1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7 8	UNITED STATES DIST FOR THE WESTERN DISTRIC AT SEATT	CT OF WASHINGTON		
9	MANASA THIMMEGOWDA, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,			
10	Plaintiff,	NO.		
11	V.	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT		
12 13 14	BIG FISH GAMES, INC., a Washington corporation; ARISTOCRAT TECHNOLOGIES INC., a Nevada corporation; ARISTOCRAT LEISURE LIMITED, an Australian corporation; and CHURCHILL DOWNS INCORPORATED, a Kentucky corporation,	JURY DEMAND		
15	Defendants.			
16	Plaintiff Manasa Thimmegowda brings this c	ase, individually and on behalf of all		
17	others similarly situated, against Defendants, Big Fish Games, Inc. ("Big Fish"), Aristocrat			
18	Technologies Inc. and Aristocrat Leisure Limited ("Aristocrat"), and Churchill Downs			
19	Incorporated ("Churchill Downs") (collectively, "Defendants") to enjoin and obtain redress for			
20	Defendants' operation of illegal online casino games. Plaintiff alleges as follows:			
21	I. NATURE OF THE ACTION			
22	1. Defendants are the current owners and operators of "Big Fish Casino" as well as			
23	other similar internet casino games that compete in the so-called "social casino" market.			
	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT - 1	TOUSLEY BRAIN STEPHENS PLLC 1700 Seventh Avenue. Suite 2200		

- 2. The Ninth Circuit recently held that Big Fish Casino "constitutes illegal gambling under Washington law." *Kater v. Churchill Downs Inc.*, 886 F.3d 784, 785 (9th Cir. 2018).
- 3. Insofar as the *Kater* case seeks relief from Big Fish Casino's *prior* owner and operator, on behalf of individuals who began playing Big Fish Casino before a certain date, this case—which additionally seeks redress from the *current* ownership and operation, and does so on behalf of individuals that began playing Big Fish Casino and other similar games after that certain date—is essentially a companion case that fills in any gaps left by *Kater*.
- 4. Through "Big Fish Casino" and other similar internet casinos, Defendants offer a multitude of electronic slot machine and other internet casino games to consumers.

 Consumers play Big Fish Casino and Defendants' other casino games on Apple iOS devices, Android Devices, and Facebook.
- 5. Defendants provide a bundle of free "chips" to first-time visitors of their online casinos that can be used to wager on their games. After consumers inevitably lose their initial allotment of chips, Defendants attempt to sell them additional chips. Without additional chips, consumers cannot play Defendants' gambling games.
- 6. Freshly topped off with additional chips, consumers wager to win more chips. The chips won by consumers playing Defendants' games of chance are identical to the chips that it sells. Thus, by wagering chips that consumers purchase, consumers have the chance to win additional chips that they would otherwise have to purchase.
- 7. By operating Big Fish Casino and other similar online gambling games,
 Defendants have violated Washington law and illegally profited from tens of thousands of
 consumers. Accordingly, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and a Class of similarly situated

1	individuals, brings this lawsuit to recover her losses and to obtain other appropriate relief.			
2	II. PARTIES			
3	8. Plaintiff Manasa Thimmegowda is a natural person who is domiciled in the state			
4	of Florida.			
5	9. Defendant Big Fish Games, Inc., is a corporation organized and existing under			
6	the laws of Washington, with its principal place of business at 906 Alaskan Way, Suite 700,			
7	Seattle Washington 98104. Big Fish Games, Inc. conducts business throughout this District,			
8	Washington State, and the United States.			
9	10. Defendant Aristocrat Technologies, Inc., is a corporation organized and existing			
10	under the laws of Nevada, with its principal place of business at 7230 Amigo Street Las Vegas,			
11	NV 89119 United States. Aristocrat Technologies, Inc. conducts business throughout this			
12	District, Washington State, and the United States.			
13	11. Defendant Aristocrat Leisure Limited is a corporation organized and existing			
14	under the laws of Australia, with its principal place of business at Building A, Pinnacle Office			
15	Park, 85 Epping Road, North Ryde NSW 3113, Australia. Aristocrat conducts business			
16	throughout this District, Washington State, and the United States.			
17	12. Defendant Churchill Downs Incorporated is a corporation incorporated under			
18	the laws of the state of Kentucky with a principal place of business at 600 N. Hurstbourne			
19	Parkway Suite 400 Louisville, KY 40222. Churchill Downs has conducted business throughout			
20	this District, Washington State, and the United States.			
21	III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE			
22	13. Federal subject-matter jurisdiction exists under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2) because			
23	(a) at least one member of the Class is a citizen of a state different from Defendants, (b) the			

1				
1	18.	With games of chance that employ the in-game purchase strategy, developers		
2	have begun exploiting the same psychological triggers as casino operators. As one respected			
3	videogame publication put it:			
4	"If you hand someone a closed box full of promised goodies, many will happily pay you for the crowbar to crack it open. The tremendous power of small			
5	rando colle	om packs of goodies has long been known to the creators of physical ctible card games and companies that made football stickers a decade ago.		
6	Wha	tome the allure of a closed box full of goodies is too powerful to resist. tever the worth of the randomised [sic] prizes inside, the offer of a free		
7 8	perso	and the option to buy a key will make a small fortune out of these onalities. For those that like to gamble, these crates often offer a small ce of an ultra-rare item." ³		
9	19.	Another stated:		
0	addio	mes may influence 'feelings of pleasure and reward,' but this is an etion to the games themselves; micro-transactions play to a different kind of		
1		etion that has existed long before video games existed, more specifically, an etion similar to that which you could develop in casinos and betting shops."4		
2	20.	The comparison to casinos doesn't end there. Just as with casino operators,		
.3	mobile game	e developers rely on a small portion of their players to provide the majority of their		
4	profits. Thes	se "whales," as they're known in casino parlance, account for just "0.15% of		
.5	players" but	provide "over 50% of mobile game revenue." ⁵		
.6	21.	Game Informer, another respected videogame magazine, reported on the rise		
.7	(and danger)	of micro-transactions in mobile games and concluded:		
18	large	any new mobile and social titles target small, susceptible populations for percentages of their revenue. If ninety-five people all play a [free-to-play]		
20	obtai	e without spending money, but five people each pour \$100 or more in to n virtual currency, the designer can break even. These five individuals are the industry calls whales, and we tend not to be too concerned with how		
22 22 23	http://www.pcg The B http://thebadge	amer, <i>Microtransactions:</i> the good, the bad and the ugly, gamer.com/microtransactions-the-good-the-bad-and-the-ugly/ (last visited Feb. 11, 2019). Badger, <i>Are micro-transactions ruining video games?</i> <i>The Badger</i> , pronline.com/2014/11/micro-transactions-ruining-video-games/ (last visited Feb. 11, 2019). mphasis added).		

1	they're being used in the equation. While the scale and potential financial ruin is of a different magnitude, a similar profitability model governs casino gambling."		
2			
3	22. Academics have also studied the socioeconomic effect games that rely on in-app		
4	purchases have on consumers. In one study, the authors compiled several sources analyzing so-		
5	called free-to-play games of chance (called "casino" games below) and stated that:		
6	"[Researchers] found that [free-to-play] casino gamers share many similar sociodemographic characteristics (e.g., employment, education, income) with		
7	online gamblers. Given these similarities, it is perhaps not surprising that a strong predictor of online gambling is engagement in [free-to-play] casino games.		
8	Putting a dark line under these findings, over half (58.3%) of disordered gamblers who were seeking treatment stated that social casino games were their first experiences with gambling."		
10			
11	"According to [another study], the purchase of virtual credits or virtual items		
12	makes the activity of [free-to-play] casino gaming more similar to gambling. Thus, micro-transactions may be a crucial predictor in the migration to online		
13	gambling, as these players have now crossed a line by paying to engage in these activities. Although, [sic] only 1–5% of [free-to-play] casino gamers make		
14	micro-transactions, those who purchase virtual credits spend an average of \$78. Despite the limited numbers of social casino gamers purchasing virtual credits, revenues from micro-transactions account for 60 % of all [free-to-play] casino		
15	gaming revenue. Thus, a significant amount of revenue is based on players' desire to purchase virtual credits above and beyond what is provided to the		
16	player in seed credits." ⁷		
17	23. The same authors looked at the link between playing free-to-play games of		
18	chance and gambling in casinos. They stated that "prior research indicated that winning large		
19	sums of virtual credits on social casino gaming sites was a key reason for [consumers']		
20	6 Carea Informace How Microstropa And Park Carring Fractures where Carea Informace com-		
21	Game Informer, How Microtransactions Are Bad For Gaming - Features - www.GameInformer.com, http://www.gameinformer.com/b/features/archive/2012/09/12/how-microtransactions-are-bad-forgaming.aspx?CommentPosted=true&PageIndex=3 (last visited February 11, 2019)		
22	Hyoun S. Kim, Michael J. A. Wohl, et al., Do Social Casino Gamers Migrate to Online Gambling? An Assessment of Migration Rate and Potential Predictors, Journal of gambling studies / co-sponsored by the		
23	National Council on Problem Gambling and Institute for the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming (Nov. 14, 2014), <i>available at</i> http://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2Fs10899-014-9511-0.pdf (citations omitted).		

migration to online gambling," yet the largest predictor that a consumer will transition to online gambling was "micro-transaction engagement." In fact, "the odds of migration to online gambling were approximately eight times greater among people who made micro-transactions on [free-to-play] casino games compared to [free-to-play] casino gamers who did not make micro-transactions."8

24. The similarity between micro-transaction based games of chance and games of chance found in casinos has caused governments across the world to intervene to limit their availability. Unfortunately, such games have eluded regulation in the United States. As a result, and as described below, Defendants' online gambling games have thrived and thousands of consumers have spent millions of dollars unwittingly playing Defendants' unlawful games of chance.

В. A Brief Introduction to Big Fish and Aristocrat

- 25. Big Fish is a developer of slot machine-based "Social Casino" games. Its marquee product is Big Fish Casino. On information and belief, Big Fish Casino drives annual revenues in excess of \$100 million, and Big Fish's overall "social casino" portfolio drives annual revenues in excess of \$200 million.
- 26. Big Fish and its founders have reaped substantial profits through a series of mergers and acquisitions by some of the largest gambling companies in the world.
 - 27. For example, in 2014, Churchill Downs, Inc.—of Kentucky Derby fame—

Defendants', by "ban[ning] all financial transactions directed" to the games. PokerNews.com, Korea Shuts Down

23

All Facebook Games In Attempt To Regulate Social Gambling | PokerNews, https://www.pokernews.com/news/2014/09/korea-shuts-down-facebook-games-19204.htm (last visited Feb. 11, 2019). Similarly, "the Maltese Lotteries and Gambling Authority (LGA) invited the national Parliament to regulate all digital games with prizes by the end of 2014." Id.

In late August 2014, South Korea began regulating "social gambling" games, including games similar to

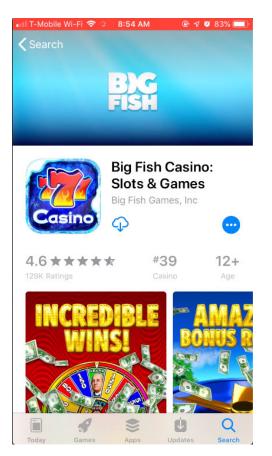
CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT - 7

TOUSLEY BRAIN STEPHENS PLLC 1700 Seventh Avenue, Suite 2200 Seattle, Washington 98101 TEL. 206.682.5600 • FAX 206.682.2992

Id. (emphasis added).

_	purchased Big Fish for approximately \$885 million. 10				
1					
2	28. Defendant Aristocrat Leisure is a multinational corporation that primarily				
3	manufacture slot machines. It is headquartered in Australia but has employees in 103 different				
4	countries.				
5	29. In 2018, Aristocrat purchased Big Fish from Churchill Downs for approximate				
6	\$990 million. ¹¹				
7	C. Consumers Do Not Consent To Any Terms Of Service Before Playing Big Fish				
8	30. Consumers can play Big Fish Casino and its various slot machines and casino				
9	games—as well as Defendants' other social casino games—by downloading Big Fish's app or				
10	an Apple iOS device, on an Android device, or by playing the online casino games on				
11	Facebook.				
	1. Mobile App Users				
12	31. As is—for whatever reason—standard practice in the "Social Casino" industry				
13	consumers who download the Big Fish Casino app and then purchase chips on their mobile				
14	devices are neither required to create an account with Big Fish nor asked to agree to or conser				
15	to any terms of service before playing Big Fish games.				
16	32. For example, Apple iOS users navigate to the App Store to download the Big				
17	Fish Casino mobile app. They are never presented with terms of any kind before downloading				
18	the app. See Figure 1.				
19					
20					
21	Big Fish Games to be acquired for \$885 million by racetrack operator Churchill Downs – GeekWire, http://www.geekwire.com/2014/churchill-downs-acquires-big-fish/ (last visited Feb. 11, 2019).				
22	11 Churchill Downs Incorporated Announces Closing of the Sale of Big Fish Games, Inc. to Aristocrat				
23	Technologies, Inc. for US\$990 million, Churchill Downs, Inc., https://globenewswire.com/news-release/2018/01/09/1286371/0/en/Churchill-Downs-Incorporated-Announces-Closing-of-the-Sale-of-Big-Fish-Games-Inc-to-Aristocrat-Technologies-Inc-for-US-990-million.html (last visited Feb. 11, 2019).				

(Figure 1.)



(<u>Figure 2.</u>)



33. When a consumer launches the Big Fish mobile app, they are first presented with a loading screen while the player connects to Big Fish's servers. See Figure 2.

//

//

//

//

//

(<u>Figure 3.</u>)



(<u>Figure 4.</u>)



- 34. Big Fish first offers consumers an allotment of free chips through one "Daily Spin" and a "Return Bonus," as shown in <u>Figure 3</u>. Then, Big Fish presents consumers with various offers to purchase chips with real money at a discount. (<u>Figures 4-5</u>). As shown in <u>Figure 4 above</u>, Big Fish announces a "Limited Time Offer!" for "95% Off" a 2,200,000 chip package for "only \$4.99."
- 35. Consumers can either accept Big Fish's offers to purchase discounted chips or they can dismiss these offers and play Big Fish's casino games, as shown in <u>Figure 6.</u>

1

3 4

5

7

6

8 9

10

12

11

13 14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21 22

23

(<u>Figure 5.</u>) (Figure 6.)





36. Consumers are never asked to consent to Big Fish's terms before playing these games or before paying real money for Defendants' virtual casino chips.

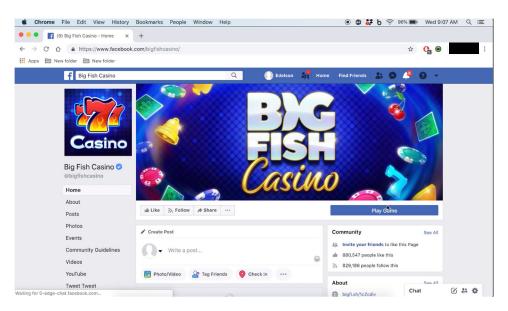
2. Facebook Users

37. Consumers can also play Big Fish's casino games via Facebook. Like with Big Fish's mobile version, and consistent with the rest of the "social casino industry," Facebookbased Big Fish Casino players are neither required to create an account with Big Fish to play its

TEL. 206.682.5600 • FAX 206.682.2992

various casino games or to purchase chips, nor are they asked to consent to Big Fish's terms.

38. Consumers first login to their Facebook account and upon searching for and clicking to play Big Fish Casino are redirected to Big Fish's games without ever having been presented with any terms of service. *See* Figures 7-8.

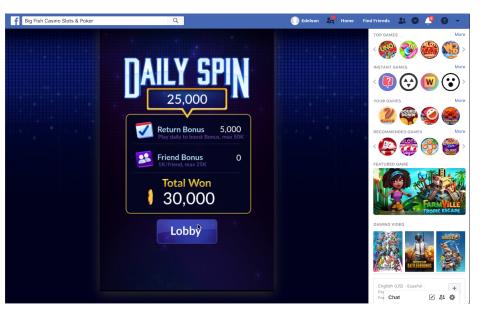


(Figure 7, partially redacted for privacy)



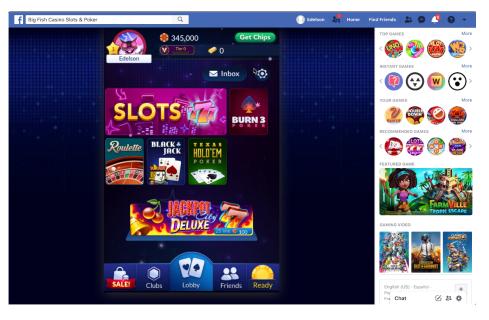
(Figure 8, partially redacted for privacy)

39. Once the consumer connects to Big Fish's game servers, Big Fish offers an allotment of free chips through a "Return Bonus" and one "Daily Spin." See Figure 9.



(Figure 9, partially redacted for privacy)

40. Finally, the consumer can play Big Fish's casino games by selecting one of its many slot machines. See Figure 10.

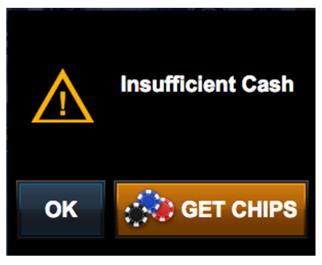


(Figure 10, partially redacted for privacy)

41. Consumers are never asked to consent to Big Fish's terms before playing these games or before paying real money for Defendants' virtual casino chips.

D. Defendants' Online Casinos Contains Unlawful Games of Chance

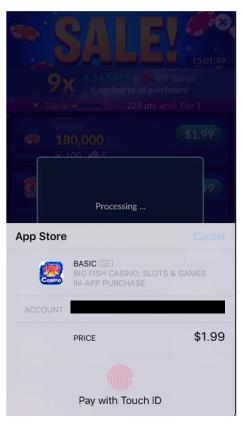
- 42. Consumers visiting Defendants' online casinos for the first time are awarded free chips. These free sample chips offer a taste of gambling and are designed to encourage players to get hooked and buy more chips for real money.
- 43. After they begin playing, consumers quickly lose their initial allotment of chips. Immediately thereafter, Big Fish informs them via a "pop up" screen that they have "Insufficient Cash" to place a wager, which prevents them from additional play. *See* Figure 11.



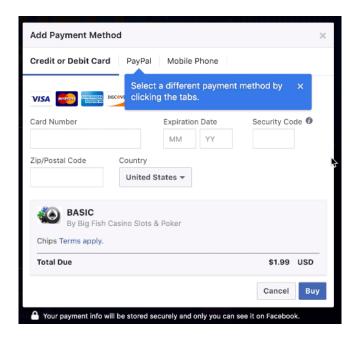
(**Figure 11,** showing Big Fish's mobile application.)

44. Concurrently with that warning, Big Fish provides a link to consumers, telling them to "GET CHIPS" at the electronic store where the price for chips ranges from prices of \$1 to at least \$999.99. Big Fish's offer to purchase chips with real money is substantially the same on its mobile app and on Facebook. Once players run out of their allotment of free chips, they cannot continue to play the game without buying more chips for real money.

45. Even during the check-out process when consumers purchase chips with real money, Big Fish does not show consumers its Terms. See Figures 12-13.



(Figure 12, the chip purchase page on iOS, partially redacted for privacy.)



(Figure 13, showing the chip purchase page on Facebook.)

46. When purchasing chips via Facebook, the consumer is presented with a link only to Facebook's terms, in Facebook's capacity as the transaction processor. The consumer is not presented with terms for Big Fish Casino or Big Fish Games.

47. To begin wagering, players select the "BET" that will be used for a spin, as illustrated in Figure 14, which shows one of Defendants' slot machine games in Big Fish Casino. Big Fish allows players to increase or decrease the amount he or she can wager and ultimately win (or lose).



(**Figure 14.**)

- 48. Once a consumer spins the slot machine by pressing the "SPIN" button, no action on his or her part is required. Indeed, none of Defendants' online casino games allow (or call for) any additional user action. Instead, the consumer's computer or mobile device communicates with and sends information (such as the "BET" amount) to Big Fish's servers. Big Fish's servers then execute the game's algorithms that determine the spin's outcome.
- 49. Consumers can continue playing with the chips that they won, or they can exit the game and return at a later time to play because Big Fish maintains win and loss records and balances for each consumer. Indeed, once Big Fish's algorithms determine the outcome of a spin and Big Fish displays the outcome to the consumer, Big Fish adjusts the consumer's balance. Big Fish keeps records of each wager, outcome, win, and loss for every player.

V. FACTS SPECIFIC TO PLAINTIFF 1 50. In approximately November 2017, Plaintiff began playing Big Fish Casino on 2 her Apple iOS device. Within three months of playing Big Fish Casino for the first time, 3 Plaintiff began regularly paying real money to purchase virtual chips in Big Fish Casino. 4 51. Thereafter, Plaintiff continued playing various slot machines and other games of 5 chance within Defendants' casino where she would wager purchased chips for the chance of 6 winning additional chips. 7 8 52. Between November 2017 and December 2018, Plaintiff wagered and lost (and 9 Defendants therefore won) over \$3,000 at Defendants' games of chance. VI. CLASS ALLEGATIONS 10 53. **Class Definitions**: Plaintiff brings this action pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 11 23(b)(2) and (b)(3) on behalf of a Class of similarly situated individuals, defined as 12 follows: 13 Class: All persons in the United States who began playing Big Fish Casino or 14 other similar Big Fish Games "casino games" on or after March 24, 2015, and lost purchased chips by wagering at Defendants' casino games. 15 The following people are excluded from the Class: (1) any Judge or Magistrate Judge presiding 16 over this action and members of their families; (2) Defendants, Defendants' subsidiaries, 17 parents, successors, predecessors, and any entity in which the Defendants or their parents have 18 a controlling interest and their current or former employees, officers and directors; (3) persons 19 who properly execute and file a timely request for exclusion from the Class; (4) persons whose 20 claims in this matter have been finally adjudicated on the merits or otherwise released; (5) 21 Plaintiff's counsel and Defendants' counsel; and (6) the legal representatives, successors, and 22 assigns of any such excluded persons. 23

- 54. **Numerosity**: On information and belief, tens of thousands of consumers fall into the definition of the Class. Members of the Class can be identified through Defendants' records, discovery, and other third-party sources.
- 55. **Commonality and Predominance**: There are many questions of law and fact common to Plaintiff's and the Class' claims, and those questions predominate over any questions that may affect individual members of the Class. Common questions for the Class include, but are not necessarily limited to the following:
 - a. Whether Defendants' online casino games are "gambling" as defined by RCW §9.46.0237;
 - b. Whether Defendants are the proprietors for whose benefit the online casino games are played;
- c. Whether Plaintiff and each member of the Class lost money or anything of value by gambling;
- d. Whether Defendants violated the Washington Consumer Protection Act, RCW § 19.86.010, et seq.; and
 - e. Whether Defendants have been unjustly enriched as a result of its conduct.
- 56. **Typicality**: Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of other members of the Class in that Plaintiff's and the members of the Class sustained damages arising out of Defendants' wrongful conduct.
- 57. Adequate Representation: Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Class and has retained counsel competent and experienced in complex litigation and Class actions. Plaintiff's claims are representative of the claims of the other members of the Class, as Plaintiff and each member of the Class lost money playing

Defendants' games of chance. Plaintiff also has no interests antagonistic to those of the Class, and Defendants have no defenses unique to Plaintiff. Plaintiff and her counsel are committed to vigorously prosecuting this action on behalf of the Class and have the financial resources to do so. Neither Plaintiff nor her counsel have any interest adverse to the Class.

- Policies Generally Applicable to the Class: This Class action is appropriate for certification because Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Class as a whole, thereby requiring the Court's imposition of uniform relief to ensure compatible standards of conduct toward the members of the Class and making final injunctive relief appropriate with respect to the Class as a whole. Defendants' policies that Plaintiff challenges apply and affect members of the Class uniformly, and Plaintiff's challenge of these policies hinges on Defendants' conduct with respect to the Class as a whole, not on facts or law applicable only to Plaintiff. The factual and legal bases of Defendants' liability to Plaintiff and to the other members of the Class are the same.
- 59. Superiority: This case is also appropriate for certification because Class proceedings are superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. The harm suffered by the individual members of the Class is likely to have been relatively small compared to the burden and expense of prosecuting individual actions to redress Defendants' wrongful conduct. Absent a Class action, it would be difficult for the individual members of the Class to obtain effective relief from Defendants. Even if members of the Class themselves could sustain such individual litigation, it would not be preferable to a Class action because individual litigation would increase the delay and expense to all parties and the Court and require duplicative consideration of the legal and factual issues presented. By contrast, a Class action presents far fewer management difficulties and provides the benefits of

1	single adjudication, economy of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single Court.
2	Economies of time, effort, and expense will be fostered and uniformity of decisions will be
3	ensured.
4	60. Plaintiff reserves the right to revise the foregoing "Class Allegations" and
5	"Class Definition" based on facts learned through additional investigation and in discovery.
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	VII. FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION Violations of Revised Code of Washington § 4.24.070 (On behalf of Plaintiff and the Class) 61. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein. 62. Plaintiff, members of the Class, and Defendants are all "persons" as defined by RCW § 9.46.0289. 63. Washington's "Recovery of money lost at gambling" statute, RCW 4.24.070, provides that "all persons losing money or anything of value at or on any illegal gambling games shall have a cause of action to recover from the dealer or player winning, or from the proprietor for whose benefit such game was played or dealt, or such money or things of value won, the amount of the money or the value of the thing so lost." 64. "Gambling," defined by RCW § 9.46.0237, "means staking or risking something of value upon the outcome of a contest of chance or a future contingent event not under the person's control or influence." 65. Defendants' "chips" sold for use in its online gambling games are "thing[s] of value" under RCW § 9.46.0285. 66. Defendants' online gambling games are illegal gambling games because they are
212223	online games at which players wager things of value (the chips) and by an element of chance

(e.g., by spinning an online slot machine) are able to obtain additional entertainment and extend gameplay (by winning additional chips).

- 67. Defendants are the proprietors for whose benefit the online gambling games are played because they own the online gambling games and operate those games for their own profit.
- 68. Plaintiff and the Class gambled when they purchased chips to wager at Defendants' online gambling games. Plaintiff and each member of the Class staked money, in the form of chips purchased with money, at Defendants' games of chance (e.g., Defendants' slot machines) for the chance of winning additional things of value (e.g., chips that extend gameplay without additional charge).
- 69. In addition, Defendants' online gambling games are not "pinball machine[s] or similar mechanical amusement device[s]" as contemplated by the statute because:
 - a. the games are electronic rather than mechanical;
 - b. the games confer replays but they are recorded and can be redeemed on separate occasions (*i.e.*, they are not "immediate and unrecorded"); and
 - c. the games contain electronic mechanisms that vary the chance of winning free games or the number of free games which may be won (*e.g.*, the games allow for different wager amounts).
- 70. RCW § 9.46.0285 states that a "Thing of value," as used in this chapter, means any money or property, any token, object or article exchangeable for money or property, or any form of credit or promise, directly or indirectly, contemplating transfer of money or property or of any interest therein, or involving extension of a service, entertainment or a privilege of playing at a game or scheme without charge."

- 71. The "chips" Plaintiff and members of the Class had the chance of winning in Defendants' online gambling games are "thing[s] of value" under Washington law because they are credits that involve the extension of entertainment and a privilege of playing a game without charge.
- 72. Defendants' online gambling games are "Contest[s] of chance," as defined by RCW § 9.46.0225, because they are "contest[s], game[s], gaming scheme[s], or gaming device[s] in which the outcome[s] depend[] in a material degree upon an element of chance, notwithstanding that skill of the contestants may also be a factor therein." Defendants' online gambling games are programmed to have outcomes that are determined entirely upon chance and a contestant's skill does not affect the outcomes.
- 73. RCW § 9.46.0201 defines "Amusement game[s]" as games where "The outcome depends in a material degree upon the skill of the contestant," amongst other requirements.

 Defendants' online gambling games are not "Amusement game[s]" because their outcomes are dependent entirely upon chance and not upon the skill of the player and because the games are "contest[s] of chance," as defined by RCW § 9.46.0225.
- 74. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' gambling game, Plaintiff and each member of the Class have lost money wagering at Defendants' games of chance. Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the Class, seeks an order (1) requiring Defendants to cease the operation of its gambling games; and/or (2) awarding the recovery of all lost monies, interest, and reasonable attorneys' fees, expenses, and costs to the extent allowable.

1	VIII. SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION Violations of the Washington Consumer Protection Act, RCW § 19.86.010, et seq. (On behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)		
2			
3	75. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.		
4	76. Washington's Consumer Protection Act, RCW § 19.86.010 et seq. ("CPA"),		
5	protects both consumers and competitors by promoting fair competition in commercial markets		
6	for goods and services.		
7	77. To achieve that goal, the CPA prohibits any person from using "unfair methods		
8	of competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce.		
9	" RCW § 19.86.020.		
10	78. The CPA states that "a claimant may establish that the act or practice is injurious		
11	to the public interest because it Violates a statute that contains a specific legislative		
12	declaration of public interest impact."		
13	79. Defendants violated RCW § 9.46.010, et seq. which declares that:		
14	"The public policy of the state of Washington on gambling is to keep the criminal		
15	element out of gambling and to promote the social welfare of the people by limiting the nature and scope of gambling activities and by strict regulation and control.		
16			
17	It is hereby declared to be the policy of the legislature, recognizing the close relationship between professional gambling and organized crime, to restrain all		
18	persons from seeking profit from professional gambling activities in this state; to restrain all persons from patronizing such professional gambling activities; to		
19	safeguard the public against the evils induced by common gamblers and common gambling houses engaged in professional gambling; and at the same time, both to		
20	preserve the freedom of the press and to avoid restricting participation by individuals in activities and social pastimes, which activities and social pastimes		
21	are more for amusement rather than for profit, do not maliciously affect the public, and do not breach the peace."		
22	80. Defendants have violated RCW § 9.46.010, et seq., because its Defendants'		
23	online games are illegal online gambling games.		

- 81. Defendants' wrongful conduct occurred in the conduct of trade or commerce—
 i.e., while Defendants were engaged in the operation of making computer games available to
 the public.
- 82. Defendants' acts and practices were and are injurious to the public interest because Defendants, in the course of their business, continuously advertised to and solicited the general public in Washington State and throughout the United States to play their unlawful online gambling games of chance. This was part of a pattern or generalized course of conduct on the part of Defendants, and many consumers have been adversely affected by Defendants' conduct and the public is at risk.
- 83. Defendants have profited immensely from their operation of unlawful games of chance, amassing hundreds of millions of dollars from the losers of their games of chance.
- 84. As a result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff and the Class members were injured in their business or property—*i.e.*, economic injury—in that they lost money wagering on Defendants' unlawful games of chance.
- 85. Defendants' unfair or deceptive conduct proximately caused Plaintiff's and the Class members' injuries because, but for the challenged conduct, Plaintiff and the Class members would not have lost money wagering at or on Defendants' games of chance, and they did so as a direct, foreseeable, and planned consequence of that conduct.
- 86. Plaintiff, on her own behalf and on behalf of the Class, seeks to enjoin further violation and recover actual damages and treble damages, together with the costs of suit, including reasonable attorneys' fees.

IX. THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION
Unjust Enrichment
(On behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)

1	87.	Plaintiff incorporates by reference the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth
2	herein.	
3	88.	Plaintiff and the Class have conferred a benefit upon Defendants in the form of
4	the money De	efendants received from them for the purchase of chips to wager at Defendants'
5	online gambli	ng games.
6	89.	Defendants appreciate and/or has knowledge of the benefits conferred upon
7	them by Plain	tiff and the Class.
8	90.	Under principles of equity and good conscience, Defendants should not be
9	permitted to r	etain the money obtained from Plaintiff and the members of the Class, which
10	Defendants ha	ave unjustly obtained as a result of their unlawful operation of unlawful online
11	gambling gan	nes. As it stands, Defendants have retained millions of dollars in profits generated
12	from their unl	awful games of chance and should not be permitted to retain those ill-gotten
13	profits.	
14	91.	Accordingly, Plaintiff and the Class seek full disgorgement and restitution of
15	any money D	efendants have retained as a result of the unlawful and/or wrongful conduct
16	alleged hereir	1.
17		X. PRAYER FOR RELIEF
18	Plaint	iff, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, respectfully requests
19	that this Cour	t enter an Order:
	a.	Certifying this case as a Class action on behalf of the Class defined above,
20	appointing Pl	aintiff as representative of the Class, and appointing her counsel as Class counsel;
21	b.	Declaring that Defendants' conduct, as set out above, violates the CPA;
22	c.	Entering judgment against Defendants, in the amount of the losses suffered by
23	Plaintiff and	each member of the Class;

1	d.	Enjoining Defendants from continuing the challenged conduct;		
2	e.	Awarding damages to Plaintiff and the Class members in an amount to be		
3	determined a	t trial, including trebling and/or punitive damages as appropriate;		
4	f.	Awarding restitution to Plaintiff and Class members in an amount to be		
5	determined a	t trial, and requiring disgorgement of all benefits that Defendants unjustly		
	received;			
6	g.	Awarding reasonable attorney's fees and expenses;		
7	h.	Awarding pre- and post-judgment interest, to the extent allowable;		
8	i.	Entering judgment for injunctive and/or declaratory relief as necessary to protect		
9	the interests	of Plaintiff and the Class; and		
10	j.	Awarding such other and further relief as equity and justice require.		
11		XI. JURY DEMAND		
12	Plaintiff requests a trial by jury of all claims that can be so tried.			
	Respectfully submitted this 11th day of February, 2019.			
13		TOUSLEY BRAIN STEPHENS PLLC		
14		By: s/Janissa A. Strabuk		
15		Janissa A. Strabuk, WSBA #21827 jstrabuk@tousley.com		
16				
17		By: s/ Cecily C. Shiel		
18		Cecily C. Shiel, WSBA #50061 cshiel@tousley.com		
19		1700 Seventh Avenue, Suite 2200		
20		Seattle, Washington 98101 Telephone: 206.682.5600 Fax: 206.682.2992		
		Tax. 200.082.2992		
21				
22				
23				

1	EDELSON PC Rafey Balabanian* rbalabanian@edelson.com
2	Todd Logan* tlogan@edelson.com
3	123 Townsend Street, Suite 100 San Francisco, California 94107
4	Tel: 415.212.9300 Fax: 415.373.9435
5	Benjamin H. Richman* brichman@edelson.com
6	350 North LaSalle Street, Suite 1400 Chicago, Illinois 60654
7	Tel: 312.589.6370 Fax: 312.589.6378
8	1 dx. 312.307.0370
9	*Pro hac vice admission to be sought.
10	Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Putative Class 0099/002/532562.1
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	

Case 2:19-cv-00129 Page 1 of 2

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.)

purpose of initiating the civil d	ocket sheet. (SEE INSTRUC	TIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF TI				
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS		
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff FLORIDA (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			BIG FISH GAMES, INC., a Washington corporation, et al. County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.			
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Janissa A. Strabuk, TOUSLEY BRAIN STPEHENS PLLC, 1700 76 #2200, Seattle, WA 98101 (206) 682-5600			Attorneys (If Known)			
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	ICTION (Place an "X" in O	ne Box Only)		RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintif	
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government)	Not a Party)	(For Diversity Cases Only) PTF DEF Citizen of This State □ 1 □ 1 Incorporated or Principal Place □ 4 🕱 4 of Business In This State			
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	★ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizensh.)	ip of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	✓ 2 ☐ 2 Incorporated and of Business In		
			Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	3	□ 6 □ 6	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT		nly) ORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	Click here for: Nature BANKRUPTCY	of Suit Code Descriptions. OTHER STATUTES	
□ 110 Insurance □ 120 Marine □ 130 Miller Act □ 140 Negotiable Instrument □ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment □ 151 Medicare Act □ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) □ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits □ 160 Stockholders' Suits □ 190 Other Contract □ 195 Contract Product Liability □ 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY □ 210 Land Condemnation □ 220 Foreclosure □ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment □ 245 Tort Product Liability □ 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 362 Personal Injury Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS 441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommodations 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other 448 Education	PERSONAL INJURY 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage 385 Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Other 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	☐ 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 ☐ 690 Other	□ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 820 Copyrights □ 830 Patent □ 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application □ 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY □ 861 HIA (1395ff) □ 862 Black Lung (923) □ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) □ 864 SSID Title XVI □ 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS □ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) □ 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	OTHER STATUTES □ 375 False Claims Act □ 376 Qui Tam (31 USC □ 3729(a)) □ 400 State Reapportionment □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and □ Corrupt Organizations □ 480 Consumer Credit □ 490 Cable/Sat TV □ 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange □ \$890 Other Statutory Actions □ 891 Agricultural Acts □ 893 Environmental Matters □ 895 Freedom of Information Act □ 896 Arbitration □ 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	
	moved from 3 tte Court Cite the U.S. Civil Sta	Appellate Court				
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	ON 28 U.S.C. § 1332 Brief description of ca	2(d)(2) nuse:	5.010, et seq. Unjust enric			
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: ☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.			DEMAND \$		if demanded in complaint: : ▼ Yes □ No	
VIII. RELATED CASI	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE Leighton		DOCKET NUMBER _15	5-cv-00612-RBL	
DATE 02/11/2019 FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		signature of attor s/Janissa A. Strak				
RECEIPT#A	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP	JUDGE	MAG. JUI	OGE	

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

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

- **I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
 - United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.
 - Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
 - Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.
 - Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
 - Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
 - Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing
 - Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date. Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
 - Multidistrict Litigation Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407
 - Multidistrict Litigation Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.

 PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statue.
- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P. Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction. Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

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

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Western District of Washington				
MANASA THIMMEGOWDA,)))				
Plaintiff(s) V. BIG FISH GAMES, INC., et al.,) Defendant(s)) Defendantiff(s))	Civil Action No.			
SUMMONS IN A CIVI	LACTION			
To: (Defendant's name and address) Big Fish Games, Inc. 906 Alaskan Way Suite 700 Seattle, WA 98104				
A lawsuit has been filed against you. Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not of are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or em P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be whose name and address are: Janissa A. Strabuk Tousley Brain Stephens PLLC 1700 7th Ave., Suite 2200 Seattle, WA 98101	ployee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. he attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of			
If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.				
	CLERK OF COURT			
Date: 02/11/2019				
_	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk			

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No.

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (1))

		ame of individual and title, if an	y)					
was rec	ceived by me on (date)	-	·					
	☐ I personally served the summons on the individual at (place)							
			on (date)	; or				
	☐ I left the summon	ence or usual place of abode with (name)						
	on (date), a person of suitable age and discretion who resides the on (date), and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or							
	\square I served the summons on (name of individual)							
	designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of (name of organization)							
			on (date)	; or				
	☐ I returned the sun	nmons unexecuted because		; or				
	☐ Other (specify):							
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00				
	I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.							
Date:		_						
			Server's signature					
		_	Printed name and title					
		_	Server's address					

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Western D	istrict of Washington						
MANASA THIMMEGOWDA,)))						
Plaintiff(s)	- ´)						
V.	Civil Action No.						
BIG FISH GAMES, INC., et al.,							
Defendant(s)	_ ´))						
SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION							
To: (Defendant's name and address) Churchill Downs Incorp 600 N. Hurstbourne Pa Suite 400 Louisville, KY 40222							
A lawsuit has been filed against you.							
Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are: Janissa A. Strabuk Tousley Brain Stephens PLLC 1700 7th Ave., Suite 2200 Seattle, WA 98101							
If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.							
	CLERK OF COURT						
Date: 02/11/2019							
<u> </u>	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk						

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No.

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (1))

		ame of individual and title, if an	y)					
was rec	ceived by me on (date)	-	·					
	☐ I personally served the summons on the individual at (place)							
			on (date)	; or				
	☐ I left the summon	ence or usual place of abode with (name)						
	on (date), a person of suitable age and discretion who resides the on (date), and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or							
	\square I served the summons on (name of individual)							
	designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of (name of organization)							
			on (date)	; or				
	☐ I returned the sun	nmons unexecuted because		; or				
	☐ Other (specify):							
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00				
	I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.							
Date:		_						
			Server's signature					
		_	Printed name and title					
		_	Server's address					

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Class Action: Big Fish Casino Constitutes Illegal Gambling in Washington</u>