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8 Attorneys for Plaintiffs and Proposed Class

9 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
10 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
11 **SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**

12
13 Abucar Nunow ABIKAR,
14 Barkadle Sheikh Muhamed
15 AWMAGAN, Arab Mursal DEH,
16 Majuma MADENDE, Osman
17 Musa MOHAMED, Osman Musa
18 MUGANGA, Rukia MUSA, and
19 Fatuma SOMOW, on behalf of
20 themselves and all others
21 similarly situated,

22 Plaintiffs,

23 v.

24 Bristol Bay Native Corporation,
25 Glacier Technical Solutions, LLC,
26 and Workforce Resources, LLC,

27 Defendants.

Case No: '17CV1036 GPC AGS

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR
INJUNCTIVE AND DECLARATORY
RELIEF, AND FOR DAMAGES, FOR
VIOLATIONS OF**

(1) 42 U.S.C. §2000e, et seq. and

(2) 42 U.S.C. §1981

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

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PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

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2 1. Individual and Representative Plaintiffs Abucar Nunow
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4 ABIKAR (“Abikar”), Barkadle Sheikh Muhamed AWMAGAN (“Awmagan”),
5 Arab Mursal DEH (“Deh”), Majuma MADENDE (“Madende”), Osman Musa
6 MOHAMED (“Mohamed”), Osman Musa MUGANGA (“Muganga”), Rukia
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8 MUSA (“Musa”), and Fatuma SOMOW (“Somow”) (collectively
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10 “Representative Plaintiffs”), on behalf of themselves and all others similarly
11 situation, allege as follows:

12 2. This employment discrimination class action is brought on
13
14 behalf of East African refugees who are current and former employees of
15
16 defendants Bristol Bay Native Corporation (“Bristol Bay”), Glacier Technical
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18 Solutions, LLC (“GTS”), and Workforce Resources, LLC (“Workforce”)
19 (collectively “Defendants”).

20 3. The Defendants contract with the United States Department
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22 of Defense to help train United States Marines in African culture as well as in
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24 other cultures of interest to the military such as Iraqi, Afghani, Filipino, and
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26 Mexican. To this end, the Defendants employ East African refugees as role-
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28 players to work in simulated villages as shopkeepers, village elders,
insurgents, and other roles. The simulations teach Marines how to operate
safely and effectively in counter-insurgency operations they may face in

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1 future combat or peace-keeping missions. This role-player employment is
2 temporary, part-time, and sporadic, but has continued since at least 2010.

3 4. All of the East African refugees the Defendants employ as
4 role-players are citizens or permanent residents of the United States. Most are
5 Somali Bantu immigrants who were driven from their homeland of Somalia
6 by civil war and terrorism that began 25 years ago and continues through to
7 today. All the East African refugees are from extremely poor, rural
8 communities. Only a handful of them speak or understand English. Of those
9 who speak English, far fewer can read English. Within this group of refugees,
10 members speak approximately ten different African or non-English languages
11 and many different dialects. Most speak one language or dialect; a few speak
12 more than one. Most of the role-players are illiterate even in their own native
13 languages. Very few of the East African refugees had the opportunity to
14 finish elementary or high school. Most or perhaps all of the East African
15 refugees live far below the federal poverty line.

16 5. Although the East African refugees are a distinct and insular
17 cultural group, they are exceptionally patriotic to the United States, proud of
18 their citizenship and association with America, and grateful to the country for
19 rescuing them from civil war and poverty, and for offering them a future.
20 They are honored to work as role-players on behalf of the U.S. military.

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1 6. The Defendants have a consistent and pervasive history that
2 continues through the present of treating East African role-players less
3 favorably than role-players who are not East African. The East African
4 employees complained to the Defendants for years about receiving disparate
5 treatment and being subjected to discriminatory harassment. They also
6 complained that when they objected to this abuse, the Defendants often
7 accelerated the mistreatment or threatened the East Africans with termination.
8 Although the East African role-players repeatedly protested their poor
9 treatment to management, the Defendants continued to treat East African
10 role-players differently and adversely than similarly-situated role-players
11 from Iraq, Afghanistan, the Philippines, or Mexico.

12 7. Dozens of East African role-players simultaneously filed
13 complaints of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation with the Equal
14 Employment Opportunity Commission (“EEOC”) in an effort to remedy the
15 mistreatment. The Defendants persisted in their negative conduct.

16 8. Also, as a group, the East African role-players filed an unfair
17 labor practice charge with the National Labor Relations Board (“NLRB”)
18 alleging violations of protected concerted activity under the National Labor
19 Relations Act, 29 U.S.C. §§ 151 – 169, as amended (“NLRA”). Still, the
20 Defendants continued their adverse actions and omissions.

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1 9. Now, the East Africa role-player are pursuing this class
2 action complaint in an effort to – finally – obtain relief from the Defendants’
3 harmful treatment.

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5 10. The classes to this complaint consist of (a) female and male
6 refugees from Somalia, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and
7 Burundi (collectively, “East African” or “East African Countries”), all of
8 whom are Muslim or Christian and who work or worked as role-players for
9 the Defendants at any time between January 01, 2010 and the date of
10 judgment in this action (the “East African Class”); (b) female East African
11 refugees who work or worked as role-players for the Defendants at any time
12 between January 01, 2010 and the date of judgment in this action (the “Female
13 Class”); and (c) Muslim East African refugees who work or worked as role-
14 players for the Defendants at any time between January 01, 2010 and the date
15 of judgment in this action (the “Muslim Class”).

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17 11. Representative Plaintiffs Abikar, Awmagan, Deh, Madende,
18 Mohamed, Muganga, Musa, and Somow allege on behalf of themselves and
19 the East African Class that the Defendants engaged in a continuing policy and
20 practice of discrimination and harassment based on race, color, and national
21 origin by means of subjective and arbitrary decision-making against members
22 of the East African Class by denying them terms and conditions of
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1 employment that were as favorable as those provided to non-East African
2 Class members. These less favorable terms and conditions include subjecting
3 members of the East African Class to daily or near-daily insults, ridicule,
4 scorn, mockery, and other disparagements directed toward their race, color,
5 national origin, language, culture, and traditions while not subjecting
6 similarly situated non-East African Class members to such treatment;
7 requiring members of the East African Class to perform janitorial duties not
8 within their job description but not requiring similarly situated non-East
9 African Class members to perform these duties; requiring members of the East
10 African Class to perform work for the benefit of the Defendants without
11 compensation but not requiring similarly situated non-East African Class
12 members to perform such work; and failing to provide members of the East
13 African Class with promotional opportunities, rest and meal breaks, drinking
14 water, food and snacks, and transportation to the same extent and in as
15 favorable a manner as provided to similarly situated non-East African Class
16 members. Additionally, the Defendants retaliated against these
17 Representative Plaintiffs and the East African Class for complaining about the
18 adverse treatment to which they were subjected.
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25 12. Representative Plaintiffs Madende, Musa, and Somow allege
26 on behalf of themselves and the Female Class that the Defendants engaged in
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1 a continuing policy and practice of discrimination and harassment based on
2 gender/sex by means of subjective and arbitrary decision-making against
3 members of the Female Class by denying them terms and conditions of
4 employment that are as favorable as those provided to non-Female Class
5 members. These less favorable terms and conditions include subjecting
6 members of the Female Class to daily or near-daily insults, ridicule, scorn,
7 mockery, and other disparagements directed toward their gender/sex while
8 not subjecting similarly situated non-Female Class members to such
9 treatment; refusing to allow members of the Female Class to wear traditional
10 clothing but allowing non-Female Class members to wear traditional clothing;
11 requiring members of the Female Class to perform stereotypically female
12 cleaning and housekeeping duties not within their job description but not
13 requiring similarly situated non-Female Class members to perform such
14 duties; requiring members of the Female Class to perform these
15 stereotypically female cleaning and housekeeping duties without
16 compensation but not requiring similarly situated non-Female Class members
17 to perform such work without compensation; and failing to provide members
18 of the Female Class with promotional opportunities to the same extent and in
19 as favorable a manner as provided to similarly situated non-Female Class
20 members. Additionally, the Defendants retaliated against these
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1 Representative Plaintiffs and the Female Class for complaining about the
2 adverse treatment to which they were subjected.

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4 13. Representative Plaintiffs Abikar, Awmagan, Deh, Madende,
5 Mohamed, Muganga, Musa, and Somow allege on behalf of themselves and
6 the Muslim Class that the Defendants failed to provide religious
7 accommodation to Muslim East African role-players as required by law, and
8 engaged in a continuing policy and practice of discrimination and harassment
9 based on religion (Muslim) by means of subjective and arbitrary decision-
10 making against members of the Muslim Class by denying them terms and
11 conditions of employment that are as favorable as those provided to non-
12 Muslim Class members. These less favorable terms and conditions include
13 subjecting members of the Muslim Class to daily or near-daily insults,
14 ridicule, scorn, mockery, and other disparagements directed toward their
15 religion and religious practices while not subjecting similarly situated non-
16 Muslim Class members to such treatment; and failing to provide religious
17 accommodation to members of the Muslim Class but allowing such
18 accommodation to non-Muslim Class members. Additionally, the Defendants
19 retaliated against these Representative Plaintiffs and the Muslim Class for
20 complaining about the adverse treatment to which they were subjected.
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27 14. This action seeks an end to these discriminatory and
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1 harassing policies and practices, and seeks declaratory and injunctive relief
2 including rightful place relief, back pay, front pay, and compensatory and
3 punitive damages for the Representative Plaintiffs and members of the East
4 African Class, the Female Class, and the Muslim Class.
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6 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**
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8 15. This Court has jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C.
9 §1331 conferring original jurisdiction upon this Court for actions arising
10 under the laws of the United States; Public Health and Welfare, 42 U.S.C.
11 1981; and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII 42 U.S.C. §§2000e *et seq.*, as
12 amended (“Title VII”).
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15 16. Venue is proper in this district per 28 U.S.C. §1391 and 42
16 U.S.C. §2000e5(f). The Defendants maintain offices, conduct business, and
17 reside in this district, and a substantial portion of the acts alleged in this
18 complaint occurred in California and within this judicial district.
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20 17. Intradistrict assignment is proper in the Southern District,
21 San Diego because a substantial part of the events and omissions that gave
22 rise to these claims occurred in San Diego County.
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24 **PARTIES**
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26 18. Plaintiff Abikar is a male, Muslim, East African from Somalia
27 who resides in San Diego County. He began working for the Defendants as a
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1 role-player in or after 2010.

2 19. Plaintiff Awmagan is a male, Muslim, East African from
3 Somalia who resides in San Diego County. He began working for the
4 Defendants as a role-player in or after 2010.

5 20. Plaintiff Deh is a male, Muslim, East African from Somalia
6 who resides in San Diego County. He began working for the Defendants as a
7 role-player in or after 2010.

8 21. Plaintiff Madende is a female, Muslim, East African from
9 Somalia who resides in San Diego County. She began working for the
10 Defendants as a role-player on or about October, 2010.

11 22. Plaintiff Mohamed is a male, Muslim, East African from
12 Somalia who resides in San Diego County. He began working for the
13 Defendants as a role-player in or after 2010.

14 23. Plaintiff Muganga is a male, Muslim, East African from
15 Somalia who resides in San Diego County. He began working for the
16 Defendants as a role-player in or after 2010.

17 24. Plaintiff Musa is a female, Muslim, East African from Somalia
18 who resides in San Diego County. She began working for the Defendants as a
19 role-player in or after 2010.

20 25. Plaintiff Somow is a female, Muslim, East African from
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1 Somalia who resides in San Diego County. She began working for the
2 Defendants as a role-player on or about October, 2010.

3 26. Defendant Bristol Bay is an Alaskan Native Corporation
4 based in Anchorage, Alaska. It is the parent company of GTS and Workforce
5 Resources. It operates as a joint employer with GTS and Workforce Resources
6 with respect to the allegations in this complaint by sharing or codetermining
7 policies, human resources functions, management functions, and more.
8

9 27. Defendant GTS is a wholly owned subsidiary of Bristol Bay
10 and maintains an office in Oceanside, California. It operates as a joint
11 employer with Bristol Bay and Workforce Resources with respect to the
12 allegations in this complaint by sharing or codetermining policies, human
13 resources functions, management functions, and more.
14

15 28. Defendant Workforce Resources is a wholly owned
16 subsidiary of Bristol Bay and maintains an office in Oceanside, California. It
17 operates as a joint employer with Bristol Bay and GTS with respect to the
18 allegations in this complaint by sharing or codetermining policies, human
19 resources functions, management functions, and more.
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DEFENDANTS’ DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES AND POLICIES

A. East African Class

29. The alleged events, omissions, denials, and abridgements of employment opportunities suffered by the Representative Plaintiffs of the East African Class were and are part of a general policy or practice of discrimination on the bases of race, color, and national origin in employment that existed at the Defendants’ worksites throughout the relevant time. These are not isolated instances of employment practices or individual decisions. Instead, these denials and abridgements are representative of the Defendants’ systematic discrimination against East African employees working as role-players, and in favor of non-East African employees working as role-players.

30. These same events, omissions, denials, and abridgements of employment opportunities resulted from an intentional policy and practice of employment discrimination on the bases of race, color, and national origin.

31. The Defendants have pursued policies or practices on a continuing basis that have denied or restricted equal employment and job opportunities for East African role-players.

B. Female Class

32. The alleged events, omissions, denials, and abridgements of employment opportunities suffered by the Representative Plaintiffs of the

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Female Class are part of a general policy or practice of discrimination on the basis of gender/sex in employment that existed at the Defendants’ worksites throughout the relevant time. These are not isolated instances of employment practices or individual decisions. Instead, these denials and abridgements are representative of the Defendants’ systematic discrimination against female East African employees working as role-players, and in favor of non-female East African employees working as role-players.

33. These same events, omissions, denials, and abridgements of employment opportunities results from an intentional policy and practice of employment discrimination on the basis of gender/sex.

34. The Defendants have pursued policies or practices on a continuing basis that have denied or restricted equal employment and job opportunities for female East African role-players.

C. Muslim Class

35. The alleged events, omissions, denials, and abridgements of employment opportunities suffered by the Representative Plaintiffs of the Muslim Class are part of a general policy or practice of failure to provide religious accommodation and of discrimination on the basis of religion in employment that existed at the Defendants’ worksites throughout the relevant time. These are not isolated instances of employment practices or individual

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1 decisions. Instead, these denials and abridgements are representative of the
2 Defendants' systematic discrimination against Muslim East African
3 employees working as role-players, and in favor of non-Muslim East African
4 employees working as role-players.
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6 36. These same events, omissions, denials, and abridgements of
7 employment opportunities results from an intentional policy and practice of
8 failure to provide religious accommodation and of employment
9 discrimination on the basis of religion.
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11 37. The Defendants have pursued policies or practices on a
12 continuing bases that have denied or restricted equal employment and job
13 opportunities for Muslim East African role-players.
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16 **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

17 38. The Representative Plaintiffs bring this class action pursuant
18 to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(a), (b)(2), and (b)(3) on behalf of (1) an
19 East African Class of all employees who are from any of the East African
20 Countries named above and who worked for the Defendants as role-players at
21 any time from 2010 through the date of judgment in this action; (2) a Female
22 Class of all employees who are from any of the East African Countries named
23 above, are female, and who worked for the Defendants as role-players at any
24 time from 2010 through the date of judgment in this action; and (3) an East
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1 African Class of all employees who are from one of the East African Countries
2 named above, are Muslim, and who worked for the Defendants as role-
3 players at any time from 2010 through the date of judgment in this action.
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5 **A. East African Class**

6 39. Plaintiffs Abikar, Awmagan, Deh, Madende, Mohamed,
7 Muganga, Musa, and Somow are members of and seek to represent the East
8 African Class.
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10 40. The claims of these Plaintiffs are typical of the claims of the
11 East African Class.
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13 41. The Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent the East
14 African Class.
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16 42. The members of the East African Class are so numerous that
17 joinder of all members is impracticable. Although the precise number of East
18 African employees affected by the Defendants' discriminatory practices or
19 policies is currently unknown, it is far greater than can be feasibly addressed
20 through joinder. The precise number is ascertainable from the Defendants'
21 records.
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23 43. There are many questions of law and fact common to the East
24 African Class, and these questions predominate over any questions affecting
25 only individual members. Common questions of law or fact include whether
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1 (1) the Defendants are joint employers; (2) Defendants’ policies or practices
2 disparately deny East African Class members terms and conditions of
3 employment that are as favorable as those provided to non-East African Class
4 members, including subjecting East African Class members to daily or near-
5 daily insults, ridicule, scorn, mockery, and other disparagements directed
6 toward their race, color, national origin, language, culture, and traditions; (3)
7 East African role-players were required to perform janitorial duties not within
8 their job description; (4) non-East African role-players were required to
9 perform janitorial duties not within their job description; (5) East African role-
10 players were required to perform janitorial work for the benefit of the
11 Defendants without compensation; (6) non-East African Class members were
12 required to perform janitorial work for the benefit of the Defendants without
13 compensation; (7) East African role-players were provided promotional
14 opportunities, rest and meal breaks, drinking water, food and snacks, and
15 transportation to the same extent and in as favorable a manner as provided to
16 similarly situated non-East African role-players; (8) any disparate treatment
17 was intentional; (9) any disparate treatment was justified by business
18 necessity; (10) the Defendants engaged in a practice or pattern of disparate
19 treatment adverse to East African role-players; (11) the disparate treatment
20 constituted a violation of Title VII; (12) the disparate treatment constituted a
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1 violation of 42 U.S.C. §1981; (13) the Defendants retaliated against the East
2 African role-players for protesting adverse treatment; and (14) injunctive relief
3 and other equitable remedies (including back pay and front pay) and
4 compensatory and punitive damages are warranted for the East African Class.

6 44. Class certification is appropriate pursuant to Federal Rule of
7 Civil Procedure 23(b)(2) because the Defendants acted and/or refused to act
8 on grounds generally applicable to the East African Class, thus making
9 declaratory and injunctive relief appropriate for Plaintiffs Abikar, Awmagan,
10 Deh, Madende, Mohamed, Muganga, Musa, and Somow and the East African
11 Class as a whole. The members of the East African Class are entitled to
12 injunctive relief to end the Defendants' common, uniform, and unfair policies
13 and practices that discriminate against East African role-players due to their
14 race, color, and national origin.
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19 45. Class certification is also appropriate pursuant to Federal
20 Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(3) because common questions of fact and law
21 predominate over any questions affecting only individual members of the
22 East African Class, and because a class action is superior to other available
23 methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this litigation.
24

25 46. Further, the East African Class has previously acted as a
26 unified group or class by filing dozens of EEOC charges together seeking
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1 relief for the group or class as a whole, and by filing unfair labor practice
2 charges with the NLRB alleging violations of the NLRA seeking relief as a
3 group or class as a whole.
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5 47. Moreover, class certification under Federal Rule of Civil
6 Procedure 23(b)(3) is appropriate because managing individual suits for each
7 of the members of the East African Class would burden the Court given the
8 particular characteristics of the East African Class as noted in Paragraph 4 to
9 this complaint; specifically, that few of the class members speak English, even
10 fewer read English, the class members have a high level of illiteracy, and the
11 class members speak approximately ten different African languages and
12 dialects for which professional, court-certified interpreters are difficult if not
13 impossible to locate anywhere in the United States.
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17 48. The members of the East African Class have been damaged
18 and are entitled to recovery as a result of the Defendants' common, uniform,
19 and unfair discriminatory personnel policies and practices. The Defendants
20 have computerized payroll and personnel data that will make calculation of
21 damages for specific members of the East African Class relatively simple.
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24 **B. Female Class**

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26 49. Plaintiffs Madende, Musa, and Somow are members of and
27 seek to represent the Female Class.
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1 50. The claims of these Plaintiffs are typical of the claims of the
2 Female Class.

3 51. The Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent the Female
4 Class.
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6 52. The members of the Female Class are so numerous that
7 joinder of all members is impracticable. Although the precise number of
8 female employees affected by the Defendants' discriminatory practices or
9 policies is currently unknown, it is far greater than can be feasibly addressed
10 through joinder. The precise number is ascertainable from the Defendants'
11 records.
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14 53. There are many questions of law and fact common to the
15 Female Class, and these questions predominate over any questions affecting
16 only individual members. Common questions of law or fact include whether
17 (1) the Defendants are joint employers; (2) Defendants' policies or practices
18 disparately deny Female Class members terms and conditions of employment
19 that are as favorable as those provided to non-Female Class members,
20 including subjecting Female Class Members to daily or near-daily insults,
21 ridicule, scorn, mockery, and other disparagements directed toward their
22 gender/sex; (3) the Defendants refused to allow Female Class members to
23 wear traditional clothing; (4) the Defendants allowed non-Female Class
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1 members to wear traditional clothing; (5) the Defendants required Female
2 Class members to perform stereotypically female cleaning and housekeeping
3 duties not within their job description; (6) the Defendants did not require non-
4 Female Class members to perform stereotypically female cleaning and
5 housekeeping duties not within their job description; (7) the Defendants
6 required Female Class members to perform these stereotypically female duties
7 without compensation; (8) the Defendants required non-Female Class
8 members to perform stereotypically female duties without compensation; (9)
9 Female Class members were provided promotional opportunities to the same
10 extent and in as favorable a manner as provided to similarly situated non-
11 Female Class members; (10) any disparate treatment was intentional; (11) any
12 disparate treatment was justified by business necessity; (12) the Defendants
13 engaged in a practice or pattern of disparate treatment adverse to Female
14 Class members; (13) the disparate treatment constituted a violation of Title
15 VII; (14) the Defendants retaliated against the Female Class members for
16 protesting adverse treatment; and (15) injunctive relief and other equitable
17 remedies (including back pay and front pay) and compensatory and punitive
18 damages are warranted for the Female Class.
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25 54. Class certification is appropriate pursuant to Federal Rule of
26 Civil Procedure 23(b)(2) because the Defendants have acted and/or refused to
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1 act on grounds generally applicable to the Female Class, thus making
2 declaratory and injunctive relief appropriate with respect to Plaintiffs
3 Madende, Musa, and Somow and the Female Class as a whole. The members of
4 the Female Class are entitled to injunctive relief to end the Defendants'
5 common, uniform, and unfair policies and practices that discriminate against
6 female East African role-players due to their gender/sex.
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9 55. Class certification is also appropriate pursuant to Federal
10 Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(3) because common questions of fact and law
11 predominate over any questions affecting only individual members of the
12 Female Class, and because a class action is superior to other available methods
13 for the fair and efficient adjudication of this litigation.
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16 56. Further, the Female Class has previously acted as a unified
17 group or class by filing dozens of EEOC charges together seeking relief for the
18 group or class as a whole, and by filing unfair labor practice charges with the
19 NLRB alleging violations of the NLRA seeking relief as a group or class as a
20 whole.
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23 57. Moreover, class certification under Federal Rule of Civil
24 Procedure 23(b)(3) is appropriate because managing individual suits for each
25 of the members of the Female Class would burden the Court given the
26 particular characteristics of the Female Class, which are the same as those
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1 noted in Paragraph 4 to this complaint; specifically, that few of the class
2 members speak English, even fewer read English, the class members have a
3 high level of illiteracy, and the class members speak approximately ten
4 different African languages and dialects for which professional, court-certified
5 interpreters are difficult if not impossible to locate anywhere in the United
6 States.
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9 58. The members of the Female East African Class have been
10 damaged and are entitled to recovery as a result of the Defendants' common,
11 uniform, and unfair discriminatory personnel policies and practices. The
12 Defendants have computerized payroll and personnel data that will make
13 calculation of damages for specific members of the East African Class
14 relatively simple.
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17 **C. Muslim Class**
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19 59. Plaintiffs Abikar, Awmagan, Deh, Madende, Mohamed,
20 Muganga, Musa, and Somow are members of and seek to represent the
21 Muslim Class.
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23 60. The claims of the Plaintiffs are typical of the claims of the
24 Muslim Class.
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26 61. The Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent the Muslim
27 Class.
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1 62. The members of the Muslim Class are so numerous that
2 joinder of all members is impracticable. Although the precise number of
3 Muslim employees affected by the Defendants’ discriminatory practices or
4 policies is currently unknown, it is far greater than can be feasibly addressed
5 through joinder. The precise number is ascertainable from the Defendants’
6 records.
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9 63. There are many questions of law and fact common to the
10 Muslim Class, and these questions predominate over any questions affecting
11 only individual members. Common questions of law or fact include whether
12 (1) the Defendants are joint employers; (2) Defendants failed to provide
13 religious accommodation to Muslim Class members as required by law; (3)
14 Defendants’ policies or practices disparately denied Muslim Class members
15 terms and conditions of employment that are as favorable as those provided
16 to non-Muslim Class members, including subjecting Muslim Class members
17 to daily or near-daily insults, ridicule, scorn, mockery, and other
18 disparagements directed toward their religion and religious practices; (4)
19 Muslim Class members were provided promotional opportunities to the same
20 extent and in as favorable a manner as provided to similarly situated non-
21 Muslim Class members; (10) any disparate treatment was intentional; (11) any
22 disparate treatment was justified by business necessity; (12) the Defendants
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1 engaged in a practice or pattern of disparate treatment adverse to Muslim
2 Class members; (13) the disparate treatment constituted a violation of Title
3 VII; (14) the Defendants retaliated against the Muslim Class members for
4 protesting adverse treatment; and (15) injunctive relief and other equitable
5 remedies (including back pay and front pay) and compensatory and punitive
6 damages are warranted for the Muslim Class.
7
8

9 64. Class certification is appropriate pursuant to Federal Rule of
10 Civil Procedure 23(b)(2) because the Defendants have acted and/or refused to
11 act on grounds generally applicable to the Muslim Class, thus making
12 declaratory and injunctive relief appropriate with respect to Plaintiffs Abikar,
13 Awmagan, Deh, Madende, Mohamed, Muganga, Musa, and Somow and the
14 Muslim Class as a whole. The members of the Muslim Class are entitled to
15 injunctive relief to end the Defendants' common, uniform, and unfair policies
16 and practices that discriminate against Muslim East African role-players due
17 to their religion and religious practices.
18
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21 65. Class certification is also appropriate pursuant to Federal
22 Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(3) because common questions of fact and law
23 predominate over any questions affecting only individual members of the
24 Muslim Class, and because a class action is superior to other available
25 methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this litigation.
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66. Further, the Muslim Class has previously acted as a unified group or class by filing dozens of EEOC charges together seeking relief for the group or class as a whole, and by filing unfair labor practice charges with the NLRB alleging violations of the NLRA seeking relief as a group or class as a whole.

67. Moreover, class certification under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(3) is appropriate because managing individual suits for each of the members of the Muslim Class would burden the Court given the particular characteristics of the Muslim Class, which are the same as those noted in Paragraph 4 to this complaint; specifically, that few of the class members speak English, even fewer read English, the class members have a high level of illiteracy, and the class members speak approximately ten different African languages and dialects for which professional, court-certified interpreters are difficult if not impossible to locate anywhere in the United States.

68. The members of the Muslim Class have been damaged and are entitled to recovery as a result of the Defendants' common, uniform, and unfair discriminatory personnel policies and practices. The Defendants have computerized payroll and personnel data that will make calculation of damages for specific members of the Muslim Class relatively simple.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Race Discrimination and Harassment

42 U.S.C. §2000e *et. seq.*

69. Plaintiffs incorporate all paragraphs above.

70. This claim is brought on behalf of Representative Plaintiffs Abikar, Awmagan, Deh, Madende, Mohamed, Muganga, Musa, and Somow and the East African Class.

71. The class period for the East African Class is January 01, 2010 through to the date of judgment.

72. Representative Plaintiffs Abikar, Awmagan, Deh, Madende, Mohamed, Muganga, Musa, and Somow timely filed charges of discrimination with the EEOC, received right-to-sue letters, and timely file this action.

73. The practices and policies alleged above constitute illegal race discrimination and harassment prohibited by Title VII.

74. Plaintiffs seeks the relief requested below.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Color Discrimination and Harassment

42 U.S.C. §2000e *et. seq.*

75. Plaintiffs incorporate all paragraphs above.

76. This claim is brought on behalf of Representative Plaintiffs

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Abikar, Awmagan, Deh, Madende, Mohamed, Muganga, Musa, and Somow and the East African Class.

77. The class period for the East African Class is January 01, 2010 through to the date of judgment.

78. Representative Plaintiffs Abikar, Awmagan, Deh, Madende, Mohamed, Muganga, Musa, and Somow timely filed charges of discrimination with the EEOC, received right-to-sue letters, and timely file this action.

79. The practices and policies alleged above constitute illegal color discrimination and harassment prohibited by Title VII.

80. Plaintiffs seeks the relief requested below.

THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

**National Origin Discrimination and Harassment
42 U.S.C. §2000e *et. seq.***

81. Plaintiffs incorporate all paragraphs above.

82. This claim is brought on behalf of Representative Plaintiffs Abikar, Awmagan, Deh, Madende, Mohamed, Muganga, Musa, and Somow and the East African Class.

83. The class period for the East African Class is January 01, 2010 through to the date of judgment.

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1 84. Representative Plaintiffs Abikar, Awmagan, Deh, Madende,
2 Mohamed, Muganga, Musa, and Somow timely filed charges of
3 discrimination with the EEOC, received right-to-sue letters, and timely file
4 this action.
5

6 85. The practices and policies alleged above constitute illegal
7 national origin discrimination and harassment prohibited by Title VII.
8

9 86. Plaintiffs seeks the relief requested below.

10 **FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

11 **42 U.S.C. §1981**

12 87. Plaintiffs incorporate all paragraphs above.

13 88. This claim is brought on behalf of Representative Plaintiffs
14 Abikar, Awmagan, Deh, Madende, Mohamed, Muganga, Musa, and Somow
15 and the East African Class.
16
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18 89. The class period for the East African Class is January 01, 2010
19 through to the date of judgment.
20

21 90. The practices and policies alleged above constitute illegal
22 race discrimination with respect to the making, performance, and termination
23 of contracts prohibited by 42 U.S.C. §1981.
24

25 91. Plaintiffs seeks the relief requested below.
26

27 / / /

28 / / /

FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Gender/Sex Discrimination and Harassment

42 U.S.C. §2000e *et. seq.*

92. Plaintiffs incorporate all paragraphs above.

93. This claim is brought on behalf of Representative Plaintiffs Madende, Musa, and Somow and the Female Class.

94. The class period for the Female Class is January 01, 2010 through to the date of judgment.

95. Madende, Musa, and Somow timely filed charges of discrimination with the EEOC, received right-to-sue letters, and timely file this action.

96. The practices and policies alleged above constitute illegal gender /sex discrimination and harassment prohibited by Title VII.

97. Plaintiffs seeks the relief requested below.

SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Failure to Provide Religious Accommodation;

Religious Discrimination and Harassment

42 U.S.C. §2000e *et. seq.*

98. Plaintiffs incorporate all paragraphs above.

99. This claim is brought on behalf of Representative Plaintiffs Abikar, Awmagan, Deh, Madende, Mohamed, Muganga, Musa, and Somow

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1 and the Muslim Class.

2 100. The class period for the Muslim Class is January 01, 2010
3 through to the date of judgment.

4 101. Abikar, Awmagan, Deh, Madende, Mohamed, Muganga,
5 Musa, and Somow timely filed charges of discrimination with the EEOC,
6 received right-to-sue letters, and timely file this action.
7

8 102. The practices and policies alleged above constitute illegal
9 failure to provide religious accommodation prohibited by Title VII.
10

11 103. The practices and policies alleged above constitute illegal
12 religious discrimination and harassment prohibited by Title VII.
13

14 104. Plaintiffs seeks the relief requested below.
15

16 **RELIEF ALLEGATIONS**

17 105. Representative Plaintiffs and the classes they represent have
18 no plain, adequate, or complete remedy at law to redress the wrongs alleged
19 in this complaint. The injunctive relieve sought in this action is the only
20 means of securing complete and adequate relief. Representative Plaintiffs and
21 the classes they represent are not suffering and will continue to suffer
22 irreparable injury from the Defendants' discriminatory acts and omissions.
23

24 106. The Defendants' actions have caused and continue to cause
25 the Representative Plaintiffs and the classes substantial losses in earnings,
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1 other compensation, desirable job assignments, promotions, and other
2 employment benefits, in an amount to be determined according to proof.

3 107. The Defendants’ actions have caused and continue to cause
4 the Representative Plaintiffs and the classes to suffer misery, humiliation,
5 embarrassment, loss of enjoyment of life, and emotional distress.
6

7 108. The Defendants’ acted or failed to act as alleged in this
8 complaint with malice or reckless indifference to the protected rights of the
9 Representative Plaintiffs and members of the classes, entitling the
10 Representative Plaintiffs and members of the classes to recover exemplary and
11 punitive damages in an amount to be determined according to proof.
12
13

14 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

15 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs and the classes pray for relief as follows:
16

17 109. Certification of the case as a class action on behalf of the
18 proposed classes;
19

20 110. Designation of Plaintiffs Abikar, Awmagan, Deh, Madende,
21 Mohamed, Muganga, Musa, and Somow as representatives of the East African
22 Class;
23

24 111. Designation of Plaintiffs Madende, Musa, and Somow as
25 representatives of the Female Class;
26

27 112. Designation of Plaintiffs Abikar, Awmagan, Deh, Madende,
28

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1 Mohamed, Muganga, Musa, and Somow as representatives of the Muslim Class;

2 113. Designation of counsel of record as class counsel for all
3 classes;

4
5 114. A declaratory judgment that the practices complained of in
6 this complaint are unlawful and violate Title VII and 29 U.S.C. §1981;

7
8 115. A preliminary and permanent injunctions against the
9 Defendants and their officers, agents, successors, employees, representatives,
10 and any and all persons acting in concert with them engaging in each of the
11 unlawful policies, practices, customs, and usages set forth in this complaint;

12
13 116. An order that the Defendants institute and carry out policies,
14 practices, and programs that provide equal employment opportunities for all
15 employees, specifically including East Africans, women, and Muslims;

16
17 117. An order that the Defendants eradicate the effects of their
18 past and present unlawful employment practices, including by any providing
19 promotions, wages, job opportunities, and other benefits of employment
20 denied due to the discrimination;

21
22 118. Back pay, including interest and benefits, for Plaintiffs and
23 class members;

24
25 119. Exemplary and punitive damages in an amount
26 commensurate with the Defendants' ability to pay and to deter future illegal
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conduct;

120. Costs incurred related to this action, including reasonable attorney's fees to the extent allowable by law;

121. Pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as provided by law;

122. Such other and further legal and equitable remedies as this Court deems necessary, just, and proper.

Dated: May 18, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

SPENCER JOHNSON McCAMMON LLP

By: /s/ Marilyn Mika Spencer
Marilynn Mika Spencer
Attorneys for Plaintiffs and Proposed Class

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiffs hereby demand a trial by jury as to all issues so triable.

Dated: May 18, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

SPENCER JOHNSON McCAMMON LLP

By: /s/ Marilyn Mika Spencer
Marilynn Mika Spencer
Attorneys for Plaintiffs and Proposed Class

CIVIL COVER SHEET

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

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

A N ABIKAR, Barkadle S M AWAGAN, A M DEH, M MADENDE, O M MOHAMED, O M MUGANGA, R MUSA, and F SOMOW, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff San Diego, CA (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

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

Marilynn Mika Spencer, Melissa Johnson, and Thomas J. McCammon Spencer Johnson McCammon LLP 2727 Camino del Rio S, Ste 140, San Diego, CA 92108

DEFENDANTS

Bristol Bay Native Corporation, Glacier Technical Solutions, LLC, and Workforce Resources, LLC

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Anchorage, Alaska (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

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

Attorneys (If Known)

Amy Todd-Gher Littler Mendelson P.C. San Diego, CA 92101

'17CV1036 GPC AGS

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

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

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

- Citizen of This State, Citizen of Another State, Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country, PTF DEF, Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State, Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State, Foreign Nation

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Table with 5 columns: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, TORTS, CIVIL RIGHTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES. Includes various legal categories like Insurance, Personal Injury, Real Estate, etc.

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

- 1 Original Proceeding, 2 Removed from State Court, 3 Remanded from Appellate Court, 4 Reinstated or Reopened, 5 Transferred from Another District (specify), 6 Multidistrict Litigation

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite 42 U.S.C. §2000e, et seq. and (2) 42 U.S.C. §1981)

Brief description of cause: Employment discrimination

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

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

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

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE 05/18/2017 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD /s/ Marilynn Mika Spencer

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # AMOUNT APPLYING IFP JUDGE MAG JUDGE

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: [East African Refugees Sue Gov't Contractors over Discrimination](#)
