <u>Removal to Proper Court.</u> This Court is part of the "district and division embracing the place where" the Action was filed—that is, Los Angeles County, California. 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a).
- 13. <u>Pleadings and Process.</u> As required by 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a), attached as Exhibit A is "a copy of all process, pleadings, and orders served upon" Affinity in the Action.
- 14. <u>Filing and Service</u>. A copy of this Notice of Removal is being filed with the Clerk of the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los

³ In asserting that the amount in controversy requirement is met here, Affinity of course does not concede that Plaintiff's claims have merit or that the putative class ultimately would be entitled to any amount of monetary relief. *See Lewis v. Verizon Commc'ns, Inc.*, 627 F.3d 395, 400 (9th Cir. 2010) ("The amount in controversy is simply an estimate of the total amount in dispute, not a prospective assessment of defendant's liability.").

1	Angeles, and is being served on all counsel of record, consistent with 28 U.S.C.
2	§ 1446(d). The Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los
3	Angeles is located within this district.
4	15. No Waiver or Admission. This Notice of Removal is filed for the
5	purpose of establishing jurisdiction only. Affinity denies the allegations and
6	damages claimed in the Complaint and files this Notice without waiving any
7	defenses, exceptions, or obligations that may exist in its favor in either state or
8	federal court. Nothing in this Notice constitutes an admission of any of the
9	allegations in the Complaint, including whether Plaintiff is entitled to bring this case
10	as a class action or recover any relief whatsoever as a result of his claims.
11	BASED ON THE FOREGOING, Affinity hereby removes this Action, now
12	pending in the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los
13	Angeles, Case Number 20STCV22641, to the United States District Court for the
14	Central District of California.
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16	DATED: August 5, 2020 MUNGER, TOLLES & OLSON LLP
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18	_
19	By: /s/ Mark B. Helm MARK B. HELM
20	Attorneys for AFFINITY INSURANCE
21	SERVICES INC.
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Case No. 2:20-cv-07020

EXHIBIT A

SUM-100

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) BY FAX

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):

Affinity Insurance Services, Inc. Which Will Do Business In California As Aon Affinity Insurance Services, Inc. (Additional parties attachment form is attached)

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):

LANCE JOHNSON, individually, and on behalf of all others similarly

FOR COURT USE ONLY (SOLO PARA USO DE LA CORTE)

Superior Court of California County of Los Angeles

JUN 11 2020

Sherri R. Carter Executive Officer/Clerk of Court Isaac Love

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. ¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta, Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is:

(El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Stanley Mosk Courthouse

111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles CA 90012

CASE NUMBER

20STCV22641

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Todd M. Friedman, 21550 Oxnard St., Suite 780 Woodland Hills, CA 91367, 323-306-4234

DATE: (Fecha) JUN 1 1 2020

SHERRI R. CARTER

Clerk, by (Secretario)

Deputy (Adjunto)

(For proof of service of this summons, use Proof of Service of Summons (form POS-010).)

(Para prueba de entrega de esta citatión use el formulario Proof of Service of Summons, (POS-010)).

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NOTICE	TO	THE	PERSO	N SE	RVED:	You	are	served
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as an individual defendant.

as the person sued under the fictitious name of (specify):

3.	on behalf of	(specify).

CCP 416.10 (corporation) under:

CCP 416.20 (defunct corporation)

CCP 416.40 (association or partnership)

other (specify):	
by personal delivery on (date):	

CCP 416.70 (conservatee) CCP 416.90 (authorized person)

CCP 416.60 (minor)

Page 1 of 1

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Attachme	achment is used, insert the foll ent form is attached."					ummons: "Additio	onal Parties	
List addition	onal parties (Check only one b	oox. Use a separa	ate page for ea	ach type of party.):			
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Virginia S	Surety Company, Inc.; an	d DOES 1-10	Inclusive,					
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Case 2:20-cv-07020-RGK-RAO Document 1-1 Filed 08/05/20 Page 4 of 30 Page ID #:10

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES	Reserved for Clerk's File Stamp
COURTHOUSE ADDRESS: Spring Street Courthouse 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012	FILED Superior Court of California County of Los Angeles
NOTICE OF CASE ASSIGNMENT UNLIMITED CIVIL CASE	06/11/2020 Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court By: Lovo Deputy
Your case is assigned for all purposes to the judicial officer indicated below.	CASE NUMBER: 20STCV22641

THIS FORM IS TO BE SERVED WITH THE SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT

	ASSIGNED JUDGE	DEPT	ROOM		ASSIGNED JUDGE	DEPT	ROOM
~	Elihu M. Berle	6					

Given to the Plaintiff/Cross-Complainant/Attorney of Record	Sherri R. Carter, Executive	Officer / Clerk of Court
on 06/16/2020	By I. Lovo	, Deputy Clerk

Case 2:20-cv-07020-RGK-RAO Document 1-1 Filed 08/05/20 Page 5 of 30 Page ID #:11

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HANDLING UNLIMITED CIVIL CASES

The following critical provisions of the California Rules of Court, Title 3, Division 7, as applicable in the Superior Court, are summarized for your assistance.

APPLICATION

The Division 7 Rules were effective January 1, 2007. They apply to all general civil cases.

PRIORITY OVER OTHER RULES

The Division 7 Rules shall have priority over all other Local Rules to the extent the others are inconsistent.

CHALLENGE TO ASSIGNED JUDGE

A challenge under Code of Civil Procedure Section 170.6 must be made within **15** days after notice of assignment for all purposes to a judge, or if a party has not yet appeared, within 15 days of the first appearance.

TIME STANDARDS

Cases assigned to the Independent Calendaring Courts will be subject to processing under the following time standards:

COMPLAINTS

All complaints shall be served within 60 days of filing and proof of service shall be filed within 90 days.

CROSS-COMPLAINTS

Without leave of court first being obtained, no cross-complaint may be filed by any party after their answer is filed. Cross-complaints shall be served within 30 days of the filing date and a proof of service filed within 60 days of the filing date.

STATUS CONFERENCE

A status conference will be scheduled by the assigned Independent Calendar Judge no later than 270 days after the filing of the complaint. Counsel must be fully prepared to discuss the following issues: alternative dispute resolution, bifurcation, settlement, trial date, and expert witnesses.

FINAL STATUS CONFERENCE

The Court will require the parties to attend a final status conference not more than 10 days before the scheduled trial date. All parties shall have motions in limine, bifurcation motions, statements of major evidentiary issues, dispositive motions, requested form jury instructions, special jury instructions, and special jury verdicts timely filed and served prior to the conference. These matters may be heard and resolved at this conference. At least five days before this conference, counsel must also have exchanged lists of exhibits and witnesses, and have submitted to the court a brief statement of the case to be read to the jury panel as required by Chapter Three of the Los Angeles Superior Court Rules.

SANCTIONS

The court will impose appropriate sanctions for the failure or refusal to comply with Chapter Three Rules, orders made by the Court, and time standards or deadlines established by the Court or by the Chapter Three Rules. Such sanctions may be on a party, or if appropriate, on counsel for a party.

This is not a complete delineation of the Division 7 or Chapter Three Rules, and adherence only to the above provisions is therefore not a guarantee against the imposition of sanctions under Trial Court Delay Reduction. Careful reading and compliance with the actual Chapter Rules is imperative.

Class Actions

Pursuant to Local Rule 2.3, all class actions shall be filed at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse and are randomly assigned to a complex judge at the designated complex courthouse. If the case is found not to be a class action it will be returned to an Independent Calendar Courtroom for all purposes.

*Provisionally Complex Cases

Cases filed as provisionally complex are initially assigned to the Supervising Judge of complex litigation for determination of complex status. If the case is deemed to be complex within the meaning of California Rules of Court 3.400 et seq., it will be randomly assigned to a complex judge at the designated complex courthouse. If the case is found not to be complex, it will be returned to an Independent Calendar Courtroom for all purposes.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

(E)

Plaintiff LANCE JOHNSON ("Plaintiff"), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, alleges as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

- 1. Plaintiff brings this class action Complaint against Defendant AFFINITY INSURANCE SERVICES, INC. WHICH WILL DO BUSINESS IN CALIFORNIA AS AON AFFINITY INSURANCE SERVICES, INC. (hereinafter "Defendant") to stop Defendant's practice of falsely advertising and selling travel insurance/trip protection plans that they have no intention of honoring and to obtain redress for a class of consumers ("Class Members") who were misled, within the applicable statute of limitations period, by Defendant.
- 2. Plaintiff brings this class action Complaint against Defendant VIRGINIA SURETY COMPANY, INC. (hereinafter "Defendant") to stop Defendant's practice of falsely advertising and selling travel insurance/trip protection plans that they have no intention of honoring and to obtain redress for a class of consumers ("Class Members") who were misled, within the applicable statute of limitations period, by Defendant.
- 3. Defendants advertised, promoted, and included certain travel protections to consumers through travel agencies and cruise ships to induce them to purchase travel insurance and protection ("the Class Products"), whereby if there was a trip interruption, Defendants would reimburse Plaintiff for his losses.
- 4. Insurance is of particular value to consumers because they provide a guarantee of the value of a good after it is purchased, and protection for that good if certain unexpected contingencies occur. This is particularly true for trip insurance, where trips and excursions are purchased well in advance of the time of a trip, and unexpected occurrences that can result in a trip interruption are common.
- 5. Defendants misrepresented to Plaintiff and others similarly situated by failing to disclose in either in the contract itself that Defendants would not honor the represented trip protections with which the parties contracted to provide.
 - 6. Defendants' misrepresentations to Plaintiff and others similarly situated induced

them to purchase Defendant's Class Products.

7. Defendants took advantage of Plaintiff and similarly situated consumers unfairly and unlawfully.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 8. This class action is brought pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 382. All causes of action in the instant complaint arise under California Statutes.
- 9. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants, because Defendants sell insurance, advertise insurance policies, and market to consumers in the State of California.
- 10. This matter is properly venued in the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles because Defendant does business within the state of California and the County of Los Angeles, and a significant portion, if not all, of the conduct giving rise to Plaintiff's claims happened here.

THE PARTIES

- 11. Plaintiff LANCE JOHNSON is a citizen and resident of the State of California, County of Los Angeles.
- 12. Defendant VIRGINIA SURETY COMPANY, INC. is a corporation that does business in California, including Los Angeles County, that is incorporated in Illinois.
- 13. Defendant AFFINITY INSURANCE SERVICES, INC. WHICH WILL DO BUSINESS IN CALIFORNIA AS AON AFFINITY INSURANCE SERVICES, INC. is a corporation that does business in California, including Los Angeles County, that is incorporated in Pennsylvania.
- 14. Plaintiff alleges, on information and belief, that Defendants' sell insurance throughout California, by means of, at the very least, the internet.
- 15. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that at all time relevant, Defendants' sales of products and services are governed by the controlling law in the state in which they do business and from which the sales of products and services, and the allegedly unlawful acts occurred, which is California.

- 16. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that each and all of the acts and omissions alleged herein were performed by, or is attributable to, Defendants and/or its employees, agents, and/or third parties acting on its behalf, each acting as the agent for the other, with legal authority to act on the other's behalf. The acts of any and all of Defendants' employees, agents, and/or third parties acting on its behalf, were in accordance with, and represent, the official policy of Defendants.
- 17. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that said Defendants are in some manner intentionally, negligently, or otherwise responsible for the acts, omissions, occurrences, and transactions of each and all their employees, agents, and/or third parties acting on their behalf, in proximately causing the damages herein alleged.
- 18. At all relevant times, Defendants ratified each and every act or omission complained of herein. At all relevant times, Defendants, aided and abetted the acts and omissions as alleged herein.

PLAINTIFF'S FACTS

- 19. In or around November 2018, Plaintiff purchased two tickets to a Princess Cruise lines cruise vacation, setting sail in April 2018. Along with the purchase of the cruise, Plaintiff purchased a shore excursion, to take place for three days during the cruise, to Machu Picchu, for both him and his wife. Plaintiff's purchase was made on his Citibank credit card, which includes trip interruption insurance through Defendant Virginia.
- 20. Plaintiff's Citibank credit card, on which he purchased his cruise and shore excursion tickets, provided trip insurance and travel protection services, which policy was advertised and marketed by Defendant Virginia. This policy is administered through Defendant Virginia. Defendant Virginia's policy/contract clearly states that any qualifying travel interruption, including a medical incident interrupting the trip or requiring cancellation, would be covered under the policy.
- 21. For additional protection, Plaintiff purchased trip further protection insurance through Defendant Aon at the time of purchasing his cruise and shore excursions. This policy

is advertised by Defendant Aon through and in conjunction with the ticket agency that sold the cruise to Plaintiff. Defendant and ticket agency's promotions strongly encourage the purchase of travel protection insurance at the time of shore excursion and cruise vacation purchases.

- 22. The insurance policy/contract for the Defendant Aon, which was printed and distributed thereon by Defendant Aon, stated that the purchase of travel protection insurance included the following trip interruption protection: The Company will reimburse You, up to the Maximum Benefit shown on the Confirmation of Coverage, if You join Your Trip after departure or are unable to continue on the covered Trip due to any of the following reasons that are Unforeseen and takes place after departure: Your Sickness, *Accidental Injury* or death, that results in medically imposed restrictions as certified by a Physician at the time of Loss preventing your continued participation in the Trip." Defendant's policy further stated that, "We will reimburse You, up to the Maximum Benefit Amount shown in the Schedule of Benefits, for unused, prepaid non-refundable Payments or Deposits for Your land or water Travel Arrangements."
- 23. Plaintiff purchased the trip protection insurance from Defendant Aon in reliance on the aforementioned representations, namely that Defendant would provide the trip protection services that it represents that it would provide in its advertisements and promotional materials.
- 24. Similarly, Plaintiff obtained a Citibank credit card, and used that card to purchase his cruise based on the advertisement of travel benefits by Defendant Virginia Surety. Plaintiff would not have used the credit card issued by Citibank to purchase his cruise tickets if he had known that Defendant Virginia Surety was falsely advertising the trip protection benefits.
- 25. On March 6, 2019, Plaintiff and his wife flew to Santiago, Chile to prepare to board their cruise ship. After the 17-hour flight, while disembarking, the Plaintiff's wife felt severe pain in her foot. Plaintiff and his wife quickly reported to the Princess Cruise ship physician, who told Plaintiff that she needed to stay off of her feet, and was relegated to a wheelchair not only for the duration of the 17-day cruise, but for the next month after Plaintiff and his wife had returned home due to soft tissue damage in her foot.

- 26. Needless to say, Plaintiff and his wife, due to the medical condition of the Plaintiff's wife, were unable to engage in the three-day, \$5000 shore excursion hike to Machu Pichu in the Andes mountains.
- 27. Princess Cruises urged Plaintiff and his wife to cancel their excursion, and informed them that due to the amount of walking and hiking involved, there was simply no way that Plaintiff's wife would be able to do the excursion in her current medical condition, as she was wheelchair bound.
- 28. Plaintiff and his wife were unable to attend the Machu Pichu shore excursion because of her injury and medical condition, per the instructions of Princess Cruise ship's Shore Excursion department, and their ship physician.
- 29. Thereafter, upon Plaintiff's return to Los Angeles, he requested reimbursement for the ship excursion under Defendant Aon's trip protection policy.
- 30. Despite their clear representations and advertisements as to trip insurance for unforeseen medical accidents/conditions, Defendant Aon refused to reimburse Plaintiff for the pre-paid, non refundable shore excursion, despite documentation from the ship physician of Plaintiff's injury and clear inability to hike in the Andes mountains, and despite their clear representations that this was a covered incident. Every time Plaintiff challenged AON's pretextual reasons for declining the claim, they did not defend their position but instead came up with another, different, pretextual reason. They did this at least four times, and many of the "excuses" they used, were in fact, false (such as claiming that Plaintiff did not purchase shore excursion tickets at the same time of purchasing the cruise tickets, which was decidedly false.).
- 31. Plaintiff thereafter sought reimbursement through Citibank's travel protection policy issued through Defendant Virginia Surety. Despite Defendant Virginia's clear and explicit travel protection benefits within the policy that that Plaintiff purchased, Defendant Virginia refused to reimburse Plaintiff for the non-refundable, pre-paid shore excursion because he did not get in writing from the doctor that they should not go on the shore excursion, even though the doctor verbally informed them of the same.

- 32. Defendants' knowledge of the fact that Plaintiff and similarly situated consumers could not reap the benefits of the insurance policies is demonstrated by the fact that when Plaintiff attempted to make a clearly qualified claim under the trip insurance policies, Defendants refused to honor the written policies that were advertised to the Plaintiff.
- 33. Defendant Aon later claimed that shore excursions were not covered by its policy, a fact that, if true, was clearly omitted from the insurance policy/contracts that consumers who purchase trip insurance would need to know.
- 34. Plaintiff had no reasonable way of knowing that his non-refundable shore excursion would not be covered by Defendants' trip and travel protection policies, because the policies specifically stated that qualifying incidents would be covered, i.e., Plaintiff had no reasonable opportunity to find out that Defendants would not honor the policy.
- 35. Defendants were aware that Plaintiff could not have reasonably known that it would not honor the policy.
- 36. Had Plaintiff known that Defendants would not honor the insurance policies as represented, Plaintiff would not have purchased the trip protection insurance from Defendant Aon, prepaid for non-refundable shore excursions, or used the credit card issued by Citibank with the travel protection policy guaranteed by Virginia Surety. Rather, Plaintiff would have considered purchasing a different type of trip, not purchasing travel insurance at all, and not pre-paying for any non-refundable trip expenses.
- 37. Plaintiff was significantly emotionally and financially upset by Defendants' refusals to honor their trip insurance policies as advertised.
- 38. Such sales tactics employed on Defendants rely on falsities and have a tendency to mislead and deceive a reasonable consumer, such as using such broad general terms as "covers trip interruptions and medical problems".
- 39. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereupon alleges that such representations were part of a common scheme to mislead consumers and incentivize them to purchase travel insurance products from Defendants.

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40.	Plaintiff reasonably believed and relied upon Defendants' representations in its
trip insurance	e policies/contracts.
41.	Plaintiff materially changed his position in reliance on Defendants'
representatio	ns and was harmed thereby.
42.	Plaintiff would not have purchased the trip insurance policies from Defendant
Aon and De	fendant Virginia, used the Citibank credit card, or purchased any pre-paid non
refundable n	raducts from Princess Cruises or any similarly advertised product had Defendants

- refundable products from Princess Cruises, or any similarly advertised product had Defendants disclosed that they would not honor its insurance protection policies.
- 43. Had Defendants properly marketed, advertised, and represented that it would not honor the trip insurance policies as stated in its advertisements, Plaintiff would not have purchased the trip insurance policies, or any similarly advertised product, and would not have purchased pre-paid, non refundable, ship excursions.
- 44. The Defendants' insurance programs purports to provide coverage to policyholders in the event of a "qualifying event" that includes a medical condition or emergency.
- 45. Defendants benefited from falsely advertising and representing its products. Defendants benefited on the loss to Plaintiff and provided nothing of benefit to Plaintiff in exchange.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 46. Plaintiff brings this action, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, and thus, seeks class certification under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23.
 - 47. The class Plaintiff seeks to represent (the "Class") is defined as follows:

All consumers, who, between the applicable statute of limitations and the present, purchased trip protection/insurance policies guaranteed by Defendant Aon, and were denied coverage.

And

All consumers, who, between the applicable statute of limitations and the present, purchased trip protection/insurance policies guaranteed by Defendant Virginia, and were denied coverage.

- 50. The Restitution Subclass. The Class is divided into several subclasses, including a Restitution Subclass. The Restitution Subclass consists of all California customers and former customers of Defendants Aon and Virginia who lost money or property during the four-year period preceding the filing of this Complaint by means of Household's violation of California Business and Professions Code Sections 17000 et seq. (the "UCL") as alleged below.
- 51. The Breach of Contract Subclass. The Breach of Contract Subclass consists of all California customers and former customers of Defendants Aon and Virginia who otherwise would have qualified for benefits under Defendant's travel protection insurance but were denied such benefits.
- 52. As used herein, the term "Class Members" shall mean and refer to the members of the Class described above.
- 53. Excluded from the Class are Defendant, its affiliates, employees, agents, and attorneys, and the Court.
- 54. Plaintiff reserves the right to amend the Class, and to add additional subclasses, if discovery and further investigation reveals such action is warranted.
- 55. Upon information and belief, the proposed class is composed of thousands of persons. The members of the class are so numerous that joinder of all members would be unfeasible and impractical.
- 56. Plaintiff is informed and believes and on that basis alleges that for at least the past four years, Defendants have marketed and sold travel insurance to California consumers, either in connection with the issuance of a credit card, or in addition to the purchase of a trip through various travel-related agencies, which includes bookings for ships, airplanes, trains, etc..
- 57. No violations alleged in this complaint are contingent on any individualized interaction of any kind between class members and Defendants.
- 58. Rather, all claims in this matter arise from the identical, false, affirmative written statements that Defendants would provide insurance and trip protection to the Class Members,

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1	when in fact, such representations were false.				
2	59. There are common questions of law and fact as to the Class Members that				
3-	predominate over questions affecting only individual members, including but not limited to:				
4		(a)	Whether Defendants engaged in unlawful, unfair, or deceptive business		
5			practices in advertising trip protection policies with its products to		
6			Plaintiff and other Class Members with no intention of honoring them;		
7		(b)	Whether Defendants made misrepresentations with respect to its trip		
8			protection insurance policies;		
9		(c)	Whether Defendants breached the contract of the insurance policy it sold		
10			to Plaintiff and class members, and whether that breach was in bad faith;		
11		(d)	Whether Defendants violated California Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200, et		
12			seq. California Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500, et seq., California Civ. Code		
13			§ 1750, et seq California Civ. Code § 1790, et seq., and 15 U.S.C. §		
14			2310, et seq.;		
15		(e)	Whether Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to equitable and/or		
16			injunctive relief;		
17		(f)	Whether Defendants' unlawful, unfair, and/or deceptive practices harmed		
18			Plaintiff and Class Members; and		
19		(g)	The method of calculation and extent of damages for Plaintiff and Class		
20			Members.		
21	60.	Plain	tiff is a member of the class he seeks to represent.		
22	61.	The	claims of Plaintiff are not only typical of all class members, they are		
23	identical.				
24	62.	All c	laims of Plaintiff and the class are based on the exact same legal theories.		
25	63.	Plain	tiff has no interest antagonistic to, or in conflict with, the class.		

Page 9

each Class Member, because Plaintiff was induced by Defendants' misrepresentations during

Plaintiff is qualified to, and will, fairly and adequately protect the interests of

the Class Period. Defendants' unlawful, unfair and/or fraudulent actions concerns the same business practices described herein irrespective of where they occurred or were experienced. Plaintiff's claims are typical of all Class Members as demonstrated herein.

- 65. Plaintiff will thoroughly and adequately protect the interests of the class, having retained qualified and competent legal counsel to represent himself and the class.
- 66. Common questions will predominate, and there will be no unusual manageability issues.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of Unfair Competition Law

(Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 et seq.)

- 67. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each allegation set forth above.
- 68. Actions for relief under the unfair competition law may be based on any business act or practice that is within the broad definition of the UCL. Such violations of the UCL occur as a result of unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business acts and practices. A plaintiff is required to provide evidence of a causal connection between a defendant's business practices and the alleged harm--that is, evidence that the defendant's conduct caused or was likely to cause substantial injury. It is insufficient for a plaintiff to show merely that the defendant's conduct created a risk of harm. Furthermore, the "act or practice" aspect of the statutory definition of unfair competition covers any single act of misconduct, as well as ongoing misconduct.

UNFAIR

69. California Business & Professions Code § 17200 prohibits any "unfair ... business act or practice." Defendants' acts, omissions, misrepresentations, and practices as alleged herein also constitutes "unfair" business acts and practices within the meaning of the UCL in that its conduct is substantially injurious to consumers, offends public policy, and is immoral, unethical, oppressive, and unscrupulous as the gravity of the conduct outweighs any alleged benefits attributable to such conduct. There were reasonably available alternatives to further Defendants' legitimate business interests, other than the conduct described herein.

Plaintiff reserves the right to allege further conduct which constitutes other unfair business acts or practices. Such conduct is ongoing and continues to this date.

- 70. In order to satisfy the "unfair" prong of the UCL, a consumer must show that the injury: (1) is substantial; (2) is not outweighed by any countervailing benefits to consumers or competition; and, (3) is not one that consumers themselves could reasonably have avoided.
- 71. Here, Defendants' conduct has caused and continues to cause substantial injury to Plaintiff and members of the Class. Plaintiff and members of the Class have suffered injury in fact due to Defendant's decision to mislead consumers. Thus, Defendants' conduct has caused substantial injury to Plaintiff and the members of the Class.
- 72. Moreover, Defendants' conduct as alleged herein solely benefits Defendants while providing no benefit of any kind to any consumer. Such deception utilized by Defendants convinced Plaintiff and members of the Class that Defendants would provide them with an insurance policy and that Defendants would honor that insurance policy upon purchasing Defendants' Class Products. In fact, Defendants knew that they had no intention of providing the advertised trip protections, and thus unfairly profited. Thus, the injury suffered by Plaintiff and the members of the Class are not outweighed by any countervailing benefits to consumers.
- 73. Finally, the injury suffered by Plaintiff and members of the Class is not an injury that these consumers could reasonably have avoided. After Defendants falsely represented the insurance policies, consumers changed their position by purchasing the Class Products, thus causing them to suffer injury in fact. Defendants failed to take reasonable steps to inform Plaintiff and class members that the advertisements were false. As such, Defendants took advantage of Defendants' position of perceived power in order to deceive Plaintiff and the Class. Therefore, the injury suffered by Plaintiff and members of the Class is not an injury which these consumers could reasonably have avoided.
- 74. Thus, Defendants' conduct has violated the "unfair" prong of California Business & Professions Code § 17200.

FRAUDULENT

- 75. California Business & Professions Code § 17200 prohibits any "fraudulent ... business act or practice." In order to prevail under the "fraudulent" prong of the UCL, a consumer must allege that the fraudulent business practice was likely to deceive members of the public.
- 76. The test for "fraud" as contemplated by California Business and Professions Code § 17200 is whether the public is likely to be deceived. Unlike common law fraud, a § 17200 violation can be established even if no one was actually deceived, relied upon the fraudulent practice, or sustained any damage.
- 77. Here, not only were Plaintiff and the Class members likely to be deceived, but these consumers were actually deceived by Defendants. Such deception is evidenced by the fact that Defendants did not provide Plaintiff with the insurance policy as advertised by Defendants. Plaintiff's reliance upon Defendants' deceptive statements is reasonable due to the unequal bargaining powers of Defendants against Plaintiff. For the same reason, it is likely that Defendants' fraudulent business practice would deceive other members of the public.
- 78. As explained above, Defendants deceived Plaintiff and other Class Members by representing the protections covered by the insurance policies that Defendants sold.
- 79. Thus, Defendants' conduct has violated the "fraudulent" prong of California Business & Professions Code § 17200.

UNLAWFUL

- 80. California Business and Professions Code Section 17200, et seq. prohibits "any unlawful…business act or practice."
- 81. As explained above, Defendants deceived Plaintiff and other Class Members by falsely representing insurance policies.
- 82. Defendants used false advertising, marketing, and misrepresentations to induce Plaintiff and Class Members to purchase Class Products from Defendant, in violation of California Business and Professions Code Section 17500, et seq. Had Defendant not falsely

advertised, marketed, or misrepresented the nature of its products, Plaintiff and Class Members would not have purchased the Class Products from Defendant. Defendant's conduct therefore caused and continues to cause economic harm to Plaintiff and Class Members.

- 83. These representations by Defendants are therefore an "unlawful" business practice or act under Business and Professions Code Section 17200 *et seq*.
- 84. Defendants have thus engaged in unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent business acts entitling Plaintiff and Class Members to judgment and equitable relief against Defendants, as set forth in the Prayer for Relief. Additionally, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 17203, Plaintiff and Class Members seek an order requiring Defendants to immediately cease such acts of unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent business practices and requiring Defendants to correct its actions.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(Breach of Contract against all Defendants)

- 85. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations above as if set forth fully herein.
- 86. The Defendants entered into a contract with each member of the Breach of Contract subclass that is set forth in the insurance policies provided by each.
- 87. The contract contained a term that the Defendants would reimburse Plaintiff in the event of an injury that restricted or impacted their vacation. Yet Defendant breached the contract by denying the Plaintiff's claim on false and pretextual basis.
- 88. Each member of the class performed all conditions, covenants, and obligations of the contract except for those conditions, covenants and obligations he was excused from performing by reason of the Defendants' conduct.
- 89. As a direct and proximate cause of the Defendants' breach of the contract, each member of the breach of contract subclass has suffered damages in an amount to be determined at the time of trial.

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THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

(Bad Faith Breach of Insurance Contract Against All Defendants)

- 90. Plaintiff incorporates all allegations alleged above as if set forth fully herein.
- 91. The insurance policy is a contract, and like all contract and especially all contracts of insurance, contains an implied covenant of good faith and fair dealings that the Defendants will deal fairly with each member of the Breach of Contract subclass in processing his or her claims under the Contract.
- 92. Defendants intentionally and in bad faith breached the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing as to each member of the Breach of Contract subclass when it refused to pay valid claims on false and pretextual basis.
- 93. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants' breach of the contracts of insurance it provided, each member of the breach of contract subclass has suffered damages in an amount to be determined at the time of trial.
- 94. As a further direct and proximate result of Defendants' bad faith breach of the Contract, Plaintiff (on behalf of each member of the Breach of Contract Subclass) has retained legal counsel and incurred attorneys' fees in an effort to obtain the benefits of the insurance policies. The Breach of Contract Subclass is therefore entitled to recover attorneys fees (in an amount to be determined at trial) under *Brandt v. Superior Court*, 37 Cal.3d 813 (1985).
- 95. Defendants' bad faith breach of the Contract was malicious and oppressive and justifies an award of punitive damages in an amount to be determined at the time of trial.

MISCELLANEOUS

96. Plaintiff and Class Members allege that they have fully complied with all contractual and other legal obligations and fully complied with all conditions precedent to bringing this action or all such obligations or conditions are excused.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

97. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and the Class, requests the following relief:

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1	(a)	An order certifying the Class and appointing Plaintiff as Representative				
2		of the Class;				
3	(b) An order certifying the undersigned counsel as Class Counsel;					
4	(c)	An order requiring Defendants, at their own cost, to notify all Class				
5		Members of the unlawful and deceptive conduct herein;				
6	(d)	An order requiring Defendants to engage in corrective advertising				
7		regarding the conduct discussed above;				
8	(e)	Actual damages suffered by Plaintiff and Class Members as applicable				
9		from being induced to call Defendants under false pretenses;				
10	(f)	Punitive damages, as allowable, in an amount determined by the Court or				
11		jury;				
12	(g)	Any and all statutory enhanced damages;				
13	(h)	All reasonable and necessary attorneys' fees and costs provided by				
14	statute, common law or the Court's inherent power;					
15	(i)	Pre- and post-judgment interest; and				
16	(j)	All other relief, general or special, legal and equitable, to which Plaintiff				
17		and Class Members may be justly entitled as deemed by the Court.				
18		REQUEST FOR JURY TRIAL				
19	98. Plainti	ff requests a trial by jury as to all claims so triable.				
20						
21	Dated: May 11, 2020	Respectfully submitted,				
22	LAW OFFICES OF TODD M. FRIEDMAN, PC					
23	D., 77					
24	By: Land TODD M. FRIEDMAN, ESQ.					
25	Attorney for Plaintiff					
26						
27						
28						
		Page 15				
		CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT				

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other parties to the action or proceeding.

CD

INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO COMPLETE THE COVER SHEET

CM-010

To Plaintiffs and Others Filing First Papers. If you are filing a first paper (for example, a complaint) in a civil case, you must complete and file, along with your first paper, the *Civil Case Cover Sheet* contained on page 1. This information will be used to compile statistics about the types and numbers of cases filed. You must complete items 1 through 6 on the sheet. In item 1, you must check one box for the case type that best describes the case. If the case fits both a general and a more specific type of case listed in item 1, check the more specific one. If the case has multiple causes of action, check the box that best indicates the **primary** cause of action. To assist you in completing the sheet, examples of the cases that belong under each case type in item 1 are provided below. A cover sheet must be filed only with your initial paper. Failure to file a cover sheet with the first paper filed in a civil case may subject a party, its counsel, or both to sanctions under rules 2.30 and 3.220 of the California Rules of Court.

To Parties in Rule 3.740 Collections Cases. A "collections case" under rule 3.740 is defined as an action for recovery of money owed in a sum stated to be certain that is not more than \$25,000, exclusive of interest and attorney's fees, arising from a transaction in which property, services, or money was acquired on credit. A collections case does not include an action seeking the following: (1) tort damages, (2) punitive damages, (3) recovery of real property, (4) recovery of personal property, or (5) a prejudgment writ of attachment. The identification of a case as a rule 3.740 collections case on this form means that it will be exempt from the general time-for-service requirements and case management rules, unless a defendant files a responsive pleading. A rule 3.740 collections case will be subject to the requirements for service and obtaining a judgment in rule 3.740.

To Parties in Complex Cases. In complex cases only, parties must also use the *Civil Case Cover Sheet* to designate whether the case is complex. If a plaintiff believes the case is complex under rule 3.400 of the California Rules of Court, this must be indicated by completing the appropriate boxes in items 1 and 2. If a plaintiff designates a case as complex, the cover sheet must be served with the complaint on all parties to the action. A defendant may file and serve no later than the time of its first appearance a joinder in the plaintiff's designation, a counter-designation that the case is not complex, or, if the plaintiff has made no designation, a designation that the case is complex.

Auto Tort

Auto (22)—Personal Injury/Property
Damage/Wrongful Death
Uninsured Motorist (46) (if the
case involves an uninsured
motorist claim subject to
arbitration, check this item
instead of Auto)

Other PI/PD/WD (Personal Injury/ Property Damage/Wrongful Death)

Asbestos (04)
Asbestos Property Damage
Asbestos Personal Injury/
Wrongful Death
Product Liability (not asbestos or
toxic/environmental) (24)
Medical Malpractice (45)
Medical Malpractice—
Physicians & Surgeons

Other Professional Health Care Malpractice Other PI/PD/WD (23) Premises Liability (e.g., slip and fall)

Intentional Bodily Injury/PD/WD (e.g., assault, vandalism) Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress Negligent Infliction of

Emotional Distress

Non-PI/PD/WD (Other) Tort

Other PI/PD/WD

Business Tort/Unfair Business

Practice (07)
Civil Rights (e.g., discrimination, false arrest) (not civil harassment) (08)
Defamation (e.g., slander, libel) (13)
Fraud (16)

Intellectual Property (19)
Professional Negligence (25)
Legal Malpractice
Other Professional Malpractice
(not medical or legal)

Other Non-PI/PD/WD Tort (35)

Employment

Wrongful Termination (36) Other Employment (15)

CASE TYPES AND EXAMPLES

Contract

Breach of Contract/Warranty (06)
Breach of Rental/Lease
Contract (not unlawful detainer
or wrongful eviction)
Contract/Warranty Breach—Seller
Plaintiff (not fraud or negligence)
Negligent Breach of Contract/
Warranty
Other Breach of Contract/Warranty

Collections (e.g., money owed, open book accounts) (09) Collection Case—Seller Plaintiff Other Promissory Note/Collections Case

Insurance Coverage (not provisionally complex) (18)
Auto Subrogation

Other Coverage
Other Contract (37)

Contractual Fraud
Other Contract Dispute

Real Property

Eminent Domain/Inverse Condemnation (14) Wrongful Eviction (33)

Other Real Property (e.g., quiet title) (26)
Writ of Possession of Real Property
Mortgage Foreclosure
Quiet Title

Other Real Property (not eminent domain, landlord/tenant, or foreclosure)

Unlawful Detainer

Commercial (31) Residential (32)

Drugs (38) (if the case involves illegal drugs, check this item; otherwise, report as Commercial or Residential)

Judicial Review

Asset Forfeiture (05)
Petition Re: Arbitration Award (11)
Writ of Mandate (02)
Writ–Administrative Mandamus

Writ–Administrative Mandanus
Writ–Mandamus on Limited Court
Case Matter

Writ-Other Limited Court Case

Review Other Judicial Review (39) Review of Health Officer Order Notice of Appeal–Labor Provisionally Complex Civil Litigation (Cal. Rules of Court Rules 3.400–3.403)

Antitrust/Trade Regulation (03)
Construction Defect (10)
Claims Involving Mass Tort (40)
Securities Litigation (28)
Environmental/Toxic Tort (30)
Insurance Coverage Claims
(arising from provisionally complex case type listed above) (41)

Enforcement of Judgment

Enforcement of Judgment
Enforcement of Judgment (20)
Abstract of Judgment (Out of County)
Confession of Judgment (nondomestic relations)
Sister State Judgment
Administrative Agency Award
(not unpaid taxes)
Petition/Certification of Entry of Judgment on Unpaid Taxes
Other Enforcement of Judgment

Case Miscellaneous Civil Complaint

RICO (27)
Other Complaint (not specified above) (42)
Declaratory Relief Only
Injunctive Relief Only (non-harassment)
Mechanics Lien
Other Commercial Complaint
Case (non-tort/non-complex)

Other Civil Complaint

Partnership and Corporate

(non-tort/non-complex)

Miscellaneous Civil Petition

Governance (21)
Other Petition (not specified above) (43)
Civil Harassment
Workplace Violence
Elder/Dependent Adult
Abuse
Election Contest
Petition for Name Change
Petition for Relief From Late
Claim

Other Civil Petition

20STCV22641

CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET ADDENDUM AND STATEMENT OF LOCATION (CERTIFICATE OF GROUNDS FOR ASSIGNMENT TO COURTHOUSE LOCATION)

This form is required pursuant to Local Rule 2.3 in all new civil case filings in the Los Angeles Superior Court.

- **Step 1:** After completing the Civil Case Cover Sheet (Judicial Council form CM-010), find the exact case type in Column A that corresponds to the case type indicated in the Civil Case Cover Sheet.
- Step 2: In Column B, check the box for the type of action that best describes the nature of the case.
- **Step 3:** In Column C, circle the number which explains the reason for the court filing location you have chosen.

Applicable Reasons for Choosing Court Filing Location (Column C)

- 1. Class actions must be filed in the Stanley Mosk Courthouse, Central District.
- 2. Permissive filing in central district.
- 3. Location where cause of action arose.
- 4. Mandatory personal injury filing in North District.
- 5. Location where performance required or defendant resides.
- 6. Location of property or permanently garaged vehicle.

- 7. Location where petitioner resides.
- 8. Location wherein defendant/respondent functions wholly.
- 9. Location where one or more of the parties reside.
- 10. Location of Labor Commissioner Office.
- 11. Mandatory filing location (Hub Cases unlawful detainer, limited non-collection, limited collection, or personal injury).

Auto

Other Personal Injury/ Property Damage/ Wrongful Death Tort

A Civil Case Cover Sheet Category No.	B Type of Action (Check only one)	C Applicable Reasons - See Step 3 Above	
Auto (22)	□ A7100 Motor Vehicle - Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death	1, 4, 11	
Uninsured Motorist (46)	□ A7110 Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death – Uninsured Motorist	1, 4, 11	
Asbestos (04)	□ A6070 Asbestos Property Damage □ A7221 Asbestos - Personal Injury/Wrongful Death	1, 11 1, 11	
Product Liability (24)	☐ A7260 Product Liability (not asbestos or toxic/environmental)	1, 4, 11	
Medical Malpractice (45)	□ A7210 Medical Malpractice - Physicians & Surgeons □ A7240 Other Professional Health Care Malpractice	1, 4, 11 1, 4, 11	
Other Personal Injury Property Damage Wrongful Death (23)	 □ A7250 Premises Liability (e.g., slip and fall) □ A7230 Intentional Bodily Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death (e.g., assault, vandalism, etc.) □ A7270 Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress □ A7220 Other Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death 	1, 4, 11 1, 4, 11 1, 4, 11 1, 4, 11	

6/16/2020

SHORT TITLE: Johnson v. Affinity Insurance Services Inc. et al.

CASE NUMBER

	A Civil Case Cover Sheet Category No.	Type of Action (Check only one)	C Applicable Reasons - See Step 3 Above
	Business Tort (07)	☑ A6029 Other Commercial/Business Tort (not fraud/breach of contract)	1, 2, 3
perty Tort	Civil Rights (08)	□ A6005 Civil Rights/Discrimination	1, 2, 3
y/ Pro Death	Defamation (13)	☐ A6010 Defamation (slander/libel)	1, 2, 3
Il Injur ongful	Fraud (16)	☐ A6013 Fraud (no contract)	1, 2, 3
Non-Personal Injury/ Property Damage/ Wrongful Death Tort	Professional Negligence (25)	□ A6017 Legal Malpractice □ A6050 Other Professional Malpractice (not medical or legal)	1, 2, 3 1, 2, 3
S G	Other (35)	☑ A6025 Other Non-Personal Injury/Property Damage tort	1, 2, 3
ent	Wrongful Termination (36)	□ A6037 Wrongful Termination	1, 2, 3
Employment	Other Employment (15)	□ A6024 Other Employment Complaint Case □ A6109 Labor Commissioner Appeals	1, 2, 3 10
	Breach of Contract/ Warranty (06) (not insurance)	 □ A6004 Breach of Rental/Lease Contract (not unlawful detainer or wrongful eviction) □ A6008 Contract/Warranty Breach -Seller Plaintiff (no fraud/negligence) □ A6019 Negligent Breach of Contract/Warranty (no fraud) □ A6028 Other Breach of Contract/Warranty (not fraud or negligence) 	2, 5 2, 5 1, 2, 5 1, 2, 5
Contract	Collections (09)	 □ A6002 Collections Case-Seller Plaintiff □ A6012 Other Promissory Note/Collections Case □ A6034 Collections Case-Purchased Debt (Charged Off Consumer Debt Purchased on or after January 1, 2014) 	5, 6, 11 5, 11 5, 6, 11
	Insurance Coverage (18)	□ A6015 Insurance Coverage (not complex)	1, 2, 5, 8
	Other Contract (37)	□ A6009 Contractual Fraud □ A6031 Tortious Interference □ A6027 Other Contract Dispute(not breach/insurance/fraud/negligence)	1, 2, 3, 5 1, 2, 3, 5 1, 2, 3, 8, 9
	Eminent Domain/Inverse Condemnation (14)	☐ A7300 Eminent Domain/Condemnation Number of parcels	2, 6
operty	Wrongful Eviction (33)	☐ A6023 Wrongful Eviction Case	2, 6
Real Property	Other Real Property (26)	 □ A6018 Mortgage Foreclosure □ A6032 Quiet Title □ A6060 Other Real Property (not eminent domain, landlord/tenant, foreclosure) 	2, 6 2, 6 2, 6
-	Unlawful Detainer-Commercial (31)	☐ A6021 Unlawful Detainer-Commercial (not drugs or wrongful eviction)	6, 11
Unlawful Detainer	Unlawful Detainer-Residential (32)	☐ A6020 Unlawful Detainer-Residential (not drugs or wrongful eviction)	6, 11
wful D	Unlawful Detainer- Post-Foreclosure (34)	□ A6020FUnlawful Detainer-Post-Foreclosure	2, 6, 11
Unla	Unlawful Detainer-Drugs (38)	□ A6022 Unlawful Detainer-Drugs	2, 6, 11

SHORT TITLE: Johnson v. Affinity Insurance Services Inc. et al.

CASE NUMBER

	A Civil Case Cover Sheet Category No.	Type of Action (Check only one)	C Applicable Reasons - See Step 3 Above
	Asset Forfeiture (05)	□ A6108 Asset Forfeiture Case	2, 3, 6
A	Petition re Arbitration (11)	□ A6115 Petition to Compel/Confirm/Vacate Arbitration	2, 5
Judicial Review	Writ of Mandate (02)	□ A6151 Writ - Administrative Mandamus □ A6152 Writ - Mandamus on Limited Court Case Matter □ A6153 Writ - Other Limited Court Case Review	2, 8 2 2
	Other Judicial Review (39)	□ A6150 Other Writ /Judicial Review	2, 8
<u>_</u>	Antitrust/Trade Regulation (03)	□ A6003 Antitrust/Trade Regulation	1, 2, 8
tigatio	Construction Defect (10)	☐ A6007 Construction Defect	1, 2, 3
plex Li	Claims Involving Mass Tort (40)	□ A6006 Claims Involving Mass Tort	1, 2, 8
/ Com	Securities Litigation (28)	□ A6035 Securities Litigation Case	1, 2, 8
Provisionally Complex Litigation	Toxic Tort Environmental (30)	□ A6036 Toxic Tort/Environmental	1, 2, 3, 8
Provis	Insurance Coverage Claims from Complex Case (41)	□ A6014 Insurance Coverage/Subrogation (complex case only)	1, 2, 5, 8
Enforcement of Judgment	Enforcement of Judgment (20)	 □ A6141 Sister State Judgment □ A6160 Abstract of Judgment □ A6107 Confession of Judgment (non-domestic relations) □ A6140 Administrative Agency Award (not unpaid taxes) □ A6114 Petition/Certificate for Entry of Judgment on Unpaid Tax □ A6112 Other Enforcement of Judgment Case 	2, 5, 11 2, 6 2, 9 2, 8 2, 8 2, 8, 9
	RICO (27)	☐ A6033 Racketeering (RICO) Case	1, 2, 8
Miscellaneous Civil Complaints	Other Complaints (Not Specified Above) (42)	 □ A6030 Declaratory Relief Only □ A6040 Injunctive Relief Only (not domestic/harassment) □ A6011 Other Commercial Complaint Case (non-tort/non-complex) □ A6000 Other Civil Complaint (non-tort/non-complex) 	1, 2, 8 2, 8 1, 2, 8 1, 2, 8
	Partnership Corporation Governance (21)	☐ A6113 Partnership and Corporate Governance Case	2, 8
Miscellaneous Civil Petitions	Other Petitions (Not Specified Above) (43)	 □ A6121 Civil Harassment With Damages □ A6123 Workplace Harassment With Damages □ A6124 Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse Case With Damages □ A6190 Election Contest □ A6110 Petition for Change of Name/Change of Gender □ A6170 Petition for Relief from Late Claim Law 	2, 3, 9 2, 3, 9 2, 3, 9 2 2, 7 2, 3, 8
		☐ A6100 Other Civil Petition	2, 9

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SHORT TITLE: Johnson v. Affinity Insurance Services Inc. et al.	CASE NUMBER	

Step 4: Statement of Reason and Address: Check the appropriate boxes for the numbers shown under Column C for the type of action that you have selected. Enter the address which is the basis for the filing location, including zip code. (No address required for class action cases).

REASON:			ADDRESS: 3324 Emerald Isle Drive		
☑ 1. □ 2. □ 3. □ 4. □ 5. □ 6. □	7. 🗆 8. 🗆 9. [□ 10. □ 11.		•••,	
CITY: Glendale	STATE: CA	ZIP CODE: 91206			

Step 5:	Certification of Assignment:	I certify that this case is properly filed in the	Central	Distric	ct of
	the Superior Court of California,	County of Los Angeles [Code Civ. Proc., §	392 et seq., ar	nd Local Rule 2.3(a)(1)(E)].

Dated:	May 1	1, 2020	
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(SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY/FILING PARTY)

PLEASE HAVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS COMPLETED AND READY TO BE FILED IN ORDER TO PROPERLY COMMENCE YOUR NEW COURT CASE:

- 1. Original Complaint or Petition.
- 2. If filing a Complaint, a completed Summons form for issuance by the Clerk.
- 3. Civil Case Cover Sheet, Judicial Council form CM-010.
- 4. Civil Case Cover Sheet Addendum and Statement of Location form, LACIV 109, LASC Approved 03-04 (Rev. 02/16).
- 5. Payment in full of the filing fee, unless there is court order for waiver, partial or scheduled payments.
- 6. A signed order appointing the Guardian ad Litem, Judicial Council form CIV-010, if the plaintiff or petitioner is a minor under 18 years of age will be required by Court in order to issue a summons.
- 7. Additional copies of documents to be conformed by the Clerk. Copies of the cover sheet and this addendum must be served along with the summons and complaint, or other initiating pleading in the case.

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Civil Division

Central District, Spring Street Courthouse, Department 6

20STCV22641 LANCE JOHNSON vs AFFINITY INSURANCE SERVICES, INC., et al. June 23, 2020 8:33 AM

Judge: Honorable Elihu M. BerleCSR: NoneJudicial Assistant: M. FregosoERM: None

Courtroom Assistant: M. Molinar Deputy Sheriff: None

APPEARANCES:

For Plaintiff(s): No Appearances
For Defendant(s): No Appearances

NATURE OF PROCEEDINGS: Court Order

By this order, the Court determines this case to be Complex according to Rule 3.400 of the California Rules of Court. The Clerk's Office has randomly assigned this case to this department for all purposes.

By this order, the Court stays the case, except for service of the Summons and Complaint. The stay continues at least until the Initial Status Conference. Initial Status Conference is set for 08/12/2020 at 10:00 AM in this department. At least 10 days prior to the Initial Status Conference, counsel for all parties must discuss the issues set forth in the Initial Status Conference Order issued this date. The Initial Status Conference Order is to help the Court and the parties manage this complex case by developing an orderly schedule for briefing, discovery, and court hearings. The parties are informally encouraged to exchange documents and information as may be useful for case evaluation.

Responsive pleadings shall not be filed until further Order of the Court. Parties must file a Notice of Appearance in lieu of an Answer or other responsive pleading. The filing of a Notice of Appearance shall not constitute a waiver of any substantive or procedural challenge to the Complaint. Nothing in this order stays the time for filing an Affidavit of Prejudice pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure Section 170.6.

Counsel are directed to access the following link for information on procedures in the Complex litigation Program courtrooms: http://www.lacourt.org/division/civil/CI0037.aspx

Pursuant to Government Code Sections 70616(a) and 70616(b), a single complex fee of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) must be paid on behalf of all plaintiffs. For defendants, a complex fee of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) must be paid for each defendant, intervenor, respondent or adverse party, not to exceed, for each separate case number, a total of eighteen thousand

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Civil Division

Central District, Spring Street Courthouse, Department 6

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Judge: Honorable Elihu M. Berle CSR: None Judicial Assistant: M. Fregoso ERM: None

Courtroom Assistant: M. Molinar Deputy Sheriff: None

dollars (\$18,000.00), collected from all defendants, intervenors, respondents, or adverse parties. All such fees are ordered to be paid to Los Angeles Superior Court, within 10 days of service of this order.

The plaintiff must serve a copy of this minute order and the attached Initial Status Conference Order on all parties forthwith and file a Proof of Service in this department within 7 days of service.

PARTIES SHALL FILE A JOINT INITIAL STATUS CONFERENCE REPORT 7 DAYS PRIOR TO THE INITIAL STATUS CONFERENCE.

Certificate of Mailing is attached.

Case 2:20-cv-07020-RGK-RAO Document 1-1 Filed 08/05/20 Page 30 of 30 Page ID #:36

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES	Reserved for Clerk's File Stamp
COURTHOUSE ADDRESS: Spring Street Courthouse 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012	FILED Superior Court of California County of Los Angeles 06/23/2020
PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER:	Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court
Lance Johnson	By: M. Fregoso Deputy
DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT:	
Affinity Insurance Services, Inc. et al	
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING	CASE NUMBER: 20STCV22641

I, the below-named Executive Officer/Clerk of the above-entitled court, do hereby certify that I am not a party to the cause herein, and that on this date I served the Minute Order (Court Order) of 06/23/2020, Initial Status Conference Order upon each party or counsel named below by placing the document for collection and mailing so as to cause it to be deposited in the United States mail at the courthouse in Los Angeles, California, one copy of the original filed/entered herein in a separate sealed envelope to each address as shown below with the postage thereon fully prepaid, in accordance with standard court practices.

Todd Michael Friedman Law Offices of Todd M Friedman PC 21550 Oxnard St Ste 780 Woodland Hills, CA 91367

Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court

By: M. Fregoso
Deputy Clerk

Dated: <u>06/23/2020</u> By: <u>M.</u>

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Class Action Claims Affinity Insurance</u>, <u>Virginia Surety Fail to Honor Travel Insurance Policies</u>