# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR

# THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

CHANCE WOLLBRINCK, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, Plaintiff,	Case No. 21-cv-724 NATIONWIDE CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
v.	
BRIDGEMAN FOODS II, INC.; MANNA, INC.; and DOES 1 to 25,	
Defendants.	

# NATIONWIDE CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

COMES NOW, Plaintiff CHANCE WOLLBRINCK ("Plaintiff"), on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, and asserts as follows:

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. Plaintiff is a person with a mobility disability stemming from a spinal cord injury that has caused him to use a wheelchair for mobility.

2. Defendants BRIDGEMAN FOODS II, INC., MANNA, INC., and DOES 1 through 25 (collectively, "Defendants") collectively own, lease, and/or operate at least one hundred thirty nine (139) Wendy's restaurants in the states of Wisconsin, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Georgia. The Wendy's locations Defendants operate include the location Plaintiff encountered, as described in more detail below.

3. Plaintiff brings this action individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated against Defendants, asserting violations of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.* (the "ADA"), and its implementing regulations, arising from accessibility

barriers, specifically excessive sloping in purportedly accessible parking spaces, access aisles, and curb ramps ("Parking Area" or "Parking Areas") at places of public accommodation owned, operated, controlled, and/or leased by Defendants ("Defendants' facilities").

4. Defendants discriminated against Plaintiff – and other similarly situated mobility impaired persons – by violating the ADA's accessibility guidelines in a manner that routinely results in access barriers at Defendants' facilities. Specifically, Plaintiff experienced difficulty and risk of harm navigating the parking lot and accessible route to Defendants' business due to excessive sloping, all in violation of the ADA. Plaintiff separately and additionally asserts that those access barriers exist and persist due to Defendants' discriminatory, and inadequate, existing policies, practices, or procedures that lead to, as in the case of Defendants' parking lots, a systemic failure to maintain accessibility features within the Parking Areas of those facilities.

5. Numerous facilities owned, controlled, and/or operated by Defendants have Parking Areas that are, or have become, inaccessible to individuals who rely on wheelchairs for mobility, demonstrating that the centralized decision-making Defendants employ with regard to the construction, alteration, maintenance, and operation of their facilities causes access barriers and/or allows them to develop and persist at Defendants' facilities.

6. Plaintiff brings this action individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated to compel Defendants to cease unlawful discriminatory practices and to remediate all access barriers within the Parking Areas of their facilities. Doing so will ensure Plaintiff's full and equal enjoyment, and a meaningful opportunity to participate in and benefit from, Defendants' goods and services. Plaintiff seeks declaratory injunctive, equitable relief, attorneys' fees and costs to redress Defendants' unlawful discrimination on the basis of disability in violation of Title III of the ADA, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.*, and its implementing regulations.

7. Unless Defendants are required to remove the access barriers described below, and/or are required to make reasonable modifications to its existing policies, practices, or procedures so that access barriers do not reoccur at Defendants' facilities, Plaintiff and the proposed Class will continue to be denied full and equal access to those facilities as described and will be deterred from fully using Defendants' facilities so long as Defendants' unlawful discriminatory practices continue.

8. Defendants' ongoing discrimination sends a message that it is acceptable for public accommodations to allow access barriers to persist that deprive mobility-impaired individuals of the full and equal enjoyment of, and meaningful opportunity to participate in and benefit from, Defendants' goods and services.

9. The ADA expressly authorizes the injunctive relief aimed at the modification of existing policies, practices, or procedures that Plaintiff seeks in this action. In relevant part, the ADA states:

In the case of violations of . . . this title, injunctive relief shall include an order to alter facilities to make such facilities readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. ... Where appropriate, injunctive relief shall also include requiring the . . . modification of a policy...

42 U.S.C. § 12188(a)(2).

10. Pursuant to the ADA, it is mandatory that Defendants make reasonable modifications to their existing policies, practices, or procedures to afford their goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations to individuals with disabilities, and it is unlawful discrimination for Defendants to fail to make such modifications. 42 U.S.C. 12182(b)(2)(A)(ii); 28 C.F.R. § 36.302(a). On additional and alternate grounds, Plaintiff further seeks to compel Defendants to reasonably modify their existing policies, practices, or procedures

to ensure their facilities remain in compliance with the ADA's parking space, ramp, and curb ramp regulations.

11. Consistent with 42 U.S.C. § 12188(a)(2), Plaintiff seeks a permanent injunction requiring that:

- a. Defendants remediate all access barriers within the Parking Areas at Defendants' facilities, consistent with the ADA;
- b. Defendants modify their existing policies, practices, or procedures so that the access barriers within the Parking Areas at Defendants' facilities do not reoccur; and
- c. Plaintiff's representatives shall monitor Defendants' facilities to ensure that the injunctive relief ordered pursuant to Paragraph 11.a. and 11.b. has been implemented and will remain in place.

12. Plaintiff's claims for permanent injunctive relief are asserted as class claims pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2). Rule 23(b)(2) was specifically intended to be utilized in civil rights cases where the plaintiff seeks injunctive relief for his or her own benefit and the benefit of a class of similarly situated individuals. To that end, the note to the 1996 amendment to Rule 23 states:

Subdivision(b)(2). This subdivision is intended to reach situations where a party has taken action or refused to take action with respect to a class, and final relief of an injunctive nature or a corresponding declaratory nature, settling the legality of the behavior with respect to the class as a whole, is appropriate . . .. Illustrative are various actions in the civil rights field where a party is charged with discriminating unlawfully against a class, usually one whose members are incapable of specific enumeration.

# **PARTIES**

13. Plaintiff Chance Wollbrinck is, and at all times relevant hereto was, a resident of Park City, Illinois. Plaintiff is a person with a mobility disability stemming from a T4 spinal cord injury he sustained in an accident in 2004. The injury caused him to become paralyzed from the

chest down. As a result of his disability, Plaintiff uses a wheelchair for mobility. Despite his significant injuries, Mr. Wollbrinck has been working as an IT specialist for over ten (10) years. Prior to that, Plaintiff earned a bachelor's degree in art, accompanied by three minors in law enforcement, sociology, and computer science from Western Illinois University. Plaintiff is also an avid archer with hopes of becoming a part of the Paralympic team.

14. Plaintiff is therefore a member of a protected class under the ADA, 42 U.S.C. § 12102(2), and the regulations implementing the ADA set forth at 28 C.F.R. §§ 36.101 *et seq*.

15. Defendant BRIDGEMAN FOODS II, INC. is, and at all relevant times was a Wisconsin Corporation, doing business in the State of Wisconsin as the owner, lessee, and/or operator of dozens of Wendy's restaurants in the state. Defendant BRIDGEMAN FOODS II. INC.'s primary mailing address and its corporate officers' address is 3309 Collins Lane, Louisville, Kentucky.

16. Defendant MANNA, INC. is, and at all relevant times was a Kentucky Corporation *not* qualified to, but doing business in, the State of Wisconsin as the owner, lessee, and/or operator of dozens of Wendy's restaurants throughout the state. Defendant MANNA, INC.'s principal office is located at 3309 Collins Lane, Lousiville, Kentucky. Defendant MANNA, INC. shares its corporate officers with BRIDGEMAN FOODS II, INC.

17. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate, or otherwise of the Defendants named herein as DOES 1 through 25, are unknown to Plaintiff at this time. Plaintiff will amend this Complaint to assert their true names and capacities when known. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that each of the fictitiously-named Defendants is responsible in some manner for the occurrences alleged in this Complaint.

18. Plaintiff asserts that Defendants, including DOE Defendants, and each of them at

all times mentioned in this Complaint, were the alter egos, affiliates, agents and/or employees and/or employers of their Co-Defendants, under shared management, ownership, and common control of each other, and part of a single Franchise Group, and in doing the things alleged in this Complaint were acting within the course of such agency, affiliation, shared management, ownership, control, and/or employment and with the permission and consent of their Co-Defendants.

19. Plaintiff is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants collectively own, lease, and/or operate forty-seven (47) Wendy's doing business in the state of Wisconsin, including in the Eastern District of Wisconsin, as well as, seven (7) Wendy's doing business in the state of Illinois, twenty-five (25) Wendy's doing business in the commonwealth of Kentucky, forty-six (46) Wendy's doing business in the state of Tennessee, seven (7) Wendy's doing business in the state of South Carolina, and seven (7) Wendy's doing business in the state of Georgia, as described herein.

20. Defendants' facilities are places of public accommodation as defined in 42 U.S.C. \$12181(7) and are therefore subject to the requirements of the ADA.

#### FACTUAL ASSERTIONS

#### Plaintiff Has Been Denied Full and Equal Access to Defendants' Facilities

21. Plaintiff visited Defendants' facilities located at N96 W17600 County Line Road, Germantown, Wisconsin, 53017, on April 10, 2021, where he experienced unnecessary difficulty and risk of physical harm exiting and entering his vehicle, and navigating the facilities, such that extra care was needed to avoid falling and to safely traverse the area, due to excessive slopes in a purportedly accessible Parking Area and other ADA accessibility violations as set forth in more detail below. 22. Despite this difficulty and risk, Plaintiff plans to return to Defendants' facilities. Plaintiff often travels to the area for a variety of reasons. On April 10, 2021, Plaintiff traveled to the area with his nephew to purchase an amplifier from a third party who owns specialized equipment that Plaintiff is likely to purchase in the future. Plaintiff often stops for Wendy's on road trips due to his preference for their "baconator meal" and his nephew's preference for the Frosty ice cream. Plaintiff also regularly travels to an archery facility west of Milwaukee, near Defendants' Germantown facility, to participate in extensive training, practice, and tournaments. This archery facility is the closest open facility to Plaintiff's residence due to the COVID pandemic. Plaintiff will be visiting the area within the next few months to train, practice, and compete, and during those visits intends to dine at Defendants' Germantown facility. Furthermore, Plaintiff intends to return to Defendants' facility to ascertain whether it remains in violation of the ADA.

23. As a result of Defendants' non-compliance with the ADA, Plaintiff's ability to access and safely use Defendants' facilities has been significantly impeded. Plaintiff will be deterred from returning to and fully and safely accessing Defendants' facilities due to the discrimination he has previously encountered there. Defendants' discriminatory conduct will continue so long as their facilities remain non-compliant with the ADA's requirements. Additionally, Plaintiff alleges those violations presently exist and persist due to Defendants' inadequate policies, practices, or procedures that have led, and in the future will lead, to a systemic failure to maintain ADA-required accessibility features at Defendants' facilities.

24. Without injunctive relief, Plaintiff will continue to be unable to fully and safely access Defendants' facilities, and will continue to experience unlawful discrimination on the basis of his disability by being denied access to the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services,

facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of Defendants' facilities, in violation of his civil rights under the ADA.

25. As an individual with a mobility disability who uses a wheelchair, Plaintiff is directly interested in whether public accommodations, like Defendants' facilities, have adequate, reasonable, and non-discriminatory policies, practices, or procedures that will lead to both the maintenance of ADA-required accessibility features at Defendants' facilities, and the remediation of architectural barriers that impede full accessibility to those accommodations by individuals with mobility-related disabilities.

#### Defendants Repeatedly Deny Individuals with Disabilities Full and

## **Equal Access to Defendants' Facilities**

26. As the owner and/or operator of their facilities, Defendants employ centralized policies, practices, or procedures with regard to the alteration, maintenance, and operation of their facilities.

27. Plaintiff is informed and believes and based thereon alleges that, as a Wendy's franchisees pursuant to franchise agreements, Defendants utilize an Operations Standards Manual (the "Manual") issued by the franchisor, and are required to follow all of the manual's instructions, requirements, standards, specifications, and procedures at each of their locations, including those setting further management, administration, and maintenance policies, practices, and procedures related to "Daily Outside Maintenance." Plaintiff is further informed and believes that, pursuant to the franchise agreements, Defendants are required to maintain the Restaurant buildings, drive thrus, parking lots, and landscaped areas at each individual location in conformance with the specifications set forth in the Manual. Additionally, Plaintiff is informed and believes and based

thereon alleges that the Wendy's franchise agreements require remodeling, redecoration, structural changes, and modifications to the restaurants once every ten (10) years.

28. Plaintiff is informed and believes that, pursuant to the franchise agreement, Defendants are required to enter into lease agreements containing specific terms, setting forth, among other things, Defendants' obligations to comply with the requirements of the ADA and the regulations promulgated thereunder, and to maintain, repair, and/or replace the parking lot, curbs, driveways, and sidewalks on the leased property.

29. Plaintiff is further informed and believes and based thereon alleges that, pursuant to the franchise agreement, Defendants are required to designate an "Approved Operator" to supervise the operation of Defendants' restaurants within designated market areas. Due to the high number of locations and geographic distances, Defendants manage compliance with their centralized policies, practices, or procedures concerning their daily outside maintenance obligations, and obligations to maintain, repair, and/or replace features within their Parking Areas, through a Director of Operations, who supervises Area Supervisors or Regional Managers, who in turn directly supervise District or General Managers, and then individual restaurant managers. Plaintiff is informed and believes that collectively, these positions constitute the "Approved Operator" charged with overseeing operations of Defendants' restaurants for compliance with Wendy's policies through regular and complete inspections of Defendants' restaurants.

30. To date, Defendants' centralized alteration, maintenance, and operational policies, practices, or procedures have systematically and routinely violated the ADA by failing to maintain the accessible features of Defendants' facilities, and/or by failing to remove architectural barriers.

31. On Plaintiff's behalf, investigators examined multiple locations that Plaintiff is informed and believes are owned, controlled, and/or operated by Defendants, and found the

following violations which are illustrative of the fact the Defendants' existing policies, practices, or procedures, are discriminatory, unreasonable, inadequate, and routinely result in accessibility violations:

- a. N96 W17600 County Line Road, Germantown, WI:
  - i. The purportedly accessible landing at the top of the curb ramp to the building had a running and cross slope exceeding 2.1%<sup>1</sup>;
  - ii. The purportedly accessible curb ramp located on the route to the building entrance had a running slope exceeding 8.33%<sup>2</sup>;
  - iii. There were large potholes within the purportedly accessible Parking Area;
- b. 1100 Radisson Street, Green Bay, WI:
  - i. The purportedly accessible curb ramp located on the route to the building entrance had a running slope exceeding 8.33% and curb ramp flare slopes exceeding 10.0%;
- c. 168 E Main Street, Hendersonville, TN:
  - i. The purportedly accessible curb ramp located on the route to the building entrance had a running slope exceeding 8.33% and curb ramp flare slopes exceeding 10.0%;
- d. 3419 Lebanon Pike, Hermitage, TN:
  - i. The purportedly accessible curb ramp located on the route to the building entrance had a running slope exceeding 8.33% and curb ramp flare slopes exceeding 10.0%;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The 2010 Standards for Accessible Design ("2010 Standards"), 36 C.F.R. part 1191, at §§ 405.7.1 and 406.4 set the maximum threshold for ramp landing slopes at not steeper than 1:48, i.e., 2.1%, The 2010 Standards continued the 1991 Standards for Accessible Design ("1991 Standards") without change. *See*, Appendix D to 28 C.F.R. Part 36, § 4.3.7, §4.8.5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The 2010 Standards at §§ 405.2 and 406.1 set the maximum threshold for ramp running slopes at not steeper than 1:12, i.e., 8.33%, and limit curb ramp flares to not steeper than 1:10, i.e., 10%. The 2010 Standards continued the 1991 Standards without change. *See*, Appendix D to 28 C.F.R. Part 36, § 4.7.5, §4.8.2.

- e. 551 Donelson Pike, Nashville, TN:
  - i. The purportedly accessible curb ramp located on the route to the building entrance had a running slope exceeding 8.33% and curb ramp flare slopes exceeding 10.0%;
- f. 2600 Murfreesboro Pike, Nashville, TN:
  - i. The purportedly accessible curb ramp located on the route to the building entrance had a running slope exceeding 8.33% and curb ramp flare slopes exceeding 10.0%;
  - ii. The purportedly accessible curb ramp projected into an access aisle<sup>3</sup>;
- g. 741 Thompson Lane, Nashville, TN:
  - i. The purportedly accessible curb ramp located on the route to the building entrance had a running slope exceeding 8.33% and curb ramp flare slopes exceeding 10.0%;
  - ii. The purportedly accessible landing at the top of the curb ramp to the building had a running and cross slope exceeding 2.1%;
- h. 5640 Franklin Pike Circle, Brentwood, TN:
  - i. The purportedly accessible curb ramp located on the route to the building entrance had a running slope exceeding 8.33% and curb ramp flare slopes exceeding 10.0%;
- i. 1313 Murfreesboro Road, Franklin, TN:
  - i. The purportedly accessible curb ramp located on the route to the building entrance had a running slope exceeding 8.33% and curb ramp flare slopes exceeding 10.0%;
  - ii. The purportedly accessible landing at the top of the curb ramp to the building had a running and cross slope exceeding 2.1%;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Pursuant to the 2010 Standards, curb ramps cannot project into parking spaces or access aisles. *See*, 36 C.F.R. part 1191, § 406.5. The 2010 Standards continued the 1991 Standards without change. *See*, Appendix D to 28 C.F.R. Part 36, § 4.7.6, §4.7.8.

- j. 2603 W End Avenue, Nashville, TN:
  - i. The parking surface of one or more purportedly accessible parking spaces and access aisles within the Parking Area had slopes exceeding 2.1%<sup>4</sup>;
- k. 809 Rivergate Parkway, Goodletsville, TN:
  - i. The purportedly accessible curb ramp located on the route to the building entrance had a running slopes exceeding 8.33%;
- 1. 310 Long Hollow Pike, Goodletsville, TN:
  - i. The purportedly accessible curb ramp located on the route to the building entrance had a running slope exceeding 8.33% and curb ramp flare slopes exceeding 10.0%;
  - ii. The purportedly accessible landing at the top of the curb ramp to the building had a slope exceeding 2.1%;
- m. 807 South Cumberland Street, Lebanon, TN:
  - i. The purportedly accessible curb ramp located on the route to the building entrance had running slope exceeding 8.33%;
  - ii. The purportedly accessible landing at the top of the curb ramp to the building had a slope exceeding 2.1%;
- n. 1445 1/2 West Main Street, Lebanon, TN:
  - i. The purportedly accessible curb ramp located on the route to the building entrance had running slope exceeding 8.33% and curb ramp flare slopes exceeding 10.0%;
  - ii. The purportedly accessible landing at the top of the curb ramp to the building had a slope exceeding 2.1%;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Pursuant to the 2010 Standards, parking spaces or access aisles may not have slopes steeper than 1:48, i.e., 2.1%. *See*, 36 C.F.R. part 1191, § 502.4. The 2010 Standards continued the 1991 Standards without change. *See*, Appendix D to 28 C.F.R. Part 36, § 4.6.3.

- o. 4312 Cave Run Road, Louisville, KY:
  - i. The purportedly accessible curb ramp located on the route to the building entrance had a running slope exceeding 8.33%;
- p. 1630 Kentucky Mills Drive, Louisville, KY:
  - i. The purportedly accessible curb ramp located on the route to the building entrance had running slope exceeding 8.33% and curb ramp flare slopes exceeding 10.0%;
  - ii. The purportedly accessible curb ramp projected into an access aisle;
- q. 12925 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY:
  - i. The purportedly accessible landing at the top of the curb ramp to the building had a slope exceeding 2.1%;
- r. 530 Hwy 46 S, Dickson, TN:
  - i. The purportedly accessible curb ramp located on the route to the building entrance had running slope exceeding 8.33% and curb ramp flare slopes exceeding 10.0%; and,
  - ii. The parking surface of one or more purportedly accessible parking spaces and access aisles within the Parking Area had a slope exceeding 2.1%.

32. The fact that individuals with mobility-related disabilities are denied full and equal access to numerous of Defendants' facilities, and the fact that each of these facilities deny access by way of inaccessible Parking Areas, is evidence that the inaccessibility Plaintiff experienced is not isolated, but rather is caused by Defendants' systemic disregard for the civil rights of individuals with disabilities.

33. Defendants' systemic access violations demonstrate that Defendants either employ policies, practices, or procedures that fail to alter its facilities so that they are readily accessible

and usable, and/or that Defendants employ policies, practices, or procedures that are unable to maintain accessibility.

34. As evidenced by the widespread inaccessibility of Defendants' parking facilities, absent a change in Defendants' existing policies, practices, or procedures, access barriers are likely to reoccur in Defendants' facilities even after they have been remediated.

35. As a result of Defendants' non-compliance with the ADA, Plaintiff has been denied the benefit of, and participation in, the full and equal enjoyment of Defendants' goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations, and has been treated unequally by Defendants.

36. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks an injunction to remove the barriers currently present at Defendants' facilities and an injunction to modify their existing policies, practices, or procedures that have created or allowed, and will create or allow, inaccessibility to affect Defendants' network of facilities.

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

37. This Court has federal question jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 42U.S.C. § 12188.

38. Plaintiff's claims asserted herein arose in this judicial district, and Defendants do substantial business in this judicial district.

39. Venue in this judicial district is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) in that this is the judicial district in which a substantial part of the events and/or omissions at issue occurred.

#### CLASS ASSERTIONS

40. Plaintiff brings this class action pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and 23(b)(2) on behalf of himself and the following nationwide class:

All wheelchair users with qualified mobility disabilities who were denied the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations of any BRIDGEMAN FOODS II, INC., MANNA, INC., and DOES 1 through 25 location in the United States on the basis of disability because such persons encountered accessibility barriers due to Defendants' failure to comply with the ADA's slope regulations within the purportedly accessible Parking Areas of its facilities.

41. <u>Numerosity</u>: The class described above is so numerous that joinder of all individual members in one action would be impracticable. The disposition of the individual claims of the respective class members through this class action will benefit both the parties and this Court and will facilitate judicial economy.

42. <u>Typicality</u>: Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the members of the class. The claims of Plaintiff and members of the class are based on the same legal theories and arise from the same unlawful conduct.

43. <u>Common Questions of Fact and Law</u>: There is a well-defined community of interest and common questions of fact and law affecting members of the class in that they all have been and/or are being denied their civil rights to full and equal access to, and use and enjoyment of, Defendant's facilities and/or services due to Defendants' failure to make their facilities fully accessible and independently usable as above described.

44. <u>Adequacy of Representation</u>: Plaintiff is an adequate representative of the class because his interests do not conflict with the interests of the members of the class. Plaintiff will fairly, adequately, and vigorously represent and protect the interests of the members of the class, and he has no interests antagonistic to the members of the class. Plaintiff has retained counsel who are competent and experienced in the prosecution of class action litigation, generally, and who possess specific expertise in the context of class litigation under the ADA. 45. Class certification is appropriate pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2) because Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the class, making appropriate both declaratory and injunctive relief with respect to Plaintiff and the class as a whole.

#### SUBSTANTIVE VIOLATION

#### VIOLATION OF THE ADA, TITLE III

#### [42 U.S.C. §§ 12101, et seq.]

#### (Against all Defendants)

46. Plaintiff restates each and every allegation set forth in the foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint with the same force and effect as if more fully set forth herein.

47. At all times relevant to this action, Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 12181, *et seq.* was in full force and effect and applied to Defendants' conduct.

48. At all times relevant to this action, the United States Department of Justice regulations implementing Title III of the ADA, 28 C.F.R. Part 36, were in full force and effect and applied to Defendants' conduct.

49. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff has been substantially limited in the major life activity of mobility. Accordingly, he is an individuals with a disability as defined by the ADA, 42 U.S.C. § 12102(2).

50. Defendants own, lease, and/or operate restaurants that are places of public accommodation as defined under Title III of the ADA. 42 U.S.C. § 12181(7)(F).

51. Title III of the ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability "in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of any place of public accommodations," 42 U.S.C. § 12182(a), and prohibits places of public

accommodation, either directly or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements, from outright denying individuals with disabilities the opportunity to participate in a place of public accommodation, 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(1)(A)(i), and from denying individuals with disabilities the opportunity to fully and equally participate in a place of public accommodation, 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(1)(A)(i); 28 C.F.R. §§ 36.202.

52. Pursuant to Title III of the ADA and its implementing regulations it "shall be discriminatory to exclude or otherwise deny equal goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, accommodations, or other opportunities to an individual or entity because of the known disability of an individual with whom the individual or entity is known to have a relationship or association." 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(1)(E).

53. Title III further prohibits places of public accommodation from utilizing methods of administration that have the effect of discriminating on the basis of a disability. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(1)(D).

54. Title III and its implementing regulations define discrimination to include the following:

- a) Failure to remove architectural barriers when such removal is readily achievable for places of public accommodation that existed prior to January 26, 1992, 28 C.F.R. § 36.304(a) and 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv);
- b) For alterations to public accommodations made after January 26, 1992, failure to make alterations so that the altered portions of the public accommodation are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, 28 C.F.R. § 36.402 and 42 U.S.C. § 12183(a)(2);
- c) Failure to maintain those features of public accommodations that are required to be readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities, 28 C.F.R. § 36.211; and,

d) Failure to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures, when such modifications are necessary to avoid such goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations to individuals with disabilities. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(ii) and 28 C.F.R.§ 36.302(a).

55. The remedies and procedures set forth at 42 U.S.C. § 2000a-3(a) are provided to

any person who is being subjected to discrimination on the basis of disability or who has reasonable

grounds for believing that such person is about to be subjected to discrimination in violation of 42

U.S.C. § 12183. 42 U.S.C. 12188(a)(1).

56. The ADA also provides for specific injunctive relief, which includes the following:

In the case of violations of sections 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv) and section 12183(a) of this title, injunctive relief shall include an order to alter facilities to make such facilities readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities to the extent required by this subchapter. Where appropriate, injunctive relief shall also include . . . modification of a policy . . . to the extent required by this subchapter.

42 U.S.C. § 12188(a)(2); 28 C.F.R. § 36.501(b).

57. Defendants' facilities were altered, designed, or constructed after the effective date of the ADA.

58. The ADA requires Defendants' facilities to be altered, designed, and constructed so that they are readily accessible to and usable by individuals who use wheelchairs. 42 U.S.C. § 12183(a).

59. Further, the ADA requires the accessible features of Defendants' facilities, which include Parking Areas of their facilities, to be maintained so that they are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with mobility disabilities. 28 C.F.R. § 36.211.

60. The architectural barriers described above demonstrate that Defendants' facilities were not altered in a manner that causes them to be readily accessible to and usable by individuals who use wheelchairs in the first instance, and/or that Defendants' facilities were not maintained or

operated so as to ensure that they remained accessible to and usable by individuals who use wheelchairs.

61. Furthermore, the architectural barriers described above demonstrate that Defendants have failed to remove barriers as required by 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv).

62. Defendants' repeated and systemic failures to alter their facilities so that they are readily accessible and usable, to remove architectural barriers, and to maintain the accessible features of their facilities constitute unlawful discrimination on the basis of a disability in violation of Title III of the ADA.

63. Defendants' facilities are required to comply with the Department of Justice's 2010
Standards for Accessible Design, or in some cases the 1991 Standards. 42 U.S.C. § 12183(a)(1);
28 C.F.R. § 36.406; 28 C.F.R., pt. 36, app. A.

64. Defendants are required to provide individuals who use wheelchairs full and equal enjoyment of their facilities. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(a).

65. Defendants have failed, and continue to fail, to provide individuals who use wheelchairs with full and equal enjoyment of their facilities.

66. Defendants have discriminated against Plaintiff and the class in that they have failed to make Defendants' facilities fully accessible to, and independently usable by, individuals who use wheelchairs in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 12182(a) as described above.

67. Defendants' conduct is ongoing and continuous, and Plaintiff has been harmed by Defendants' conduct.

68. Unless Defendants are restrained from continuing their ongoing and continuous course of conduct, Defendants will continue to violate the ADA and will continue to inflict injury upon Plaintiff and the class.

69. Given that Defendants have not complied with the ADA's requirements to make Defendants' facilities fully accessible to, and independently usable by, individuals who use wheelchairs, Plaintiff invokes his statutory rights to declaratory and injunctive relief, as well as costs and attorneys' fees.

# **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and the members of the Class, prays for:

- a. A declaratory judgment that Defendants are in violation of the specific requirements of Title III of the ADA described above, and the relevant implementing regulations of the ADA, in that Defendants' facilities, as described above, are not fully accessible to, and independently usable by, individuals who use wheelchairs;
- b. A permanent injunction pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12188(a)(2) and 28 C.F.R. § 36.501(b) that (i) directs Defendants to take all steps necessary to remove the architectural barriers described above and to bring their facilities into full compliance with the requirements set forth in the ADA, and its implementing regulations, so that the facilities are fully accessible to, and independently usable by, individuals who use wheelchairs; (ii) directs Defendants to modify their existing policies, practices, or procedures to prevent the reoccurrence of access barriers post-remediation; and (iii) directs that Plaintiff shall monitor Defendants' facilities to ensure that the injunctive relief ordered above remains in place.
- c. An Order certifying the class proposed by Plaintiff, naming Plaintiff as class representative, and appointing his counsel as class counsel;
- d. Payment of costs of suit;
- e. Payment of reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12205 and 28 C.F.R. § 36.505; and
- f. The provision of whatever other relief the Court deems just, equitable, and appropriate.

Dated: June 14, 2021

Respecfully Submitted,

# **ADEMI LLP**

By: <u>/s/ Mark A. Eldridge</u> Mark A. Eldridge

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Counsel for Plaintiff and the 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 THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

Place an X in the appropriate	Box: Green Bay Division		Milwaukee Division	
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS Chance Wollt	princk	DEFENDANT Bridgeman	s Foods II, Inc., et al.	
	of First Listed Plaintiff Lake	NOTE: IN L	ce of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) AND CONDEMNATION CASES, US ND INVOLVED.	
Ademi & O'Reilly, LLP,	, Address, and Telephone Number) 3620 E. Layton Ave., Cudahy, WI 53110 19 (414) 482-8001-Facsimile	Attorneys (If Known	1)	
II. BASIS OF JURISD	<b>ICTION</b> (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	III. CITIZENSHIP OF	PRINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff
1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	✓ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)	(For Diversity Cases Onl Citizen of This State		and One Box for Defendant) <b>PTF DEF</b> incipal Place 4 4
2 U.S. Government Defendant	4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	2 2 Incorporated and I of Business In A	
		Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	3 3 Foreign Nation	
IV. NATURE OF SUI	T (Place an "X" in One Box Only) TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALT	Y BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<ul> <li>110 Insurance</li> <li>120 Marine</li> <li>130 Miller Act</li> <li>140 Negotiable Instrument</li> <li>150 Recovery of Overpayment &amp; Enforcement of Judgment</li> <li>151 Medicare Act</li> <li>152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans)</li> <li>153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits</li> <li>160 Stockholders' Suits</li> <li>190 Other Contract</li> <li>195 Contract Product Liability</li> <li>196 Franchise</li> <li>REAL PROPERTY</li> <li>210 Land Condemnation</li> <li>220 Foreclosure</li> <li>230 Rent Lease &amp; Ejectment</li> <li>245 Tort Product Liability</li> </ul>	PERSONAL INJURY       PERSONAL INJURY         310 Airplane       362 Personal Injury         315 Airplane Product       Med. Malprac         Liability       365 Personal Injury         320 Assault, Libel &       Second Liabili         Slander       368 Asbestos Persoc         330 Federal Employers'       Injury Product         Liability       360 Marine         345 Marine Product       370 Other Fraud         Liability       371 Truth in Lendin         350 Motor Vehicle       380 Other Personal         product Liability       385 Property Dama         Product Liability       385 Property Dama         Product Liability       S85 Property Dama         Product Liability       S85 Death Pentrity         M41 Voting       510 Motions to Vat         442 Employment       530 General         443 Housing/       S35 Death Penalty         444 Welfare       530 Civil Rights         446 Amer. w/Disabilities -       540 Mandamus & 0         Stor Civil Rights       555 Prison Condition	RY       610 Agriculture         y -       620 Other Food & Drug         bite       625 Drug Related Seizure         -       of Property 21 USC 88         ity       630 Liquor Laws         anal       640 R.R. & Truck         650 Airline Regs.       660 Occupational         Safety/Health       690 Other         or       1710 Fair Labor Standards         ge       720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations         y       730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting         & Disclosure Act       790 Other Labor Litigation         ONS       740 Railway Labor Act         ate       791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act         Other       462 Naturalization Applicat         463 Habeas Corpus -       463 Habeas Corpus -	422 Appeal 28 USC 158         423 Withdrawal         28 USC 157         1         PROPERTY RIGHTS         820 Copyrights         830 Patent         840 Trademark         SOCIAL SECURITY         861 H1A (1395ff)         862 Black Lung (923)         863 DIWC/DIW W (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	<ul> <li>400 State Reapportionment</li> <li>410 Antitrust</li> <li>430 Banks and Banking</li> <li>450 Commerce</li> <li>460 Deportation</li> <li>470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations</li> <li>480 Consumer Credit</li> <li>490 Cable/Sat TV</li> <li>810 Selective Service</li> <li>850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange</li> <li>875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410</li> <li>890 Other Statutory Actions</li> <li>891 Agricultural Acts</li> <li>892 Economic Stabilization Act</li> <li>893 Environmental Matters</li> <li>894 Energy Allocation Act</li> <li>900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice</li> <li>950 Constitutionality of State Statutes</li> </ul>
☑ 1 Original □ 2 R	an "X" in One Box Only) emoved from 3 Remanded from ate Court Appellate Court	Peopened and	ansferred from district for a for a form been been been been been been been bee	
VI. CAUSE OF ACTI	ON Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you 42 U.S.C. § 12101 Brief description of cause: Violation of Title III of the Americans with Disa		ional statutes unless diversity):	
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:			CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND	if demanded in complaint: 
VIII. RELATED CAS IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions): JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER	
<sup>DATE</sup> June 14, 2021		ark A. Eldridge		
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY RECEIPT #A	<sup>Mou</sup> Case 2:21-cv-00724 <sup>PLY</sup> Filed	<u></u>	f- <u>2 Docume</u> nt <sup>M</sup> 1 <sup>-</sup> 1 <sup>JU</sup>	DGE

#### **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.C.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; 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 the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerks in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.

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 date.

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.

Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.

Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment. (7) Check this box for an appeal from a magistrate judge's decision.

 

 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 dollar amount (in thousands of dollars) 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 Eastern District of Wisconsin

CHANCE WOLLBRINCK	) ) )
Plaintiff(s)	)
V.	)
BRIDGEMAN FOODS II, INC., et al.	) ) )
Defendant(s)	)
	*

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

Civil Action No. 21-cv-724

To: (Defendant's name and address) c/o Paul Thompson 9719 S. Franklin Dr

Bridgeman Foods II, Inc. c/o Paul Thompson 9719 S. Franklin Dr. Franklin, WI 53132

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you receive 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 the plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are: Mark A. Eldridge Ademi & O'Beilly, LLP

Ademi & O'Reilly, LLP 3620 East Layton Avenue Cudahy, WI 53110

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.

STEPHEN C. DRIES, CLERK OF COURT

Date:

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. 21-cv-724

#### **PROOF OF SERVICE**

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

This summons and the attached complaint for (name of individual and title, if any):

$\Box$ I personally serve	d the summons and the attached cor	nplaint on the individual at (place):	
		on (date)	; or
$\Box$ I left the summon	s and the attached complaint at the i	ndividual's residence or usual place of	abode with (nam
	, a j	person of suitable age and discretion wh	no resides there,
on (date)	, and mailed a copy	to the individual's last known address;	or
$\Box$ I served the summ	nons and the attached complaint on (	(name of individual)	
who is designated by	law to accept service of process on	behalf of (name of organization)	
		On (date)	; or
$\Box$ I returned the sum	mons unexecuted because		; or
Other (specify):			
My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00
I declare under penalt	ty of perjury that this information is	true.	
2:		Server's signature	
		Printed name and title	
		T timea name ana nine	

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the Eastern District of Wisconsin

CHANCE WOLLBRINCK	) ) ) )
Plaintiff(s)	)
V.	)
BRIDGEMAN FOODS II, INC., et al.	) ) ) )
Defendant(s)	)

#### SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

Civil Action No. 21-cv-724

To: (Defendant's name and address) Manna, Inc. 3309 Collins Lane Louisville, KY 40245

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you receive 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 the plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are: Mark A. Eldridge Ademi & O'Beilly, LLP

Ademi & O'Reilly, LLP 3620 East Layton Avenue Cudahy, WI 53110

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.

STEPHEN C. DRIES, CLERK OF COURT

Date:

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. 21-cv-724

#### **PROOF OF SERVICE**

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

This summons and the attached complaint for (name of individual and title, if any):

		1	
□ I personally served t	he summons and the attached cor	nplaint on the individual at (place):	
		on (date)	; or
$\Box$ I left the summons a	nd the attached complaint at the i	ndividual's residence or usual place of	abode with (nam
	, a j	person of suitable age and discretion wh	no resides there
On (date)	, and mailed a copy	to the individual's last known address;	or
$\Box$ I served the summor	as and the attached complaint on (	(name of individual)	
who is designated by law	v to accept service of process on	behalf of (name of organization)	
		On (date)	; or
$\Box$ I returned the summ	ons unexecuted because		
□ Other (specify):			
My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00
I declare under penalty of	of perjury that this information is	true.	
e:		<i>a</i>	
		Server's signature	
		Printed name and title	

# **ClassAction.org**

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Wheelchair User Sues Wendy's Operators</u> <u>Over 'Excessive' Slopes in Parking Lots</u>