

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

MIAH LATVALA, individually and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY,

Defendant.

Case No. 20-cv-2368

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

On behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, Plaintiff Miah Latvala (“Plaintiff”),
by and through her attorneys, respectfully alleges as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is a class action brought on behalf of Plaintiff and other similarly situated individuals who paid tuition and/or fees to Hofstra University (“Defendant”, “Hofstra” or the “University”) for the academic term encompassing March 2020 and thereafter and who (i) did not receive their bargained-for educational and other services and (ii) have not been refunded a prorated portion of their tuition and fees after the University ceased providing such services to students during the Spring 2020 academic semester due to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”).

2. Specifically, as a result of Defendant’s wrongful acts and unfair business practices alleged herein, Plaintiff and the proposed Class (i) have not received any refund or reimbursement for the unused services for which they paid tuition or fees and/or (ii) did not receive any refund or reimbursement for the decreased value of the education they received from Hofstra when their classes transitioned from in-person instruction at the University’s campus facilities to an entirely remote, online learning format.

3. Hofstra is a private university in Hempstead, New York.

4. In 2019, Hofstra enrolled more than 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

5. Hofstra has an endowment of over \$600 million.

6. The estimated undergraduate tuition at Hofstra is over \$49,000, including fees, but not including room and board.¹

7. In response to COVID-19, on or around March 8, 2020, Hofstra students received notice that all in-person classes were temporarily suspended. That temporary suspension was eventually made permanent, and Hofstra began offering classes online on March 23, 2020 cancelled all in-person classes. Hofstra has suspended access to virtually all on-campus resources, including gyms and libraries.

8. Hofstra has not provided any in-person classes since March 6, 2020. Since then, Hofstra has offered less valuable online classes instead of the bargained-for in-person instruction. Consequently, since March 23, 2020, Defendant has not provided the education, services, facilities, technology, access or opportunities for which Plaintiff and the Class paid. Moreover, Defendant has failed to compensate Plaintiff and the Class for the diminished value and damages they have suffered as a result of Defendant's actions.

9. Hofstra also has received over **\$6 million** in government funding through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act, half of which is federally mandated to go toward students who are in need of emergency financial assistance.

10. Despite receiving this influx of federal funds, Defendant refuses to refund or reimburse Plaintiff and similarly-situated Hofstra students the fees they paid for the education and other services they are not being provided, including fees for libraries and gyms they can no longer access.

11. Defendant also refuses to refund or reimburse Plaintiff and similarly situated students for tuition paid for classes that Hofstra is currently providing to them that are substantially less valuable than the classes promised.

¹ Hofstra University Admissions – “What Does it Cost to Attend Hofstra?”
https://www.hofstra.edu/admission/adm_costofattendance.html (site last visited May 27, 2020)

12. Plaintiff and other Class members have lost the benefits of the education, services, and other experiences that the University promised. Despite failing to fulfill their obligations, Defendant is currently unlawfully retaining and refusing to fully or partially refund Plaintiff's Spring 2020 term tuition and fees despite the dramatically lower quality and less valuable education now being provided, and despite the complete cessation of many of the services for which Plaintiff was charged a specific fee.

13. Essentially, students have paid Defendant for access to buildings they can no longer enter and activities that are not available. Hofstra is thus profiting from COVID-19 while further burdening students and their families, many of whom have borne the brunt of the pandemic, themselves been laid off, or who are ill or suffering from financial setbacks. The result is an enormous windfall to Defendant. Both contract and equity demand that Defendant disgorge these funds.

14. Plaintiff and similarly situated Hofstra students seek disgorgement of their payments for unused services and to refund their tuition for substandard classes. Plaintiff brings this class action for injunctive, declaratory, and equitable relief, and any other available remedies, resulting from Defendant's illegal, inequitable, and unfair retention of the funds paid by Plaintiff and the other students in the proposed Class.

15. Specifically, this lawsuit seeks disgorgement and monetary damages in the amount of prorated, unused amounts of tuition and fees that Plaintiff and the other Class members paid, which benefits will not be provided by Defendant, including the difference in value between the live in-person classes for which Spring 2020 term students enrolled and for which they paid at the start of the Spring 2020 and subsequent terms, compared to the lesser online versions of classes Hofstra has been providing to them since mid-March 2020.

PARTIES

16. Plaintiff Miah Latvala is an adult individual residing in New York State. Plaintiff

is enrolled as an undergraduate at Hofstra.

17. Defendant Hofstra University is a private university with its principal place of business in Hempstead, New York.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

18. This Court has original jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)(A), as modified by the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, because the matter in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000, exclusive of interests and costs, and because at least one member of the Class defined below is a citizen of a state other than New York.

19. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant maintains its principal place of business in this judicial district.

20. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1), because Defendant resides in this District and Plaintiff is a resident of the state in which the District is located.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

A. The COVID-19 Pandemic

21. In late 2019, the Chinese government confirmed several cases of a novel illness causing pneumonia-like symptoms. The illness was subsequently identified as COVID-19. By January 2020, the U.S. government confirmed several domestic cases.

22. COVID-19 spread rapidly throughout the world in the beginning months of 2020. Millions have now been infected. The World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a “public health emergency of international concern” in late January and as a pandemic on March 11.

23. Because the virus that causes COVID-19 is highly infectious, and because the illness can be severe or fatal, federal, state, and local governments in the United States have

implemented travel restrictions and shelter-in-place or stay-at-home orders. As of the filing of this Complaint, the vast majority of states have ordered their citizens to shelter in place for protection of their personal health and safety and that of the broader public.

B. Hofstra Continues to Assess Fees Amidst the Pandemic

24. Despite the fact that Defendant transitioned its classes online and required students to shelter in place, Defendant continued to assess and collect fees for services that Plaintiff and similarly situated students could not access or use.

25. Despite Defendant's large endowment and receipt of \$6 million of aid through the CARES Act, Hofstra has decided to pass the financial burden imposed by the COVID-19 crisis onto students like Plaintiff.

26. Plaintiff paid a variety of fees for the Spring term, many of which were for services Plaintiff can no longer use. For example, Plaintiff paid "Residence Life" fees, "Student Activity" fees, "Technology" fees, and "University" fees. These fees financed gyms and libraries that Plaintiff could not access, and events which did not occur.

27. Plaintiff has not attended any in-person classes since March 6, 2020. Instead, all classes in which she was enrolled moved online and were of inferior quality to the live instruction for which she paid and expected to receive.

28. Plaintiff has neither received nor been offered any refund or reimbursement for the tuition or fees that she paid for in-person, on campus education during the Spring 2020 term at Hofstra.²

29. As a result of the closure of Hofstra, Defendant has not delivered the educational services, facilities, programs, and opportunities for which Plaintiff and students in the proposed Class contracted and paid. Plaintiff and the proposed Class are therefore entitled to a full refund of that portion of the fees and tuition for the latter half of the Spring 2020 semester that pertain to

² Plaintiff has received a partial refund for her room and board expenses.

educational services Defendant did not provide, or which Defendant provided in a severely diminished manner.

30. The remote, online learning “classes” offered to Spring 2020 students since March deprive students of in-person learning from their peers and school faculty. The move to these remote classes also deprives students of access to the facilities, materials, and opportunities only offered on Hofstra’s physical (as opposed to virtual) campus.

31. The online classes Plaintiff and her peers have been provided are not equivalent to the in-person, campus experience that Plaintiff and other Hofstra students chose for their university education. The tuition and fees Hofstra charged were predicated on access to and constant interaction with and feedback from peers, mentors, professors and guest lecturers; access to technology, libraries, and laboratories; spectator sports and athletic programs; student government and health services; and extracurricular groups and learning, among other things.

32. Universities and colleges that offer both in person and online education generally charge less for online classes than they do for in person classes.

33. In instances where online degree programs are similarly priced to in-person degree alternatives from the same academic institution, the online offering includes a variety of additional goods and services, such as in-person internship and practicum opportunities, additional asynchronous instruction (i.e. instruction not offered through a live video channel), and small class sizes to ensure the quality of the online synchronous classes.

34. Hofstra offered none of the additional supports or services that traditionally accompany classes that are intended to be conducted online from inception. Class sizes remained the same, and no additional practical or in person services were offered. Plaintiff specifically had difficulty receiving subject matter assistance from professors or from tutoring centers, has found that online classes simply do not measure up to the in-person experience, and has also had difficulty contacting and receiving assistance from the financial aid office.

35. Through this lawsuit, Plaintiff seeks—for herself and the other Class members—a refund of a percentage of her tuition and fees.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

36. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as alleged above.

37. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a), (b)(2), (b)(3), and/or (c)(4), Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of herself and the following Class:

All persons in the United States who paid Hofstra University tuition and/or fees for in-person education for the academic term including March 2020 or for any academic term thereafter during which Hofstra failed to provide in person educational services.

The following persons and entities are excluded from the Class: Defendant and its officers, directors, employees, subsidiaries, and affiliates; all judges assigned to this case and any members of their immediate families; and the parties' counsel in this litigation. Plaintiff reserves the right to modify, change, or expand the class definition, including by proposing additional subclasses, based upon discovery and further investigation.

38. A class action is a superior means to ensure the fair and efficient adjudication of this case. The damages suffered by individual Class members are relatively small compared to the burden and expense of individual litigation of the claims described herein against Defendant. Moreover, individualized actions would run the risk of creating inconsistent or contradictory judgments arising from the same set of facts and would increase the likely delay and expense to all parties involved and the Court itself. By contrast, by proceeding as a class action, the claims at issue can be adjudicated efficiently through economies of scale.

39. **Numerosity.** In accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(1), the members the proposed Class are so numerous and geographically dispersed that individual joinder of all Class members is impracticable. Although the precise number of Class members is unknown presently to Plaintiff, the Class is presumed to number more than 10,000 people and is easily ascertainable through enrollment and financial records maintained by Defendant.

40. **Commonality and Predominance.** In accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(1)

and (b)(3), this action involves questions of law and fact common to the Class that predominate over any individual questions specific to any Class member. These include:

- a. whether Defendant accepted money from the Class;
- b. whether Defendant retained money from the Class for services they did not render, or only partially rendered;
- c. whether Defendant entered into a contract with the Class;
- d. whether Defendant breached their contract with the Class;
- e. whether Defendant's failure to refund tuition and fees was appropriate;
- f. whether Defendant benefited from the money they accepted from the Class;
- g. whether the educational and other services Defendant provided to the Class were commensurate with their price;
- h. whether certification of the Class is appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23;
- i. whether Class members are entitled to declaratory, equitable, or injunctive relief, and/or other relief; and
- j. the amount and nature of relief to be awarded to Plaintiff and the other Class members.

41. **Typicality.** Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(3), Plaintiff's claims are typical of the other Class members' claims because Plaintiff and the other Class members each paid for certain costs associated with Hofstra's Spring 2020 term but were not provided the services that those costs were meant to cover. Each suffered damages in the form of their lost tuition, fees, and other monies paid to Defendant, and the claims all arise from the same Hofstra practices and course of conduct. There are no defenses available that are unique to the Plaintiff.

42. **Adequacy of Representation.** In accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(4), Plaintiff is an adequate Class representative because her interests do not conflict with the interests of the other proposed Class members. Moreover, Plaintiff has retained counsel competent and experienced in complex class action litigation, and she intends to prosecute this action vigorously on behalf of her fellow Class members. Plaintiff has no interests that are antagonistic to those of

the Class and she will fairly and adequately protect the proposed Class' rights along with counsel.

COUNT I

Breach of Contract

43. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations in the preceding paragraphs as if fully alleged herein.

44. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the other members of the Class.

45. Plaintiff and the other members of the Class entered into binding contracts with the Defendant which provided that Plaintiff and the other members of the Class would pay tuition and fees in exchange for on-campus in-person educational, social, athletic, and other experiences.

46. As part of their contracts with Hofstra, and, in exchange for adequate consideration that Plaintiff and members of the proposed Class provided, Defendant promised to on-campus in-person educational, social, athletic, and other experiences.

47. Defendant failed to provide the services that it was obligated to provide under its contracts with Plaintiff and the proposed Class. Defendant has retained tuition and fee payments paid by Plaintiff and the other members of the Class for the Spring 2020 term without providing them the promised benefits, instead providing those benefits for only a portion of the Spring term.

48. By contrast, Plaintiff and the other members of the Class fulfilled their end of the bargain when they paid the monies due and owing for their full tuition, and fees for the semester.

49. The tuition and fees plan payments that Plaintiff and the proposed Class paid were intended to cover in-person educational and extra-curricular services from January through May 2020. Defendant, however, failed to provide the services due under the contracts for that entire time period, yet have improperly retained the funds Plaintiff and the proposed Class paid for their Spring 2020 tuition and fees plans without providing them the services and other benefits due under the contracts.

50. Plaintiff and members of the Class have suffered damages as a direct and proximate

result of Defendant' breach, including being deprived of the education, experience and services that they were promised and expected to obtain, and for which they have paid. They are entitled to damages including but not limited to prorated reimbursement of the tuition, fees and other expenses that were collected by Defendant for services that Defendant failed to deliver fully.

51. Defendant' performance under the contracts is not excused because of COVID-19. Even if performance was excused or impossible, Hofstra would nevertheless be required to return the funds received for services and/or goods that it did not provide.

COUNT II

Restitution Based On Quasi-Contract

52. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations in the preceding paragraphs as if fully alleged herein.

53. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the other members of the Class in the alternative to the breach of contract claim brought in Count I.

54. Plaintiff and other members of the proposed Class conferred a benefit or enrichment on Hofstra by paying tuition and required fees Hofstra which were beneficial to Hofstra, at the expense of Plaintiff and the other members of the Class.

55. Plaintiff and the other members of the Class paid tuition and required fees and did not receive the full benefit of their bargain from Hofstra, thus resulting in their impoverishment.

56. Hofstra has retained the benefit paid by Plaintiff and the Class despite its failure to provide the services for which the benefit was paid.

57. There is no justification or cause for Hofstra's failure to return the portion of the tuition and fees that Hofstra has unjustifiably kept for itself even though it failed to complete the services for which Plaintiff provided the funds to Hofstra.

58. Accordingly, Hofstra has been unjustly enriched and should pay as restitution a prorated portion of the funds for the Spring 2020 semester that Plaintiff and the proposed Class paid for tuition and fees.

COUNT III

Conversion

59. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations in the preceding paragraphs as if fully alleged herein.

60. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the Class.

61. Plaintiff and the other members of the Class have a right to the in-person educational and extra-curricular services that they were supposed to be provided in exchange for their payments to Hofstra.

62. Defendant intentionally interfered with the rights of Plaintiff and the other members of the proposed Class when they retained fees intended to pay for on-campus classes, facilities, and activities, while moving all classes to an online, remote learning format and discontinued services and access to facilities for which Plaintiff and the members of the proposed Class had paid.

63. Defendant deprived the Plaintiff and the other members of the Class of their fees or of the right to the services for which their fees were intended to be used.

64. Class members demanded the return of the prorated, unused fees for the remainder of the Spring 2020 term.

65. Defendant's retention of the fees paid by Plaintiff and the other members of the Class without providing the services for which they paid deprived Plaintiff and the other members of the Class of the benefits for which the fees were paid. This interference with the services for which Plaintiff and the other members of the Class paid damaged Plaintiff and the other members of the Class in that they paid fees for services that were not and will not be provided.

66. Plaintiff and the other members of the Class are entitled to the return of prorated unused portion of the fees paid, through the end of the semester

COUNT IV

Violation of New York GBL § 349

67. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations in the preceding paragraphs as if fully alleged herein.

68. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the Class.

69. When Defendant charged Plaintiff and members of the class for services it did not provide, Defendant committed a deceptive act and practice violative of N.Y. GBL § 349.

70. Defendant's deceptive acts and practices as set forth herein constitute "conduct of any business, trade or commerce, or in the furnishing of any service" in New York.

71. Plaintiff and members of the Class are "person[s] who ha[ve] been injured by reason of" Defendant's deceptive acts and practices. Indeed, Plaintiff and members of the Class have been charged fees and tuition for services and classes they have not received.

72. Therefore, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the Class, seeks to enjoin Defendant's unlawful conduct, and seeks to recover actual damages at least equal to a prorated amount of the fees and tuition paid by Plaintiff and all members of the Class or fifty dollars per each violation, whichever is greater.

73. Moreover, Defendant's violation was both willful and knowing. Defendant knew and/or should have known that retaining funds paid for services that Defendant could and would not provide was not consistent with the law. As a result, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the Class, seeks an order from the Court trebling Plaintiff and the Class's actual damages. Thus, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the Class, seeks to recover actual treble damages or fifty dollars per violation, whichever is greater.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

74. Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and on behalf of the members of the Class, respectfully requests that the Court enter judgment in her favor and against Defendant as follows:

- a. Certifying the Class as requested herein, designating Plaintiff as Class representative, and appointing the undersigned counsel as Class Counsel;
- b. Declaring that Defendant is financially responsible for notifying the Class members of the pendency of this suit;
- c. Declaring that Defendant wrongfully kept the monies paid by the Class;
- d. Awarding injunctive relief, restitution, and treble damages as permitted by law or equity;
- e. Awarding Plaintiff's reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses;
- f. Awarding pre- and post-judgment interest on any amounts awarded; and
- g. Awarding such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

75. Plaintiff demands a trial by jury pursuant to Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on all causes of action so triable.

Date: May 27, 2020

/s/ Ellen Noteware

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**pro hac vice forthcoming*

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

CIVIL COVER SHEET

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

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

MIAH LATVALA, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated

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

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

See Addendum

DEFENDANTS

HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Nassau County
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

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

Attorneys (If Known)

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

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

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

- | | PTF | DEF | | PTF | DEF |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Citizen of This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.](#)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit (15 USC 1681 or 1692) <input type="checkbox"/> 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
REAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty Other: <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement			

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

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

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):
28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)(A), as modified by the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 and 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1).

Brief description of cause:

Seeks disgorgement and monetary damages in the amount of prorated, unused amounts of tuition and fees.

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

☒ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.

DEMAND \$
5,000,000.00

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:
JURY DEMAND: ☒ Yes ☐ No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

20-cv-2368

DATE

05/27/2020

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

/s/ Ellen Noteware

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

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

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

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

Addendum

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

BERGER MONTAGUE PC
Ellen Noteware
1818 Market Street, Suite 3600
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Tel.: 215.875.3000
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AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern District of New York

MAIA LATVALA, individually and on behalf of all
others similarly situated

Plaintiff(s)

V.

HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY

Defendant(s)

Civil Action No. 20-cv-2368

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: *(Defendant's name and address)*

HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY
Dolores Fredrich, Senior Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel
Hofstra University
Hempstead, NY 11549-1000

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

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

Ellen Noteware
Berger Montague PC
1818 Market Street, Suite 3600
Philadelphia, PA 19103

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

CLERK OF COURT

Date: _____

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. 20-cv-2368

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

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

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

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

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

☐ I returned the summons unexecuted because _____; or

☐ Other *(specify)*:

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

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

Date: _____

Server's signature

Printed name and title

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable [class action lawsuit database](#)
