C	ase 2:23-cv-01821 Document 1-2 Filed	03/10/23 Page 2 of 18 Page ID #:29		
1	Shalini Dogra, State Bar No. 309024	FILED Superior Court of California County of Los Angeles		
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4	Attorneys for Named Plaintiff ERICA STEINBERG and Proposed Class			
5	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA			
6	FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES			
7		<b>Case No: 23STCV00099</b>		
8	ERICA STEINBERG, on behalf of herself			
9	and all others similarly situated;	PLAINTIFF'S FIRST AMENDED CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT		
10	Plaintiff,			
11	<b>v</b> .	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED		
12	CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS, INC.,			
13	a, California and Connecticut Corporation; and DOES 1 through 50, Inclusive,			
14 15	Defendants.	· ·		
	Plaintiff ERICA STEINBERG, by and through her attorneys, brings this action on behalf			
16 17	of herself and all other similarly situated against Charter Communications, Inc. (hereinafter			
18	"Defendant Charter") and Does 1 through 50, inclusive. Plaintiff hereby alleges, on information			
19	and belief, except as those allegations which	pertain to the named Plaintiff, which allegations		
20	are based on personal knowledge, as follows:			
21	<u>NATURE O</u>	F THE ACTION		
22	1. This is a consumer class action that arises out of Defendant Charter's deceptive			
22	advertising and marketing of its "Spectrum Internet <sup>TM</sup> Total" internet services (the			
	"Challenged Service").			
24 25	2. Through its uniform label and advertising claims, Defendant Charter falsely			
23 26	advertises the Challenged Service as a service that provides consumers with internet. In			
20	reality, as a consequence of Defendant Charter's cancellation policy, the Challenged Service			
27	does not actually provide internet services. Consequently, the Challenged Service			
20	constitutes violations of California Law and various State consumer protection regulations.			
	PLAINTIFF'S FIRST AMENDED CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT			

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Additionally, the cancellation policies that Defendant Charter implements for the Challenged Service also contravene the legislative intent of California's autorenewal laws.

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3. At all relevant times, Defendant Charter advertised and marketed, the Challenged Service to consumers and profited from the Challenged Service throughout California and the United States based on the misrepresentations about the Challenged Service's purported benefits. Furthermore, Defendant Charter owns, controls and oversees the distribution of the Challenged Service

8 4. Based on the fact that Defendant Charter's advertising misled Plaintiff and all 9 others like her, Plaintiff brings this class action against Defendant Charter to seek 10 reimbursement of the monetary damages she and the Class Members incurred due to 11 Defendant Charter's false and deceptive representations about the benefits and value of the 12 Challenged Service.

13 5. Plaintiff seeks relief in this action individually and on behalf of all persons 14 statewide in California who used Defendant Charter's services for common law fraud, 15 intentional misrepresentation, and negligent misrepresentation. Additionally, Plaintiff seeks relief in this action individually and on behalf of all purchasers of the Challenged 16 17 Service in California for violation of the California Bus. & Prof. Code §§17200, et seq., as 18 well as California's Unfair Competition Law ("UCL") and the California Legal Remedies Act 19 ("CLRA"), California Civ. Code §§1750, et seq. Additionally, Plaintiff seeks redress for 20 Defendant's Charter's unjust enrichment.

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JURISDICTION AND VENUE

Plaintiff brings this action pursuant to Cal. Civil Proc. Code § 382 and Cal. Civ. 6. 23 Code § 1781.

7. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to the California 24 Constitution, Article XI, § 10 and California Code of Civil Procedure § 410.10, because 25 Defendant Charter transacted business and committed the acts alleged in California. The 26 27 Named Plaintiff and Class Members are citizens and residents of the State of California.

1 8. Venue is proper in this County pursuant to California Civil Code § 1780(c) 2 because Defendant Charter has numerous principal places of business in California, 3 including Los Angeles County. Additionally, Defendant Charter conducts significant 4 business here, engages in substantial transactions in this County, and because many of the 5 transactions and material acts complained of herein occurred in this County-including 6 specifically, the transactions between Plaintiff and Defendant Charter, and many of the 7 transactions between Defendant Charter and the putative class. Venue is proper in this 8 Court because Defendant Charter receives substantial compensation from sales in Los 9 Angeles County, and Defendant Charter made numerous misrepresentations which had a 10 substantial effect in Los Angeles County.

#### PARTIES

9. Plaintiff Erica Steinberg is a resident of California and Los Angeles County.

13 10. Defendant Charter is a California and Connecticut corporation with numerous 14 principal places of business within California and Los Angeles County, including television 15 stations in Los Angeles. Defendant Charter has corporate headquarters located at 400 16 Washington Blvd. Stamford, Connecticut 06902. Defendant Charter owns, controls, 17 oversees, manages, mass markets, and distributes the Challenged Service throughout 18 California and the United States.

19 Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that at all times 11. 20 relevant hereto each of these individuals and/or entities was the agent, servant, employee, 21 subsidiary, affiliate, partner, assignee, successor-in-interest, alter ego, or other 22 representative of each of the remaining Defendants and was acting in such capacity in doing 23 the things herein complained of and alleged. The true names and capacities of Defendants 24 sued herein under California Code of Civil Procedure § 474 and Does 1 through 50, 25 inclusive, are presently unknown to Plaintiff, who therefore sues these Defendants by fictitious names. Plaintiff will amend this Complaint to show their true names and capacities 27 when they have been ascertained. Each of the Doe Defendants is responsible in some manner for the conduct alleged herein.

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### FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CLAIMS

2 12. The Challenged Service, "Spectrum Internet<sup>TM</sup> Total," is a monthly service 3 consumers purchase from Defendant Charter to obtain internet services for their home. When 4 individuals who have bought the Challenged Service cancel it, they are still charged for one 5 whole month of service, even though Defendant Charter has stopped the service. For example, 6 if a consumer contacts Defendant Charter on June 4th to request cancellation of the Challenged 7 Service, Defendant Charter will immediately stop providing the consumer with internet 8 services. Yet, Defendant Charter will still force the consumer to pay for internet services for the 9 entire month of June, despite the fact that the consumer is not receiving any internet services 10 between June 4th and June 30th.

11 Hence, Defendant Charter is reaping substantial ill-gotten profits at the expense of 13. 12 consumers. Consequently, Defendant Charter has made, and continue to make, false, deceptive, 13 and misleading claims and promises to consumers about the characteristics quality and 14 advantages of the Challenged Service in a pervasive, statewide, and nationwide marketing 15 scheme that falsely touts the benefits of Defendant Charter's services and pricing. Defendant 16 Charter's internet services and Challenged Service do not live up to the advertising claims made 17 by Defendant Charter. Accordingly, Defendant Charter's actions violate sections 1770(a)(1), 18 (a)(2), (a)(3),(a)(5), (a)(7), (a)(9), and (a)(16) of the CLRA. As a direct and proximate result of 19 Defendant Charter's violations of the CLRA, Plaintiff and members of the Class purchased 20 Defendant Charter's services that they otherwise would not have purchased and are therefore 21 entitled to restitution of monies in an amount to be determined at trial.

14. Further exacerbating its unlawful conduct, Defendant Charter purposely hides its
illegitimate cancellation policy from consumers. Notably, even if Defendant Charter disclosed
its cancellation terms, its practices would still violate the CLRA, as well as California Civil
Code §1723, which codifies California's unlawful refund policies. Additionally, Defendant
Charter's cancellation policies for the Challenged Service also reflect legal injuries because they
contravene the legislative intent of California Business and Profession Code §17601, which
covers California's autorenewal laws.

15. Plaintiff initially bought the Challenged Service five to seven years ago, and paid about \$74.99 per month for the Challenged Service. On approximately June 2, 2022, she contacted Defendant Charter to cancel her internet service because she was moving. In response, Defendant Charter required Plaintiff to pay for internet services for the month of June, even though it knew the internet services had stopped and were no longer being provided to Plaintiff's old home. To ensure that Plaintiff paid an invoice for the month of June, Defendant Charter threatened Plaintiff that it would send her to collection and endanger her credit. Hence, Defendant Charter essentially extorts consumers, forces them to pay unlawful termination fees and knowingly ruins consumers' credit ratings for services that were not even used.

10 It does not matter if each member of the class cancelled at a different point within 16. a month. The critical fact is that all Class Members were exposed to and deceived by Defendant 12 Charter's false advertising scheme for the Challenged Service, and in reliance on Defendant 13 Charter's misrepresentations, the Class member were tricked into paying for an internet service 14 they did not receive. Without doubt, Defendant Charter can immediately cancel internet services. Accordingly, there is no reason Defendant Charter needs to charge consumers for an entire month of unused services, especially when many internet companies, as well as other industries that provide such monthly home services, are able to prorate service fees based on date of cancellation.

19 Plaintiff reasonably relied on Defendant Charter's advertising of the Challenged 17. 20 Service. Plaintiff relied on Defendant Charter's advertising and advertising scheme for the 21 Challenged Service, without knowledge of the fact that Defendant Charter was lying about the Challenged Service's identity, cancellation and purported benefits. Defendant Charter knows 22 23 or has reason to know that consumers like Plaintiff would find the challenged attribute important 24 in their decision to retain the Challenged Service. Plaintiff would not have relied upon or 25 retained the Challenged Service from Defendant Charter if she had known that the advertising 26 as described herein was false, misleading and deceptive. All members of the putative class were 27 exposed to Defendant Charter's deceptive marketing of the Challenged Service. Defendant

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Charter's false and misleading statements and omissions tricked Plaintiff and the putative Class and subjected them all the numerous legal and monetary injuries.

18. The malicious actions taken by Defendant Charter caused significant harm to consumers. Plaintiff and similarly situated class members paid monies for internet services they did not receive because they were reasonably misled by Defendant Charter's misrepresentations about the Challenged Service. Had Plaintiff and other class members known that the Challenged Service actually failed to provide its advertised benefits, they would not have bought it or would have paid less for the Challenged Service. As a result, Plaintiff and similar situated class members have been deceived and suffered economic injury. Plaintiff was economically harmed by Defendant Charter's deceptive marketing and misleading advertising about the Challenged Service's quality and value.

### **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

19. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of herself individually and all others similarly situated, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 382, Cal. Civ. Code § 1781 and the Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203. The proposed class consists of all consumers who obtained the Challenged Service in the California for personal use and not for resale during the time period of June 21, 2018, through the present. Excluded from the class are Defendant Charter, its affiliates, employees, officers and directors, any individual who received remuneration from Defendant Charter in connection with that individual's use or endorsement of the Challenged Service, the Judge(s) assigned to this case, and the attorneys of record in this case. Plaintiff reserves the right to amend the Class definition if discovery and further investigation reveal that the Class should be expanded or otherwise modified.

20. Class certification is proper because Defendant Charter acted (or refused to act) on grounds generally applicable to the Injunctive Relief Class thereby making appropriate injunctive relief for the entire Injunctive Relief Class. Plaintiff reserves the right to modify the definition of the Injunctive Relief Class after further discovery, and further reserve the right to only seek class certification for injunctive relief and not to seek class certification for monetary damages.

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21. This action is properly brought as a class action for the following reasons:

(a) The members in the proposed class, which contains no less than one thousand members and based on good information and belief is comprised of several thousands of individuals, are so numerous that individual joinder of all members is impracticable and disposition of the class members' claims in a single class action will provide substantial benefits to the parties and Court, and is in the best interests of the parties and judicial economy.;

- (b) The disposition of Plaintiff's and proposed class members' claims in a class action will provide substantial benefits to the parties and the Court;
- (c) Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the members of the proposed class. Plaintiff and all class members have been injured by the same wrongful practices of Defendant Charter. Plaintiff's claims arise from the same practices and conduct that gives rise to the claims of all class members and are based on the same legal theories;
  (d) Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the proposed class in that they have no interests antagonistic to those of the other proposed class members, and Plaintiff has retained attorneys experienced in consumer class actions and complex litigation as counsel;
- (e) The proposed class is an ascertainable and there is a well-defined community of interest in the questions of law or fact alleged herein since the rights of each proposed class member were infringed or violated in the same fashion;

(f) Questions of law and fact common to the class predominate over any questions affecting only individual class members. There are questions of law and fact common to the proposed class which predominate over any questions that may affect particular class members. Such questions of law and fact common to Plaintiff and the class include, without limitation:

i. Whether Class Members suffered an ascertainable loss as a result of Defendant Charter's misrepresentations;

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1	ii. Whether, as a result of Defendant Charter's misconduct alleged	
2	herein, Plaintiff and the Class Members are entitled to restitution,	
3	injunctive relief, and or/monetary relief, and if so, the amount and	
4	nature of such relief;	
5	iii. Whether Defendant Charter made any statement it knew or should	
6	have known was false or misleading;	
7	iv. Whether the utility of Defendant Charter's practices, if any,	
8	outweighed the gravity of the harm to its victims;	
9	v. Whether Defendant Charter's conduct violated public policy,	
10	included as declared by specific constitutional, statutory or regulatory	
11	provisions;	
12	vi. Whether Defendant Charter's conduct violated the UCL;	
13	vii. Whether Defendant Charter's conduct violated the CLRA;	
14	(g) Plaintiff knows of no difficulty that will be encountered in the management of this	
15	litigation which would preclude its maintenance as a class action. A class action is	
16	superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this	
17	controversy because individual litigation of the claims, respectively, is	
18	impracticable. Requiring each individual class member to file an individual lawsuit	
19	would unreasonably consume the amounts that may be recovered. Even if every	
20	Class Member could afford individual litigation, the adjudication of tens of	
21	thousands of claims would be unduly burdensome to the courts. Individualized	
22	litigation would also present the potential for varying, inconsistent, or contradictory	
23	judgments and would magnify the delay and expense to all parties and to the court	
24	system resulting from multiple trials of the same factual issues. By contrast the	
25	conduct of this action as a class action, with respect to some or all of the issues	
26	presented herein, presents no management difficulties, conserves the resources of	
27	the parties and of the court system, and protects the rights of the Class Members.	
28	Plaintiff anticipates no difficulty in the management of this action as a class action.	
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The prosecution of separate actions by individual Class Members may create a risk of adjudications with respect to them that would, as a practical matter, be dispositive of the interests of the other Class Members not parties to such adjudications or that would substantially impair or impede the ability of such non-party Class members to protect their interests.

(h) Defendant Charter has or has access to, address information for the Class Members, which may be used for the purpose of providing notice of the pendency of this class action. Defendant Charter is an especially bolstered position to access Class Members' contact information because all affected individuals had to and must provide their names, sensitive billing details and contact information to Defendant Charter before they can obtain the Challenged Service.

(i) Plaintiff seeks damages and equitable relief on behalf of the proposed class on grounds generally applicable to the entire proposed class.

#### FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

# **Common Law Fraud**

22. Plaintiff and the Class re-allege and incorporate by reference the allegations contained in the paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein. Plaintiff brings this class 18 individually and on behalf of the members of her proposed Class.

19 23. As discussed above, Defendant Charter provided Plaintiff and the Class 20 Members with false or misleading material information and failed to disclose material facts about the Challenged Service, including but not limited to the fact that the Challenged 21 22 Service failed to provide its advertised benefits. These misrepresentations and omissions 23 were made with knowledge of their falsehood. The misrepresentation and omissions made 24 by Defendant Charter, upon which Plaintiff and the Class Members reasonably and 25 justifiably relied, were intended to induce and actually induced Plaintiff and Class Members 26 to pay for the Challenged Service.

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24. The fraudulent actions of Defendant Charter caused damage to Plaintiff and Class Members, who are entitled to damages and other legal and equitable relief as a result.

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#### SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

#### **Intentional Misrepresentation**

25. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in the paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein.

26. Defendant Charter represented to Plaintiff and other class members that important facts were true. More specifically, Defendant Charter represented to Plaintiff and the other class members through its advertising for the Challenged Service, that the Challenged Service provided benefits which it actually did not. Defendant Charter's representations were false. Defendant Charter knew that the misrepresentations were false when it made them, or Defendant Charter made the misrepresentations recklessly and without regard for their truth. Defendant Charter intended that Plaintiff and other class members rely on the representations.

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27. Plaintiff and the other class members reasonably relied on Defendant Charter's representations.

15 28. Plaintiff and the other class members were financially harmed and suffered 16 other damages. Defendant Charter's misrepresentations and/or nondisclosures were the 17 immediate cause of Plaintiff and the other class members purchasing the Challenged 18 Service. Plaintiff's and the other class members' reliance on Defendant Charter's 19 representations was the immediate cause of the financial loss and legal injuries. In absence 20 of the Defendant Charter's misrepresentations and/or nondisclosures, as described above, 21 Plaintiff the other class members, in all reasonable probability, paid monies and provided 22 confidential information to Defendant Charter that otherwise would not have provided.

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# THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

#### **Negligent Misrepresentation**

25 29. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in
26 the paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and
27 on behalf of the proposed Class against Defendant Charter.

30. As discussed above, Defendant Charter represented the Challenged Service provided a certain value and quantified benefit. Yet, Defendant Charter failed to disclose that the Challenged Service did not in fact possess its advertised value or identity. Defendant Charter had a duty to disclose this information.

31. At the time Defendant Charter made these misrepresentations, Defendant Charter knew or should have known that these misrepresentations were false or made them without knowledge of their truth or veracity. At an absolute minimum, Defendant Charter negligently misrepresented or negligently omitted material facts about the Challenged Service.

32. The negligent misrepresentations and omissions made by Defendant Charter,
upon which Plaintiff and Class Members reasonably and justifiably relied, were intended to
induce and actually induced Plaintiff and Class Members to pay monies to Defendant
Charter that they otherwise would not have paid, as well as retain services that they
otherwise would not have.

33. The negligent actions of Defendant Charter caused damage to Plaintiff and Class Members, who are entitled to damages and other legal and equitable relief as a result.

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# <u>FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION</u> Violation of California Business & Professions Code §§17500, *et. seq*

34. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in the paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the proposed Class against Defendants.

35. Defendants engaged in unfair and deceptive acts and practices, in violation of California Business and Professional Code §§17500 *et seq.*, by marketing and/or selling the Challenged Service without disclosure of the material fact that the Challenged Service did not actually provide its advertised benefits.. These acts and practices, as described above, have deceived Plaintiff and other class members, causing them to lose money as herein alleged and have deceived and are likely to deceive the consuming public, in violation of

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- those sections. Accordingly, Defendants' business acts and practices, as alleged herein, have caused injury to Plaintiff and the other class members.
- 36. Defendants had a duty to disclose that the Challenged Service failed to actually provide its advertised benefits. Defendants had a duty to disclose this information because this information was material facts of which Defendants had exclusive knowledge; Defendants actively concealed these material facts; and Defendants made partial representations about the Challenged Service but suppressed some material facts.

8 37. Defendants' misrepresentations and/or nondisclosure of the fact that the
9 Challenged Service lacked the advertised benefits was the immediate cause of Plaintiff and
10 the other class members purchasing the Challenged Service from Defendants.

38. In the absence of Defendants' misrepresentations and/or nondisclosure of facts,
 as described above, Plaintiff and other class members would not have purchased the
 Challenged Service or would have paid substantially less for the Challenged Service.

14 39. Plaintiff and other class members are entitled to relief, including full restitution
15 and/or disgorgement of all revenues, earnings, profits, compensation, and benefits which
16 may have been obtained by Defendants as a result of such business acts or practices, and
17 enjoying Defendants to cease and desist from engaging in the practices described herein.

# FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

# Violation of Business & Professions Code § 17200, et seq.

20 40. Plaintiff and the Class re-allege and incorporate by reference the allegations
21 contained in the paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein.

41. California Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.*, also known as the
California Unfair Competition Law ("UCL"), prohibits acts of "unfair competition,"
including any unlawful, unfair, fraudulent, or deceptive business act or practice as well as
"unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading advertising."

26 42. Defendant Charter's failure to disclose the truth about the Challenged Service's
27 identity, value and benefits is likely to deceive a reasonable consumer and therefore
28 constitutes a fraudulent or deceptive business practice.

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43. Defendant Charter sale of the Challenged Service without disclosing the truth about the Challenged Service's true value and benefits offends established public policy and constitutes an unfair business practice. This injury is not outweighed by any countervailing 4 benefits to consumers or competition.

5 44. Defendant Charter's conduct is unlawful in that it violated numerous statutes, 6 including Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1770(a); Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1709-1710; and Cal. Civ. Code §§ 7 1572-1573, as well as constituted common law fraud.

8 Defendant Charter further violated Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200's 45. 9 prohibition against engaging in "unlawful" business acts or practices by, *inter alia*, failing to 10 comply with California Civil Code § 1750, et. seq.

11 Plaintiff and Class members have suffered injury in fact and have lost money 46. 12 and/or property as a result of Defendant Charter's fraudulent, unfair and/or unlawful business practices, in that as a result of Defendant Charter's violations of the UCL, Plaintiff 13 and the class provided paid for internet services that they would have bought or paid more 14 15 than they would have if Defendant Charter had not violated the UCL.

16 Plaintiff and the Class reserve the right to allege other violations of law which 47. 17 constitute other unlawful business acts and practices. Such conduct is ongoing and continues 18 to this date.

19 **48**. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code §§ 17203 and 17535, Plaintiff and 20 the Class seek an order of this Court enjoining Defendant Charter from continuing to 21 engage, use, or employ their practice of advertising and marketing the Challenged Service in an untruthful manner. Likewise, Plaintiff and the Class seek an order requiring Defendant 22 23 Charter to disclose such misrepresentations, and additionally request an order awarding Plaintiff restitution of the money wrongfully acquired by Defendant Charter by means of 24 responsibility attached to Defendant Charter's failure to disclose the existence and 25 significance of said misrepresentations in an amount to be determined at trial. Plaintiff and 26 27 the Class Members also seek full restitution of all monies paid to Defendant Charter as a 28 result of their deceptive practices, interest at the highest rate allowable by law and the

1 payment of Plaintiff's attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to, inter alia, California Civil Code 2 Procedure §1021.5. Plaintiff reserves the right to seek additional preliminary or permanent 3 injunctive relief. 4 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION** 5 Violation of Cal. Civ. Code §§1750, et seq. 6 49. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in 7 the paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein. 8 This cause of action is brought pursuant to the Consumers Legal Remedies Act, 50. 9 California Civil Code §§ 1750, et seq. ("CLRA"). The CLRA prohibits any unfair, deceptive, 10 and/or unlawful practices, as well as unconscionable commercial practices in connection 11 with the sales of any goods or services to consumers. See Cal. Civ. Code §1770. 12 The CLRA "shall be liberally construed and applied to promote its underlying 51. 13 purposes, which are to protect consumers against unfair and deceptive business practices 14 and to provide efficient economical procedures to secure such protection." Cal. Civ. Code § 15 1760. 16 52. Defendant Charter is a "person" under the CLRA. Cal. Civ. Code §1761 (c). 17 Plaintiff and the putative Class Members are "consumers" under the CLRA. 53. 18 Cal. Civ. Code §1761 (d). 19 The Challenged Service constitutes a "service" under the CLRA. Cal. Civ. Code 54. 20 §1761 (a). 21 55. Plaintiff and the putative Class Members' payment and purchases of the 22 Challenged Service within the Class Period constitute "transactions" under the CLRA. Cal. Civ. Code §1761 (e). 23 24 Defendant Charter's actions and conduct described herein reflect transactions 56. 25 that have resulted in the sale and/or intended sale of services to consumers. 26 57. Defendant Charter's failure to market the Challenged Service in accordance 27 with California advertising and marketing requirements constitute an unfair, deceptive, 28 unlawful and unconscionable commercial practice. 14

58. Defendant Charter's actions have violated at least seven provisions of the CLRA, including §§ 1770(a)(1) through (a)(3),1770(a)(5), 1770(a)(7), 1770(a)(9) and 1770(a)(16).

59. As a result of Defendant Charter's violations, Plaintiff and the Class suffered, and continue to suffer, ascertainable losses they would not have incurred had the Challenged Service been marketed correctly, or in the form of the reduced value of the Challenged Service relative to the Challenged Service as advertised and the retail price they paid.

9 60. In accordance with Cal. Civ. Code § 1780(d), Plaintiff has attached a "venue affidavit" to this Complaint, showing that this action has been commenced in the proper
11 county.

12 61. Pursuant to § 1782 of the CLRA on approximately June 21, 2022, Plaintiff
13 notified Defendant Charter in writing of the particular violations of § 1770 of the CLRA,
14 and demanded Defendant Charter rectify the actions described above by providing
15 monetary relief, agreeing to be bound by its legal obligations, and to give notice to all
16 affected consumers of its intent to do so.

17 62. Defendant Charter has failed to rectify or agree to rectify at least some of the
18 violations associated with actions detailed above and give notice to all affected consumers
19 within 30 days of receipt of the Cal. Civ. Code § 1782 notice. Thus, Plaintiff seeks actual
20 damages and punitive damages for violation of the Act.

21 63. In addition, pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code §1780(a)(2), Plaintiff is entitled to, and
22 therefore seeks, a Court order enjoining the above-described wrongful acts and practices
23 that violate Cal. Civ. Code §1770.

64. Plaintiff and Class Members are also entitled to recover attorneys' fees, costs,
expenses, disbursements, and punitive damages pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1780 and 1781.
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#### SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

#### Unjust Enrichment

65. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in the paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein.

66. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the proposed Class against Defendants.

Plaintiff and Class Members conferred benefit on Defendants by purchasing 67. 8 the Challenged Service.

9 Defendants have been unjustly enriched in retaining the revenues derived from **68**. 10 Plaintiff's and Class Members' purchases of the Challenged Service. Retention of those 11 moneys under these circumstances is unjust and inequitable because the Challenged Service 12 is not in fact being provided and resulted in purchasers being denied the full benefit of their 13 purchase because they did not purchase internet service despite paying for it.

14 **69**. Because Defendants' retention of the non-gratuitous benefits conferred on 15 them by Plaintiff and Class Members is unjust and inequitable, Defendants must pay restitution to Plaintiff and Class Members for their unjust enrichment, as ordered by the 16 17 Court.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and on behalf of the Class defined herein, pray for judgment and relief on all Causes of Action as follows:

This action be certified and maintained as a class action and certify the Α. proposed class as defined, appointing Plaintiff as representative of the Class, and appointing the attorneys and law firms representing Plaintiff as counsel for the Class;

For an order declaring the Defendant Charter's conduct violates the statutes Β. referenced herein;

That the Court awards compensatory, statutory and/or punitive damages as to C. all Causes of Action where such relief is permitted;

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1	D.	That the Court awards Plaintiff and proposed class members the costs of this	
2		action, including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses, including attorneys'	
3		fees awarded as costs pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code section 1717.5;	
4	E.	For an order enjoining Defendant Charter from continuing to engage in the	
5		unlawful conduct and practices described herein;	
6	F.	That the Court awards equitable monetary relief, including restitution and	
7		disgorgement of all ill-gotten gains, and the imposition of a constructive trust	
8		upon, or otherwise restricting the proceeds of Defendant Charter's ill-gotten	
9		gains, to ensure that Plaintiff and proposed class members have an effective	
10		remedy;	
11	G.	That the Court awards pre-judgment and post-judgment interest at the legal	
12		rate;	
13	Н.	Imposition of a constructive trust to prevent unjust enrichment and to compel	
14		the restoration of property (money) to Plaintiff and the Class which Defendant	
15		Charter acquired through fraud.	
16	I.	That the Court orders appropriate declaratory relief; and	
17	J.	That the Court grants such other and further as may be just and proper.	
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19	Dated:	January 5, 2023 DOGRA LAW GROUP PC	
20		By:	
21		Attorneys for Plaintiff	
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ļ	I	PLAINTIFF'S FIRST AMENDED CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT	

# **ClassAction.org**

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Spectrum Customers Unfairly Charged for</u> <u>Full Month After Canceling Internet Services, Class Action Says</u>