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9 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
10 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

11 ELLIOT NAZOS, CHRISTINE
12 BLIGHT, JACK PERRY, PATRICIA
13 LOUGHNEY, THOMAS PASTORE,
14 BRIAN HALE, TIMOTHY DOTSON,
15 EMILY BARBOUR, JILL
16 SILVERNALE and KYLE BLUMIN,
17 individually and on behalf of all others
18 similarly situated,

19 Plaintiffs,

20 v.

21 TOYOTA MOTOR CORPORATION
22 and TOYOTA MOTOR SALES,
23 U.S.A., INC.,

24 Defendants.

Case No.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

25
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1 Plaintiffs Elliot Nazos, Christine Blight, Jack Perry, Thomas Pastore, Brian
2 Hale, Timothy Dotson, Emily Barbour, Patricia Loughney, Jill Silvernale, and Kyle
3 Blumin (“Plaintiffs”), on behalf of themselves and all other similarly situated members
4 of the below-defined Nationwide Class and State Classes (collectively, the “Class”),
5 bring this action against Defendants Toyota Motor Corporation (“TMC”) and Toyota
6 Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. (“TMS”) (collectively, “Toyota” or “Defendants”), upon
7 personal knowledge as to the factual allegations pertaining to themselves and as to all
8 other matters upon information and belief, based upon the investigation made by the
9 undersigned attorneys, as follows:

10 **I. INTRODUCTION**

11 1. This action arises from Toyota’s failure to disclose a dangerous defect in
12 the frames of its model year 2007-2014 FJ Cruiser vehicles (the “Class Vehicles” or
13 “Vehicles”), as well as its contemporaneous misrepresentations regarding the true
14 nature of those frames, which Toyota prominently featured in the marketing and
15 advertising campaigns it designed to increase their sales. The excessive corrosion
16 caused by the defect in the Class Vehicles poses a safety threat to both drivers and
17 occupants of the Vehicles. In fact, as a result of the defect, some Vehicles are no longer
18 drivable, having failed to pass safety check(s). Further, Plaintiffs’ extensive expert
19 analysis, conducted over a period of months, confirms that Toyota was aware of these
20 defects but has done nothing to cure them.

21 2. As detailed below, Toyota’s nationwide advertising campaigns made
22 affirmative representations to Plaintiffs and Class members regarding the quality and
23 rugged nature of the Class Vehicles. In reality, however, the frames of the Vehicles
24 are defective, as they lack adequate rust corrosion protection, causing them to
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1 excessively and prematurely rust and corrode (the “Frame Defect” or “Defect”), as
2 seen in the photographs below:¹



17 3. The Defect not only reduces the value (including market value) of the
18 Class Vehicle, but it subjects the Vehicles’ occupants to a significant safety risk. A
19 vehicle’s frame forms the basis of a vehicle’s crashworthiness, including its ability to
20 withstand or minimize damage to the occupant compartment in the event of an
21 accident. Thus, the Defect compromises the strength of the frames and the overall
22 structural integrity of the Class Vehicles.

23 4. Plaintiffs, all of whom own Class Vehicles with frames that have
24 manifested excessive and premature corrosion and rust as a result of the Defect, had
25 no way of discerning or otherwise learning facts to reveal that Toyota’s representations

26 _____
27 ¹ Sample photographs of the severe rust and corrosion on each of Plaintiff’s Class
28 Vehicles are attached hereto as composite **Exhibit A**.

1 pertaining to the Class Vehicles were false and misleading, as Toyota failed to disclose
2 and knowingly concealed the Frame Defect from Plaintiffs (and Class members) in its
3 marketing materials. It was only after Plaintiffs had purchased their Class Vehicles that
4 Toyota's incomplete marketing, which omitted reference to the Frame Defect, was
5 revealed.

6 5. Toyota has long been aware of the Frame Defect in the Class Vehicles'
7 frames, as well as the safety hazard caused by the excessively corroded frames. Similar
8 frames on other Toyota vehicles exhibited the same excessive rust corrosion and
9 perforation exhibited by the Class Vehicles. Toyota has issued numerous Limited
10 Service Campaigns to address the same Defect at issue here in other vehicles.

11 6. Despite this knowledge, Toyota failed to disclose the existence of the
12 Defect to Plaintiffs, other Class members, and the public. Further, Toyota has not
13 issued a recall to inspect and repair the Class Vehicles or offered to reimburse owners
14 of the Class Vehicles for costs incurred to identify and repair the Defect. Toyota,
15 despite actual knowledge of the Defect and the potential dangers of the Defect, has
16 withheld from the Toyota owners and the public this important safety information. In
17 doing so, Toyota has misled the public with its promotional and technical materials
18 and written guarantees regarding the rust prevention measures taken by Toyota.

19 7. Plaintiffs and Class members have suffered ascertainable losses and actual
20 damages as a direct and proximate result of Toyota's misrepresentations and omission
21 of the Frame Defect in that they: (1) overpaid for the Class Vehicles because the Defect
22 significantly diminished the value of the Vehicles at the point of purchase and reduced
23 their market value; (2) have Vehicles that suffer premature and excessive corrosion;
24 (3) must expend significant money to have their Vehicles' frames and related
25 components (inadequately) repaired and/or replaced; and (4) must pay for replacement
26 vehicles while their Class Vehicles are being repaired or are not drivable for failure to
27 pass safety standards.

28

1 8. Plaintiffs and Class members have purchased Class Vehicles that they
2 would not otherwise have purchased, or would have paid less for, had they known of
3 the Frame Defect at the point of sale.

4 9. Accordingly, Plaintiffs bring claims for (1) fraudulent concealment; (2)
5 unjust enrichment; (3) declaratory relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2201; and (4)
6 violations of the consumer protection laws of the states of Illinois, Maryland,
7 Michigan, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Utah.

8 **II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

9 10. This Court has jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C.
10 §1332(d), because: (a) this action is brought as a proposed class action under Federal
11 Rule of Civil Procedure 23; (b) the proposed Class includes more than 100 members;
12 (c) many of the proposed Class members are citizens of states that are diverse from
13 Defendants' citizenship; and (d) the matter in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000,
14 exclusive of interest and costs.

15 11. This Court also has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' remaining
16 state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

17 12. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because they have
18 purposefully availed themselves of the privilege of conducting business activities in
19 the state of California, because Defendant TMS is incorporated in the state of California,
20 and because Defendant TMS's principal place of business was located in California until
21 at least 2017. As such, a substantial portion of the relevant, unlawful conduct at issue in
22 this case as to all Class members occurred primarily in California, in this District.
23 Accordingly, Defendants have sufficient contacts with this District to subject
24 Defendants to personal jurisdiction.

25 13. Venue is proper in this judicial District under 28 U.S.C. §1391(b) because
26 a substantial part of the challenged conduct or omissions giving rise to the claims
27 occurred and/or emanated from this District, because Defendants have caused harm to
28 Class members residing in this District, because Defendants regularly conduct business

1 in this District, because Defendants are residents of this District under 28 U.S.C.
2 §1391(c)(2), because they are subject to personal jurisdiction in this District, and
3 because Defendants have marketed, advertised, distributed, and sold Class Vehicles
4 within this District.

5 **III. PARTIES**

6 **A. Plaintiffs**

7 14. Plaintiff Elliot Nazos is a citizen of Florida and resides in Sarasota,
8 Florida. Plaintiff owns a 2010 FJ Cruiser, which he purchased new in Matteson,
9 Illinois, on or about February 10, 2010.

10 15. Plaintiff Christine Blight is a citizen of Pennsylvania and resides in Bear
11 Creek Township, Pennsylvania. Plaintiff owns a 2007 FJ Cruiser, which she purchased
12 certified pre-owned in Scranton, Pennsylvania, on or about June 21, 2010.

13 16. Plaintiff Jack Perry is a citizen of Ohio and resides in Canton, Ohio.
14 Plaintiff owns a 2010 FJ Cruiser, which he purchased new in Meadville, Pennsylvania,
15 on or about September 13, 2010.

16 17. Plaintiff Patricia Loughney is a citizen of Colorado and resides in
17 Loveland, Colorado. Plaintiff owns a 2010 FJ Cruiser, which she purchased new in
18 Ledgewood, New Jersey, on or about April 21, 2010.

19 18. Plaintiff Emily Barbour is a citizen of New Jersey and resides in Lebanon,
20 New Jersey. Plaintiff owns a 2007 FJ Cruiser, which she purchased new, on or about
21 July 29, 2006.

22 19. Plaintiff Thomas Pastore is a citizen of New York and resides in West
23 Islip, New York. Plaintiff owns a 2007 FJ Cruiser, which he bought new in Smithtown,
24 New York, on or about August 1, 2006.

25 20. Plaintiff Brian Hale is a citizen of Virginia and resides in Front Royal,
26 Virginia. Plaintiff owns a 2007 FJ Cruiser, which he bought new in Winchester,
27 Virginia, on or about November 23, 2007.

28

1 21. Plaintiff Timothy Dotson is a citizen of Maryland and resides in Pasadena,
2 Maryland. Plaintiff owns a 2007 FJ Cruiser, which he purchased new in Baltimore,
3 Maryland, on or about August 11, 2007.

4 22. Plaintiff Jill Silvernale is a citizen of Michigan and resides in Dowagiac,
5 Michigan. Plaintiff owns a 2007 FJ Cruiser, which she purchased used in Benton
6 Harbor, Michigan, on or about February 4, 2012.

7 23. Plaintiff Kyle Blumin is a citizen of Utah and resides in Hideout, Utah.
8 Plaintiff owns a 2013 FJ Cruiser, which he purchased used in Murray, Utah, on or
9 about April 24, 2018.

10 **B. Defendants**

11 24. TMC is the world's largest automaker and largest seller of automobiles in
12 the United States. TMC is a Japanese Corporation headquartered in Toyota City, Aichi
13 Prefecture, Japan.

14 25. TMC sells, markets, distributes, and/or services vehicles throughout the
15 United States, including the Class Vehicles. At all times relevant hereto, TMC
16 transacted or conducted business in the state of California and derived substantial
17 revenue from interstate commerce.

18 26. TMS is a California corporation and at all material times relevant to this
19 lawsuit maintained its corporate headquarters in Torrance, California. In 2017, after all
20 the Class Vehicles had been manufactured and sold to Class members, TMS moved its
21 corporate headquarters to Plano, Texas.

22 27. TMS is the authorized importer and distributor of Toyota motor vehicles
23 in the United States. TMS is responsible for advertising, marketing, and selling the
24 Class Vehicles. TMS also manages and supports a network of Toyota dealerships
25 located throughout the United States.

26 28. Defendants jointly developed and disseminated to their exclusive
27 distributors and authorized dealers the owner's manuals, warranty booklets,
28

1 maintenance schedules, advertisements, and other promotional and technical materials
2 relating to the Class Vehicles.

3 29. At all relevant times, and with the approval and at the direction of TMC,
4 TMS acted through its authorized employees, agents, and distributor and dealer
5 networks in performing activities, including but not limited to advertising, marketing,
6 and selling Class Vehicles, providing warranties, disseminating technical information
7 and mechanic training materials to dealers, and monitoring the performance of Class
8 Vehicles in the United States.

9 IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

10 A. The Class Vehicles and the Frame Defect

11 30. The FJ Cruiser was released in 2006 as a modern remake of the classic
12 off-roading vehicles Toyota had produced in the late 1950s in the United States.

13 31. The FJ Cruiser’s design harkens back to the design of the original Land
14 Cruiser, the FJ40, with which it shares many structural underpinnings. The FJ Cruiser
15 remained practically unchanged from its release through when it was discontinued in
16 2014.

17 32. Toyota called the FJ Cruiser “the most capable 4X4” in its lineup at the
18 time, noting that it had “engineered the FJ Cruiser for serious trail driving capability.”

19 33. Toyota’s December 26, 2005 press release stated that the 2007 FJ Cruiser
20 “provides optimized off-road capabilities, value and styling clues reminiscent of
21 Toyota’s famed FJ40 4x4 utility vehicle” and “will deliver true off-road ruggedness,
22 image and performance[.]”

23 34. Unknown to consumers, however, the FJ Cruiser was manufactured with
24 frames that lacked adequate rust corrosion protection and are prone to excessive and
25 premature rust corrosion. The Frame Defect affects the structural integrity of the Class
26 Vehicles and compromises the quality, durability, and safety of the Vehicles, requiring
27 Class members to pay out-of-pocket to have their Vehicles’ frames replaced or
28

1 “repaired” in a manner that does not remedy the Defect or otherwise prevent the
2 recurrence of the problem caused as a result thereof.

3 35. All model year FJ Cruisers are equipped with the same defective frames
4 and, as a result, all Class Vehicles suffer from the same Frame Defect. In addition,
5 Toyota marketed, distributed, and warranted the Class Vehicles in the United States in
6 a uniform manner.

7 36. The Frame Defect is a systemic problem associated with the materials and
8 production processes used in connection with the Class Vehicles’ frames and is not
9 associated with normal geography or typical environmental factors. The premature and
10 excessive corrosion and rust caused by the Frame Defect is found in the frames of Class
11 Vehicles located throughout the United States.

12 **B. The Frame Defect Renders the Class Vehicles Unsafe**

13 37. A vehicle frame is the main supporting structure to which all other
14 components are attached on a motor vehicle with a “body on frame” design. The
15 function of frames includes handling static and dynamic loads with unintended
16 deflection and distortion, preventing undesirable forces and twisting from driving over
17 uneven surfaces, engine torque, vehicle handling and accelerating and decelerating. A
18 vehicle’s frame is also the primary component that guards against sudden impacts and
19 collisions.

20 38. The Class Vehicles were manufactured with frames lacking adequate rust
21 corrosion protection. As a result, the Class Vehicle frames are prone to experiencing
22 severe premature rust corrosion, which affects the structural integrity of the vehicles,
23 rendering them unsafe to drive and a hazard on the roadways.

24 39. Rust corrosion has a significant deleterious effect on metal items. It makes
25 them weaker by replacing the strong iron or steel with flaky powder, ultimately leading
26 to perforations. Rust corrosion is a progressive process. Once corrosion begins, it will
27 not stop until adequately repaired.

28

1 40. Because the damage is typically on the undercarriage of the Class
2 Vehicles, it goes undetected unless purposefully inspected (for example, through a
3 mandatory state safety inspection or otherwise).

4 41. Corrosion of the Class Vehicles is unrelated to and separate from normal
5 surface rust experienced after years of usage and/or exposure to typical environmental
6 conditions. The excessive rust corrosion on the Class Vehicles compromises the
7 vehicles' safety, stability, and crash-worthiness because important suspension
8 components, engine mounts, transmission mounts, and body mounts anchor to the
9 vehicles' frames.

10 42. According to Popular Mechanics, “[a] rusted-through frame means the
11 structural and crash integrity of the car is questionable, and it should be inspected and
12 repaired by a qualified repair facility.”²

13 43. As described on AutoGuide.com, “excessive rust often signals the
14 impending death of a vehicle. Its useful life [is] essentially over.”³ Further:

15 Frame rust is a big concern, as it affects the integrity of the
16 car. Bad enough frame rust can cause parts to snap off or
17 crack, which will really compromise the safety of you, your
18 passengers and other motorists. It may also significantly
diminish the car's ability to protect you in a crash.⁴

19 44. Excessive rust corrosion and perforation on the FJ Cruisers also causes
20 the vehicles to fail some state safety inspections. Once a vehicle fails a state safety
21 inspection, consumers cannot use their vehicle unless and until they spend time and
22 money to remediate the rust and perforation to passing standards; however, during the
23

24 ² See <http://www.popularmechanics.com/cars/how-to/repair/how-to-fight-rust-and-win-14930616> (last visited Mar. 31, 2022).

25 ³ Sami Haj-Assaad, *Should You Buy a Car with Rust?*, AutoGuide.com (Feb. 24,
26 2014), available at <http://www.autoguide.com/auto-news/2014/02/buy-car-rust.html>
27 (last visited Mar. 31, 2022).

28 ⁴ *Id.*

1 time the vehicles are prohibited from use, consumers may still be required to pay for
2 and maintain insurance policy coverage(s) for such vehicles and/or pay mandatory state
3 licensing and/or taxing costs associated with ownership of the respective vehicles.

4 **C. Defendants' Knowledge of the Frame Defect in the Class Vehicles**

5 45. Toyota has long known that frames on the Class Vehicles exhibited
6 excessive rust corrosion and perforation because they did not have adequate corrosion-
7 resistant protection, and have issued numerous service campaigns and warranty
8 bulletins to address the Defect in the 2005-2010 Tacoma, 2007-2008 Tundra, and
9 2005-2008 Sequoia (the "Toyota Trucks").

10 46. The frames on the Class Vehicles and the frames on the Toyota Trucks
11 suffer from the same Frame Defect and are materially the same for purposes of this
12 lawsuit. Upon information and belief, the Class Vehicles' frames and the Toyota
13 Trucks' frames were designed using the same defective specifications (materials) and
14 pursuant to the same defective process (coatings).

15 47. Subject to and without waiving any applicable privileges, testing and
16 analysis conducted over a period of months for Plaintiffs' counsel by a consulting
17 expert has confirmed that the Class Vehicles' frames and the Toyota Trucks' frames
18 have the same metal composition and the same zinc phosphate epoxy coating, and thus,
19 the Frame Defect in the Class Vehicles and the defect that Toyota acknowledged in the
20 Toyota Trucks are one and the same.

21 48. Testing and analysis have revealed that the frames were corroding under
22 the epoxy, indicating that the corrosion was a result of the zinc phosphate coating
23 Toyota used being inadequate to protect against corrosion and rust. Indeed, analysis
24 documented the discontinuous nature of the zinc phosphorus layer (pretreatment) in all
25 of the frames analyzed. A discontinuous coating allows sections of the frame to be
26 unprotected and, therefore, more likely to suffer rust damage.

27 49. Accordingly, Toyota's knowledge of the Frame Defect in the Class
28 Vehicles and the resulting premature and excessive corrosion of the Vehicles' frames

1 and related components is evidenced by the service campaigns, warranty bulletins, and
2 recalls initiated by Toyota to address the same Defect in the Toyota Trucks.

3 a. **Toyota's Limited-Service Campaigns, Bulletins, and**
4 **Recalls for Toyota Trucks**

5 50. In or around March 2008, after receiving numerous reports that frames on
6 approximately 813,000 model year 1995 through 2000 Toyota Tacoma trucks had
7 exhibited excessive rust corrosion, Toyota initiated a Customer Support Program that
8 extended the vehicles' warranty coverage for frame perforation caused by
9 rust corrosion. Under the program, Toyota was to repair or repurchase, at its option,
10 any vehicle exhibiting perforation of the frame due to rust corrosion.

11 51. At that time, Toyota conceded that it had investigated "reports of 1995-
12 2000 model-year Tacoma vehicles exhibiting excessive rust corrosion to the
13 frame causing perforation of the metal" and "determined that the vehicle frame in some
14 vehicles may not have adequate corrosion-resistant protection." In a memorandum sent
15 to dealers, distributors, and certain owners, Toyota emphasized that "[t]his [rust
16 corrosion] is unrelated to and separate from normal surface rust which is commonly
17 found on metallic surfaces after some years of usage."

18 52. Yet, that same month, Toyota distributed a "Warranty Policy Bulletin" to
19 its dealers, which instructed service managers and warranty administrators that
20 "[v]ehicle inspections should only be performed if the customer has noticed excessive
21 rust." Apparently, Toyota sought to limit the costs of this campaign by offering
22 inspections only when a customer requested one. Toyota, knowing that many owners
23 would not notice excessive rust corrosion in the undercarriage of their vehicle,
24 disregarded its responsibility to correct latent defects in its products and reduce the
25 unreasonable risk that its customers and others would be injured by the undiscovered,
26 hidden defect.

27 53. Toyota subsequently modified and expanded this Customer Support
28 Program to include 2001-2004 Tacoma models.

1 54. In 2012, Toyota recalled approximately 150,000 Tacoma vehicles to
2 inspect and replace the spare-tire carrier on vehicles sold in twenty cold weather states.⁵
3 The recall was issued to address the problem of spare-tire carriers rusting through and
4 causing the spare tire to drop to the ground.

5 55. Through the issuance of two separate Limited Service Campaigns in 2014
6 and 2015, however, Toyota admitted that the frames of *all* 2005-2008 model year
7 Tacoma vehicles suffered from inadequate rust protection leading to excessive
8 premature rust corrosion.

9 56. Initially, Toyota attempted to limit its liability for the defective frames
10 through the issuance of the 2014 Limited Service Campaign (the “2014 Campaign”),
11 which applied only to 2005-2008 Tacoma vehicles in the twenty cold weather states
12 and stated that Toyota had “received reports that certain 2005 through 2008 model year
13 Tacoma vehicles operated in specific cold climate areas with high road salt usage may
14 exhibit more-than-normal corrosion to the vehicle’s frame.” Toyota further stated that
15 it had “investigated these reports and determined that the frame in some vehicles may
16 not have corrosion-resistant protection sufficient for use in these areas.”

17 57. According to Toyota, lack of adequate corrosion-resistant protection,
18 “combined with prolonged exposure to road salts and other environmental factors, may
19 contribute to the development of more-than normal rust in the frame of some vehicles.”
20 Notably, Toyota made clear that the “condition is unrelated to and separate from
21 normal surface rust which is commonly found on metallic surfaces after some years of
22 usage and/or exposure to the environment.”

23 58. In April 2015, however, Toyota issued a second Limited Service
24 Campaign (the “2015 Campaign”) for model year 2005-2008 Tacoma vehicles in the

25 ⁵ Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland,
26 Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio,
27 Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin, as well as the
28 District of Columbia.

1 thirty states not covered by the 2014 Campaign. Again, Toyota made clear that the
2 “condition is unrelated to and separate from normal surface rust which is commonly
3 found on metallic surfaces after some years of usage and/or exposure to the
4 environment.” Through the 2015 Campaign, Toyota conceded that Toyota vehicles in
5 warm weather states also suffered from excessive rust corrosion and perforation.

6 59. Toyota was also forced to acknowledge excessive frame corrosion on
7 early model year Toyota Tundra trucks through the issuance of two separate Limited
8 Service Campaigns in 2009 and 2010 following a NHTSA investigation, which found
9 that Tundra spare tires (mounted to the rear cross-member) were falling off due to
10 frame rust.

11 60. In the 2009 Limited Service Campaign, which recalled 110,000 first
12 generation Tundra vehicles sold in twenty cold weather states and the District of
13 Columbia, Toyota admitted that the excessive corrosion could cause “the spare tire
14 stowed under the truck bed [to] become separated from the rear cross-member,” or
15 “lead to the loss of the rear brake circuits which will increase vehicle stopping distances
16 and the risk of a crash.” In the 2010 Limited Service Campaign, Toyota recalled all
17 2000-2003 Tundra vehicles (regardless of geographic location) for the same excessive
18 frame rust.

19 61. That same year, Toyota, “as an additional measure of confidence” to
20 owners, issued a Corrosion Resistant Compound (“CRC”) Campaign “as the extension
21 to Safety Recall 90M - CRC application to the rear portion of the frame” for 2000-
22 2003 model year Tundra vehicles registered in cold weather states. The CRC campaign
23 was a combination of a safety recall that offered to apply CRCs to the rear portion of
24 the vehicle frame, and, for a limited time, the remainder of the frame assembly. The
25 approximately 316,000 2000-2003 Tundra vehicles sold or registered in the remaining
26 30 states were covered by a Limited Service Campaign issued by Toyota in 2015.

27 62. In August 2013, Toyota began another Limited Service Campaign for
28 approximately 78,000 model year 2004-2006 Tundra vehicles in 20 “cold climate

1 states” and the District of Columbia. As it had with the Tacoma, Toyota stated that it
2 had investigated reports that the Tundra may “exhibit more-than normal corrosion to
3 the vehicle’s frame” and “determined that the frames in some vehicles may not have
4 corrosion-resistant protection sufficient for use in these areas.” And, once again,
5 Toyota acknowledged that the “condition is unrelated to and separate from normal
6 surface rust which is commonly found on metallic surfaces after some years of usage
7 and/or exposure to the environment.”

8 63. Toyota acknowledged the same condition was present in its Sequoia
9 trucks in Limited Service Campaigns that were issued in late 2012 and early 2013, and
10 which advised dealers that it had determined the vehicles lacked “corrosion-resistant
11 protection” and advised dealers to inspect the vehicles for “more than normal corrosion
12 to the vehicle’s frame.” As it did with the Tacoma and Tundra, Toyota made clear that
13 the “condition” affecting the Sequoia was “unrelated to and separate from normal
14 surface rust which is commonly found on metallic surfaces after some years of usage
15 and/or exposure to the environment.”

16 64. In 2017, as part of a resolution to ongoing litigation pertaining to the frame
17 corrosion in 2005-2010 Tacoma, 2007-2008 Tundra, and 2005-2008 Sequoia trucks,
18 Toyota provided, among other benefits, free frame inspections, while also (1) applying
19 a CRC compound or (2) replacing the frames at no cost to the owners of those vehicles.

20 65. Two years later, in a November 2019 Limited Service Campaign, Toyota
21 admitted that the frames of the 2011-2017 Tacoma similarly lacked corrosion-resistant
22 protection and also provided free frame inspections with either (1) a CRC compound
23 or (2) frame replacement to address the Frame Defect in the frames. Toyota has
24 consistently issued updates to the 2019 Limited Service Campaign over the course of
25 the past two years in response to reports of the defect in 2011-2017 Tacoma vehicles
26 and in an effort to prevent and repair the corrosion that continues to plague those
27 vehicles.

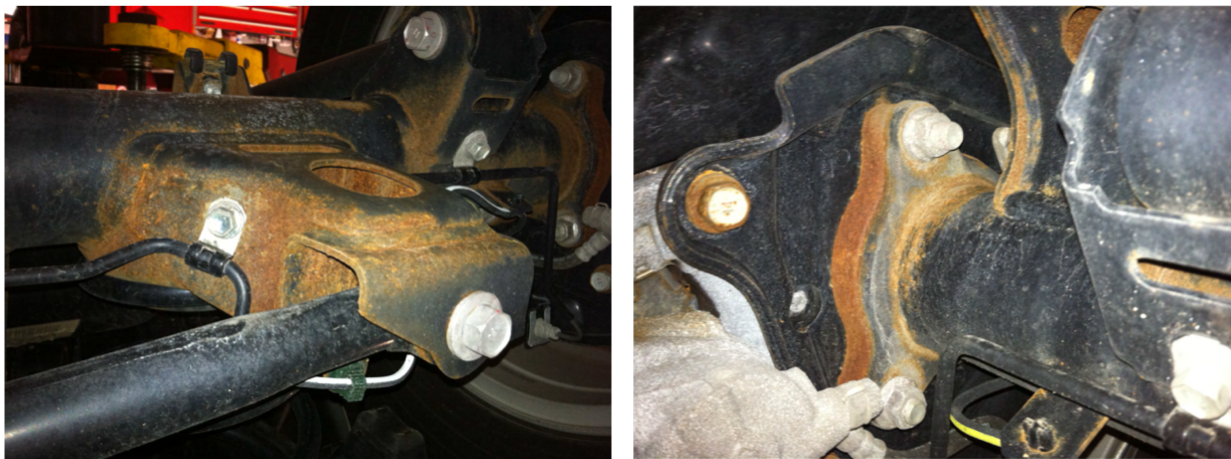
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1 **b. Consumer Complaints Regarding the Frame Defect**

2 66. Class members experience the same issues with the Class Vehicles as
3 were experienced by owners of the Toyota Trucks discussed *supra*.

4 67. One of the complaints posted on the NHTSA website (#10454963)
5 resulted from an April 12, 2012 call to the Department of Transportation’s Auto Safety
6 Hotline regarding a 2011 FJ Cruiser that began exhibiting corrosion at only **2,500**
7 **miles**—less than **three months after purchase**. The owner advised that Toyota was
8 made aware of the corrosion, but would neither repair or replace his vehicle.

9 68. This complaint led to a representative from NHTSA’s Office of Defects
10 Investigation (“ODI”) contacting the consumer via email to obtain additional
11 information regarding the complaint.⁶ In response, the consumer provided the
12 representative with photographs of his vehicle’s undercarriage showing how quickly
13 the excessive corrosion had spread at only **5,000 miles**:



22 69. The consumer also provided the ODI with links to several websites where
23 they could “find some similar complaints from Toyota customers experienc[ing] the
24 same issues that [he was] having” with his vehicle. The owner further explained to the
25 NHTSA representative that he was “concerned that the corrosion will spread and

26 _____
27 ⁶ The ODI notifies vehicle manufacturers about complaints when they are entered
28 and received in the NHTSA database, particularly when it sees similarly described
complaints from more than a few consumers.

1 continue throughout the vehicle”⁷ and “about the ascetics [sic] and the resale value” of
2 the vehicle.

3 70. The ODI provided the above information to Toyota,⁸ which, upon
4 information and belief, resolved the dispute with the owner.

5 71. The number of complaints made by owners to Toyota, its authorized
6 dealerships, and NHTSA regarding like experiences with the Frame Defect and safety-
7 related concerns has grown substantially since 2012.

8 72. Indeed, a review of internet forums and chat groups created specifically
9 for the discussion of issues related to the Class Vehicles, including the websites
10 referenced above, reveals thousands of posts and dozens of discussions complaining of
11 the Frame Defect, demonstrating that Plaintiffs are not alone in this matter. Those
12 complaints detail both the failures and inadequate responses of Toyota representatives
13 and Toyota in addressing the Frame Defect and the damage it caused.

14 73. The number of complaints consumers have filed with NHTSA that
15 identify the Frame Defect and detail their experience with the corresponding excessive
16 and premature corrosion and rust it causes are numerous and continue to significantly
17 increase each year, both in number, and severity.

18 74. Below are excerpts from some of the consumer complaints made to
19 NHTSA regarding the Frame Defect (emphasis added):

- 20
- 21 • ***“The chassis is so corroded and full of rust it has got to a point
22 of loosing [sic] the strength and integrity of the whole body. This
23 is very worrisome specially if the car is involved in an accident***

24 ⁷ His concern was the reality, as described in the following NHTSA complaint
25 regarding a 2008 FJ Cruiser: “Since I purchased the vehicle brand new in 2006 it has
26 been rusting and an alarming rate. Even my mechanic says he’s never seen a new car
rust that quickly. The frame is covered [in] rust, I tried to stop it but it didn’t work.”

27 ⁸ See [https://static.nhtsa.gov/complaints/10454963/10454963-
28 AF0DEE515E3602CAE05375E8789808C8.pdf](https://static.nhtsa.gov/complaints/10454963/10454963-AF0DEE515E3602CAE05375E8789808C8.pdf) (last visited Mar. 31, 2022).

1 where the front part chassis cannot resist the impact.”
2 (09/27/2013, 2007 FJ Cruiser)

- 3 • “At 55,000 miles (6 years old) *my front gravel shield had*
4 *completely rusted off and was found in my driveway.* . . I am
5 terrified at the thought that I could’ve been driving and my control
6 arms could’ve rusted off like my gravel shield did.” (01/06/2017,
7 2011 FJ Cruiser)
- 8 • “*The rust on the frame is mind blowing. . . This is dangers [sic]*
9 *and someone can be injured or dead.*” (04/11/2017, 2007 FJ
10 Cruiser)
- 11 • “Frame is rusting *to the point it is about to break.*” (04/12/2017,
12 2007 FJ Cruiser)
- 13 • “I took my car in for an inspection at my Toyota dealership today.
14 I was told if I’m going to sell it or trade it in that now would be
15 the time to do it. . . . The tech said there are some very weak areas
16 on the frame and that *it could fracture with impact or maybe will*
17 *eventually by hitting a bad pothole.* . . . It seemed frightening to
18 me that *they suggested I sell it to someone else and not disclose*
19 *this potentially life threatening issue.*” (04/26/2018, 2008 FJ
20 Cruiser)
- 21 • “Frame is rusted so bad mechanic and local dealer said *vehicle is*
22 *not road worthy.* If I had not taken my vehicle to a mechanic
23 before service and general maintenance repairs, *I would have*
24 *driven on a 2400 mile vacation across country without knowing*
25 *the danger of a failing frame.*” (09/05/2018, 2007 FJ Cruiser)
- 26 • “Took the vehicle in for oil change and check a transmission fluid
27 leak. *Dealer found large amounts of rust on frame and*
28 *suspension and noted, ‘not recommended to drive.’*”
(10/04/2018, 2007 FJ Cruiser)
- “While driving, my exhaust broke from hitting a pothole. When I
took to the shop for repair, we noticed so much rust on the frame.
I made an appointment at my local dealership to have it inspected,
we found that the frame is extremely rusted[.] . . . The dealership
representative became frustrated and even said *she would not put*

1 *her kids in the Fj Cruiser because its unsafe.*” (11/20/2018, 2007
2 FJ Cruiser)

- 3 • *“The amount of corrosion and frame flaking is alarming and*
4 *poses a huge safety issue* for my family, other drivers and myself.
5 Since purchasing the vehicle I have done everything I can to
6 maintain and fix this issue including complaining to Toyota
7 themselves with little to no success. . . . *Body mounts are flaking*
8 *and crumbling and the frame is corroded and falling apart from*
9 *the inside out.*” (03/25/2019, 2007 FJ Cruiser)
- 10 • *“Frame has completely disintegrated* where the rear upper
11 control arm links meet the crossmember, *making the vehicle*
12 *unsafe and fail the NH state inspection.*” (06/28/2019, 2007 FJ
13 Cruiser)
- 14 • “Excessive rust on the frame. . . . This is a known issue with the
15 FJ Cruiser on all the forms online. . . . *There are thousands of us*
16 *with a rotting in frames and Toyota will do nothing.*”
17 (12/01/2012, 2008 FJ Cruiser)
- 18 • “I’m extremely concerned about my families [sic] safety. I’m
19 worried brackets are about to rust off, and body mounts and bolts
20 are showing severe rust, . . . *This needs to be remedied before*
21 *people start getting hurt while driving with these unsafe chassis*
22 *and components.*” (12/31/2019, 2008 FJ Cruiser)
- 23 • “Sever[e] rusting of frame, break and suspension components and
24 brackets. *This 2008 Toyota FJ cruiser is quickly becoming a*
25 *safety hazard on the roads.*” (02/03/2020, 2008 FJ Cruiser)
- 26 • “Vehicle was stationary in driveway *my frame, some suspension*
27 *components, and my rocker panels were falling apart in my*
28 *hands*” (02/22/2020, 2008 FJ Cruiser)
- “Frame, suspension, and brakes have extreme damage from rust.
Rear brakes are non-functional because of rust.” (06/17/2020,
2008 FJ Cruiser)
- “Severe rust on all parts of the frame undercarriage, brake lines,
gas tank straps. . . . *I am frightened that in an accident the whole*

1 ***body of the truck will just come off the frame.***” 07/27/2020, 2008
2 FJ Cruiser)

- 3 • ***“Several frame supports have corroded from the inside out and***
4 ***are flaking off. Brake components that run along the frame***
5 ***have corroded from the frame to the bracket that holds them to***
6 ***the lines themselves. Cause[d] a slow brake leak over time that***
7 ***eventually resulted in a dangerous near accident situation that***
8 ***was caused by complete immediate lack of brake pressure.***”
9 (07/04/2020, 2008 FJ Cruiser)
- 10 • ***“The rate at which rust gestates on this vehicle . . . is unsafe and***
11 ***will continue to create unsafe conditions as these vehicles***
12 ***rapidly deteriorate.***” (03/19/2021, 2011 FJ Cruiser)
- 13 • ***“The vehicle is a 2008 and is scary rusty on the frame and other***
14 ***components. . . . Eventually one of these faulty frames are going***
15 ***to break in a high speed scenario and serious injury or death***
16 ***will occur.***” (09/27/2020, 2008 FJ Cruiser)
- 17 • ***“This vehicle has major rust overtaking the frame and all***
18 ***suspension parts and mounts . . . I am very concerned I am going***
19 ***to have suspension parts break off while I’m driving, I have***
20 ***already had to replace the fuel tank straps that rusted in half***
21 ***while driving do[w]n the highway.***” (08/14/2020, 2007 FJ
22 Cruiser)
- 23 • ***“My gas tank straps completely rusted off leaving the gas tank***
24 ***hanging down below the frame and in extreme compromised***
25 ***unsafe position. Multiple areas of frame rust completely***
26 ***through not supported by either end.***” (11/28/2019, 2007 FJ
27 Cruiser)
- 28 • ***“I took my 2007 Fj Cruiser in for regular maintenance and shortly***
after I dropped it off, I was contacted by the dealership and asked
to come back. They wanted to show me the bottom of the vehicle
because they said it was no longer safe to drive. I went back to
the dealership and the mechanic showed me that the frame of my
FJ was completely rusted through with multiple holes in right
side of the frame - some holes measuring over 5 inches in length.
It crumbled when touched.” (12/30/2019, 2007 FJ Cruiser)
- ***“During 2019-2020 state inspection of 2007 Fj Cruiser with***
78000 miles by dealer was told that frame is so rusted that it
probably would not pass the next inspection.” (09/29/2019, 2007
FJ Cruiser)

- 1 • “Rust has *decimated the frame* of this vehicle resulting in the
2 *control arm mount to break away from the frame* of the vehicle.
3 . . . *No welding/body shop will touch it because they deem it*
4 *unsafe even if welded back to rest of frame.* . . . Fortunately, this
broke in a parking lot instead of on the highway *where an*
accident would have happened or worse.” (09/03/2019, 2008 FJ
Cruiser)

5 75. Notably, Federal law requires Toyota to monitor defects which can cause
6 a safety issue and report any findings within five (5) days. As a result, Toyota regularly
7 monitors NHTSA complaints in order to meet its reporting requirements under federal
8 law and, thus, obtained knowledge of the Defect through its ongoing monitoring of
9 these complaints. Toyota, knowing the details of production across all lines of vehicles
10 it manufactures, also had knowledge of the Defect in the Class Vehicles from
11 complaints made by owners of the Toyota Trucks containing the same Defect.

12 **D. Marketing and Concealment**

13 76. Notwithstanding its knowledge of the Frame Defect, Toyota embarked on
14 an aggressive marketing campaign when the all-new 2007 FJ Cruiser was released for
15 sale that promoted the quality and benefits of the frames and related components used
16 on the Class Vehicles, including their purported anti-corrosive properties.

17 77. For example, in a published advertisement marketing the quality and
18 benefits of the Class Vehicles’ frames, Toyota: (a) told customers that because the FJ
19 Cruiser’s “frame ha[d] to be bulletproof,” it had equipped the vehicle with a frame that
20 had been “proven on the toughest terrain,” making the vehicle “incredibly stable when
21 climbing”; (b) promoted the “[e]xceedingly rigid design” of the frame”; and (c) touted
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1 the frames’ “Electrocoat Deposition (ED) protective coating,” which it represented
 2 “seals every nook and cranny and helps the frame live long and strong”:




TOPIC: 01. *Frame*

The sound of metal grinding over rock
is the sound of a ladder frame hard at work.


Modified Land Cruiser Prado frame.

Whether you’re hammering through foot-deep potholes on a dirt road to Palenque, Mexico, or crawling over three-foot boulders on Upper Terminator in Arizona, your frame has to be bulletproof. So we gave the FJ a modified overseas Land Cruiser Prado frame because it’s been proven on the roughest terrain in over 150 countries. And with a 105.9-inch wheelbase the FJ is incredibly stable when climbing, yet maneuverable when things get tight.



Exceedingly rigid design.

Like looking into the eyes of the sun, a little off-camber driving is where the fun is. That is as long as your frame doesn’t flex like a cookie sheet and blow out a window. The good news is the FJ’s Prado frame is unbelievably stiff thanks to its 8 cross members, beefed-up center side rails and rear inner channel reinforcements.



Pre-drilled weld nuts for rock rails.


Climbing into your rig through the windows after a boulder pins your doors shut is overrated. So we figured you may want to throw on some rock rails to keep your rocker panels from getting taced.

Electrocoat Deposition (ED) protective coating.

Rust is nobody’s friend, especially your frame’s. The ED coating seals every nook and cranny and helps the frame live long and strong.

Length:	167 inches
Width:	50 inches
Wheelbase:	105.9 inches
Jack points:	8
Recovery hooks:	1 rear & 2 front

Aprvd. *Akio Nishimura*
 By: _____
 Chief Engineer



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Illustrations © beaudanields.com

23 78. In an advertisement marketing the quality and benefits of the Class
 24 Vehicles’ undercarriage, Toyota: (a) claimed that its detail in design “[k]eeps the FJ
 25 Cruiser’s undercarriage smooth to slide over the rough spots”; (b) represented that the
 26 FJ Cruiser had a “[b]elly of steel” that protected the undercarriage components,
 27 including “the radiator, power steering rack, [and] engine and transfer case”; and (c)

1 touted the FJ Cruiser’s “[t]ough [gas] tank, . . . made of its own multi-layer resin [or
 2 Zinc phosphate coating] that resists punctures and won’t rust”:

3

4  **TOPIC: 04. Undercarriage**

5 **All dangling parts left unattended
 will be torn off and left for dead.**

6 **Smooth operator.**

7 When off the beaten path, count on Mother Nature
 looking to rip things from your undercarriage
 for her trophy case. Keeping the FJ Cruiser's
 undercarriage smooth to slide over the rough
 spots isn't rocket science, but it does take
 an attention to detail that's too
 8 often overlooked.

9 **Belly of steel.**

10 The best offense is a good
 defense. So when it comes
 to protecting the belly of
 the beast, full skid plates
 come standard to help
 provide a safe haven for the
 radiator, power steering
 rack, engine and transfer
 case. And to really
 defend your honor,
 rock rails heed
 the call.



12 **Glutton for
 punishment.**

13 Nothing begs
 to be torn
 from its cozy
 mountings and
 left in the
 dirt like
 your exhaust
 system. To
 help keep it out of harm's way, a
 section over the drive shaft was
 flattened, the muffler was tucked
 up to the body and a ball joint
 was used to connect the front and
 rear sections to allow the entire
 system to flex.

14 **Tough tank.**

15 It's safe to say that gasoline works better in the tank than it does dripping onto
 the trail. So in addition to its resin skid plate, the gas tank of the FJ is made
 of its own multi-layer resin that resists punctures and won't rust. Even the tank's
 shape helps it dodge rocks by keeping inside the breakover angle.

16

17

Approach/Departure Angle:	33.5°/30°
Ground Clearance:	9.6" (4WD model)
Breakover Angle:	27.5°

18


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Aprvd. *Akio Nishimura*
 By: *Akio Nishimura*
 Chief Engineer



23 **TOYOTA | moving forward**


24 toyota.com/fjcruiser

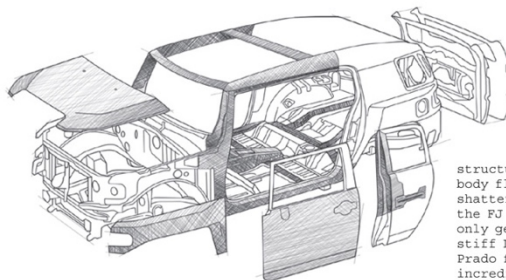
25 Illustrations © beaudariels.com

26 79. In an advertisement marketing the quality and benefits of the Class
 27 Vehicles' body, Toyota: (a) promoted the structural integrity of the FJ Cruiser,
 28 including its “incredibly rigid body using specially placed reinforcements, and high-
 tensile-strength sheet steel” to prevent damage when taking the vehicle off-road; and
 (b) represented that “the body of the FJ uses anti-corrosion sheet steel in key areas, in
 addition to anti-rust wax, sealer and anti-chipping paint.”

1 80. Notably, Toyota even acknowledged in the above advertisement that “a
 2 truck has no greater enemy than rust,” naming it a “silent killer [that] can turn a once
 3 virile and shimmering steel chariot into nothing more than a brittle, flaking ghost of
 4 itself”:

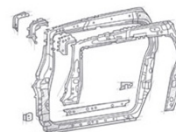
5

6  TOPIC: 11. *Body*
 7 **Curb weight, 4295 lb.***
Apparently, muscle does weigh more than fat.



9 **What doesn't break us makes us fonder.**

10 Face it, nobody off-roads because of how tranquil and effortless it is, that's what stamp collecting's for. Hitting the trail is about conquering the trail, and every obstacle along the way. Rough terrain and extreme wheel articulation really test the structural integrity of your vehicle, causing body flex that can crack sheet metal and shatter windows. To help prevent such horrors, the FJ Cruiser not only gets an extremely stiff Land Cruiser Prado frame, but an incredibly rigid body using specially placed reinforcements, and high-tensile-strength sheet steel.



12 High-tensile-strength steel used for side-member reinforcements.

13 High-tensile-strength sheet steel.

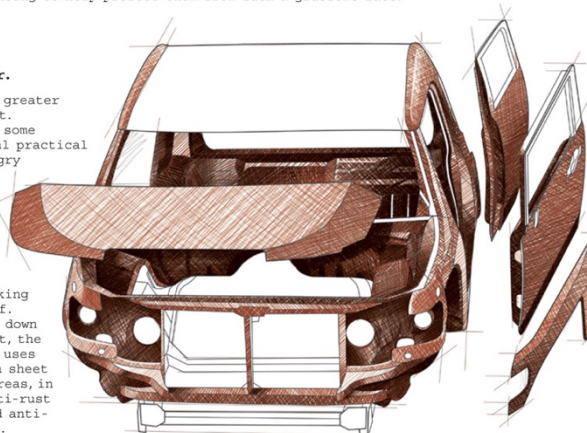


15 **Sitting duck.**

16 If you had to be a part of your rig, it wouldn't be the wheelwells. What other piece of your truck has sticks and stones taking potshots at it all day? Before you know it, the paint starts chipping, leaving the defenseless steel below to start a losing battle with the grim reaper himself. Rust. The FJ's wheelwells get a thick PVC coating to help protect them from such a gruesome fate.

17 **Metal muncher.**

18 A truck has no greater enemy than rust. As a result of some electrochemical practical joke, this hungry and silent killer can turn a once virile and shimmering steel chariot into nothing more than a brittle, flaking ghost of itself. Refusing to go down without a fight, the body of the FJ uses anti-corrosion sheet steel in key areas, in addition to anti-rust wax, sealer and anti-chipping paint.



20 Anti-corrosion sheet steel.

21 *4WD automatic model.

22 Aprvd. *Akio Nishimura*
 23 By:  Chief Engineer

24 **TOYOTA | moving forward ▶**
 toyota.com/fjcruiser

25 Illustrations © beaudanields.com

26 81. In the owner's manuals for the Class Vehicles, Toyota incorrectly
 27 represents that the purported anti-corrosive measures it had taken would prevent
 28 corrosion by stating: “Toyota, through its diligent research, design and use of the most

1 advanced technology available, helps prevent corrosion and provides you with the
2 finest quality vehicle construction.”

3 82. Further, Toyota advertised the durability of Class Vehicle frames in its
4 sales brochures distributed throughout the United States. For example, the sales
5 brochure for the 2011 FJ Cruiser states that Toyota’s “engineering standards were
6 written in stone” and that “[s]olid body-on-frame construction keeps the FJ rigid, which
7 helps the suspension do its work”:⁹

8
9 **Our engineering standards were written in stone.** After five decades of off-road experience,
10 we know a few things about making vehicles that are capable and durable. And FJ Cruiser
11 is the latest beneficiary of this proud heritage. Its V6 engine features Dual Independent
12 Variable Valve Timing with intelligence (VVT-i). Cranking out 260 hp and 271 lb.-ft. of
13 torque, it has the muscle to take on mountains. Add to that an available 6-speed manual
14 transmission with 2-speed transfer case and an electronically controlled locking rear
15 differential, and FJ Cruiser possesses impressive off-road capability. Solid body-on-frame
16 construction keeps the FJ rigid, which helps the suspension do its work. The independent
17 front suspension system delivers nearly eight inches of wheel travel, while the 4-link
18 rear suspension with lateral rod offers more than nine inches. In short: On rocks, it rocks.

19 83. In the 2012-2014 FJ Cruiser sales brochures distributed throughout the
20 United States, Toyota boasted that the FJ Cruiser could withstand “[f]rame-bending
21 boulders,” that its “rock-solid body-on-frame construction keeps the FJ rigid regardless
22 of the terrain”:
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27 ⁹ 2011 FJ Cruiser, Toyota (2011) [https://www.auto-](https://www.auto-brochures.com/makes/Toyota/FJ%20Cruiser/Toyota_US%20FJCruizer_2011.pdf)
28 (last visited Mar. 31, 2022).

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FJ Cruiser shown in Quicksand with available Upgrade Package and available accessory rock rails.

Mother Nature, who's your daddy now?

Twenty-five-degree grades. Frame-bending boulders. Dizzying drop-offs. The sort of challenges nature presents when you tackle trails like Rubicon or Moab's Poison Spider Mesa. But five decades of off-road experience has given FJ Cruiser the capability to handle them. Its V6 engine churns out 260 hp and 271 lb.-ft. of torque, in part thanks to Dual Independent Variable Valve Timing with intelligence (VVT-i). The available 6-speed manual transmission features a 2-speed transfer case as well as an electronically controlled locking rear differential, to help ensure the power goes where it's needed. The independent front suspension system delivers nearly eight inches of wheel travel, while the 4-link rear suspension with lateral rod provides more than nine inches. And rock-solid body-on-frame construction keeps the FJ rigid regardless of the terrain.

It's no surprise a vehicle like FJ is able to reach the trail's end in one piece. But FJ Cruiser also handles pavement with equal proficiency. Its Vehicle Stability Control (VSC)¹ adjusts engine power and braking to help maintain the direction in which it's been steered, while Traction Control (TRAC) helps reduce slipping when accelerating. So enjoy the ride. You may find gloating makes the drive home shorter.

84. Toyota also published press releases highlighting the durability of the FJ Cruiser frames. Toyota stated, for instance, that the Class Vehicles' "tough, wide stance is based on a boxed steel ladder-braced frame to which the welded steel body is mounted."¹⁰

¹⁰ *Toyota FJ Cruiser Uniquely Fuses Off-Road Prowess With Heritage Design and Modern Connectivity*, Toyota (Sept. 6, 2011), <https://pressroom.toyota.com/toyota-2012-fj-cruiser-fuses-off-road-prowess-with-heritage-design/> (last visited Mar. 31, 2022); *2014 Toyota FJ Cruiser Continues A Long Tradition of Off-Road Capability*,

1 85. Yet, nowhere in its marketing materials did Toyota acknowledge or
2 provide consumers notice of the Frame Defect or the damage that it caused.

3 86. Toyota's decision to continue using the frames, notwithstanding its
4 knowledge of the Frame Defect, and its customers' lack of knowledge of such Defect,
5 has caused the Defect to go unremedied to this day.

6 87. Defendants possessed exclusive and superior knowledge and information
7 regarding the Defect but concealed the Defect from Plaintiff and Class members.
8 Indeed, Toyota has known of the Frame Defect since prior to the release of the Class
9 Vehicles into the market, as well as the serious safety risk it causes to the Vehicles'
10 occupants, yet Toyota failed to inform Class members of the Defect prior to their Class
11 Vehicle purchases and, to this day, fail to adequately remedy the Defect.

12 **E. Plaintiffs' Experiences**

13 **a. Elliot Nazos**

14 88. On or about February 12, 2010, Plaintiff Elliot Nazos (for purposes of this
15 section, "Plaintiff") purchased his 2010 FJ Cruiser from Planet Toyota, an authorized
16 Toyota dealer located in Matteson, Illinois (for purposes of this section, the
17 "Dealership").

18 89. Plaintiff purchased his Class Vehicle primarily for personal, family, or
19 household use.

20 90. Passenger safety and reliability were important factors in Plaintiff's
21 decision to purchase his Class Vehicle. Before making his purchase, Plaintiff reviewed
22 brochures and the Vehicle's Monroney sticker, spoke to a representative of the
23 authorized Toyota Dealership who assured him of the quality, safety, and reliability of
24 the vehicle, and test drove the vehicle he ultimately purchased. Plaintiff selected and
25 ultimately purchased his Class Vehicle because the vehicle was represented to be and
26

27 Toyota (Sept. 16, 2013), <https://pressroom.toyota.com/2014-toyota-fj-cruiser/> (last
28 visited Mar. 31, 2022).

1 was marketed as a high-quality vehicle capable of providing safe, reliable
2 transportation. The purchase was made in part on the advertised safety, reliability, and
3 quality of the vehicle and its components, including its frame.

4 91. None of the information provided to Plaintiff disclosed any defects with
5 the frame. Toyota's misstatements and omissions were material to Plaintiff, who was
6 acting as a reasonable consumer.

7 92. Had Toyota disclosed the Defect before Plaintiff purchased his vehicle,
8 he would have seen such disclosures and been aware of them. Like all members of the
9 Class, Plaintiff would not have purchased his Class Vehicle, or would have paid less
10 for the vehicle, had he known of the Defect.

11 93. Plaintiff properly maintained and serviced his Class Vehicle according to
12 industry and maintenance guidelines.

13 94. In October 2012, Plaintiff noticed excessive rust accumulation and flaking
14 on the frame of his Class Vehicle. Shortly thereafter, he brought his Class Vehicle to
15 Dan Wolf Toyota of Naperville, for an inspection of the frame. The dealer confirmed
16 that the frame on Plaintiff's vehicle exhibited rust corrosion but, pursuant to Defendant
17 Toyota's guidance, advised Plaintiff that the rust corrosion was normal.

18 95. In or about October 2019, Plaintiff returned his vehicle to Dan Wolf
19 Toyota of Naperville to obtain a splash shield repair after the original part fell off while
20 the vehicle was in motion due to the excessive frame rust and corrosion. Ultimately,
21 Plaintiff paid over \$300.00 for this repair.

22 96. From the same event and due to the same excessive rust corrosion, the
23 Class Vehicle's gas tank straps were lost; thus, Plaintiff also had to pay out of pocket
24 for the replacement, labor, and installation of new gas tank straps.

25 97. To date, Toyota has sent no notification to Plaintiff about any permanent
26 repair, modification, or change to the maintenance schedule that would either repair
27 the Defect or prevent the Defect from causing additional damage.

28

1 98. Plaintiff's vehicle continues to experience excessive rust and corrosion on
2 the frame.

3 99. At all times, Plaintiff, like all Class Members, has attempted to drive his
4 Class Vehicle in a foreseeable manner and in a manner in which it was intended to be
5 used.

6 100. As a result of the Defect, Plaintiff has lost confidence in the ability of his
7 Class Vehicle to provide him safe and reliable transportation for ordinary and
8 advertised purposes. Until and unless Toyota fully discloses the Defect or implements
9 a permanent repair or modification to the maintenance schedule that prevents the
10 Defect from causing damage, Plaintiff's loss of confidence will continue unabated.

11 **b. Christine Blight**

12 101. On or about June 21, 2010, Plaintiff Christine Blight (for purposes of this
13 section, "Plaintiff") purchased her 2007 FJ Cruiser from Toyota of Scranton, an
14 authorized Toyota dealer located in Scranton, Pennsylvania (for purposes of this
15 section, the "Dealership").

16 102. Plaintiff purchased the Class Vehicle primarily for personal, family, or
17 household use.

18 103. Passenger safety and reliability were important factors in Plaintiff's
19 decision to purchase the Class Vehicle. Before making the purchase, Plaintiff reviewed
20 brochures and the Vehicle's Monroney sticker, and spoke to a representative of the
21 authorized Toyota Dealership who assured her of the quality, safety, and reliability of
22 the vehicle. Plaintiff selected and ultimately purchased the Class Vehicle because the
23 vehicle was represented, advertised, and marketed as a high-quality vehicle capable of
24 providing safe, quality, and reliable transportation in all components, including its
25 frame.

26 104. None of the information provided to Plaintiff disclosed any defects with
27 the frame. Toyota's misstatements and omissions were material to Plaintiff, who was
28 acting as a reasonable consumer.

1 105. Had Toyota disclosed the Defect before Plaintiff purchased her vehicle,
2 she would have seen such disclosures and been aware of them. Like all members of the
3 Class, Plaintiff would not have purchased her Class Vehicle, or would have paid less
4 for the vehicle, had she known of the Defect.

5 106. Plaintiff properly maintained and serviced her Class Vehicle according to
6 the industry and maintenance guidelines.

7 107. In or about 2014, Plaintiff first noticed the vehicle was exhibiting rust and
8 corrosion accumulation on the frame and undercarriage of the vehicle.

9 108. Over time, the problem worsened, and in or about early 2018, Plaintiff
10 noticed excessive deterioration of the frame.

11 109. On or about September 28, 2018, Plaintiff's husband, Brian Blight,
12 contacted Toyota Brand Experience Center to inquire, including to ask if there was a
13 recall on the FJ Cruiser frame. Upon information and belief, Toyota assigned this to its
14 National Headquarters under file #1809280682.

15 110. Ultimately, a representative stated that there was no recall, and that
16 Toyota would not be able to assist Mr. Blight.

17 111. In or about January 2020, Mr. Blight was taking his children to school
18 when, due to the rotted and rusted frame, the driver's side rear lower link bracket fell
19 off from the frame, while the vehicle was in motion.

20 112. To date, Plaintiff has received no notification from Toyota about any
21 permanent repair or modification or change to the maintenance schedule which would
22 either repair the Defect or prevent the Defect from causing additional damage.

23 113. As a result of the Defect, Plaintiff has lost confidence in the ability of the
24 Class Vehicle to provide safe and reliable transportation for ordinary and advertised
25 purposes. Until and unless Toyota fully discloses the Defect or implements a
26 permanent repair or modification to the maintenance schedule that prevents the Defect
27 from causing damage, Plaintiff's loss of confidence will continue unabated.

1 **c. Jack Perry**

2 114. On or about September 13, 2010, Plaintiff Jack Perry (for purposes of this
3 section, “Plaintiff”) purchased his 2010 FJ Cruiser from Palmiero Toyota Scion, an
4 authorized Toyota dealer located in Meadville, Pennsylvania (for purposes of this
5 section, the “Dealership”).

6 115. Plaintiff purchased his Class Vehicle primarily for personal, family, or
7 household use.

8 116. Passenger safety and reliability were important factors in Plaintiff’s
9 decision to purchase his Class Vehicle. Before making his purchase, Plaintiff reviewed
10 brochures and the Vehicle’s Monroney sticker, spoke to a representative of the
11 authorized Toyota Dealership who assured him of the quality, safety, and reliability of
12 the vehicle, and test drove the vehicle he ultimately purchased. Plaintiff selected and
13 ultimately purchased his Class Vehicle because the vehicle was represented,
14 advertised, and marketed as a high-quality vehicle capable of providing safe, quality,
15 and reliable transportation in all components, including its frame.

16 117. None of the information provided to Plaintiff disclosed any defects with
17 the frame. Toyota’s misstatements and omissions were material to Plaintiff, who was
18 acting as a reasonable consumer.

19 118. Had Toyota disclosed the Defect before Plaintiff purchased his vehicle,
20 he would have seen such disclosures and been aware of them. Like all members of the
21 Class, Plaintiff would not have purchased his Class Vehicle, or he would have paid less
22 for the vehicle, had he known of the Defect.

23 119. Plaintiff properly maintained and serviced his Class Vehicle according to
24 industry and maintenance guidelines.

25 120. In or about December 2020, Plaintiff took his Class Vehicle in for service
26 to an authorized Toyota Dealership after noticing the excessive frame rust and
27 excessive flaking of his Class Vehicle’s frame. At this service visit he directed the
28 technician to look at the rust on his Class Vehicle's frame. During this service visit, and

1 at each and every oil change since, he has mentioned this Frame Defect to the
2 technicians. However, each time, the technicians returned the Class Vehicle without
3 providing any option to repair the Frame Defect.

4 121. To date, Toyota has sent no notification to Plaintiff about any permanent
5 repair, modification, or change to the maintenance schedule that would either repair
6 the Defect or prevent the Defect from causing additional damage.

7 122. Plaintiff's Class Vehicle continues to experience excessive rust and
8 corrosion on the frame.

9 123. At all times, Plaintiff, like all Class Members, has attempted to drive his
10 Class Vehicle in a foreseeable manner and in the manner it was intended to be used.

11 124. As a result of the Defect, Plaintiff has lost confidence in the ability of his
12 Class Vehicle to provide him safe and reliable transportation for ordinary and
13 advertised purposes. Until and unless Toyota fully discloses the Defect or implements
14 a permanent repair or modification to the maintenance schedule that prevents the
15 Defect from causing damage, Plaintiff's loss of confidence will continue unabated.

16 **d. Patricia Loughney**

17 125. On or about April 21, 2010, Plaintiff Patricia Loughney (for purposes of
18 this section, "Plaintiff") purchased her 2010 FJ Cruiser from Towne Toyota, an
19 authorized Toyota dealer located in Ledgewood, New Jersey (for purposes of this
20 section, the "Dealership").

21 126. Plaintiff purchased her Class Vehicle primarily for personal, family, or
22 household use.

23 127. Passenger safety and reliability were important factors in Plaintiff's
24 decision to purchase his Class Vehicle. Before making her purchase, Plaintiff reviewed
25 brochures and the Vehicle's Monroney sticker, spoke to a Dealership representative
26 about the quality, safety, and reliability of the vehicle, saw T.V. commercials that
27 touted about the quality, safety, and reliability of the vehicle, and test drove the vehicle
28 he ultimately purchased. Plaintiff selected and ultimately purchased his Class Vehicle

1 because the vehicle was represented, advertised, marketed as a high-quality vehicle
2 capable of providing safe, quality, and reliable transportation in all components,
3 including its frame.

4 128. None of the information provided to Plaintiff disclosed any defects with
5 the frame. Toyota's misstatements and omissions were material to Plaintiff, who was
6 acting as a reasonable consumer.

7 129. Had Toyota disclosed the Defect before Plaintiff purchased her vehicle,
8 she would have seen such disclosures and been aware of them. Like all members of
9 the Class, Plaintiff would not have purchased her Class Vehicle, or she would have
10 paid less for the vehicle, had she known of the Defect.

11 130. Plaintiff properly maintained and serviced her Class Vehicle according to
12 industry and maintenance guidelines.

13 131. In approximately 2014, Plaintiff noticed that the Class Vehicle had
14 excessive rust, corrosion, and flaking on the undercarriage and the frame of her vehicle.

15 132. On or about February 25, 2014, Plaintiff brought her Class Vehicle to the
16 Dealership for a brake repair. While there, she mentioned to the Dealership concerns
17 about the frame rust, corrosion, and flaking. She also asked about the Tundra recall.
18 The Dealership advised her that there was no recall on the FJ Cruiser frame, thus, they
19 could not repair her Vehicle.

20 133. After the Dealership declined to do the repair, Plaintiff brought her Class
21 Vehicle to Mr. Darren Carr where he attempted to remediate the rust and applied an
22 undercoat, for which Plaintiff was required to pay approximately \$2800.00.

23 134. To date, Toyota has sent no notification about any permanent repair,
24 modification or change to the maintenance schedule that would either repair the Defect
25 or prevent the Defect from causing additional damage.

26 135. Plaintiff's Class Vehicle continues to experience excessive rust and
27 corrosion on the frame.

28

1 136. At all times Plaintiff, like all Class Members, has attempted to drive her
2 Class Vehicle in a foreseeable manner and in a manner in which it was intended to be
3 used.

4 137. As a result of the Defect, Plaintiff has lost confidence in the ability of her
5 Class Vehicle to provide her safe and reliable transportation for ordinary and advertised
6 purposes. Until and unless Toyota fully discloses the Defect or implements a
7 permanent repair or modification to the maintenance schedule that prevents the Defect
8 from causing damage, Plaintiff's loss of confidence will continue unabated.

9 **e. Emily Barbour**

10 138. On or about July 29, 2006, Plaintiff Emily Barbour (for purposes of this
11 section, "Plaintiff") purchased her 2007 FJ Cruiser from Muller Toyota Scion, an
12 authorized Toyota dealer located in Clinton, New Jersey (for purposes of this section,
13 the "Dealership").

14 139. Plaintiff Barbour purchased her Class Vehicle primarily for personal,
15 family, or household use.

16 140. Passenger safety and reliability were important factors in Plaintiff's
17 decision to purchase her Class vehicle. Before making her purchase, Plaintiff reviewed
18 brochures and the Vehicle's Monroney sticker, spoke to a representative of the
19 authorized Toyota Dealership who assured her of the quality, safety, and reliability of
20 the vehicle, and test drove the vehicle she ultimately purchased. Plaintiff selected and
21 ultimately purchased her Class Vehicle because the vehicle was represented,
22 advertised, and marketed as a high-quality vehicle capable of providing safe, reliable
23 transportation in all components, including its frame.

24 141. None of the information provided to Plaintiff disclosed any defects with
25 the frame. Toyota's omissions were material to Plaintiff, who was acting as a
26 reasonable consumer.

27 142. Had Toyota disclosed the Defect before Plaintiff purchased her vehicle,
28 she would have seen such disclosures and been aware of them. Like all members of the

1 Class, Plaintiff would not have purchased her Class Vehicle, or she would have paid
2 less for the vehicle, had he known of the Defect.

3 143. Plaintiff properly maintained and serviced her Class Vehicle according to
4 industry and maintenance guidelines.

5 144. On or about September 29, 2021, Plaintiff brought her vehicle to
6 Fairmount Hilltop Garage for regular maintenance where the mechanic advised her
7 that her vehicle had exhibited excessive rust and corrosion on the frame.

8 145. Upon learning of the excessive rust on the frame, Plaintiff brought her
9 vehicle to Toyota World of Clinton, an authorized Toyota Dealership in Clinton New
10 Jersey, with concerns that her Class Vehicle had excessive rust and corrosion. While
11 there, Robert Stulter, the Service Director of the dealership, advised that she would be
12 required to pay \$150 just for preparing an estimate. Plaintiff requested that the
13 dealership take down her information and that they contact Toyota directly and be in
14 touch. To date, Toyota Motors and the dealership have not contacted Plaintiff.

15 146. After Toyota refused to prepare a complimentary estimate, on or about
16 November 3, 2021, Plaintiff brought her Class vehicle to Rick Allen's Auto Repair
17 shop, in Hampton, NJ to have the technicians look at the frame. While at the shop and
18 while the vehicle was on a lift, Plaintiff took photos of the rust and corrosion on the
19 frame and undercarriage. Rick Allen Auto Repair informed Plaintiff Barbour that it
20 would not be able to make the needed repairs to or replacements of the rusted frame
21 and undercarriage.

22 147. On or about December 3, 2021, Plaintiff went back to Toyota World with
23 the pictures and showed the photos to John Castellano, a sales and leasing consultant,
24 and Dave Ventura, the General Sales manager, at the dealership. Mr. Ventura contacted
25 the service department and requested that they provide a "ball-park" estimate for
26 replacement of the frame, which the service department advised was at least \$16,000
27 to repair.

28

1 148. To date, Toyota has sent no notification to Plaintiff about any permanent
2 repair or modification or change to the maintenance schedule that would either repair
3 the Defect or prevent the Defect from causing additional damage.

4 149. Plaintiff's Class Vehicle continues to experience excessive rust and
5 corrosion on the frame.

6 150. At all times, Plaintiff, like all other Class Members, has attempted to drive
7 her Class Vehicle in a foreseeable manner as it was intended to be used.

8 151. As a result of the Defect, Plaintiff has lost confidence in the ability of her
9 Class Vehicle to provide her safe and reliable transportation for ordinary and advertised
10 purposes. Until and unless Toyota fully discloses the Defect or implements a
11 permanent repair or modification to the maintenance schedule that prevents the Defect
12 from causing damage, Plaintiff's loss of confidence will continue unabated.

13 **f. Thomas Pastore**

14 152. On or about August 1, 2006, Plaintiff Thomas Pastore (for purposes of
15 this section, "Plaintiff") purchased his 2007 FJ Cruiser from Smithtown Toyota, an
16 authorized Toyota dealer located in Smithtown, New York (for purposes of this
17 section, the "Dealership").

18 153. Plaintiff purchased his Class Vehicle primarily for personal, family, or
19 household use.

20 154. Passenger safety and reliability were important factors in Plaintiff's
21 decision to purchase his Class Vehicle. Before making his purchase, Plaintiff reviewed
22 brochures and the Vehicle's Monroney sticker, and spoke to a representative of the
23 authorized Toyota Dealership who assured him of the quality, safety, and reliability of
24 the vehicle. Plaintiff selected and ultimately purchased his Class Vehicle because the
25 vehicle was represented, advertised, and marketed as a high-quality vehicle capable of
26 providing safe, quality, and reliable transportation in all components, including its
27 frame.

28

1 155. None of the information provided to Plaintiff disclosed any defects with
2 the frame. Toyota's misstatements and omissions were material to Plaintiff, who was
3 acting as a reasonable consumer.

4 156. Had Toyota disclosed the Defect before Plaintiff purchased his vehicle,
5 he would have seen such disclosures and been aware of them. Like all members of the
6 Class, Plaintiff would have not purchased his Class Vehicle, or would have paid less
7 for the vehicle, had he known of the Defect.

8 157. Plaintiff properly maintained and serviced his Class Vehicle according to
9 industry and maintenance guidelines.

10 158. In or about 2012, Plaintiff noticed that the vehicle showed signs of rust
11 and corrosion.

12 159. In or about 2012 Plaintiff was required to replace his exhaust, due to
13 excessive rust on his frame and undercarriage.

14 160. In addition, Plaintiff contacted the Dealership and Oakdale Toyota with
15 concerns about the excessive rust on his vehicle's frame and undercarriage. The Toyota
16 dealerships advised they were unaware of any issues or recalls for the frame.

17 161. On or about September 1, 2021, Plaintiff brought his vehicle to Garden
18 State Undercoating to have an undercoating applied and installed on his vehicle due to
19 the excessive rust and corrosion. Plaintiff ultimately paid \$3,450.00 for the
20 undercoating.

21 162. To date, Toyota has sent no notification to Plaintiff about any permanent
22 repair or modification or change to the maintenance schedule that would either repair
23 the Defect or prevent the Defect from causing additional damage.

24 163. Plaintiff's Class Vehicle continues to experience excessive rust and
25 corrosion on the frame.

26 164. As a result of the Defect, Plaintiff has lost confidence in the ability of his
27 Class Vehicle to provide him safe and reliable transportation for ordinary and
28 advertised purposes. Until and unless Toyota fully discloses the Defect or implements

1 a permanent repair or modification to the maintenance schedule that prevents the
2 Defect from causing damage, Plaintiff's loss of confidence will continue unabated.

3 **g. Brian Hale**

4 165. On or about November 23, 2007, Plaintiff Brian Hale (for purposes of this
5 section, "Plaintiff") purchased his 2007 FJ Cruiser from Kern Toyota, an authorized
6 Toyota dealer located in Winchester, Virginia (for purposes of this section, the
7 "Dealership").

8 166. Plaintiff purchased his Class Vehicle primarily for personal, family, or
9 household use.

10 167. Passenger safety and reliability were important factors in Plaintiff's
11 decision to purchase his Class Vehicle. Before making his purchase, Plaintiff reviewed
12 brochures and the Vehicle's Monroney sticker, spoke to a representative of the
13 authorized Toyota Dealership who assured him of the quality, safety, and reliability of
14 the vehicle, and test drove the vehicle he ultimately purchased. Plaintiff selected and
15 ultimately purchased his Class Vehicle because the vehicle was represented,
16 advertised, and marketed as a high-quality vehicle capable of providing safe, quality,
17 and reliable transportation in all components, including its frame.

18 168. None of the information provided to Plaintiff disclosed any defects with
19 the frame. Toyota's misstatements and omissions were material to Plaintiff, who was
20 acting as a reasonable consumer.

21 169. Had Toyota disclosed the Defect before Plaintiff purchased his vehicle,
22 he would have seen such disclosures and been aware of them. Like all members of the
23 Class, Hale would not have purchased his Class Vehicle, or he would have paid less
24 for the vehicle, had he known of the Defect.

25 170. Plaintiff properly maintained and serviced his Class Vehicle according to
26 industry and maintenance guidelines.

1 171. In or about 2013, Plaintiff noticed that the Class Vehicle exhibited rust on
2 the frame and undercarriage to the point that the heat shields had corroded all the way
3 through and had fallen off.

4 172. Later, in or about May 2016, Plaintiff noticed that there was excessive
5 rust and corrosion on his vehicle's frame and auxiliary components. Shortly after,
6 Plaintiff contacted Orisman Fairfax Toyota with his concerns about the excessive rust
7 and corrosion, and the service department advised that undercoating the frame would
8 likely not benefit his frame.

9 173. In or about September 2021, Plaintiff's vehicle was flagged at the Virginia
10 state inspection where they mentioned that Plaintiff will need to address the excessive
11 rust and corrosion on the frame and undercarriage.

12 174. To date, Toyota has sent no notification to Plaintiff about any permanent
13 repair or modification or change to the maintenance schedule that would either repair
14 the Defect or prevent the Defect from causing additional damage.

15 175. Plaintiff's Class Vehicle continues to experience excessive rust and
16 corrosion on the frame.

17 176. At all times, Plaintiff, like all Class Members, has attempted to drive his
18 vehicle in a foreseeable manner in which it was intended to be used.

19 177. As a result of the Defect, Plaintiff has lost confidence in the ability of his
20 Class Vehicle to provide him safe and reliable transportation for ordinary and
21 advertised purposes. Until and unless Toyota fully discloses the Defect or implements
22 a permanent repair or modification to the maintenance schedule that prevents the
23 Defect from causing damage, Plaintiff's loss of confidence will continue unabated.

24 **h. Timothy Dotson**

25 178. On or about August 11, 2007, Plaintiff Timothy Dotson (for purposes of
26 this section, "Plaintiff") purchased his 2007 FJ Cruiser from Russel Motor Cars, an
27 authorized Toyota dealer located in Baltimore, Maryland (for purposes of this section,
28 the "Dealership").

1 179. Plaintiff purchased his Class Vehicle primarily for personal, family, or
2 household use.

3 180. Passenger safety and reliability were important factors in Plaintiff's
4 decision to purchase his Class Vehicle. Before making his purchase, Plaintiff reviewed
5 brochures and the Vehicle's Monroney sticker, spoke to a representative of the
6 authorized Toyota Dealership who assured him of the quality, safety, and reliability of
7 the vehicle, and test drove the vehicle he ultimately purchased. Plaintiff selected and
8 ultimately purchased his Class Vehicle because the vehicle was represented,
9 advertised, and marketed as a high-quality vehicle capable of providing safe, quality,
10 and reliable transportation in all components, including its frame.

11 181. None of the information provided to Plaintiff disclosed any defects with
12 the frame. Toyota's misstatements and omissions were material to Plaintiff, who was
13 acting as a reasonable consumer.

14 182. Had Toyota disclosed the Defect before Plaintiff purchased his vehicle,
15 he would have seen such disclosures and been aware of them. Like all members of the
16 Class, Plaintiff would not have purchased his Class Vehicle, or he would have paid less
17 for the vehicle, had he known of the Defect.

18 183. Plaintiff properly maintained and serviced his Class Vehicle according to
19 industry and maintenance guidelines.

20 184. On or about February 21, 2012, with approximately 69,568 miles on the
21 odometer, Plaintiff brought his vehicle to Brown's Toyota to discuss his concerns about
22 rust and corrosion on his vehicle. The dealership advised that the rust and corrosion his
23 vehicle exhibited was normal. The dealership then returned the Class Vehicle to
24 Plaintiff without providing any option to repair the Frame Defect.

25 185. On or about June 18, 2020, Plaintiff noticed that his vehicle exhibited
26 excessive rust when he was having a hitch installed at Garrett Automotive.

27 186. On or about July 13, 2020, Plaintiff brought his vehicle back to Garrett
28 Automotive due to the excessive rust and corrosion. The technician wrote, "Treat

1 Rusted Areas with Rust Most, Fluid Film underneath vehicle (Note...This process will
2 help slow down rust and corrosion under your vehicle, it will not stop rust corrosion
3 completely).”

4 187. On or about May 24, 2021, Plaintiff brought his vehicle to Independent
5 Auto Center for an oil change where Plaintiff was advised by the technician that they
6 noticed the left rear axle bracket for the control arm had rotted off.

7 188. The next day, Plaintiff called Toyota Brand Experience Center and spoke
8 to a representative who said that there was no recall on the FJ Cruiser frame; however,
9 the representative provided a case number #210525001234.

10 189. On or about May 25, 2021, Plaintiff called NHTSA on the phone about
11 his concerns about the excessive corrosion the Class Vehicle.

12 190. On or about June 07, 2021, Plaintiff brought his vehicle to Brown’s
13 Toyota with concerns that his vehicle exhibited excessive rust and corrosion. The
14 technician replaced rear axle housing, link arms, and necessary parts. This repair
15 ultimately cost Plaintiff \$3,719.23.

16 191. To date, Toyota has sent no notification to Plaintiff about any permanent
17 repair or modification or change to the maintenance schedule that would either repair
18 the Defect or prevent the Defect from causing additional damage.

19 192. Plaintiff’s Class Vehicle continues to experience excessive rust and
20 corrosion on the frame.

21 193. At all times, Plaintiff, like all Class Members, has attempted to drive his
22 Class Vehicle in a foreseeable manner and in the manner in which it was intended to
23 be used.

24 194. As a result of the Defect, Plaintiff has lost confidence in the ability of his
25 Class Vehicle to provide him safe and reliable transportation for ordinary and
26 advertised purposes. Until and unless Toyota fully discloses the Defect or implements
27 a permanent repair or modification to the maintenance schedule that prevents the
28 Defect from causing damage, Plaintiff’s loss of confidence will continue unabated.

1 **i. Jill Silvernale**

2 195. On or about February 4, 2012, Plaintiff Jill Silvernale (for purposes of this
3 section, “Plaintiff”) purchased her 2007 FJ Cruiser from Signature Automotive Group,
4 an authorized Toyota dealer located in Benton Harbor, Michigan (for purposes of this
5 section, the “Dealership”).

6 196. Plaintiff purchased her Class Vehicle primarily for personal, family, or
7 household use.

8 197. Passenger safety and reliability were important factors in Plaintiff’s
9 decision to purchase her Class Vehicle. Before making her purchase, Plaintiff reviewed
10 brochures and the Vehicle’s Monroney sticker, spoke to a representative of the
11 authorized Toyota Dealership who assured her of the quality, safety, and reliability of
12 the vehicle, and test drove the vehicle she ultimately purchased. Plaintiff selected and
13 ultimately purchased her Class Vehicle because the vehicle was represented,
14 advertised, and marketed as a high-quality vehicle capable of providing safe, quality,
15 and reliable transportation in all components, including its frame.

16 198. None of the information provided to Plaintiff disclosed any defects with
17 the frame. Toyota’s misstatements and omissions were material to Plaintiff, who was
18 acting as a reasonable consumer.

19 199. Had Toyota disclosed the Defect before Plaintiff purchased her vehicle,
20 she would have seen such disclosures and been aware of them. Like all members of the
21 Class, Plaintiff would not have purchased her Class Vehicle, or she would have paid
22 less for the vehicle, had she known of the Defect.

23 200. Plaintiff properly maintained and serviced her Class Vehicle according to
24 industry and maintenance guidelines.

25 201. On or about October 29, 2021, Plaintiff was having a new muffler
26 installed on her vehicle at Peterson European when the technician advised her that the
27 frame of her vehicle was “very rusty” with “many holes coming through.” In addition,
28

1 Peterson European advised that the gas tank straps were “very rusty” and “close to
2 breaking.”

3 202. Shortly after, Plaintiff contacted Toyota and spoke to a representative that
4 stated there was no recall on the FJ frame and they would be unable to assist her.

5 203. On or about March 16, 2022, Plaintiff noticed that the rusty fuel tanks
6 straps were hanging down to the point where she felt that her vehicle was unsafe to
7 drive to work. As a result, on March 16, 2022, Plaintiff had to pay \$401.94 out of
8 pocket to replace both fuel tank straps and hardware.

9 204. To date, Toyota has sent no notification to Plaintiff about any permanent
10 repair or modification or change to the maintenance schedule that would either repair
11 the Defect or prevent the Defect from causing additional damage.

12 205. Plaintiff’s Class Vehicle continues to experience excessive rust and
13 corrosion on the frame.

14 206. At all times, Plaintiff, like all Class Members, has attempted to drive her
15 Class Vehicle in a foreseeable manner and in the manner in which it was intended to
16 be used.

17 207. As a result of the Defect, Plaintiff has lost confidence in the ability of her
18 Class Vehicle to provide her safe and reliable transportation for ordinary and advertised
19 purposes. Until and unless Toyota fully discloses the Defect or implements a
20 permanent repair or modification to the maintenance schedule that prevents the Defect
21 from causing damage, Plaintiff’s loss of confidence will continue unabated.

22 **j. Kyle Blumin**

23 208. On April 24, 2018, Plaintiff Kyle Blumin (for purposes of this section,
24 “Plaintiff”) purchased his 2013 FJ Cruiser from Larry H. Miller Toyota, an authorized
25 Toyota dealer located in Murray, Utah (for purposes of this section, the “Dealership”).

26 209. Plaintiff purchased his Class Vehicle primarily for personal, family, or
27 household use.

28

1 210. Passenger safety and reliability were important factors in Plaintiff's
2 decision to purchase his vehicle. Before making his purchase, Plaintiff reviewed
3 brochures and the Vehicle's Monroney sticker, and spoke to a representative of the
4 authorized Toyota Dealership. Plaintiff selected and ultimately purchased his Class
5 Vehicle because the vehicle was represented, advertised, and marketed as a high-
6 quality vehicle capable of providing safe, quality, and reliable transportation in all
7 components, including its frame.

8 211. None of the information provided to Plaintiff disclosed any defects with
9 the frame. Toyota's misstatements and omissions were material to Plaintiff.

10 212. Had Toyota disclosed the Defect before Plaintiff purchased his vehicle,
11 he would have seen such disclosures and been aware of them. Like all members of the
12 Class, Plaintiff would have not purchased his Class Vehicle, or would have paid less
13 for the vehicle, had he known of the Defect.

14 213. Plaintiff properly maintained and serviced his Class Vehicle according to
15 industry and maintenance guidelines.

16 214. In or about the latter half of 2019, Plaintiff noticed that there were rust
17 stains on the floor of his garage where he parked his Class Vehicle. Plaintiff then
18 discovered that the underside of his Vehicle showed signs of rust and corrosion.

19 215. Approximately two months later, Plaintiff contacted the Dealership with
20 concerns about the excessive rust on his vehicle's frame and undercarriage. A
21 representative at the Dealership advised Plaintiff there was nothing that could be done
22 because the Vehicle was outside of its warranty, and advised Plaintiff to call Toyota's
23 corporate office.

24 216. Plaintiff then called Toyota's customer service department, where the
25 representative advised that Toyota would not cover the repair because the Vehicle's
26 warranty had expired.

27 217. A few days later, in an attempt to mitigate the excessive rust and
28 corrosion, Plaintiff brought his Class Vehicle to Signature Detailing, located in Salt

1 Lake City, Utah, to have an undercoating applied to the class vehicle due to the
2 excessive rust and corrosion. Plaintiff paid \$350.00 for the undercoating.

3 218. To date, Toyota has sent no notification to Plaintiff about any permanent
4 repair or modification or change to the maintenance schedule that would either repair
5 the Defect or prevent the Defect from causing additional damage.

6 219. Plaintiff's Class Vehicle continues to experience excessive rust and
7 corrosion on the frame.

8 220. As a result of the Defect, Plaintiff has lost confidence in the ability of his
9 Class Vehicle to provide him safe and reliable transportation for ordinary and
10 advertised purposes. Until and unless Toyota fully discloses the Defect or implements
11 a permanent repair or modification to the maintenance schedule that prevents the
12 Defect from causing damage, Plaintiff's loss of confidence will continue unabated.

13 **k. All Plaintiffs**

14 221. Prior to Plaintiffs' purchase of their Class Vehicles, Defendants, in wide-
15 spread marketing campaigns, touted the quality, durability, and safety of the Class
16 Vehicles, and specifically the quality and benefits of their frames and related
17 components.

18 222. Although Toyota had the opportunity to disclose the Frame Defect
19 through its advertising in the owner's manuals, in correspondence sent to Plaintiffs and
20 Class members, through representations by Toyota dealerships, through vehicle
21 brochures and other informational documents, or on Toyota's website, Toyota failed
22 to do so prior to Plaintiffs' Vehicle purchases, and Toyota continues to conceal the
23 Defect to this day.

24 223. As such, Plaintiffs had no way of knowing or learning that such
25 information regarding the quality, durability, and safety of the Class Vehicles,
26 including the quality and benefits of their frames and related components, conveyed to
27 Plaintiffs in Toyota's marketing materials when deciding to purchase their Vehicles,
28 was false.

1 224. Had Plaintiffs known, or otherwise been made aware, of the Frame Defect
2 in the Class Vehicles and Toyota's inability to repair or cure it absent replacement of
3 the frame and other affected components, they would not have purchased their Class
4 Vehicle or, otherwise, would have paid significantly less for them.

5 225. When Plaintiffs purchased their Class Vehicles, they relied on the
6 reasonable expectation that their Class Vehicles would be equipped with a frame that
7 was free from defects, had adequate anti-corrosion properties, and would maintain the
8 structural integrity of the Vehicle, ensuring they were safe to operate.

9 226. At all relevant times, Plaintiffs have operated their Class Vehicles in a
10 reasonable and foreseeable manner and as the Vehicles were intended to be used.
11 However, the Vehicles no longer provide safety and reliability, due to the recurring
12 problems caused by the Frame Defect.

13 227. Plaintiffs have suffered a concrete and ascertainable loss as a direct and
14 proximate result of Toyota's omissions and misrepresentations relating to the Frame
15 Defect in that Plaintiffs overpaid for their Class Vehicles at the time of purchase, the
16 value of their Class Vehicles has been diminished, and they are left with vehicles that
17 pose a safety risk to themselves and their occupants as a result of the Frame Defect and
18 the damage it causes to the structural integrity of the Vehicle.

19 **F. Fraudulent Concealment Allegations**

20 228. Absent discovery, Plaintiffs are unable through reasonable investigation
21 to obtain the true names and identities of those individuals at Toyota responsible for
22 disseminating false and deceptive marketing materials and information regarding the
23 Class Vehicles. Conversely, Toyota necessarily is in possession of, or has access to, all
24 of this information.

25 229. Plaintiffs' claims arise out of Toyota's false, deceptive, and fraudulent
26 concealment of the Frame Defect and the premature and excessive rusting and
27 corrosion it causes, and its representations about the quality, durability, and value of
28 the Class Vehicles.

1 230. To the extent that Plaintiffs' claims arise from Toyota's fraudulent
2 concealment, there is no one document or communication, and no one interaction, upon
3 which Plaintiffs base their claims. Plaintiffs allege that at all relevant times, including
4 specifically at the time they purchased their Class Vehicles, Toyota knew, or was
5 reckless in not knowing, of the Frame Defect; Toyota was under a duty to disclose the
6 Frame Defect based upon its exclusive knowledge of it, its affirmative representations
7 about it, and its concealment of it, but Toyota never disclosed the Frame Defect to
8 Plaintiffs or the public at any time or place or in any manner.

9 231. Plaintiffs make the following specific fraud allegations with as much
10 specificity as possible, although they do not have access to information necessarily
11 available only to Toyota:

12 a. **Who:** Toyota actively concealed the Frame Defect from Plaintiffs
13 and Class members while simultaneously touting the quality and durability of the Class
14 Vehicles. Plaintiffs are unaware of, and are therefore unable to identify, the true names
15 and identities of those specific individuals at Toyota responsible for such decisions.

16 b. **What:** Toyota knew, or was reckless or negligent in not knowing,
17 that the Class Vehicles contain the Frame Defect. Toyota concealed the Frame Defect
18 and made contrary representations about the quality, durability, and other attributes of
19 the Class Vehicles.

20 c. **When:** Toyota concealed material information regarding the Frame
21 Defect at all relevant times and made representations about the quality, durability, and
22 other attributes of the Class Vehicles starting no later than 2004, or at the subsequent
23 introduction of certain models of Class Vehicles to the market, continuing through the
24 time of sale/certification for pre-owned sale, and on an ongoing basis, and continuing
25 to this day. On information and belief, Toyota has not disclosed the truth about the
26 Frame Defect in the Class Vehicles to anyone outside of Toyota. In addition, Toyota
27 has never taken any action to inform consumers about the true nature of the Frame
28 Defect in Class Vehicles. Additionally, when consumers have brought their Class

1 Vehicles to Toyota complaining of the excessive and premature frame corrosion and
2 rust, Toyota has denied any knowledge of, or responsibility for, the Frame Defect,
3 claimed that the corrosion is “normal,” and required consumers to pay out-of-pocket
4 expenses to perform inadequate repairs or replace their Class Vehicles’ frames.

5 d. **Where:** Toyota concealed material information regarding the true
6 nature of the Frame Defect in the communications it had with Plaintiffs and Class
7 members and made contrary representations about the quality and durability of the
8 Class Vehicles. Plaintiffs are aware of no document, communication, or other place or
9 thing in which Toyota disclosed the truth about the Frame Defect in the Class Vehicles
10 to anyone outside of Toyota. Such information is not adequately disclosed in any sales
11 documents, displays, advertisements, warranties, or owner’s manuals, or on Toyota’s
12 website.

13 e. **How:** Toyota concealed the Frame Defect from Plaintiffs and Class
14 members and made representations about the quality, durability, and other attributes of
15 the Class Vehicles. Toyota actively concealed the truth about the existence and nature
16 of the Frame Defect from Plaintiffs and Class members, at all times, even though it
17 knew about the Frame Defect and knew that information about the Frame Defect would
18 be important to a reasonable consumer. Toyota also promised in its marketing materials
19 that the Class Vehicles have qualities that they do not have, and moreover, made
20 representations in its warranties that it knew were false, misleading, and deceptive.

21 f. **Why:** Toyota actively concealed material information about the
22 Frame Defect in the Class Vehicles for the purpose of inducing Plaintiffs and Class
23 members to purchase the Vehicles instead of competitors’ vehicles, and to save money
24 on production and materials, and it made representations about the quality and
25 durability of the Vehicles. Had Toyota disclosed the truth, for example, in its
26 advertisements or other materials or communications, Plaintiffs (and reasonable
27 consumers, including Class members) would have been aware of the Frame Defect,
28 and they would not have bought the Class Vehicles or would have paid less for them.

1 **V. TOLLING OF THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS**

2 **A. Fraudulent Concealment Tolling**

3 232. Toyota has known of the Frame Defect in the Class Vehicles since at least
4 2006, and has concealed from, or failed to notify, Plaintiffs, Class members, and the
5 public of the full and complete nature of the Frame Defect, even when directly asked
6 about it by Plaintiffs and Class members during communications with Toyota, as well
7 as its customer service representatives, authorized dealerships, and service centers.
8 Toyota continues to conceal the Frame Defect to this day.

9 233. Any applicable statute of limitation has, thus, been tolled by Toyota’s
10 knowledge, active concealment, and denial of the facts alleged herein, which behavior
11 is ongoing.

12 **B. Estoppel**

13 234. Toyota was, and is, under a continuous duty to disclose to Plaintiffs and
14 Class members the true character, quality, and nature of the Class Vehicles. Toyota
15 actively concealed – and continues to conceal – the true character, quality, and nature
16 of the Class Vehicles and knowingly made representations about the quality and
17 durability of the Vehicles. Plaintiffs and Class members reasonably relied upon
18 Toyota’s knowing and affirmative representations and/or active concealment of these
19 facts. Based on the foregoing, Toyota is estopped from relying on any statutes of
20 limitation in defense of this action.

21 **C. Discovery Rule**

22 235. Certain causes of action alleged herein did not accrue until Plaintiffs and
23 Class members discovered that their Class Vehicles contained the Frame Defect.

24 236. However, Plaintiffs and Class members had no reasonable ability to
25 discern on their own that the Class Vehicles were defective until—at the earliest—after
26 the Frame Defect caused their Vehicles’ frame and related components to fail. Indeed,
27 the premature and excessive corrosion affecting the Class Vehicles’ frames does not
28 spread to the Vehicles’ exterior panels and cannot be observed at eye-level. In fact,

1 most Class members become aware of the extreme and premature corrosion only after
2 being in an accident or when a wholly-unrelated part was being repaired and a
3 mechanic or Toyota service representative is able to observe the corrosion when the
4 Vehicle is placed on a hydraulic lift. Plaintiffs and Class members, obviously, do not
5 have this capability and, in any event, it is not reasonable to expect that Plaintiffs and
6 Class members would continuously monitor the undercarriage of their Vehicles.

7 237. Even then, Plaintiffs and Class members had no reasonable reason to
8 know about the corrosion and rust caused by a defect in the Class Vehicles because of
9 Toyota's active concealment of the Frame Defect. Not only did Toyota fail to notify
10 Plaintiffs or Class members about the Frame Defect, Toyota, in fact, denied any
11 knowledge of, or responsibility for, the Defect when directly asked about it, and, in
12 many instances, actually blamed the owner/lessee for causing the problem.

13 238. Thus, Plaintiffs and Class members were not reasonably able to discover
14 the Frame Defect until after they had purchased the Class Vehicles, despite their
15 exercise of due diligence, and their causes of action did not accrue until, at earliest,
16 they discovered that the Defect was causing premature and excessive corrosion on their
17 Vehicles.

18 VI. CLASS ALLEGATIONS

19 239. Plaintiffs bring this action pursuant to Rule 23(a) and (b)(2)-(3) of the
20 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on behalf of themselves and all others similarly
21 situated as members of the following Nationwide Class (under the laws of the state of
22 California) and State Classes defined as:

23 Nationwide Class:

24 All persons or entities in the United States (including its
25 territories and the District of Columbia) that purchased a
26 Class Vehicle. Class Vehicles consist of the Toyota FJ
27 Cruiser, model years 2007-2014.
28

1 **Illinois Class:**

2 All persons or entities in Illinois that purchased a Class
3 Vehicle or that purchased a Class Vehicle and reside in
4 Illinois.

5 **Maryland Class:**

6 All persons or entities in Maryland that purchased a Class
7 Vehicle or that purchased a Class Vehicle and reside in
8 Maryland.

9 **Michigan Class:**

10 All persons or entities in Michigan that purchased a Class
11 Vehicle or that purchased a Class Vehicle and reside in
12 Michigan.

13 **New York Class:**

14 All persons or entities in New York that purchased a Class
15 Vehicle or that purchased a Class Vehicle and reside in New
16 York.

17 **New Jersey Class:**

18 All persons or entities in New Jersey that purchased a Class
19 Vehicle or that purchased a Class Vehicle and reside in New
20 Jersey.

21 **Pennsylvania Class:**

22 All persons or entities in Utah that purchased a Class Vehicle
23 or that purchased a Class Vehicle and reside in Pennsylvania.

24 **Virginia Class:**

25 All persons or entities in Virginia that purchased a Class
26 Vehicle or that purchased a Class Vehicle and reside in
27 Virginia.

28 **Utah Class:**

 All persons or entities in Utah that purchased a Class Vehicle
 or that purchased a Class Vehicle and reside in Utah.

240. Excluded from the Class are Defendants; their employees, officers,
directors, legal representatives, heirs, successors, and wholly or partly owned
subsidiaries or affiliates of Toyota; Toyota's dealers; Class Counsel and their
employees; the judicial officers and their immediate family members and associated

1 court staff assigned to this case; and all persons within the third degree of relationship
2 to any such persons.

3 241. Certification of Plaintiffs' claims for Class-wide treatment is appropriate
4 because Plaintiffs can prove the elements of their claims on a Class-wide basis using
5 the same evidence as would be used to prove those elements in individual actions
6 alleging the same claim.

7 242. This action has been brought and may be properly maintained on behalf
8 of each of the Classes proposed herein under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23.

9 243. **Numerosity**. Rule 23(a)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure: The
10 members of the Class are so numerous and geographically dispersed that individual
11 joinder of all Class members is impracticable. While Plaintiffs are informed and
12 believe that there are at least thousands of Class members, the precise number of Class
13 members is unknown to Plaintiffs but may be ascertained from Toyota's books and
14 records. Class members may be notified of the pendency of this action by recognized,
15 Court-approved notice dissemination methods, which may include U.S. mail,
16 electronic mail, Internet postings, and/or published notice.

17 244. **Commonality and Predominance**. Rules 23(a)(2) and (b)(3) of the
18 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure: This action involves common questions of law and
19 fact, which predominate over any questions affecting individual Class members,
20 including, but not limited to:

- 21 a. whether Toyota engaged in the conduct alleged herein;
- 22 b. whether Toyota designed, manufactured, advertised, marketed,
23 distributed, sold, or otherwise placed Class Vehicles into the stream of commerce in
24 the United States;
- 25 c. whether Toyota designed, manufactured, marketed, and distributed
26 Class Vehicles with a Frame Defect;
- 27 d. whether Plaintiffs and Class members overpaid for their Class
28 Vehicles and/or did not receive the benefit of their bargains;

1 e. whether Plaintiffs and Class members are entitled to damages and
2 other monetary relief and, if so, in what amount;

3 f. whether Toyota's alleged conduct constitutes the use or
4 employment of an unconscionable commercial practice, deception, fraudulent
5 concealment, false pretense, false promise, and misrepresentation within the meaning
6 of the applicable state consumer fraud statutes;

7 g. whether Toyota has violated its express warranties to Plaintiffs and
8 Class members;

9 h. whether Toyota has been unjustly enriched so that its receipt and
10 retention of the profits derived from Plaintiffs and Class members is inequitable;

11 i. whether Toyota actively concealed the Frame Defect in order to
12 maximize profits to the detriment of Plaintiffs and Class members; and

13 j. such other common factual and legal issues as are apparent from
14 the allegations and causes of action asserted in this Complaint.

15 245. **Typicality.** Rule 23(a)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure:
16 Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the other Class members' claims because, among other
17 things, all Class members were comparably injured through Toyota's wrongful
18 conduct as described above. All claims seek recovery on the same legal theories and
19 are based upon Toyota's common course of conduct.

20 246. **Adequacy.** Rule 23(a)(4) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure:
21 Plaintiffs are adequate Class representatives because their interests do not conflict with
22 the interests of the other members of the Class they seek to represent; Plaintiffs have
23 retained counsel competent and experienced in complex class action litigation; and
24 Plaintiffs intend to prosecute this action vigorously. The Class' interests will be fairly
25 and adequately protected by Plaintiffs and their counsel.

26 247. **Declaratory Relief.** Rule 23(b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil
27 Procedure: Toyota has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to
28

1 Plaintiffs and Class members, thereby making appropriate declaratory relief, with
2 respect to each Class as a whole.

3 248. **Superiority**. Rule 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure: A
4 class action is superior to any other available means for the fair and efficient
5 adjudication of this controversy, and no unusual difficulties are likely to be
6 encountered in the management of this class action. The damages or other financial
7 detriment suffered by Plaintiffs and Class members are relatively small compared to
8 the burden and expense that would be required to individually litigate their claims
9 against Toyota, so it would be impracticable for Class members to individually seek
10 redress for Toyota's wrongful conduct. Even if Class members could afford individual
11 litigation, the court system could not. Individualized litigation creates a potential for
12 inconsistent or contradictory judgments and increases the delay and expense to all
13 parties and the court system. By contrast, the class action device presents far fewer
14 management difficulties and provides the benefits of single adjudication, economy of
15 scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court.

16 **VII. CLAIMS**

17 **A. Claims Brought on Behalf of the Nationwide Class**

18 **COUNT I**

19 **FRAUDULENT CONCEALMENT**

20 249. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all preceding allegations
21 as though fully set forth herein.

22 250. Plaintiffs bring this claim on behalf of themselves and the Nationwide
23 Class under the common law of fraudulent concealment, which is materially uniform
24 in all states. In the alternative, Plaintiffs bring this claim on behalf of themselves and
25 their respective state classes under the laws of each state.

26 251. Toyota fraudulently concealed and suppressed material facts concerning
27 the quality, durability, and safety of the Class Vehicles, including their frames, as well
28 as the existence of the Frame Defect.

1 252. Despite advertising the Class Vehicles and their frames as durable and
2 being of high quality, Toyota knew when it manufactured, marketed, and sold the
3 Vehicles that they were equipped with frames that lacked adequate rust corrosion
4 protection and were prone to excessive and premature rust corrosion, thereby
5 subjecting the Vehicles' occupants to a significant safety risk.

6 253. Toyota failed to disclose these facts to consumers at the time it
7 manufactured, marketed, and sold the Class Vehicles and Toyota knowingly and
8 intentionally engaged in this concealment in order to boost sales and revenue, maintain
9 its competitive edge in the automobile market, and obtain windfall profit. Through its
10 active concealment and/or suppression of these material facts, Toyota sought to
11 increase consumer confidence in the Class Vehicles, and to falsely assure purchasers
12 and lessors of the same that the Vehicles were of sound quality and that Toyota was a
13 reputable manufacturer that stands behind the automobiles it manufactures. Toyota
14 engaged in this behavior to protect its profits, avoid warranty replacements, avoid
15 recalls that would impair the brand's image, cost it money, and undermine its
16 competitiveness in the automobile industry.

17 254. Plaintiffs and Class members were unaware, and could not reasonably
18 discover on their own, that Toyota's representations were false and misleading, or that
19 it had omitted material facts relating to the Class Vehicles.

20 255. Toyota had a duty to disclose, rather than conceal and suppress, the full
21 scope and extent of the Frame Defect because:

22 a. Toyota had exclusive or far superior knowledge of the Frame
23 Defect and concealment thereof;

24 b. the facts regarding the Frame Defect and concealment thereof were
25 known and/or accessible only to Toyota;

26 c. Toyota knew that Plaintiffs and Class members did not know about,
27 or could not reasonably discover, the Frame Defect and concealment thereof; and
28

1 d. Toyota made representations and assurances about the qualities of
2 the Class Vehicles and their frames that were misleading, deceptive, and incomplete
3 without the disclosure of the fact that the Class Vehicles were equipped with frames
4 that lacked adequate rust corrosion protection and were prone to excessive and
5 premature rust corrosion, thereby subjecting the Vehicles' occupants to a significant
6 safety risk.

7 256. These omitted and concealed facts were material because a reasonable
8 consumer would rely on them in deciding to purchase the Class Vehicles, and because
9 they substantially reduced the value of the Vehicles purchased by Plaintiffs and Class
10 members.

11 257. Toyota intentionally and actively concealed and suppressed these material
12 facts to falsely assure consumers that their Class Vehicles were safe and free from
13 known defects, as represented by Toyota and reasonably expected by consumers.

14 258. Plaintiffs and Class members were unaware of these omitted material
15 facts and would have paid less for the Class Vehicles, or would not have purchased
16 them at all, if they had known of the concealed and suppressed facts. Plaintiffs' and
17 Class members' actions in purchasing the Class Vehicles were justified, as Toyota was
18 in exclusive control of the material facts, and such facts were not known or reasonably
19 knowable to the public, Plaintiffs, or Class members.

20 259. As a direct and proximate result of Toyota's deceit and fraudulent
21 concealment, including its intentional suppression of true facts, Plaintiffs and Class
22 members suffered injury. Each Plaintiff purchased a Class Vehicle that suffers from a
23 defect that diminishes the Vehicle's value and poses a safety risk to its occupants.

24 260. Plaintiffs overpaid for their Class Vehicles by reason of Toyota's
25 representations regarding the Vehicles, including their frames, and concealment of, and
26 failure to disclose, the Frame Defect. Plaintiffs and Class members have also paid
27 substantial money to (unsuccessfully) repair the Frame Defect and/or have their Class
28 Vehicles' frames replaced.

1 261. Accordingly, Toyota is liable to the Nationwide Class and/or State Classes
2 for their damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

3 262. Toyota's acts were done deliberately, with intent to defraud, and in
4 reckless disregard of Plaintiffs' and the Class members' rights. Toyota's conduct
5 warrants an assessment of punitive damages in an amount sufficient to deter such
6 conduct in the future, which amount is to be determined according to proof.

7 **COUNT II**

8 **UNJUST ENRICHMENT**

9 263. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all preceding allegations
10 as though fully set forth herein.

11 264. Plaintiffs bring this claim on behalf of themselves and the Nationwide
12 Class against Defendants.

13 265. As a direct and proximate result of Toyota's misrepresentations regarding
14 the Class Vehicles and failure to disclose the Frame Defect, Defendants have profited
15 through the sale of the Class Vehicles. Although the Class Vehicles were purchased
16 through the Defendants' agents, the money from the Class Vehicle sales flows directly
17 back to Defendants.

18 266. Additionally, as a direct and proximate result of Defendants' failure to
19 disclose known Defects in the Class Vehicles, Plaintiff and Class members have
20 vehicles that require repeated, high-cost repairs.

21 267. Plaintiffs and Class Members conferred a benefit on Toyota by paying
22 money for repeated, high-cost repairs to the defective frame that earned interest or
23 otherwise added to the Defendants' profits when said money should have remained
24 with Plaintiffs and Class Members.

25 268. The Defendants had knowledge of the benefit conferred on them by
26 Plaintiffs and Class members. Specifically, Defendants knew or should have known
27 that Plaintiffs and Class members were paying them for repeated, high-cost repairs to
28

1 the frame in connection with the Frame Defect, which should have been repaired by
2 Toyota at no cost.

3 269. Defendants voluntarily accepted and retained the benefit conferred on
4 them by Plaintiffs and Class members by accepting payment for repeated, high-cost
5 repairs to the defective frames on the Class Vehicles.

6 270. The circumstances are such that it would be inequitable for Defendants to
7 retain the benefit without paying the value thereof to Plaintiffs and Class Members.

8 **COUNT III**

9 **DECLARATORY RELIEF**

10 271. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all preceding allegations
11 as though fully set forth herein.

12 272. Plaintiffs brings this claim on behalf of themselves and the Class against
13 Defendants.

14 273. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2201, the Court may “declare the rights and legal
15 relations of any interested party seeking such declaration, whether or not further relief
16 is or could be sought.”

17 274. Defendants marketed, distributed, and sold the Class Vehicles equipped
18 with frames prone to exhibiting excessive rust corrosion and perforation on account of
19 Defendants’ failure to treat the frames on such vehicles with adequate rust corrosion
20 protection.

21 275. Accordingly, Plaintiffs and Class Members seek entry of the following
22 declarations: (1) the Class Vehicles lack adequate rust corrosion protection and are
23 defective; (2) all persons who purchased the Class Vehicles are to be provided the best
24 practicable notice of the Defect, which cost shall be borne by Defendants; and (3)
25 Defendants must establish an inspection, repair, and replacement program and protocol
26 and notify Class members of such program, pursuant to which Defendants, including
27 its authorized representatives, and at no cost to Class members, will inspect, upon
28 request, Class members’ Class Vehicles for frame rust corrosion, treat the Class

1 Vehicles that have not exhibited rust corrosion with adequate rust corrosion protection,
2 and repair or replace the frames on the Class Vehicles that have experienced frame rust
3 corrosion.

4 **B. Claims Brought on Behalf of the State Classes**

5 **COUNT IV**

6 **VIOLATION OF ILLINOIS CONSUMER FRAUD AND**

7 **DECEPTIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES ACT**

8 **(815 ILCS 505/1, *et seq.* and 510/2)**

9 276. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each preceding paragraph as though
10 fully set forth herein.

11 277. Plaintiff Elliot Nazos (for the purposes of this section, “Plaintiff”) brings
12 this action on behalf of himself and the Illinois Class against Toyota.

13 278. Toyota, Plaintiff, and the Illinois Class members are “persons” within the
14 meaning 815 ILCS 505/1(c) and 510/1(5). Plaintiffs and the Illinois State Class
15 members are “consumers” within the meaning of 815 ILCS 505/1(e).

16 279. The Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Practices Act (“Illinois
17 CFA”) makes unlawful “unfair or deceptive acts or practices, including but not limited
18 to the use or employment of any deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise,
19 misrepresentation or the concealment, suppression or omission of any material fact,
20 with intent that others rely upon the concealment, suppression or omission of such
21 material fact ... in the conduct of trade or commerce ... whether any person has in fact
22 been misled, deceived or damaged thereby.” 815 ILCS 505/2. The Illinois CFA further
23 makes unlawful deceptive trade practices undertaken in the course of business. 815
24 ILCS 510/2.

25 280. In the course of its business, Toyota, through their agents, employees,
26 and/or subsidiaries, violated the Illinois CFA by knowingly misrepresenting and
27 intentionally concealing material facts regarding the quality of the Class Vehicles, the
28

1 quality and benefits of the frames used on the Class Vehicles, the existence of the
2 Frame Defect, and Toyota's ability to render a repair to cure the Defect.

3 281. Specifically, in marketing, offering for sale, and selling/leasing the
4 defective Class Vehicles, Toyota engaged in one or more of the following unfair or
5 deceptive acts or practices prohibited by 815 ILCS 505/2 and 510/2:

- 6 a. Causing likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding as to the
7 approval or certification of the Class Vehicles;
- 8 b. Representing that the Class Vehicles have approval, characteristics,
9 uses, or benefits that they do not have;
- 10 c. Representing that the Class Vehicles are of a particular standard,
11 quality, and grade when they are not;
- 12 d. Advertising the Class Vehicles with the intent not to sell them as
13 advertised;
- 14 e. Engaging in other conduct which created a likelihood of confusion
15 or of misunderstanding; and/or
- 16 f. Using or employing deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise
17 or misrepresentation, or the concealment, suppression or omission
18 of a material fact with intent that others rely upon such
19 concealment, suppression or omission, in connection with the
20 advertisement and sale of the Class Vehicles, whether or not any
21 person has in fact been misled, deceived or damaged thereby.

22 282. Toyota's scheme and concealment of the true characteristics of the Class
23 Vehicles were material to Plaintiff and the Illinois Class members, and Toyota
24 misrepresented, concealed, or failed to disclose the truth with the intention that Plaintiff
25 and the Illinois Class members would rely on the misrepresentations, concealments,
26 and omissions. Had they known the truth, Plaintiff and the Illinois Class members
27 would not have purchased the Class Vehicles, or would have paid significantly less for
28 them.

1 283. Plaintiff and the Illinois Class members had no way of discerning that
2 Toyota's representations were false and misleading, or otherwise learning the facts that
3 Toyota had concealed and/or failed to disclose.

4 284. Toyota had an ongoing duty to Plaintiff and the Illinois Class members to
5 refrain from unfair and deceptive practices under the Illinois CFA in the course of its
6 business. Specifically, Toyota owed Plaintiff and the Illinois Class members a duty to
7 disclose all the material facts concerning the Class Vehicles because it possessed
8 exclusive knowledge, it intentionally concealed such material facts from Plaintiff and
9 the Illinois Class members, and/or it made misrepresentations that were rendered
10 misleading because they were contradicted by withheld facts.

11 285. Plaintiff and the Illinois Class members suffered ascertainable loss and
12 actual damages as a direct and proximate result of Toyota's concealment,
13 misrepresentations, and/or failure to disclose material information.

14 286. Toyota's violations present a continuing risk to Plaintiff and the Illinois
15 Class, as well as to the general public. As such, Toyota's unlawful acts and practices
16 complained of herein affect the public interest.

17 287. Pursuant to 815 ILCS 505/10a(a) and 510/3, Plaintiff and the Illinois
18 Class seek an order enjoining Toyota's unfair and/or deceptive acts or practices, and
19 awarding damages, punitive damages, and any other just and proper relief available
20 under the Illinois CFA.

21 **COUNT V**

22 **VIOLATION OF THE MARYLAND**

23 **UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES ACT**

24 **(Md. Code Com. Law § 13-101, *et seq.*)**

25 288. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each preceding paragraph as though
26 fully set forth herein.

27 289. Plaintiff Timothy Dotson (for the purposes of this section, "Plaintiff")
28 brings this action on behalf of himself and the Maryland Class against Toyota.

1 290. Toyota, Plaintiff, and the Maryland Class members are “persons” within
2 the meaning of Md. Code Com. Law § 13-101(h).

3 291. The Maryland Consumer Protection Act (“Maryland CPA”) provides that
4 a person may not engage in any unfair or deceptive trade practice in the sale of any
5 consumer good. Md. Code Com. Law § 13-303.

6 292. In the course of their business, the Defendants, through their agents,
7 employees, and/or subsidiaries, engaged in one or more of the following unfair or
8 deceptive acts or practices as prohibited by Md. Code Com. Law § 13-303:

- 9 a. Causing likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding as to the
10 approval or certification of the Class Vehicles;
- 11 b. Representing that the Class Vehicles have approval, characteristics,
12 uses, or benefits that they do not have;
- 13 c. Representing that the Class Vehicles are of a particular standard,
14 quality, and grade when they are not;
- 15 d. Advertising the Class Vehicles with the intent not to sell them as
16 advertised;
- 17 e. Engaging in other conduct which created a likelihood of confusion
18 or of misunderstanding; and/or
- 19 f. Using or employing deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise
20 or misrepresentation, or the concealment, suppression or omission
21 of a material fact with intent that others rely upon such
22 concealment, suppression or omission, in connection with the
23 advertisement and sale of the Class Vehicles, whether or not any
24 person has in fact been misled, deceived or damaged thereby.

25 293. Toyota’s scheme and concealment of the true characteristics of the Class
26 Vehicles were material to Plaintiff and the Maryland Class members, and Toyota
27 misrepresented, concealed, or failed to disclose the truth with the intention that Plaintiff
28 and the Maryland Class members would rely on the misrepresentations, concealments,

1 and omissions. Had he known the truth, Plaintiff and the Maryland Class members
2 would not have purchased the Class Vehicles, or would have paid significantly less for
3 them.

4 294. Plaintiff and the Maryland Class members had no way of discerning that
5 Toyota's representations were false and misleading, or otherwise learning the facts that
6 Toyota had concealed and/or failed to disclose.

7 295. Toyota had an ongoing duty to Plaintiff and the Maryland Class members
8 to refrain from unfair and deceptive practices under the Maryland CPA in the course
9 of its business. Specifically, Toyota owed Plaintiff and the Maryland Class members a
10 duty to disclose all the material facts concerning the Class Vehicles because it
11 possessed exclusive knowledge, it intentionally concealed such material facts from
12 Plaintiff and the Maryland Class members, and/or it made misrepresentations that were
13 rendered misleading because they were contradicted by withheld facts.

14 296. Plaintiff and Maryland Class members suffered ascertainable loss and
15 actual damages as a direct and proximate result of Toyota's concealment,
16 misrepresentations, and/or failure to disclose material information.

17 297. Toyota's violations present a continuing risk to Plaintiff and the Maryland
18 Class, as well as to the general public. As such, Toyota's unlawful acts and practices
19 complained of herein affect the public interest.

20 298. Pursuant to Md. Code Com. Law § 13-408, Plaintiff and the Maryland
21 Class seek an order enjoining Defendants' unfair and/or deceptive acts or practices,
22 and awarding damages, punitive damages, and any other just and proper relief available
23 under the Maryland CPA.

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1 **COUNT VI**

2 **VIOLATION OF THE MICHIGAN**
3 **CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT**

4 **(MICH. COMP. LAWS §445.903, *et seq.*)**

5 299. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs as though
6 fully set forth herein.

7 300. Plaintiff Jill Silvernale (for the purposes of this section, “Plaintiff”) brings
8 this claim on behalf of herself and the Michigan Class.

9 301. Toyota, Plaintiff, and the Michigan State Class members are “persons”
10 within the meaning of Mich. Comp. Laws § 445.902(1)(d).

11 302. Toyota engaged in “trade” or “commerce” within the meaning of Mich.
12 Comp. Laws § 445.902(1)(g).

13 303. The Michigan Consumer Protection Act (“Michigan CPA”) makes
14 unlawful “[u]nfair, unconscionable, or deceptive methods, acts, or practices in the
15 conduct of trade or commerce” Mich. Comp. Laws § 445.903(1).

16 304. In the course of their business, Toyota, through their agents, employees,
17 and/or subsidiaries, engaged in one or more of the following unfair, unconscionable
18 and/or deceptive acts or practices as prohibited by the Michigan CPA:

- 19 a. Causing likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding as to the
20 approval or certification of the Class Vehicles;
- 21 b. Representing that the Class Vehicles have approval, characteristics,
22 uses, or benefits that they do not have;
- 23 c. Representing that the Class Vehicles are of a particular standard,
24 quality, and grade when they are not;
- 25 d. Advertising the Class Vehicles with the intent not to sell them as
26 advertised;
- 27 e. Engaging in other conduct which created a likelihood of confusion
28 or of misunderstanding; and/or

1 f. Using or employing deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise
2 or misrepresentation, or the concealment, suppression or omission
3 of a material fact with intent that others rely upon such
4 concealment, suppression or omission, in connection with the
5 advertisement and sale of the Class Vehicles, whether or not any
6 person has in fact been misled, deceived or damaged thereby.

7 305. Toyota's scheme and concealment of the true characteristics of the Class
8 Vehicles were material to Plaintiff and the Michigan Class members, and Toyota
9 misrepresented, concealed, or failed to disclose the truth with the intention that
10 Plaintiffs and the Michigan Class members would rely on the misrepresentations,
11 concealments, and omissions. Had they known the truth, Plaintiff and the Michigan
12 Class members would not have purchased the Class Vehicles, or would have paid
13 significantly less for them.

14 306. Plaintiff and the Michigan Class members had no way of discerning that
15 Toyota's representations were false and misleading, or otherwise learning the facts that
16 Toyota had concealed and/or failed to disclose.

17 307. Toyota had an ongoing duty to Plaintiff and the Michigan Class members
18 to refrain from unfair and deceptive practices under the Michigan CPA in the course
19 of its business. Specifically, Toyota owed Plaintiffs and the Michigan Class members
20 a duty to disclose all the material facts concerning the Class Vehicles because it
21 possessed exclusive knowledge, it intentionally concealed such material facts from
22 Plaintiff and the Michigan Class members, and/or it made misrepresentations that were
23 rendered misleading because they were contradicted by withheld facts.

24 308. Plaintiff and Michigan Class members suffered ascertainable loss and
25 actual damages as a direct and proximate result of Toyota's concealment,
26 misrepresentations, and/or failure to disclose material information.

1 309. Toyota’s violations present a continuing risk to Plaintiff and the Michigan
2 Class, as well as to the general public. As such, Toyota’s unlawful acts and practices
3 complained of herein affect the public interest.

4 310. Pursuant to Mich. Comp. Laws § 445.911, Plaintiff and the Michigan
5 Class seek an order enjoining Toyota’s unfair and/or deceptive acts or practices, and
6 awarding damages, punitive damages, and any other just and proper relief available
7 under the Michigan CPA.

8 **COUNT VII**

9 **VIOLATIONS OF THE NEW JERSEY**

10 **CONSUMER FRAUD ACT**

11 **(N.J. Stat. Ann. § 56:8-1, *et seq.*)**

12 311. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each preceding paragraph as though
13 fully set forth herein.

14 312. Plaintiffs Emily Barbour and Patricia Loughney (for the purposes of this
15 section, “Plaintiffs”) bring this action on behalf of themselves and the New Jersey
16 Class against Toyota.

17 313. Toyota, Plaintiffs, and the New Jersey Class members are “persons”
18 within the meaning of N.J. Stat. Ann. § 56:8-1(d).

19 314. Toyota is engaged in “sales” of “merchandise” within the meaning of N.J.
20 Stat. Ann. § 56:8-1(c), (e).

21 315. The New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act (“New Jersey CFA”) makes
22 unlawful “[t]he act, use or employment by any person of any unconscionable
23 commercial practice, deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise, misrepresentation,
24 or the knowing concealment, suppression, or omission of any material fact with the
25 intent that others rely upon such concealment, suppression or omission, in connection
26 with the sale or advertisement of any merchandise or real estate, or with the subsequent
27 performance of such person as aforesaid, whether or not any person has in fact been
28 misled, deceived or damaged thereby...” N.J. Stat. Ann. § 56:8-2.

1 316. In the course of their business, the Defendants, through their agents,
2 employees, and/or subsidiaries, engaged in the following unfair or deceptive acts or
3 practices as prohibited by N.J. Stat. Ann. § 56:8-2: using or employing “deception,
4 fraud, false pretense, false promise or misrepresentation, or the concealment,
5 suppression or omission of a material fact with intent that others rely upon such
6 concealment, suppression or omission, in connection with the advertisement and sale”
7 of the Class Vehicles, as detailed above.

8 317. Toyota’s scheme and concealment of the true characteristics of the Class
9 Vehicles were material to Plaintiffs and the New Jersey Class members, and Toyota
10 misrepresented, concealed, or failed to disclose the truth with the intention that
11 Plaintiffs and the New Jersey Class members would rely on the misrepresentations,
12 concealments, and omissions. Had they known the truth, Plaintiffs and the New Jersey
13 Class members would not have purchased the Class Vehicles, or would have paid
14 significantly less for them.

15 318. Plaintiffs and the New Jersey Class members had no way of discerning
16 that Toyota’s representations were false and misleading, or otherwise learning the facts
17 that Toyota had concealed and/or failed to disclose.

18 319. Toyota had an ongoing duty to Plaintiffs and the New Jersey Class
19 members to refrain from unfair and deceptive practices under the New Jersey CFA in
20 the course of its business. Specifically, Toyota owed Plaintiffs and the New Jersey
21 Class members a duty to disclose all the material facts concerning the Class Vehicles
22 because it possessed exclusive knowledge, it intentionally concealed such material
23 facts from Plaintiffs and the New Jersey Class members, and/or it made
24 misrepresentations that were rendered misleading because they were contradicted by
25 withheld facts.

26 320. Plaintiffs and the New Jersey Class members suffered ascertainable loss
27 and actual damages as a direct and proximate result of Toyota’s concealment,
28 misrepresentations, and/or failure to disclose material information.

1 321. Toyota’s violations present a continuing risk to Plaintiffs and the New
2 Jersey Class, as well as to the general public. As such, Toyota’s unlawful acts and
3 practices complained of herein affect the public interest.

4 322. Pursuant to N.J. Stat. Ann. § 56:8-19, Plaintiffs and the New Jersey Class
5 seek an order enjoining Toyota’ unfair and/or deceptive acts or practices, and awarding
6 damages, punitive damages, and any other just and proper relief available under the
7 New Jersey CFA.

8 **COUNT VIII**
9 **VIOLATION OF THE NEW YORK**
10 **DECEPTIVE ACTS AND PRACTICES ACT**
11 **(N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 349)**

12 323. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each preceding paragraph as though
13 fully set forth herein.

14 324. Plaintiff Thomas Pastore (for the purposes of this section, “Plaintiff”)
15 brings this action on behalf of himself and the New York Class against Toyota.

16 325. Toyota, Plaintiff, and the New York Class members are “persons” within
17 the meaning of N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 349(h).

18 326. The New York Deceptive Acts and Practices Act (“NY DAPA”) makes
19 unlawful “[d]eceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any business, trade or
20 commerce.” N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 349.

21 327. In the course of their business, Toyota engaged in one or more of the
22 following unfair or deceptive acts or practices as prohibited by N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law
23 § 349:

- 24 a. Causing likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding as to the
25 approval or certification of the Class Vehicles;
26 b. Representing that the Class Vehicles have approval, characteristics,
27 uses, or benefits that they do not have;

- 1 c. Representing that the Class Vehicles are of a particular standard,
2 quality, and grade when they are not;
- 3 d. Advertising the Class Vehicles with the intent not to sell them as
4 advertised;
- 5 e. Engaging in other conduct which created a likelihood of confusion
6 or of misunderstanding; and/or
- 7 f. Using or employing deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise
8 or misrepresentation, or the concealment, suppression or omission
9 of a material fact with intent that others rely upon such
10 concealment, suppression or omission, in connection with the
11 advertisement and sale of the Class Vehicles, whether or not any
12 person has in fact been misled, deceived or damaged thereby.

13 328. Toyota's scheme and concealment of the true characteristics of the Class
14 Vehicles were material to Plaintiff and New York Class members, and Toyota
15 misrepresented, concealed, or failed to disclose the truth with the intention that Plaintiff
16 and the New York Class members would rely on the misrepresentations, concealments,
17 and omissions. Had they known the truth, Plaintiff and the New York Class members
18 would not have purchased the Class Vehicles, or would have paid significantly less for
19 them.

20 329. Plaintiff and the New York Class members had no way of discerning that
21 Toyota's representations were false and misleading, or otherwise learning the facts that
22 Toyota had concealed and/or failed to disclose.

23 330. Toyota had an ongoing duty to Plaintiff and the New York Class members
24 to refrain from unfair and deceptive practices under the New York DAPA in the course
25 of its business. Specifically, Toyota owed Plaintiff and the New York Class members
26 a duty to disclose all the material facts concerning the Class Vehicles because it
27 possessed exclusive knowledge, it intentionally concealed such material facts from
28

1 Plaintiff and the New York Class members, and/or it made misrepresentations that
2 were rendered misleading because they were contradicted by withheld facts.

3 331. Plaintiff and the New York Class members suffered ascertainable loss and
4 actual damages as a direct and proximate result of Toyota’s concealment,
5 misrepresentations, and/or failure to disclose material information.

6 332. Toyota’s violations present a continuing risk to Plaintiff and the New
7 York Class, as well as to the general public. As such, Toyota’s unlawful acts and
8 practices complained of herein affect the public interest.

9 333. Plaintiff and the New York Class seek an order enjoining Toyota’s unfair
10 and/or deceptive acts or practices, and awarding damages, punitive damages, and any
11 other just and proper relief available under the NY DAPA.

12 **COUNT IX**

13 **VIOLATION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA**

14 **UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES AND CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW**

15 **(73 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 201-1, *et seq.*)**

16 334. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each preceding paragraph as though
17 fully set forth herein.

18 335. Plaintiffs Christine Blight and Jack Perry (for the purposes of this section,
19 “Plaintiffs”) bring this action on behalf of themselves and the Pennsylvania Class
20 against Toyota.

21 336. Toyota, Plaintiffs, and the Pennsylvania Class members are “persons”
22 within the meaning of 73 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 201-2.(2).

23 337. Defendants are engaged in “trade” or “commerce” within the meaning of
24 73 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 201-2(3).

25 338. The Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices Act (“Pennsylvania UTPA”)
26 prohibits “unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce
27” 73 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 201 3.

28

1 339. In the course of their business, Defendants, through their agents,
2 employees, and/or subsidiaries, engaged in one or more of the following unfair or
3 deceptive acts or practices in violation of 73 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 201-3:

- 4 a. Causing likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding as to the
5 approval or certification of the Class Vehicles;
- 6 b. Representing that the Class Vehicles have approval, characteristics,
7 uses, or benefits that they do not have;
- 8 c. Representing that the Class Vehicles are of a particular standard,
9 quality and grade when they are not;
- 10 d. Advertising the Class Vehicles with the intent not to sell them as
11 advertised;
- 12 e. Engaging in other conduct which created a likelihood of confusion
13 or of misunderstanding; and/or
- 14 f. Using or employing deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise
15 or misrepresentation, or the concealment, suppression or omission
16 of a material fact with intent that others rely upon such
17 concealment, suppression or omission, in connection with the
18 advertisement and sale of the Class Vehicles, whether or not any
19 person has in fact been misled, deceived or damaged thereby.

20 340. Toyota's scheme and concealment of the true characteristics of the Class
21 Vehicles were material to Plaintiffs and the Pennsylvania Class members, and Toyota
22 misrepresented, concealed, or failed to disclose the truth with the intention that
23 Plaintiffs and the Pennsylvania Class members would rely on the misrepresentations,
24 concealments, and omissions. Had they known the truth, Plaintiffs and the
25 Pennsylvania Class members would not have purchased the Class Vehicles, or would
26 have paid significantly less for them.

1 341. Plaintiffs and the Pennsylvania Class members had no way of discerning
2 that Toyota's representations were false and misleading, or otherwise learning the facts
3 that Toyota had concealed and/or failed to disclose.

4 342. Toyota's violations present a continuing risk to Plaintiffs and the
5 Pennsylvania Class, as well as to the general public. As such, Toyota's unlawful acts
6 and practices complained of herein affect the public interest.

7 343. Toyota had an ongoing duty to Plaintiffs and the Pennsylvania Class
8 members to refrain from unfair and deceptive practices under the Pennsylvania UTPA
9 in the course of its business. Specifically, Toyota owed Plaintiffs and the Pennsylvania
10 Class members a duty to disclose all the material facts concerning the Class Vehicles
11 because it possessed exclusive knowledge, it intentionally concealed such material
12 facts from Plaintiffs and the Pennsylvania Class members, and/or it made
13 misrepresentations that were rendered misleading because they were contradicted by
14 withheld facts.

15 344. Plaintiffs and Pennsylvania Class members suffered ascertainable loss
16 and actual damages as a direct and proximate result of Toyota's concealment,
17 misrepresentations, and/or failure to disclose material information.

18 345. Pursuant to 73 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 201-9.2(a), Plaintiffs and the Pennsylvania
19 Class seek an order enjoining Defendants' unfair and/or deceptive acts or practices,
20 and awarding damages, punitive and/or treble damages, and any other just and proper
21 relief available under the Pennsylvania UTPA.

22 **COUNT X**

23 **VIOLATION OF UTAH**

24 **CONSUMER SALES PRACTICES ACT**

25 **(Utah Code Ann. § 13-11-1, *et seq.*)**

26 346. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each preceding paragraph as though
27 fully set forth herein.
28

1 347. Plaintiff Kyle Blumin (for the purposes of this section, “Plaintiff”) brings
2 this action on behalf of himself and the Utah Class against Toyota.

3 348. The Defendants are “supplier[s]” within the meaning of Utah Code § 13-
4 11-3(6).

5 349. Plaintiff and the Utah State Class members are “persons” under Utah
6 Code § 13-11-3(5).

7 350. The sales of the Class Vehicles to Plaintiff and the Utah Class members
8 were “consumer transactions” within the meaning of Utah Code § 13-11-3(2).

9 351. The Utah Consumer Sales Practices Act (“Utah CSPA”) makes unlawful
10 any “deceptive act or practice by a supplier in connection with a consumer transaction.”
11 Utah Code § 13-11-4. “An unconscionable act or practice by a supplier in connection
12 with a consumer transaction” also violates the Utah CSPA. Utah Code § 13-11-5.

13 352. In the course of their business, the Defendants, through their agents,
14 employees, and/or subsidiaries, engaged in one or more of the following unfair or
15 deceptive acts or practices as prohibited by Utah Code § 13-11-4:

- 16 a. Representing that the Class Vehicles have approval, characteristics,
17 uses, or benefits that they do not have;
- 18 b. Representing that the Class Vehicles are of a particular standard,
19 quality and grade when they are not; and/or
- 20 c. Representing that the Class Vehicles were supplied in accordance
21 with Defendants’ prior representations, although they were not as
22 represented.

23 353. Toyota’s scheme and concealment of the true characteristics of the Class
24 Vehicles were material to Plaintiff and the Utah Class members, and Toyota
25 misrepresented, concealed, or failed to disclose the truth with the intention that Plaintiff
26 and the Utah Class members would rely on the misrepresentations, concealments, and
27 omissions. Had they known the truth, Plaintiff and the Utah Class members would not
28 have purchased the Class Vehicles, or would have paid significantly less for them.

1 354. Plaintiff and the Utah Class members had no way of discerning that
2 Toyota's representations were false and misleading, or otherwise learning the facts that
3 Toyota had concealed and/or failed to disclose.

4 355. Toyota's violations present a continuing risk to Plaintiff and the Utah
5 Class, as well as to the general public. As such, Toyota's unlawful acts and practices
6 complained of herein affect the public interest.

7 356. Toyota had an ongoing duty to Plaintiff and the Utah Class members to
8 refrain from unfair and deceptive practices under the Utah CSPA in the course of its
9 business. Specifically, Toyota owed Plaintiff and the Utah Class members a duty to
10 disclose all the material facts concerning the Class Vehicles because it possessed
11 exclusive knowledge, it intentionally concealed such material facts from Plaintiff and
12 the Utah Class members, and/or it made misrepresentations that were rendered
13 misleading because they were contradicted by withheld facts.

14 357. Plaintiff and the Utah Class members suffered ascertainable loss and
15 actual damages as a direct and proximate result of Toyota's concealment,
16 misrepresentations, and/or failure to disclose material information.

17 358. Plaintiff and the Utah Class seek an order enjoining Toyota's unfair and/or
18 deceptive acts or practices, and awarding damages, punitive damages, and any other
19 just and proper relief available under the Utah CSPA.

20 **COUNT XI**

21 **VIOLATION OF UTAH**

22 **TRUTH IN ADVERTISING LAW**

23 **(Utah Code Ann. § 13-11a-1, *et seq.*)**

24 359. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each preceding paragraph as though
25 fully set forth herein.

26 360. Plaintiff Kyle Blumin (for the purposes of this section, "Plaintiff") brings
27 this action on behalf of himself and the Utah Class against Toyota.
28

1 361. Plaintiff, the Utah Class, and the Defendants are “person[s]” within the
2 meaning of Utah Code § 13-11a-1(7).

3 362. Utah’s Truth In Advertising law makes unlawful any deceptive practice
4 undertaken in the course of a person’s business. Utah Code § 13-11a-3.

5 363. In the course of their business, the Defendants, through their agents,
6 employees, and/or subsidiaries, engaged in one or more of the following unfair or
7 deceptive acts or practices as defined in Utah Code § 13-11a-3:

- 8 a. Causing likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding as to the
9 approval or certification of the Class Vehicles;
- 10 b. Representing that the Class Vehicles have approval, characteristics,
11 uses, or benefits that they do not have;
- 12 c. representing that the Class Vehicles are of a particular standard,
13 quality, and grade when they are not;
- 14 d. Advertising the Class Vehicles with the intent not to sell them as
15 advertised;
- 16 e. Engaging in other conduct which created a likelihood of confusion
17 or of misunderstanding; and/or
- 18 f. Using or employing deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise
19 or misrepresentation, or the concealment, suppression or omission
20 of a material fact with intent that others rely upon such
21 concealment, suppression or omission, in connection with the
22 advertisement and sale of the Class Vehicles, whether or not any
23 person has in fact been misled, deceived or damaged thereby.

24 364. Toyota’s scheme and concealment of the true characteristics of the Class
25 Vehicles were material to Plaintiff and the Utah Class members, and Toyota
26 misrepresented, concealed, or failed to disclose the truth with the intention that Plaintiff
27 and the Utah Class members would rely on the misrepresentations, concealments, and
28

1 omissions. Had they known the truth, Plaintiff and the Utah Class members would not
2 have purchased the Class Vehicles, or would have paid significantly less for them.

3 365. Plaintiff and the Utah Class members had no way of discerning that
4 Toyota's representations were false and misleading, or otherwise learning the facts that
5 Toyota had concealed and/or failed to disclose.

6 366. Toyota's violations present a continuing risk to Plaintiff and the Utah
7 Class, as well as to the general public. As such, Toyota's unlawful acts and practices
8 complained of herein affect the public interest.

9 367. Toyota had an ongoing duty to Plaintiff and the Utah Class members to
10 refrain from unfair and deceptive practices under the Utah Truth In Advertising law in
11 the course of its business. Specifically, Toyota owed Plaintiff and the Utah Class
12 members a duty to disclose all the material facts concerning the Class Vehicles because
13 it possessed exclusive knowledge, it intentionally concealed such material facts from
14 Plaintiff and the Utah Class members, and/or it made misrepresentations that were
15 rendered misleading because they were contradicted by withheld facts.

16 368. Plaintiff and the Utah Class members suffered ascertainable loss and
17 actual damages as a direct and proximate result of Toyota's concealment,
18 misrepresentations, and/or failure to disclose material information.

19 369. Pursuant to Utah Code Ann. § 13-11a-4, Plaintiff and the Utah Class seek
20 an order enjoining Toyota's unfair and/or deceptive acts or practices, and awarding
21 damages, punitive damages, and any other just and proper relief available under the
22 Utah Truth In Advertising law.

23 **COUNT XII**

24 **VIOLATION OF THE VIRGINIA**

25 **CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT**

26 **(VA. CODE ANN. § 59.1-196, *et seq.*)**

27 370. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each preceding paragraph as though
28 fully set forth herein.

1 371. Plaintiff Brian Hale (for the purposes of this section, “Plaintiff”) brings
2 this action on behalf of himself and the Virginia Class against Toyota.

3 372. The Defendants, Plaintiff, and the Virginia Class members are “persons”
4 within the meaning of VA. CODE ANN. § 59.1-198. The Defendants are also
5 “supplier[s]” as defined by VA. CODE ANN. § 59.1-198.

6 373. The Class Vehicles were at all relevant times “goods” within the meaning
7 of VA. CODE ANN. § 59.1-198.

8 374. The Defendants were and are engaged in “consumer transactions” within
9 the meaning of VA. CODE ANN. § 59.1-198.

10 375. The Virginia Consumer Protection Act (“Virginia CPA”) prohibits
11 “fraudulent acts or practices committed by a supplier in connection with a consumer
12 transaction[.]” VA. CODE ANN. § 59.1-200(A), and makes the following specific acts
13 unlawful:

- 14 a. “Misrepresenting that goods or services have certain quantities,
15 characteristics, ingredients, uses, or benefits[.]”
- 16 b. “Misrepresenting that goods or services are of a particular
17 standard, quality, grade, style, or model[.]”
- 18 c. “Advertising goods or services with intent not to sell them as
19 advertised, or with intent not to sell at the price or upon the terms
20 advertised.”
- 21 d. “Using any other deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise,
22 or misrepresentation in connection with a consumer
transaction[.]” §§ 59.1-200(A)(5)-(6), (8), and (14).

23 376. In the course of their business, the Defendants, through their agents,
24 employees, and/or subsidiaries, engaged in one or more of the following unfair or
25 deceptive acts or practices as prohibited by VA. CODE ANN. § 59.1-200(A):

- 26 a. Causing likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding as to the
27 approval or certification of the Class Vehicles;

- 1 b. Representing that the Class Vehicles have approval, characteristics,
2 uses, or benefits that they do not have;
- 3 c. Representing that the Class Vehicles are of a particular standard,
4 quality, and grade when they are not;
- 5 d. Advertising the Class Vehicles with the intent not to sell them as
6 advertised;
- 7 e. Engaging in other conduct which created a likelihood of confusion
8 or of misunderstanding; and/or
- 9 f. Using or employing deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise
10 or misrepresentation, or the concealment, suppression or omission
11 of a material fact with intent that others rely upon such
12 concealment, suppression or omission, in connection with the
13 advertisement and sale of the Class Vehicles, whether or not any
14 person has in fact been misled, deceived or damaged thereby.

15 377. Toyota's scheme and concealment of the true characteristics of the Class
16 Vehicles were material to Plaintiff and the Virginia Class members, and Toyota
17 misrepresented, concealed, or failed to disclose the truth with the intention that Plaintiff
18 and the Virginia Class members would rely on the misrepresentations, concealments,
19 and omissions. Had they known the truth, Plaintiff and the Virginia Class members
20 would not have purchased the Class Vehicles, or would have paid significantly less for
21 them.

22 378. Plaintiff and the Virginia Class members had no way of discerning that
23 Toyota's representations were false and misleading, or otherwise learning the facts that
24 Toyota had concealed and/or failed to disclose.

25 379. Toyota's violations present a continuing risk to Plaintiff and the Virginia
26 Class, as well as to the general public. As such, Toyota's unlawful acts and practices
27 complained of herein affect the public interest.

1 380. Toyota had an ongoing duty to Plaintiff and the Virginia Class members
2 to refrain from unfair and deceptive practices under the Virginia CPA in the course of
3 its business. Specifically, Toyota owed Plaintiff and the Virginia Class members a duty
4 to disclose all the material facts concerning the Class Vehicles because it possessed
5 exclusive knowledge, it intentionally concealed such material facts from Plaintiff and
6 the Virginia Class members, and/or it made misrepresentations that were rendered
7 misleading because they were contradicted by withheld facts.

8 381. The Virginia Class members suffered ascertainable loss and actual
9 damages as a direct and proximate result of Toyota's concealment, misrepresentations,
10 and/or failure to disclose material information.

11 382. Plaintiff and the Virginia Class seek an order enjoining Defendants' unfair
12 and/or deceptive acts or practices, and awarding damages, punitive damages, and any
13 other just and proper relief available under the Virginia CPA.

14 **VIII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

15 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf of the members of the
16 Nationwide and Classes, respectfully request that the Court certify the proposed
17 Classes, including designating the named Plaintiffs as representatives of the
18 Nationwide Class and respective State Classes, appointing the undersigned as Class
19 Counsel, and designating any appropriate issue classes, under the applicable provisions
20 of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, and that the Court enter judgment in Plaintiffs'
21 favor and against Toyota including the following relief:

22 (i) A declaration that any applicable statutes of limitations are tolled due to
23 Toyota's fraudulent concealment and that Toyota is estopped from relying on any
24 statutes of limitations in defense;

25 (ii) A declaration that (1) the Class Vehicles lack adequate rust corrosion
26 protection and are defective; (2) all persons who purchased the Class Vehicles are to
27 be provided the best practicable notice of the Defect; and (3) Defendants must establish
28 an inspection, repair, and replacement program and protocol and notify Class members

1 of such program, pursuant to which Defendants, including its authorized
2 representatives, and at no cost to Class members, will inspect, upon request, Class
3 members' Class Vehicles for frame rust corrosion, treat the Class Vehicles that have
4 not exhibited rust corrosion with adequate rust corrosion protection, and repair or
5 replace the frames on the Class Vehicles that have experienced frame rust corrosion;

6 (iii) Restitution, compensatory damages, and costs for economic loss and out-
7 of- pocket costs;

8 (iv) Punitive and exemplary damages under applicable law;

9 (v) Reimbursement and compensation of the full purchase price for any
10 repairs or replacements purchased by a Plaintiff or Class member to remedy the Frame
11 Defect;

12 (vi) A determination that Toyota is financially responsible for all Class notices
13 and the administration of Class relief;

14 (vii) Any applicable statutory or civil penalties;

15 (viii) An order requiring Toyota to pay both pre-judgment and post-judgment
16 interest on any amounts awarded;

17 (ix) An award of reasonable counsel fees, plus reimbursement of reasonable
18 costs, expenses, and disbursements, including reasonable allowances for the fees of
19 experts;

20 (x) Leave to amend this Complaint to conform to the evidence produced in
21 discovery and at trial; and

22 (xi) Any such other and further relief the Court deems just and equitable.

23 **IX. DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

24 Plaintiffs and Class members hereby demand a trial by jury, pursuant to Federal
25 Rule of Civil Procedure 38(b), of all issues so triable.

26

27

28

1 Dated: April 4, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

2 **EDELSBERG LAW, P.A.**

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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: [Toyota Hit with Class Action Over Alleged FJ Cruiser Frame Rust Problems](#)
