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**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA**

ERIN KISTLER and SRUTI BHAUMIK, on
behalf of themselves and all those similarly
situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

EIGHTFOLD AI INC.

Defendant.

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR
VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR CREDIT
REPORTING ACT, CALIFORNIA
INVESTIGATIVE CONSUMER
REPORTING AGENCIES ACT, AND
UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW**

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

1 Plaintiffs Erin Kistler and Sruti Bhaumik (“Plaintiffs”), on behalf of themselves and all
2 others similarly situated, allege as follows:

3 **SUMMARY OF CLAIMS**

4 1. This case is about how Defendant Eightfold AI Inc. (“Eightfold”) uses hidden
5 Artificial Intelligence (“AI”) technology to collect sensitive and often inaccurate information
6 about unsuspecting job applicants and to score them from 0 to 5 for potential employers based on
7 their supposed “likelihood of success” on the job. Eightfold’s technology lurks in the
8 background of job applications for thousands of applicants who may not even know Eightfold
9 exists, let alone that Eightfold is collecting personal data, such as social media profiles, location
10 data, internet and device activity, cookies and other tracking, to create a profile about the
11 candidate’s behavior, attitudes, intelligence, aptitudes and other characteristics that applicants
12 never included in their job application. These job applicants have no meaningful opportunity to
13 review or dispute Eightfold’s AI-generated report before it informs a decision about one of the
14 most important aspects of their lives—whether or not they get a job.

15 2. The technology may be new, but the practice violates laws that have been on the
16 books since the 1970s because it creates consumer reports to evaluate job applicants without
17 complying with longstanding federal and California requirements. There is no AI-exemption to
18 these laws, which have for decades been an essential tool in protecting job applicants from
19 abuses by third parties—like background check companies—that profit by collecting information
20 about and evaluating job applicants.

21 3. Specifically, this class action arises from Eightfold’s unlawful practice of
22 gathering, assembling, and evaluating information about job applicants through opaque machine
23 learning processes and closely-guarded algorithms, producing unreviewable reports that a
24 growing number of employers rely on for employment decisions such as hiring. Eightfold
25 generates these reports using AI-powered tools that assemble and evaluate information about
26 prospective employees to determine their “suitability” that are purportedly based on factors like
27 work history, projected future career trajectory, culture fit, and other personal characteristics
28

1 (“Evaluation Tools”). Eightfold then sells these reports to employers for use in making
2 employment decisions, which can have profound consequences for thousands of people across
3 the country.

4 4. For the affected job applicants, this process is often largely invisible. They
5 submit their resume and job application to a prospective employer online and wait for a response.
6 Behind the scenes, Eightfold’s hiring platform uses its Evaluation Tools to assemble information
7 from the job applicant, the prospective employer, and third-party online sources. Job applicants
8 have no opportunity to view any of the third-party data or to correct inaccuracies in these reports.

9 5. Eightfold runs this information through its proprietary Large Language Model
10 (“LLM”), which according to Eightfold, incorporates “more than 1.5 billion global data points,”¹
11 including “more [than] 1 million job titles, 1 million skills, and the profiles of more than 1 billion
12 people working in every job, profession, [and] industry,” making it the “world’s largest, self-
13 refreshing source of talent data.”² According to Eightfold, this “deep learning AI”³ platform
14 “delivers rich talent insights” by “analyzing data” from “public sources like career sites, job
15 boards, and resume databases (LinkedIn, Hoovers, Crunchbase, GitHub, etc.),” in addition to
16 other sources of information such as Eightfold’s own database of job descriptions and job
17 applicant data.⁴

18 6. Using its Evaluation Tools, Eightfold provides prospective employers with
19 consumer reports that assess job applicants not only as individuals—by purporting to identify
20 applicants’ likely skills, experience and characteristics—but also relative to one another, ranking
21 applicants by “likelihood of success” from 0 to 5 based on the conclusions, inferences, and
22 assumptions of Eightfold’s proprietary AI. Employers then use these reports to sift through
23 applications, typically only reviewing highly ranked candidates.⁵ Lower-ranked candidates are
24 often discarded before a human being ever looks at their application.

25 ¹ https://eightfold.ai/wp-content/uploads/Eightfold_Talent_Acquisition_data_sheet.pdf

26 ² https://eightfold.ai/wp-content/uploads/Power_Talent_Transformation_with_SAP_Eightfold.pdf

27 ³ https://eightfold.ai/wp-content/uploads/Eightfold_Talent_Acquisition_data_sheet.pdf

28 ⁴ https://eightfold.ai/wp-content/uploads/Power_Talent_Transformation_with_SAP_Eightfold.pdf

⁵ <https://eightfold.ai/engineering-blog/ai-powered-talent-matching-the-tech-behind-smarter-and-fairer-hiring/>

1 7. Eightfold plays a leading role in a growing industry of AI-powered recruitment
2 platforms that use vast, unknown, untested data sets combined with machine learning to score
3 and rank job applicants based on predicted skills and career trajectories. According to recent
4 reports, nearly two-thirds of large companies (those with more than 5,000 employees) now use
5 AI technology like Eightfold’s to screen out candidates that the platform deems likely to be
6 unqualified, while 38 percent deploy AI software to match and rank applicants.⁶

7 8. With a growing list of over 100 customers—including Microsoft, Morgan
8 Stanley, Starbucks, BNY, Paypal, Chevron and Bayer⁷—Eightfold boasts “unparalleled”
9 capabilities that “screen[] millions” of candidates⁸ and “surface best fits by match scores with
10 enhanced context,”⁹ allowing recruiters focus on “final decisions” rather than resumes or even
11 first-round interviews.¹⁰

12 9. The problem of employers relying on secretive and unreliable third-party reports
13 (or “dossiers”) when making employment decisions was a core concern Congress sought to
14 address in passing the Fair Credit Reporting Act (“FCRA”), 15 U.S.C. § 1681 *et seq.*, in 1970.
15 Based on these concerns, FCRA includes a broad definition of consumer reports as “any written,
16 oral, or other communication of any information by a consumer reporting agency bearing on a
17 consumer’s credit worthiness, credit standing, credit capacity, character, general reputation,
18 personal characteristics, or mode of living which is used or expected to be used or collected in
19 whole or in part for the purpose of serving as a factor in establishing the consumer’s eligibility
20 for” access to credit, insurance, or for “employment purposes.” 15 U.S.C. § 1681a(d)(1). In
21 other words, this definition covers not only what we now commonly recognize as credit reports,
22 such as those from TransUnion or Equifax that detail consumer debt history, but also reports
23 containing information about an person’s habits, morals, and life experiences. These are the
24 kinds of reports that can have devastating consequences for people’s jobs.

25 ⁶ <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/13/business/ai-hiring-jobs.html>

26 ⁷ <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/13/business/ai-hiring-jobs.html>

27 ⁸ <https://eightfold.ai/>

28 ⁹ <https://eightfold.ai/use-cases/eightfold-agentic-ai/>

¹⁰ <https://eightfold.ai/products/ai-interviewer/>

1 10. Although automated screening technology did not yet exist when the FCRA was
2 passed, large-scale decision-making based on opaque information is exactly the kind of harm the
3 statute was designed to address. Even in 1970, Congress expressed concern about the “growing
4 accessibility” of consumer information made possible “through computer- and data-transmission
5 techniques,”¹¹ and the increasing likelihood that “impersonal ‘blips’ . . . in a stolid and
6 unthinking machine”¹² could unfairly bar people from employment opportunities based on
7 inaccurate data entering the program or the program producing an incorrect analysis.

8 11. In order to protect against the harms of such reports, the FCRA requires consumer
9 reporting agencies like Eightfold to make certain disclosures, obtain certain certifications, and
10 ensure that consumers (here, job applicants) have a mechanism to review and correct reports that
11 are provided to prospective employers for purposes of determining eligibility for employment.

12 12. The FCRA was designed to apply as technology evolves. For example, in 2013
13 the Federal Trade Commission explained that “[t]he mobile app angle offers a 21st century twist,
14 but the message remains the same: Companies offering background screening products for
15 employment or other FCRA purposes—and the businesses that use them—have to stay in line
16 with the law.”¹³

17 13. In 2024, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the federal agency that
18 administers the FCRA, published a guidance document in the Federal Register titled
19 “Background Dossiers and Algorithmic Scores for Hiring, Promotion, and Other Employment
20 Decisions.”¹⁴ This guidance documented how longstanding protections for job applicants and
21 employees under the FCRA applied to new AI employment technologies. The Agency noted
22 that “an entity could ‘assemble’ or ‘evaluate’ consumer information within the meaning of the
23 term ‘consumer reporting agency’ if the entity collects consumer data in order to train an

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25 ¹¹ 115 Cong. Rec. S2413 (daily ed. Jan. 31, 1969) (statement of Sen. William Proxmire).

26 ¹² 116 Cong. Rec. 36570 (1970).

27 ¹³ <https://www.ftc.gov/business-guidance/blog/2013/01/background-screening-reports-fcra-just-saying-youre-not-consumer-reporting-agency-isnt-enough>

28 ¹⁴ <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/compliance/circulars/consumer-financial-protection-circular-2024-06-background-dossiers-and-algorithmic-scores-for-hiring-promotion-and-other-employment-decisions/>

algorithm that produces scores or other assessments about workers for employers.”¹⁵ It also noted how a third party that “provides [] scores to companies for employment purposes could ‘assemble’ or ‘evaluate’ consumer information if the developer obtains or uses data from sources other than an employer receiving the report, including from other employer-customers or public data sources, to generate the scores.”¹⁶

14. When the California legislature enacted the California Investigative Consumer Reporting Agencies Act (“ICRAA”), Cal. Civ. Code § 1786 *et seq.*, in 1975, it echoed the policy concerns that animated the FCRA and adopted similar, and in some respects heightened, certification and disclosure requirements for consumer reporting agencies.

15. Although these well-established protections have been on the books for as long as half a century, Eightfold does not comply with them, leaving job applicants uninformed of their rights and unable to dispute or correct inaccurate information in their job application reports, or even to know that such information exists in the first place, in violation of the FCRA and ICRAA.

16. Congress and the California legislature understood as early as the 1970s that access to employment and credit are the building blocks of the American Dream, and that using unreliable and unreviewable information to determine that access violates basic principles of fairness and reason. The FCRA and ICRAA were passed to remedy these harms and to ensure that individuals understand how companies use their data to make decisions that impact their livelihoods, including their access to employment, and to have the right to correct that data when the companies get it wrong. As companies find ways to expand beyond the information and evaluation provided by credit reports, seeking new and different ways to determine access to economic opportunity, these core principles are more important than ever.

¹⁵ <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/compliance/circulars/consumer-financial-protection-circular-2024-06-background-dossiers-and-algorithmic-scores-for-hiring-promotion-and-other-employment-decisions/>

¹⁶ <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/compliance/circulars/consumer-financial-protection-circular-2024-06-background-dossiers-and-algorithmic-scores-for-hiring-promotion-and-other-employment-decisions/>

1 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

2 17. The Court has general jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' claims under the FCRA,
3 ICRAA and the UCL.

4 18. The Court has personal jurisdiction over this matter because Eightfold is a citizen
5 of California, conducts substantial business activity in this state, and engaged in the unlawful
6 acts described herein in this state, as part of a common course of conduct.

7 19. Venue is proper in this county under California Code of Civil Procedure § 395.5
8 because Plaintiff Bhaumik lives in, applied from, and was denied employment while living in
9 Contra Costa County, California.

10 **THE PARTIES**

11 20. Eightfold is a Delaware corporation with its headquarters and primary place of
12 business in Santa Clara, California.

13 21. Eightfold is a Consumer Reporting Agency ("CRA") for FCRA purposes because
14 it is in the business of assembling and evaluating information on consumers for the purpose of
15 furnishing consumer reports (including information bearing on job applicants' character, general
16 reputation, personal characteristics, or mode of living, which is expected to be used as a factor in
17 establishing the consumer's eligibility for employment purposes) to third parties, including
18 Microsoft, Paypal and many more. Employers, including Microsoft and Paypal, among others,
19 rely on these reports to make employment-related decisions about applicants and employees.

20 22. Eightfold uses the means of interstate commerce in preparing or furnishing
21 consumer reports.

22 23. As such, Eightfold is regulated by federal law, including the FCRA.

23 24. Eightfold is also an investigative CRA under California law because it is in the
24 business of collecting, assembling, evaluating, compiling, reporting, transmitting, transferring, or
25 communicating consumer information regarding consumers' character, general reputation,
26 personal characteristics, or mode of living (consumer reports), including for employment
27 purposes, to companies, including prospective employers.

25. As such, Eightfold is regulated by California law, including ICRAA.

26. Plaintiff Kistler is a resident of Los Angeles, California.

27. Plaintiff Bhaumik is a resident of Walnut Creek, California.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Background to the FCRA and its Enactment

28. Congress enacted the federal FCRA in 1970 to regulate the growing business of CRAs, companies that assemble information into reports used by businesses making decisions about access to credit and employment. Specifically, Congress recognized the need to “ensure fair and accurate credit reporting, promote efficiency in the banking system, and protect consumer privacy.” *Safeco Ins. Co. of Am. v. Burr*, 551 U.S. 47, 52 (2007).

29. In introducing the bill enacting the FCRA before the Senate, sponsor Senator William Proxmire described how such consumer reporting was both pervasive and invasive. For example, Senator Proxmire described a retail credit reporting company with dossiers on 45 million people that contained information on “drinking, marital discords, adulterous behavior, as well as a person’s general reputation, habits and morals,” collected largely from conversations with neighbors. Another credit reporting company he identified specialized in maintaining information on “deadbeats.”¹⁷

30. The legislative history of the FCRA shows that its drafters were deeply concerned with the potential impacts of credit reporting information on employment opportunities. For example, the Senate Report noted that the FCRA was intended to apply where “a consumer’s future employment career could be jeopardized because of an incomplete credit report.”¹⁸ Elsewhere, the Congressional Record reflects the FCRA drafters’ belief that people should have access “to all information in any form which would be relayed to a prospective employer, insurer or creditor in making a judgment as to the worthiness of the individual’s application.”¹⁹

¹⁷ <https://www.congress.gov/91/crecb/1969/01/31/GPO-CRECB-1969-pt2-8-1.pdf>

¹⁸ <https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/CIA-RDP72-00337R000400050003-7.pdf>

¹⁹ 116 Cong Rec. 36572 (1970).

1 31. The type of computerized data gathering, analysis, and decision making that
2 forms the core of Eightfold’s business was of particular concern:

3 [W]ith the trend toward computerization of billings and the establishment of all
4 sorts of computerized data banks, the individual is in great danger of having his
5 life and character reduced to impersonal “blips” and keypunch holes in a stolid
6 and unthinking machine which can literally ruin his reputation without cause, and
7 make him unemployable or uninsurable, as well as deny him the opportunity to
8 obtain a mortgage to buy a home. We are not nearly as much concerned over the
possible mistaken turndown of a consumer for a luxury item as we are over the
possible destruction of his good name without his knowledge and without reason.
The loss of a credit card can, of course, be expensive, but, as Shakespeare said, the
loss of one’s good name is beyond price and makes one poor indeed. This bill’s
title VI deals with that problem.²⁰

9 32. In particular, Congress sought to ensure that inaccurate or incomplete reports
10 would not cost people business or employment opportunities without first giving them the
11 opportunity to inspect and correct those reports. As the Senate Report that accompanied the bill
12 noted, “[u]nless a person knows he is being rejected for credit or insurance or employment
13 because of a credit report, he has no opportunity to be confronted with the charges against him
14 and tell his side of the story.”²¹

15 33. When Congress amended the FCRA in the Consumer Credit Reporting Reform
16 Act of 1996, Pub. L. 104-208, § 2403, 110 Stat. 3009-426, 3009-431, it once again specifically
17 identified the use of consumer reports in employment decisions as an animating consideration.
18 Specifically, the committee report for the amended statute expressed concern that “the ability of
19 employers to obtain consumer reports on current and prospective employees may unreasonably
20 harm employees if there are errors in their reports.”²²

21 34. The FCRA defines a “consumer report” as:

22 Any written, oral, or other communication of any information by a consumer
23 reporting agency bearing on a consumer’s credit worthiness, credit standing, credit
24 capacity, character, general reputation, personal characteristics or mode of living which is
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26 ²⁰ 16 Cong. Rec. 36570 (1970).

27 ²¹ <https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/CIA-RDP72-00337R000400050003-7.pdf>; S. Rep. No. 517, at 3 (1969).

28 ²² S. Rep. No. 104-185, at 35 (1995).

1 used or expected to be used or collected in whole or in part for the purpose of serving as a
2 factor in establishing the consumer’s eligibility for—(A) credit or insurance to be used
3 primarily for personal, family, or household purposes; (B) employment purposes; or (C)
4 any other [authorized] purpose

5 15 U.S.C. § 1681a(d)(1).

6 35. A “consumer reporting agency” or CRA, in turn, is “any person which, for
7 monetary fees, dues, or on a cooperative nonprofit basis, regularly engages in whole or in part in
8 the practice of assembling or evaluating consumer credit information or other information on
9 consumers for the purpose of furnishing consumer reports to third parties” 15 U.S.C. §
10 1681a(f).

11 36. “[E]mployment purposes’ when used in connection with a consumer report
12 means a report used for the purpose of evaluating a consumer for employment, promotion,
13 reassignment or retention as an employee.” 15 U.S.C. § 1681a(h).

14 37. The Federal Trade Commission and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau,
15 two federal agencies with authority to enforce the FCRA, have both reiterated that the FCRA
16 covers employment-related decision making and related harms to workers, in addition to
17 decisions concerning the extension of credit.²³

18 **A. The FCRA’s General Protections**

19 38. In enacting the FCRA, Congress imposed critical obligations on CRAs as the
20 gatekeepers and purveyors of consumers’ personal data. For example, CRAs may only furnish
21 consumer reports under limited, statutorily defined permissible purposes, *id.* § 1681b(a), and
22 CRAs must take reasonable steps to verify the identity and purposes of consumer report users,
23 ensure that consumer reports do not contain excludable types of information, and confirm that
24 consumer reports are not being used in violation of the statute, *id.* § 1681e(a).

25
26
27 ²³ <https://www.eeoc.gov/meetings/meeting-october-20-2010-employer-use-credit-history-screening-tool/mithal>;
28 https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/cfpb_ymyg_reentry_background-screening-report-checklist.pdf

1 39. The statute also limits the types of information that CRAs can disclose in
2 consumer reports, including “adverse item[s] of information” other than criminal convictions that
3 are more than seven years old, *id.* § 1681c, and requires CRAs to follow strict procedures when
4 reporting public record information for employment purposes, *id.* § 1681k.

5 40. The FCRA further requires CRAs to follow reasonable procedures to assure
6 maximum possible accuracy of the information contained in consumer reports. *Id.* § 1681e(b).

7 41. In order to ensure that consumers have the ability to review and correct any
8 inaccurate or incomplete information, the statute further requires CRAs to make consumer report
9 information available to consumers upon request, including the sources of information relied
10 upon, *id.* § 1681g, and to investigate and correct, as appropriate, any information the consumer
11 claims to be inaccurate or incomplete, with notice to the prospective employer, *id.* § 1681i.

12 42. The FCRA provides for actual and statutory damages of between \$100.00 and
13 \$1,000.00 for each violation under 15 U.S.C. § 1681n(a)(1)(A), in addition to punitive damages
14 under 15 U.S.C. § 1681n(a)(2).

15 **B. The FCRA’s Employment-Specific Protections**

16 43. Reflecting Congress’s particular focus on the employment context and the
17 severity of harms to workers who are unable to gain employment due to inaccurate data, the
18 FCRA imposes specific obligations that apply *only* when consumer reports are used for
19 employment purposes. 15 U.S.C. § 1681b(b).

20 44. These employment-specific provisions are in addition to the general rules
21 described above that the statute establishes for all consumer reports.

22 45. In amending the FCRA in 1996, Congress specifically recognized the importance
23 of job applicants’ privacy rights, the significant risks associated with the reporting of inaccurate
24 information, and the difficulties job applicants and other consumers face in correcting such
25 errors.²⁴ As a result, the FCRA requires that job applicants receive a clear, conspicuous,

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27 ²⁴ S. Rep. No. 108-166 at 5-6 (2003) (describing 1996 amendments), S. Rep. No. 104-185 at 35 (1995).

1 standalone disclosure that a consumer report will be procured for employment purposes, and that
2 they authorize the collection of their consumer reporting information for employment purposes,
3 *before* an employer can procure such report. *Id.* § 1681b(b)(2). This provision implies that job
4 applicants have a right to withhold authorization.

5 46. Congress further enacted a dispute and error-correction mechanism under which
6 job applicants must have an opportunity to review and correct the information in their consumer
7 reports before an employer denies employment based on that information. *Id.* § 1681b(b)(3).
8 Thus, employers violate the FCRA when they use consumer reports to make adverse
9 employment decisions without first providing the applicant and/or employee who is the subject
10 of the report with sufficient and timely notification of its intent to take an adverse action and a
11 copy of the report. *Id.* § 1681b(b)(3)(A)(i).

12 47. The FCRA further provides that CRAs may furnish a consumer report for
13 employment purposes only after receiving certification from the employer that: (i) the employer
14 has complied with the FCRA’s standalone disclosure and authorization requirements under §
15 1681b(b)(2); (ii) the employer will comply with the FCRA’s notice, dispute, and error-correction
16 requirements under § 1681b(b)(3); and (iii) the employer will not use consumer report
17 information in violation of any applicable federal or state equal employment opportunity law or
18 regulation. *Id.* § 1681b(b)(1). The FCRA further requires CRAs to provide employers with a
19 summary of the consumer’s rights under the FCRA, *id.* and to notify employers of their
20 responsibilities under the statute, *id.* § 1681e(d).

21 **Background to the ICRAA and its Enactment**

22 48. In the wake of the FCRA, California enacted a robust statutory framework to
23 protect individuals from improper disclosure of their consumer information, including the
24 ICRAA. Cal. Civ. Code § 1786 *et seq.* The ICRAA was enacted in 1975 to ensure that CRAs
25 exercise their “grave responsibilities [in consumer reporting] with fairness, impartiality, and a
26 respect for the consumer’s right to privacy.” Cal. Civ. Code § 1786(b).

1 49. The ICRAA governs “investigative consumer reporting agencies” (hereinafter,
2 also referred to as “CRAs”) that compile, sell, and furnish investigative consumer reports
3 (including “information on a consumer’s character, general reputation, personal characteristics,
4 or mode of living”). Cal. Civ. Code § 1786.2(c).

5 50. Like the FCRA, the ICRAA imposes important obligations on CRAs, including
6 requiring CRAs to ensure that report recipients are permitted users and are using the report for a
7 permissible purpose, and to obtain various certifications from prospective employers (and other
8 users of consumer information) before preparing or furnishing consumer reports. Cal. Civ. Code
9 §§ 1786.12, 1786.16, 1786.20.

10 51. These certifications, in turn, require employers and other users to provide
11 consumers (including job applicants) with standalone disclosures and to obtain their prior written
12 consent to the use of their consumer information, including that an investigative consumer report
13 may be obtained containing information bearing on the consumer’s character, general reputation,
14 personal characteristics, and mode of living; the nature and scope of the investigation and the
15 purpose for such report; the identification of the CRA providing the consumer report, together
16 with the CRA’s contact, website information and privacy practices, and further require that
17 consumers be able to obtain a copy of their consumer report. Cal. Civ. Code § 1786.16(a)-(b);
18 *id.* § 1786.20.

19 52. The ICRAA also provides important limitations on the information that can be
20 included in consumer reports, including adverse information that predates the report by more
21 than seven years. *Id.* § 1786.18.

22 53. The ICRAA further requires CRAs to follow reasonable procedures to assure the
23 “maximum possible accuracy of the information” contained in consumer reports, *id.* §
24 1786.20(b), particularly with respect to matters of public record likely to have an adverse impact
25 on employment, *id.* § 1786.28.

26 54. The ICRAA also requires CRAs and users of consumer reports to provide notice
27 and dispute procedures so that job applicants and other consumers can review and address
28

1 inaccurate information if they are subject to an adverse action, including the denial of
2 employment, based on such information. *Id.* §§ 1786.20, 1786.24, 1786.40.

3 55. The statute further requires CRAs to publicly post specific information regarding
4 their privacy practices and to provide consumer reporting information to consumers upon
5 request. *Id.* §§ 1786.20, 1786.22.

6 56. A CRA that fails to comply with any requirement of the ICRAA is liable for the
7 greater of “actual damages sustained by the [individual] . . . or \$10,000,” reasonable attorney’s
8 fees and costs, and punitive damages for “grossly negligent or willful” violations. Cal. Civ.
9 Code §1786.50(a), (b).

10 **Eightfold’s Evaluation Tools**

11 57. Eightfold provides employers with an AI tool²⁵ that assembles and evaluates
12 information about employees and job applicants, creating credit reports for use in, *inter alia*,
13 hiring, promotion, and retention decisions.

14 58. With respect to hiring, Eightfold’s “Talent Intelligence Program” enables
15 employers to create job profiles, assemble internal and external data for job applicants, and
16 generate web pages where applicants can apply to jobs. Eightfold’s Evaluation Tools then
17 evaluate and rank job applicants using the data gathered from job applicants during the
18 application process, the employer’s internal data, external data, and Eightfold’s proprietary
19 LLM, which is trained on billions of data points for the specific purpose of creating a report that
20 Eightfold provides to employers for use in employment decisions.

21 59. The report that the Talent Intelligence Program produces on candidates includes
22 what Eightfold calls the “Match Score.”

23 60. The Match Score is an AI model that “predicts the match between a candidate
24 profile and a job position, and displays candidates for a given job position in a rank-list manner.
25

26 ²⁵ Agentic AI is a form of artificial intelligence that mimics human decision-making and problem-solving skills with
27 limited human oversight.
28

1 It is not a stand-alone score for a candidate. Rather it is the match of the candidate to job
2 requirements as specified by the calibration of the job position.”²⁶

3 61. One of Eightfold’s main marketing features is the wealth of data points that it uses
4 to train its AI model: Eightfold touts having “10 years of aggregated, anonymized talent and data
5 learnings”; “1.6B+ [1.6 billion data points on employee] career trajectories,” “1.6M+ [1.6
6 million data points on employee] skills,” and “50+ variables driving fair, accurate scoring and
7 matching.”²⁷

8 62. Elsewhere, Eightfold advertises that “[o]nly Eightfold offers a patented AI
9 platform that learns from more than 1.5 billion global data points and every talent decision.”²⁸

10 63. Much like a credit report used in consumer lending decisions, this data is
11 assembled from a variety of sources, including the specific organization’s human resources data,
12 public data sources, and Eightfold’s own proprietary data, as illustrated in the following figure
13 from Eightfold’s patent application for a “System, Method, and Computer Program for
14 Automatically Predicting the Job Candidates Most Likely to be Hired And Successful In A
15 Job”.²⁹

26 https://eightfold.ai/wp-content/uploads/Responsible_AI_at_Eightfold.pdf

27 <https://eightfold.ai/>

28 https://eightfold.ai/wp-content/uploads/Eightfold_Talent_Acquisition_data_sheet.pdf

29 <https://eightfold.ai/wp-content/uploads/Patent-12141757.pdf>

Creating an Enriched Talent Profile for a Candidate

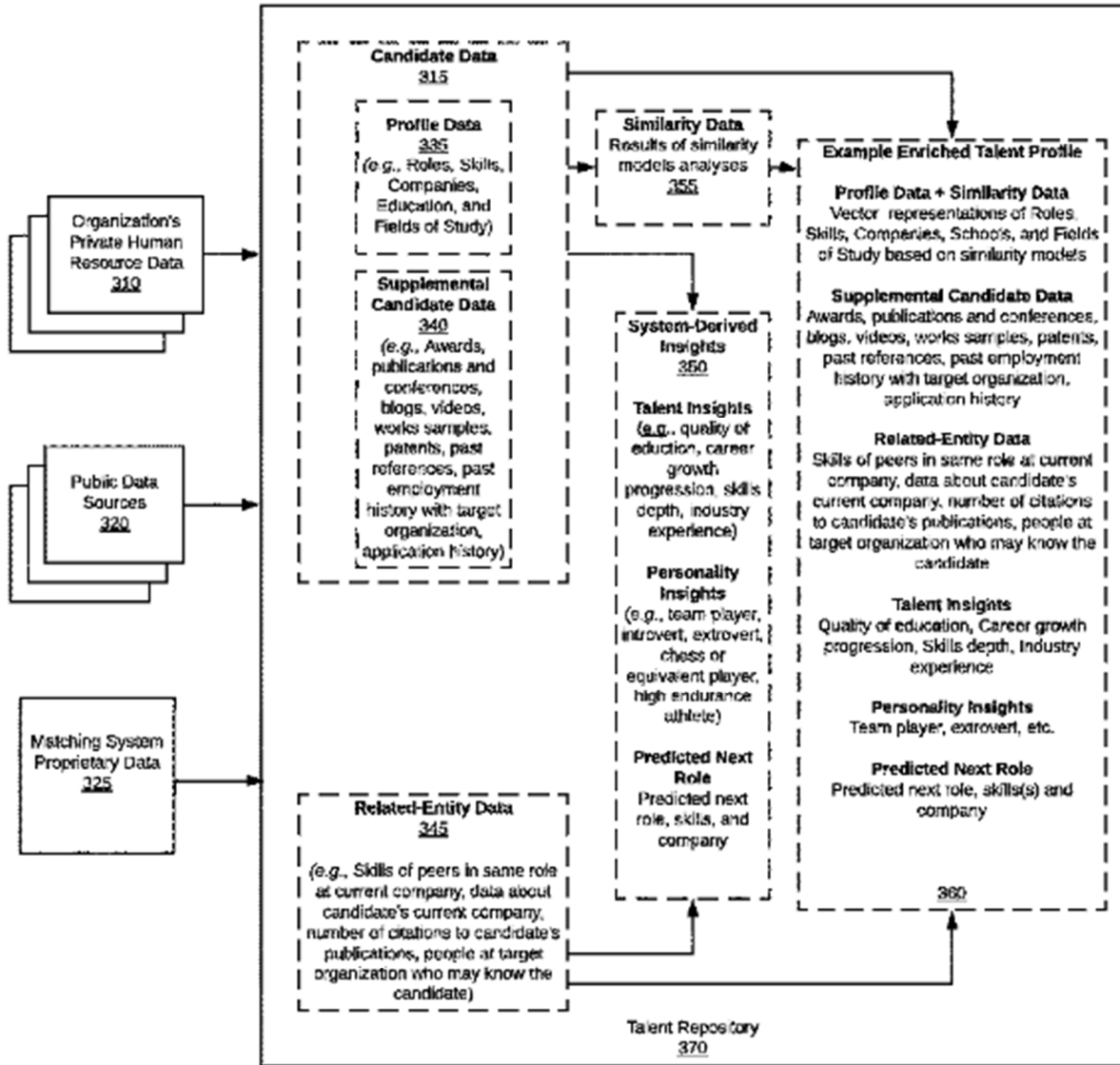


FIG. 3

64. Specifically, data Eightfold assembles and evaluates includes, among other inputs, (1) the candidate’s hiring profile and resume, (2) supplemental candidate data gathered from public sources about the candidate’s professional history (such as blogs, publications, conferences, job application history, etc.), (3) data pertaining to comparable employees at other companies, (4) predictions and inferences about the candidate’s personality and future, and (5) data used to train Eightfold’s AI. This data goes far beyond the data provided by the applicant to include data that Eightfold gathers from third-party online sources and data that Eightfold’s AI creates itself.

65. Eightfold’s privacy policy confirms that its platform ingests professional data from third-party sources such as LinkedIn, Stack Overflow, and GitHub to build candidate profiles, as well as data inputs from the employer and from Eightfold’s own trove of data on job applicants.

66. This means that once an applicant applies to a job for an employer using Eightfold, Eightfold will thereafter retain and be able to use that applicant’s data for its own purposes, including for evaluating other applicants for unrelated positions, or for that same job applicant for other positions in the future.³⁰ Eightfold’s policy also makes clear that the “personal data” it collects and uses for evaluating employment includes “[i]nferences drawn from any of [the various sources of information it collects] to create a profile about [the job applicant] reflecting the [applicant’s] preferences, characteristics, predispositions, behavior, attitudes, intelligence, abilities, and aptitudes.”³¹

67. Eightfold then uses the assembled data to evaluate and rank applicants using its Evaluation Tools, for the employers with whom it contracts.

68. Eightfold trains the Match Score model “specifically for candidate—job fit using supervised learning on hiring data” that is external to the specific candidate’s job application.³²

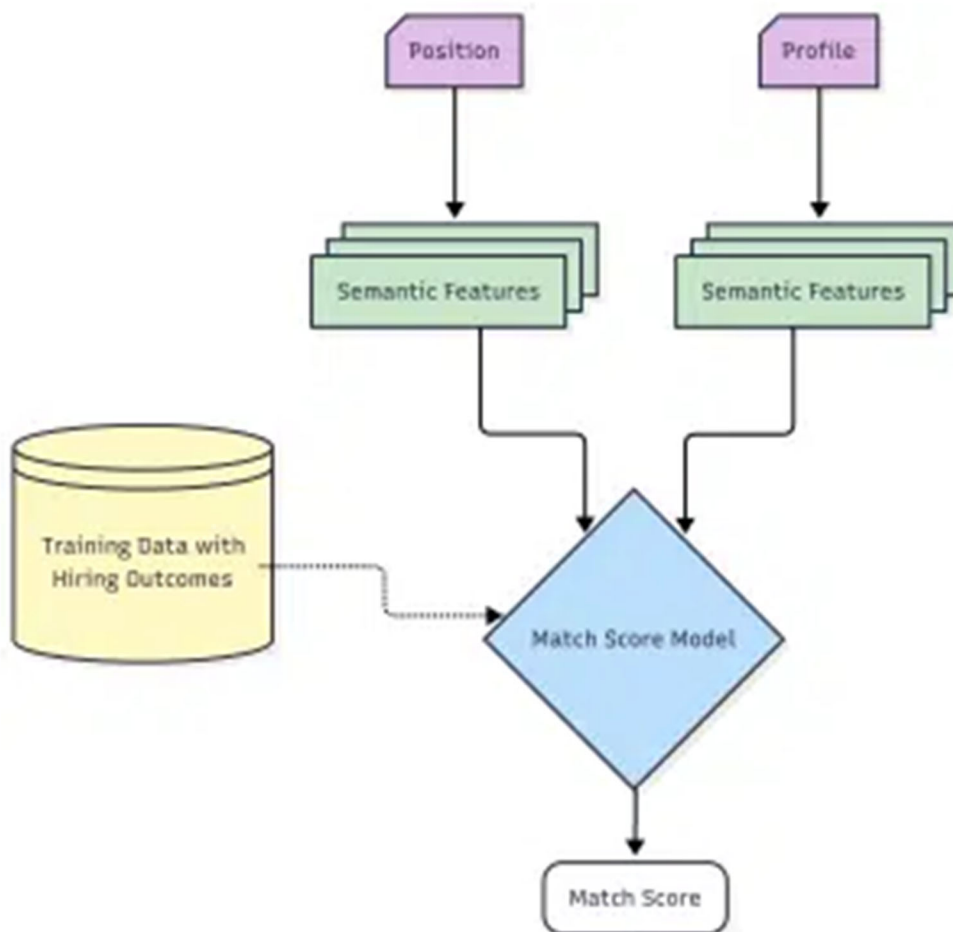
³⁰ <https://eightfold.ai/privacy-policy/>

³¹ <https://eightfold.ai/privacy-policy/>

³² <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2507.02087v1>

69. In a post on Eightfold’s website, an engineer on Eightfold’s AI platform team describes the Match Score algorithm as involving three basic steps: “Step 1: Extract deep semantic embeddings from unstructured data. Step 2: Add interpretable features from deep structured extraction. Step 3: Perform fast explainable inference of match scores.”³³

70. The post illustrates the process with the following chart:



71. At Step 1 (“Position” and “Profile” in the above chart), the AI uses a large language model (“LLM”) to evaluate similarities between job descriptions and skills required for

³³ <https://eightfold.ai/engineering-blog/ai-powered-talent-matching-the-tech-behind-smarter-and-fairer-hiring/>

the job opening and job descriptions and skills presented in the applicant’s resume.³⁴ As the engineer’s Eightfold post explains: “[W]e can detect that ‘Machine Learning Engineer at a fintech company’ profile and ‘Data Scientist at an insurance firm’ profile may have similar functional capabilities, even if the titles, experiences and industries differ.”³⁵

72. At Step 2 (“Semantic Features” in the above chart), the AI extracts additional information from profiles and jobs to calculate factors such as “skill overlap, title progression and seniority fit, industry and company similarity, [and] context of ideal candidates and hiring manager.”³⁶ The calculation uses models derived from “hundreds of millions of internal profile and job-text” data sets.³⁷ The resulting scoring considerations are as follows:

- a. Skill overlap: This calculates the similarities between the skills identified as required for the job and the skills that the candidate possesses.
- b. Title progression and seniority fit: This calculates 1) the similarities between the job title that the employer is seeking candidates for and the candidate’s recent job titles, 2) the candidate’s *future* job titles, 3) the similarity in “look and feel” between the hiring company and the candidate’s past companies, and 4) hireability, i.e. the likelihood that the job candidate will join a company like the hiring company.
- c. Match with ideal candidates and the hiring manager: This compares the candidate against job profiles of hiring managers and high-performing employees who hold or have held the job being hired for.

73. At Step 3, the AI takes the features extracted in Step 2 and “blend[s] them into a calibrated prediction” that “rank[s] candidates by likelihood of success” based on “tens of millions of historical candidate-position pairs with known outcomes, using features extracted at the time of the original interaction.”³⁸

³⁴ <https://eightfold.ai/engineering-blog/ai-powered-talent-matching-the-tech-behind-smarter-and-fairer-hiring/>

³⁵ *Id.*

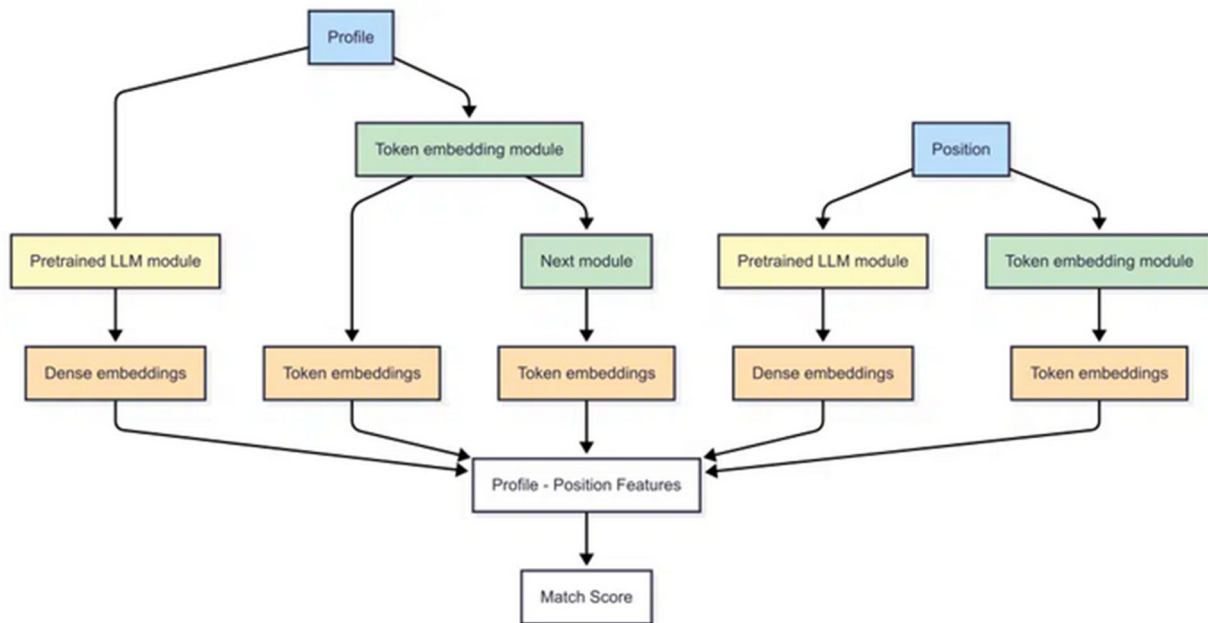
³⁶ *Id.*

³⁷ *Id.*

³⁸ <https://eightfold.ai/engineering-blog/ai-powered-talent-matching-the-tech-behind-smarter-and-fairer-hiring/>

74. This results in a Match Score, which ranges from 0 through 5 in increments of 0.5, which can then be sorted into a ranked list.³⁹

75. This chart shows an illustration of how the Evaluation Tools work:



76. Eightfold’s marketing materials tout that Match Score is superior to other LLMs because it is trained on: “Real résumés with verified skills, experiences, and qualifications[, r]eal job descriptions reflecting actual role requirements across industries[, and r]eal outcomes, such as data indicating which candidates got interviews, offers, or hires.”⁴⁰

Plaintiff Kistler’s Experience

77. Plaintiff Erin Kistler (“Kistler”) has submitted online applications for various positions with companies that use Eightfold’s Evaluation Tools for recruitment and hiring services, including collecting, assembling, and evaluating applicant data gathered from third-party sources for purposes of evaluating Ms. Kistler for employment.

78. Ms. Kistler holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Ohio State University and has approximately 19 years’ experience working in product management and

³⁹ <https://eightfold.ai/nyc-eightfold-matching-model/>

⁴⁰ <https://eightfold.ai/blog/fair-accurate-hiring/>

1 project management, including in AI, deploying data, technology and marketing to improve user
2 experience and drive results across a variety of sectors including government services, business,
3 media, and entertainment.

4 79. Since 2022 and continuing to today, Ms. Kistler has applied for various positions
5 for which she is qualified with Paypal, Microsoft, Netflix, and other employers with whom
6 Eightfold contracts for AI-based recruiting and hiring services.

7 80. In December 2025, Ms. Kistler applied for several jobs with Paypal for which
8 Paypal uses Eightfold's Evaluation Tools to assemble and evaluate consumer data within the
9 scope of FCRA and ICRAA.

10 81. On or around December 17, Ms. Kistler applied online via Paypal's website for
11 the position of "Sr Product Manager-Venmo."

12 82. On or around December 17, Ms. Kistler also applied online via Paypal's website
13 for a position of "Sr Product Manager 2."

14 83. For each of these applications, Ms. Kistler was required to submit her application
15 information via a link that included "eightfold.ai/careers" in the website address (URL).

16 84. During the online application process, Ms. Kistler did not consent to waive her
17 privacy and consumer protection rights under state and federal law.

18 85. In accordance with its company-wide practices both before and after Ms. Kistler
19 applied to Paypal, given Ms. Kistler's experience of a lack of FCRA compliance, Eightfold
20 failed to obtain certification from prospective employers, including Paypal, stating that the
21 employer had complied or would comply with applicable federal and state laws requiring, *inter*
22 *alia*: written approval from the consumer based on clear and conspicuous notice in a standalone
23 document before obtaining any consumer report; written notice to the consumer of their rights
24 under applicable federal and state law; an opportunity for the consumer to receive a copy, and to
25 dispute the contents, of such consumer reporting information before taking any adverse action
26 (including a lower ranking score or rejection from employment) based on such information; and
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1 the employer's certification that consumer report information will not be used in violation of any
2 applicable equal employment opportunity law or regulation.

3 86. In accordance with its company-wide practices both before and after Ms. Kistler
4 applied to Paypal, given Ms. Kistler's experience of a lack of FCRA compliance, Eightfold also
5 failed to provide employers, including Paypal, with a summary of consumers' rights under
6 federal and state law together with its consumer reports including personal information and data
7 gleaned from third-party sources.

8 87. Consequently, during the application process, Ms. Kistler did not receive a
9 standalone disclosure providing clear and conspicuous notice that a consumer report based on
10 her personal data would be obtained for purposes of evaluating her employment application, nor
11 did she receive a summary of her consumer protection rights, or information regarding
12 Eightfold's name, address, telephone number, website address and privacy practices, and other
13 required information under federal and state law.

14 88. Nevertheless, Ms. Kistler was subject to Eightfold's Evaluation Tools.

15 89. Through its proprietary AI-powered technology, upon information and belief,
16 Eightfold gathered Ms. Kistler's consumer report information including personal data,
17 information regarding her education and work experience, social media profiles, location data,
18 internet and device activity, cookies and other tracking data, other third-party data, and
19 comparator applicant data drawn from millions of other individuals' resumes and profiles, and
20 used this information to evaluate and make determinations regarding Ms. Kistler's purported
21 suitability for the positions to which she applied in the form of a consumer report furnished to
22 her prospective employers.

23 90. During the application process, Ms. Kistler did not have the opportunity to opt out
24 of having her consumer data collected and evaluated for purposes of employment without
25 compromising validity or competitiveness of her application.

26 91. In accordance with its company-wide practices, upon information and belief,
27 Eightfold used the consumer report information it collected, through its Evaluation Tools, to
28

1 score, rank or grade Ms. Kistler's application against other applicants' data for purposes of
2 evaluating her purported suitability for employment.

3 92. Eightfold ultimately profits by contracting with Paypal (and other employers) for
4 the service of assembling and evaluating this type of consumer information from individuals like
5 Ms. Kistler.

6 93. Ms. Kistler was not asked to interview and was not given a job offer for any of the
7 positions to which she applied through Eightfold.

8 94. Before evaluating her ranking through Eightfold's Evaluation Tools, and choosing
9 not to proceed with her applications, Paypal (and other employers to whom Ms. Kistler applied
10 using Eightfold) did not provide her with a copy of her consumer report information and a
11 description of her rights under applicable law, including the right to dispute the completeness
12 and accuracy of, and to ultimately correct, any such consumer information.

13 **Plaintiff Bhaumik's Experience**

14 95. Plaintiff Sruti Bhaumik ("Bhaumik") has submitted online applications for
15 various positions with companies that use Eightfold's Evaluation Tools for recruitment and
16 hiring services, including collecting, assembling, and evaluating applicant data gathered from
17 third-party sources for purposes of evaluating and ranking applicants.

18 96. Ms. Bhaumik holds a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry from Bryn Mawr College
19 and a Master of Science degree from the University of Pittsburgh. Ms. Bhaumik has over 10
20 years of experience working in project management, with a focus on improving website and
21 product experience for users, including through the use of data and AI.

22 97. Since 2023 and continuing to today, Ms. Bhaumik has applied for various
23 positions for which she was qualified with Microsoft and other employers with whom Eightfold
24 contracts to assemble and evaluate third-party applicant data.

25 98. In or around July 2025, Ms. Bhaumik applied online via Microsoft's website for
26 the position of "Senior Technical Program Manager-Responsible AI (Job number:1841390)," for
27
28

1 which Microsoft uses Eightfold’s Evaluation Tools to assemble and evaluate applicant data
2 within the scope of FCRA and ICRAA.

3 99. On or around December 16, 2025, Ms. Bhaumik applied online via Microsoft’s
4 website for the position of “Senior Technical Program Manager (Job number: 200002243)” for
5 which Microsoft uses Eightfold’s Evaluation Tools to assemble and evaluate applicant data
6 within the scope of FCRA and ICRAA.

7 100. During the online application process, Ms. Bhaumik was required to sign in with
8 an email account that linked to a website controlled by “eightfold.ai.”

9 101. During the online application process, Ms. Bhaumik did not consent to waive her
10 privacy and consumer protection rights under state and federal law.

11 102. In accordance with its company-wide practices both before and after Ms.
12 Bhaumik applied to Microsoft, given Ms. Bhaumik’s experience of a lack of FCRA compliance,
13 Eightfold failed to obtain certification from prospective employers, including Microsoft, stating
14 that the employer had or would comply with applicable federal and state laws requiring, *inter*
15 *alia*: written approval from the consumer based on clear and conspicuous notice in a standalone
16 document before obtaining any consumer report; written notice to the consumer of their rights
17 under applicable federal and state law; an opportunity for the consumer to receive a copy, and to
18 dispute the contents, of such consumer reporting information before taking any adverse action
19 (including a lower ranking score or rejection from employment) based on such information; and
20 the employer’s certification that consumer report information will not be used in violation of any
21 applicable equal employment opportunity law or regulation.

22 103. In accordance with its company-wide practices both before and after Ms.
23 Bhaumik applied to Microsoft, given Ms. Bhaumik’s experience of a lack of FCRA compliance,
24 Eightfold also failed to provide employers, including Microsoft, with a summary of consumers’
25 rights under federal and state law together with its consumer reports including personal
26 information and data gleaned from third-party sources.

1 104. Consequently, during the application process, Ms. Bhaumik did not receive a
2 standalone disclosure providing clear and conspicuous notice that a consumer report based on
3 her personal data would be obtained for purposes of evaluating her employment application, nor
4 did she receive a summary of her consumer protection rights, or information regarding
5 Eightfold's identity as a consumer reporting agency or other required information under federal
6 and state law.

7 105. Nevertheless, Ms. Bhaumik was subject to Eightfold's Evaluation Tools.

8 106. Through its proprietary AI-powered technology, upon information and belief,
9 Eightfold gathered Ms. Bhaumik's consumer report information, including personal data,
10 information regarding her education and work experience, social media profiles, location data,
11 internet and device activity, cookies and other tracking data, other third-party data, and
12 comparator applicant data drawn from millions of other individuals' resumes and profiles, and
13 used this information to evaluate and make determinations regarding Ms. Bhaumik's purported
14 suitability for the positions to which she applied in the form of a consumer report furnished to
15 her prospective employers.

16 107. During the application process, Ms. Bhaumik did not have the opportunity to opt
17 out of having her consumer data collected and evaluated for purposes of employment without
18 compromising validity or competitiveness of her application.

19 108. In accordance with its company-wide practices, upon information and belief,
20 Eightfold used the consumer report information it collected, through its Evaluation Tools, to
21 score, rank or grade Ms. Bhaumik's application against other applicants' data for purposes of
22 evaluating her purported suitability for employment.

23 109. Eightfold ultimately profits by contracting with Microsoft (and other employers)
24 for the service of assembling and evaluating this type of consumer information.

25 110. Ms. Bhaumik received an automated rejection for the Senior Technical Program
26 Manager-Responsible AI position two days after she applied, without being invited to interview.
27
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1 111. Ms. Bhaumik was not asked to interview and was not given a job offer for any of
2 the positions to which she applied through Eightfold.

3 112. Before evaluating her ranking through Eightfold's Evaluation Tools and choosing
4 not to proceed with her applications, Microsoft (and other employers to whom she applied using
5 Eightfold) did not provide her with a copy of her consumer report information and a description
6 of her rights under applicable federal and state law, including the right to dispute the
7 completeness and accuracy of, and to ultimately correct, any such consumer information.

8 113. As a result of Eightfold's violations, Plaintiffs and other class members have been
9 deprived of their rights under the FCRA and ICRAA to have reasonably accurate information
10 reported about them, to know what information is being used to evaluate their suitability for
11 employment, and to dispute and correct any such information that is inaccurate or incomplete
12 (which information might otherwise be used to disadvantage their employment prospects), and to
13 otherwise be informed of their legal rights, thereby precluding them from a fair application
14 process.

15 114. Plaintiff and class members are likely to experience future harm as a result of
16 Eightfold's conduct to the extent Eightfold retains their consumer information (including
17 incomplete or inaccurate information), uses their consumer information as data points in its
18 proprietary LLM model, and continues to employ its current practices with respect to Plaintiffs'
19 and class members' future job applications.

20 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

21 115. Plaintiff brings the First Claim for Relief pursuant to C.C.P. § 382 on behalf of
22 the following Class: All United States residents who, within applicable statutes of limitations,
23 applied to jobs in the United States and were subjected to Eightfold's Evaluation Tools as part of
24 their applications for employment (the "Nationwide Class").

25 116. Plaintiff brings the Second and Third Claims for Relief pursuant to C.C.P. § 382
26 on behalf of the following Class: All California residents who, within applicable statutes of
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1 limitations, applied to jobs and were subjected to Eightfold's Evaluation Tools as part of their
2 applications for employment (the "California Class").

3 117. Numerosity – Upon information and belief, there are more than 100 members of
4 each class. Although the precise number of such applicants is unknown, the facts on which the
5 calculation of that number depends are presently within Eightfold's sole control.

6 118. Ascertainability – The identity of class members is ascertainable through
7 Eightfold's business records.

8 119. Commonality and Predominance – Common questions of law and fact exist as to
9 the Class and predominate over any questions solely affecting individual members of each class,
10 including but not limited to:

- 11 a. Whether Eightfold is a CRA;
- 12 b. Whether Eightfold improperly provided Plaintiffs' and other applicants'
13 personal consumer reports to prospective employers for purposes of
14 evaluating applicants' eligibility for employment without complying with
15 applicable legal requirements;
- 16 c. Whether Eightfold's conduct, as alleged herein, violated the FCRA;
- 17 d. Whether Eightfold's conduct, as alleged herein, violated the ICRAA;
- 18 e. Whether Eightfold's conduct, as alleged herein, constituted an unfair
19 business act or practice in violation of the UCL;
- 20 f. Whether declaratory and/or injunctive relief is warranted; and
- 21 g. The nature and extent of the classwide injury and the appropriate measure
22 of damages for each class.

23 120. Typicality – Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the classes they seek to
24 represent. Plaintiffs' claims arise from the same practice and course of conduct that give rise to
25 each class member's claims. Plaintiffs and the class members sustained similar injuries arising
26 out of Eightfold's violations of the law. There is no apparent conflict of interest between
27 Plaintiffs and class members.

121. Adequacy – Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of all class members. Plaintiffs’ counsel are experienced in employment class actions and consumer reporting actions and will fairly and adequately protect the interests of Plaintiffs and each class.

122. Plaintiffs seek class certification for the purposes of obtaining damages for each class. Class certification is appropriate because each class is sufficiently numerous, common questions of fact and law predominate over any questions affecting only individual class members, Plaintiffs are adequate and typical of each class, and because a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this litigation since joinder of all members is impracticable. The class members have been damaged and are entitled to recovery of damages and/or statutory penalties. Damages are capable of measurement on a classwide basis.

123. In the alternative, Plaintiffs seek class certification for purposes of liability, followed by individual damages hearings.

124. Plaintiffs also seek class certification for the purposes of obtaining injunctive and declaratory relief for each class because Eightfold has acted on grounds generally applicable to each class, making appropriate declaratory, equitable, and injunctive relief with respect to Plaintiffs and each class as a whole. The class members are entitled to declaratory, equitable, and injunctive relief to end Eightfold's unlawful policies.

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

**Violation of the FCRA (15 U.S.C. § 1681 *et seq.*)
(Plaintiffs, individually, and on behalf of the Nationwide Class)**

125. Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the Nationwide Class, reallege and incorporate all previous paragraphs as if they were set forth again herein.

126. Eightfold is, and at all times herein mentioned was, a CRA engaged in the practice of making, assembling and evaluating information on consumers for the purpose of

1 furnishing consumer reports to third parties, including for employment purposes, using its
2 Evaluation Tools.

3 127. Upon information and belief, Eightfold made and furnished consumer reports
4 pertaining to Plaintiffs and the Nationwide Class.

5 128. Eightfold willfully violated 15 U.S.C. § 1681b(b)(1) because it used its Evaluation
6 Tools to provide consumer reports about Plaintiffs and class members, which were used for
7 employment purposes without the employer's or other user's certification of compliance with the
8 disclosure, authorization, notification and dispute requirements set forth in 15 U.S.C. §
9 1681b(b)(2) and § 1681b(b)(3).

10 129. Eightfold further willfully violated 15 U.S.C. § 1681b(e) because it provided
11 consumer reports about Plaintiffs and class members without notifying prospective employers
12 and other users of their responsibilities under FCRA and without taking reasonable steps to
13 ensure that such reports only contained permissible information and were only used by permitted
14 users for permissible purposes in accordance with FCRA's requirements.

15 130. Eightfold invaded Plaintiffs' and class members' privacy by compiling their
16 personal, private, and sensitive information into a consumer report for employment purposes and
17 furnishing said consumer reports without a permissible purpose because Eightfold did not have
18 the employer's or user's certification.

19 131. Eightfold intruded upon Plaintiffs' seclusion by compiling Plaintiffs' and class
20 members' personal, private, and sensitive information into a consumer report for employment
21 purposes and furnishing said consumer reports without a permissible purpose because Eightfold
22 did not have the employer's or user's certification.

23 132. Plaintiffs and class members were harmed and suffered damages as a direct legal,
24 proximate, and foreseeable result of Eightfold's conduct.

25 133. Eightfold caused Plaintiffs' and class members' injuries because Eightfold
26 permitted users of their consumer reports to circumvent the disclosure, authorization, notification
27 and dispute requirements of the FCRA when using consumer reports for employment purposes
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1 by failing to require prospective employers, including Paypal, Microsoft, and others to certify
2 compliance therewith.

3 134. Eightfold caused Plaintiffs' and class members' injuries because it provided their
4 consumer reports to users or recipients who Plaintiffs and class members had not authorized to
5 receive those reports in accordance with FCRA's requirements.

6 135. Eightfold caused Plaintiffs' and class members' injuries because the reports
7 Eightfold furnished were used, in whole or in part, as the basis for an adverse employment
8 action, including the scoring, ranking or evaluation of Plaintiffs' and class members' applications
9 based on information that Plaintiffs and class members did not have a chance to review and
10 correct in accordance with FCRA, and the ultimate denial of employment.

11 136. The foregoing violations were willful. At the time Eightfold violated 15 U.S.C. §
12 1681b(b)(1)(A) and § 1681e, Eightfold knew it was required to comply with § 1681e and to
13 obtain certification of compliance with 15 U.S.C. § 1681b(b)(2) and § 1681b(b)(3), if applicable,
14 before furnishing consumer reports used for employment purposes. Eightfold's willful conduct
15 is also reflected by, among other things, the following facts:

- 16 a. Eightfold knew or had reason to know of potential FCRA liability;
- 17 b. Eightfold is a consumer reporting agency with access to legal advice
18 through their own general counsel's office and outside employment
19 counsel, and there is no contemporaneous evidence that Eightfold
20 determined that its conduct was lawful;
- 21 c. The FCRA's certification requirement is clearly spelled out in the plain
22 language of the statute;
- 23 d. Eightfold knew or had reason to know that their conduct was
24 inconsistent with published guidance interpreting the FCRA and the
25 plain language of the statute to encompass the provision of consumer
26 information regarding education and work experience for purposes of
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1 hiring and other employment decisions;⁴¹ and

2 e. Eightfold voluntarily ran a risk of violating the law substantially
3 greater than the risk associated with a reading that was merely careless.

4 **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**
5 **Violation of the ICRAA (California Civil Code § 1786 *et seq.*)**
6 **(Plaintiffs, individually, and on behalf of the California Class)**

7 137. Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the California Class, reallege and
8 incorporate all previous paragraphs as if they were set forth again herein.

9 138. Eightfold is, and at all times herein mentioned was, a CRA engaged in the
10 practice of making, assembling and evaluating information on consumers for the purpose of
11 furnishing investigative consumer reports to third parties, using its Evaluation Tools.

12 139. Upon information and belief, Eightfold made and furnished investigative
13 consumer reports pertaining to Plaintiff and the California Class.

14 140. Eightfold willfully violated Cal. Civ. Code § 1786 because it used its Evaluation
15 Tools to provide consumer reports about Plaintiffs and class members without ensuring that the
16 reports would be provided only to permitted users for a permissible purpose, and without
17 obtaining required certifications from prospective employers (and other users of consumer
18 information) before preparing or furnishing consumer reports. Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1786.12,
19 1786.16, 1786.20.

20 141. With respect to certifications, Eightfold failed to require users to certify that they
21 would obtain Plaintiffs' and class members' advance written consent based on standalone
22 disclosures including required information prior to providing users with Plaintiff's and class
23 members' consumer reports. Cal. Civ. Code § 1786.16(a)-(b); *id.* § 1786.20.

24 142. Eightfold also improperly provided Plaintiffs' and class members' consumer
25 reports to employers and other users without notifying such users of their responsibilities or
26

27 ⁴¹ [https://www.consumerfinance.gov/compliance/circulars/consumer-financial-protection-circular-2024-06-
28 background-dossiers-and-algorithmic-scores-for-hiring-promotion-and-other-employment-decisions/](https://www.consumerfinance.gov/compliance/circulars/consumer-financial-protection-circular-2024-06-background-dossiers-and-algorithmic-scores-for-hiring-promotion-and-other-employment-decisions/)

1 otherwise complying, and ensuring compliance, with ICRAA's notice and dispute procedures.

2 *Id.* §§ 1786.20, 1786.24, 1786.40.

3 143. Eightfold invaded Plaintiffs' and class members' privacy by compiling their
4 personal, private, and sensitive information into a consumer report for employment purposes and
5 furnishing said consumer reports without a permissible purpose because it did not have the
6 employer's or user's certification.

7 144. Eightfold intruded upon Plaintiffs' and class members' seclusion by compiling
8 Plaintiffs' and class members' personal, private, and sensitive information into a consumer report
9 for employment purposes and furnishing said consumer reports without a permissible purpose
10 because it did not have the employer's or user's certification.

11 145. Plaintiffs and class members were harmed and suffered damages as a direct legal,
12 proximate, and foreseeable result of Eightfold's conduct.

13 146. Eightfold caused Plaintiffs' and class members' injuries because Eightfold
14 permitted users of their consumer reports to circumvent the disclosure, authorization, notification
15 and dispute requirements of the FCRA when using consumer reports for employment purposes
16 by failing to require prospective employers, including Paypal, Microsoft, and others, to certify
17 compliance therewith.

18 147. Eightfold caused Plaintiffs' and class members' injuries because it provided their
19 consumer reports to users or recipients who Plaintiffs and class members had not authorized to
20 receive it in accordance with FCRA's requirements.

21 148. Eightfold further caused Plaintiffs' and class members' injuries because the
22 reports Eightfold furnished were used, in whole or in part, as the basis for an adverse
23 employment action, including the scoring, ranking or evaluation of Plaintiffs' and class
24 members' applications based on information that Plaintiffs and class members did not have a
25 chance to review and correct in accordance with FCRA, and the ultimate denial of employment.

26 149. Eightfold's violations were grossly negligent and/or willful because Defendant
27 was aware of its obligations under the ICRAA (and related obligations under the FCRA),
28

1 including through the plain meaning of the statute and regulatory guidance, but nonetheless
2 consciously elected to disregard its obligations.

3 **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**
4 **Violation of the UCL (Business and Professions Code, § 17200, *et seq.*)**
5 **(Plaintiffs, individually, and on behalf of the California Class)**

6 150. Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the California Class, reallege and
7 incorporate all previous paragraphs as if they were set forth again herein.

8 151. Eightfold engaged and continues to engage in unfair business practices by
9 practicing, employing and utilizing the unlawful practices described above with respect to its use
10 of Evaluation Tools in the furnishing of consumer reports in violation of the ICRAA (and the
11 FCRA). This constitutes an unlawful and unfair business practice within the meaning of
12 Business & Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.*

13 152. As a result of Eightfold's conduct, Plaintiffs and the California Class have been
14 harmed as described in the allegations set forth above.

15 153. The actions described above, constitute false, unfair, fraudulent and/or deceptive
16 business practices within the meaning of Business & Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.*

17 154. Eightfold has been unjustly enriched by the policies and practices described
18 herein, and those policies and practices conferred an unfair business advantage on Eightfold over
19 other businesses providing similar services which routinely comply with the requirements of
20 California law.

21 155. Plaintiffs and the California Class members seek all available legal and equitable
22 remedies, including injunctive and/or declaratory relief.

23 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

24 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the proposed Classes, pray for the
25 following relief:

- 26 A. Certification of the proposed Classes;
27 B. Designation of Plaintiffs as the Representatives of the proposed Classes;
28

- 1 C. Appointment of Outten & Golden LLP and Towards Justice as Class Counsel;
2 D. An award of actual and/or statutory damages as provided under applicable law;
3 E. An award of nominal and/or exemplary damages;
4 F. An award of punitive damages as provided under applicable law;
5 G. A declaratory judgment that the practices complained of herein are unlawful;
6 H. An injunction against Defendant and its officers, agents, successors, employees,
7 representatives, and any and all persons acting in concert with it, as provided by law, from
8 engaging in the unlawful practices, policies, and patterns set forth herein;
9 I. Such other injunctive and/or declaratory relief as necessary to correct and
10 eradicate the effects of Eightfold's past and present unlawful practices;
11 J. Pre-judgment and post-judgment interest, as provided by law;
12 K. Attorneys' fees pursuant to California Civil Code § 1786.5, California Civil Code
13 § 1021.5, and all other bases for attorneys' fees under applicable law;
14 L. Costs of suit, including expert fees and costs;
15 M. Reasonable incentive payments for Plaintiffs; and
16 N. Such other and further legal and equitable relief as the Court deems just and
17 proper.

18 Respectfully submitted,

20 Dated: January 20, 2026

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** pro hac vice motions forthcoming*

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ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: [Lawsuit Claims Eightfold AI Unlawfully Collects Job Applicants' Data, Ranks Their Candidacy in Employer Reports](#)
