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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON**

ANN JOHNSON, AS THE
REPRESENTATIVE OF A CLASS OF
SIMILARLY SITUATED PERSONS, AND
ON BEHALF OF THE ROYAL
CARIBBEAN CRUISES LTD.
RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN,

Plaintiffs,

v.

RUSSELL INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT
LLC,

Defendant.

Case No.: 2:17-cv-01266-RAJ

COMPLAINT – CLASS ACTION

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NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. Plaintiff Ann Johnson (“Plaintiff”), as the representative of the class defined herein and the Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. Retirement Savings Plan (“Plan”), brings this action against Russell Investment Management LLC (“Russell” or “Defendant”) for breach of its fiduciary duties under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (“ERISA”). As described herein, Russell obtained fiduciary control of the Plan’s investment menu in late 2015. Upon doing so, Russell immediately selected a lineup consisting exclusively of its own poorly performing proprietary funds, and replaced the Plan’s industry-leading target date funds managed by Vanguard with its own proprietary target date funds. This self-serving swap was disastrous for the Plan and cost participants millions of dollars in lost investment earnings through the middle of 2019, when Russell was removed as the Plan’s investment manager after less than four years in the role. Plaintiff brings this action to recover these losses and obtain equitable relief and other appropriate relief as provided by ERISA.

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PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

2. The Plan holds the retirement savings of more than 7,000 non-union employees of Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. The Plan was previously known as the Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd 401(k) Plan and held \$92 million as of year-end 2014. In 2015, the Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. Et Al Retirement Plan merged with and became part of the Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. 401(k) Plan, which was renamed the Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. Retirement Savings Plan. The merger more than tripled the Plan’s assets as of year-end 2015.

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3. The sudden increase in assets made the Plan a more attractive target for investment managers like Russell, who was looking to gain assets to boost its struggling proprietary funds. When Russell obtained fiduciary control of the Plan’s investment menu in late 2015, it immediately replaced the Plan’s menu of twenty funds (which were managed by a variety of

1 investment managers) with a menu consisting exclusively of its own proprietary funds, and
2 subsequently transferred over 99% of the Plan's assets into its own funds.¹

3 4. There was no participant-focused justification for Russell's swap. Russell was not
4 a highly regarded fund manager, having ranked dead last out of 48 companies in Barron's annual
5 fund manager rankings as of year-end 2014. Yet, Russell chose itself over other fund managers for
6 each of the Plan's funds in 2015, and replaced Vanguard's industry-leading target date funds with
7 its own struggling target date funds. Moreover, Russell did so despite the fact that the Vanguard
8 funds performed better than the Russell funds over both short-term and long-term periods prior to
9 the transfer while exhibiting similar or lower levels of risk.

10 5. While participants suffered, Russell reaped the rewards. By adding over \$300
11 million in new investment from the Plan, Russell was able to prop up its struggling proprietary
12 funds, which were losing other investors amid Russell's performance and reputational
13 shortcomings. Russell's funds continued to underperform until Russell was eventually removed as
14 the Plan's outsourced investment fiduciary in the middle of 2019, less than four years after
15 assuming the role. In the meantime, the Plan suffered millions in lost investment returns as a result
16 of Russell selecting an all-proprietary lineup for Plan participants.

17 6. As the Plan's outsourced investment fiduciary, with discretionary control over the
18 Plan's investments, Russell was under a fiduciary obligation under ERISA to set aside all self-
19 interest and to act prudently and for the exclusive benefit of the Plan's participants. *See Lowen v.*
20 *Tower Asset Mgt., Inc.*, 829 F.2d 1209, 1219 (2d Cir. 1987) (“[P]lan trustees [may] delegate
21 investment authority to a professional advisor *who then becomes a fiduciary with a duty of care*
22 *and duty of loyalty to the plan*”) (emphasis added). These fiduciary duties are the “highest known
23 to the law.” *Howard v. Shay*, 100 F.3d 1484, 1488 (9th Cir. 1996) (citation omitted). Russell's
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26 ¹ The Federated Capital Preservation Fund remained in the Plan as of year-end 2015, but held less than 1% of Plan assets. The Federated fund was removed in 2016.

1 conflicted judgment breached multiple ERISA fiduciary standards, including its duty of loyalty to
2 Plan participants and its duty of prudence.

3 7. Plaintiff brings this action under ERISA to recover the Plan’s losses, prevent further
4 mismanagement of the Plan, and obtain other appropriate relief.

5 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

6 8. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 29
7 U.S.C. § 1132(e)(1).

8 9. Venue is proper in this district under 29 U.S.C. § 1132(e)(2) and 28 U.S.C.
9 § 1391(b) because this is the district where the breaches of fiduciary duties giving rise to this action
10 occurred, and where Defendants may be found.

11 **PARTIES**

12 **PLAINTIFF**

13 10. Plaintiff Ann Johnson resides in Coral Gables, Florida. Plaintiff Johnson is a current
14 participant in the Plan, and was invested in Russell funds (including the Russell target date fund
15 corresponding to her age) during the proposed class period. Plaintiff has suffered investment losses
16 as a result of Defendant’s fiduciary breaches and unlawful conduct as alleged in this Complaint.

17 **THE PLAN**

18 11. The Plan is an “employee pension benefit plan” within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §
19 1002(2)(A) and a “defined contribution” or “individual account” plan within the meaning of 29
20 U.S.C. § 1002(34). The Plan is also an “ERISA section 404(c) plan,” which means that participants
21 may choose between investment options (called “designated investment alternatives”) made
22 available by the Plan’s fiduciaries. *See* 29 C.F.R. § 2550.404c-1(a)(1) & (e)(4). In such plans, the
23 set of investment options made available by a plan’s fiduciaries is called the “investment menu.”
24 *E.g.*, DEP’T OF LABOR, *Financial Factors in Selecting Plan Investments*, 85 Fed. Reg. 72846,
25 72863 (Nov. 13, 2020) (“[W]hen assembling, choosing, or modifying an *investment menu* for
26 participants’ investment choices ...”) (emphasis added).

1 ERISA, and therefore Russell is a fiduciary of the Plan under that section, as well as under 29
2 U.S.C. § 1002(21)(A)(i); *see also* 29 C.F.R. § 404a-1(d)(1) (confirming that “selection or retention
3 of designated investment alternatives available to participants and beneficiaries in an individual
4 account plan” is a fiduciary activity.)

5 **BACKGROUND**

6 **ERISA FIDUCIARY DUTIES**

7 16. ERISA recognizes “that the continued well-being and security of millions of
8 employees and their dependents are directly affected by [retirement] plans.” 29 U.S.C. § 1001(a).
9 “The principal object of the statute is to protect plan participants and beneficiaries.” *Boggs v.*
10 *Boggs*, 520 U.S. 833, 845 (1997) (citation omitted). The “crucible of congressional concern was
11 misuse and mismanagement of plan assets by plan administrators” and “ERISA was designed to
12 prevent these abuses.” *Mass. Mut. Life Ins. Co. v. Russell*, 473 U.S. 134, 140 n.8 (1985) (citing
13 extensive legislative history).

14 17. To protect plan participants, ERISA incorporates the twin fiduciary duties of
15 loyalty and prudence. 29 U.S.C. § 1104(a)(1). These fiduciary duties are the “highest known to
16 law.” *Howard*, 100 F.3d at 1488.

17 18. The duty of loyalty requires fiduciaries to act “solely in the interest of the
18 participants and beneficiaries,” 29 U.S.C. § 1104(a)(1), with an “eye single” to the interests of
19 such participants and beneficiaries. *Pegram v. Herdrich*, 530 U.S. 211, 235 (2000). “A fiduciary
20 may not subordinate the interests of the participants and beneficiaries in their retirement income
21 or financial benefits under the plan to other objectives, and may not sacrifice investment return or
22 take on additional investment risk to promote non-pecuniary benefits or goals.” 29 C.F.R.
23 2550.404a-1(c)(1); *see also* DEP’T OF LABOR, ERISA Adv. Op. 88-16A, 1988 WL 222716, at *3
24 (Dec. 19, 1988) (“A decision to make an investment may not be influenced by [other] factors
25 unless the investment, when judged solely on the basis of its economic value to the plan, would be
26 equal or superior to alternative investments available to the plan.”).

1 19. The duty of prudence requires fiduciaries to exercise the “care, skill, prudence, and
 2 diligence” that a prudent person would utilize in managing a similar plan. 29 U.S.C.
 3 § 1104(a)(1)(B). To satisfy the duty of prudence with respect to an investment, a fiduciary must
 4 “employ[] appropriate methods to investigate the merits of the investment”, *Donovan v. Mazzola*,
 5 716 F.2d 1226, 1232 (9th Cir. 1983), including considering the “the risk of loss and opportunity
 6 for gain ... associated with the investment ... compared to the opportunity for gain ... associated
 7 with reasonably available alternatives with similar risks”. 29 C.F.R. § 2550.404a-1(a)(2)(i). Where
 8 a potential conflict of interest exists, fiduciaries must engage in an “intensive and scrupulous
 9 independent investigation of their options to insure that they act in the best interests of the plan
 10 beneficiaries.” *Howard*, 100 F.3d at 1488–89.

11 20. These fiduciary duties apply to both the selection and the ongoing monitoring and
 12 retention of investment options in a defined contribution plan’s menu. *See* 29 C.F.R. 2550.404c-
 13 1(d)(2)(iv) (providing that, while participants choose between investment options, plan fiduciaries
 14 have a “duty to prudently select and monitor any ... designated investment alternative offered
 15 under the plan”); 29 C.F.R. § 404a-1(d)(1) (confirming that ERISA fiduciary duties “apply to a
 16 fiduciary’s selection or retention of designated investment alternatives available to participants
 17 and beneficiaries in an individual account plan”); *see also Tibble*, 575 U.S. at 529. (“[A] trustee
 18 has a continuing duty to monitor trust investments and remove imprudent ones ... [that] exists
 19 separate and apart from the trustee's duty to exercise prudence in selecting investments[.]”).

DEFENDANT’S MISMANAGEMENT OF THE PLAN

RUSSELL’S SELF-SERVING PROMOTION OF ITS OWN FUNDS

22 21. Before Russell assumed control of the Plan’s investment menu, the Plan contained
 23 twenty different investments managed by a variety of asset managers. Among those investments
 24 was a suite of industry-leading “target date” funds⁴ managed by Vanguard.

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 26 ⁴ US DEP’T OF LABOR, *Target Date Retirement Funds – Tips for ERISA Plan Fiduciaries* (Feb. 2013) (“TDFs offer a long-term investment strategy based on holding a mix of stocks, bonds and other investments ... that automatically changes over time as the participant ages.”), *available at*

1 22. Immediately after Russell assumed the role of outsourced investment fiduciary,
2 Russell replaced the entire Plan menu and transferred over 99% of the Plan's assets into its own
3 struggling proprietary funds. As part of this transfer, Russell replaced a suite of Vanguard's
4 industry-leading target date funds with its own target date funds.

5 23. Replacing the Plan's investments *in toto* with an all-Russell menu was not prudent
6 or in the best interest of participants. Russell was not held in high esteem within the investment
7 management industry. According to Barron's annual rankings of mutual fund managers,⁵ at the
8 end of 2014 Russell ranked **51st out of 56** fund managers over the last five years and **dead last out**
9 **of 48** managers over the last ten years.⁶

10 24. Indeed, Russell itself was aware of its poor reputation and attempted to run from it.
11 Before 2016, Russell branded each of its funds as "Russell" funds (e.g. "Russell Small Cap Fund")
12 in the funds' public filings. Since 2016, Russell has removed the "Russell" title (e.g. "Small Cap
13 Fund") in those public filings.

14 25. It was especially inappropriate for Russell to replace the Vanguard target date funds
15 in the Plan with its own line of proprietary target date funds. There was no reason for a prudent
16 and loyal fiduciary to remove the Vanguard target date funds at all, let alone replace them with the
17 Russell target date funds. The illustration below compares the performance of Vanguard's target
18 date funds to Russell's target date funds leading up to year-end 2014 (the year before Russell
19 assumed fiduciary control of the Plan's menu), by identifying (1) the fund that outperformed over
20 each period, (2) the excess average annual return achieved by the outperforming fund, (3) the fund
21 that exhibited lower risk (as measured by the standard deviation of monthly returns during the
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24 <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ebsa/about-ebsa/our-activities/resource-center/fact-sheets/target-date-retirement-funds.pdf> (last visited June 2, 2021).

25 ⁵ While the Russell funds in the Plan are held in a collective trust structure, the mutual fund
26 rankings demonstrate Russell's inability to add value as an investment manager.

⁶ Russell again came in dead last in 2015, ranking 52nd out of 52 managers over the last ten years.

1 period), and (4) the difference between standard deviations of the lower risk fund and the higher
2 risk fund.

3 *Illustration 1: Prior TDFs vs. Russell TDFs*
4 *As of Year-End 2014*

2055 Fund	3-Year	5-Year⁷	Life of Russell Fund⁸
Higher Return Fund	Vanguard (+ 2.07%)	--	Vanguard (+ 2.14%)
Lower Risk Fund	Vanguard (- .25%)	--	Vanguard (- .25%)

2050 Fund	3-Year	5-Year	Life of Russell Fund
Higher Return Fund	Vanguard (+ 2.04%)	Vanguard (+ 1.40%)	Vanguard (+ 1.38%)
Lower Risk Fund	Vanguard (- 0.21%)	Vanguard (- 0.53%)	Vanguard (- 1.08%)

2045 Fund	3-Year	5-Year	Life of Russell Fund
Higher Return Fund	Vanguard (+ 2.09%)	Vanguard (+ 1.42%)	Vanguard (+ 1.53%)
Lower Risk Fund	Vanguard (- .15%)	Vanguard (- 0.49%)	Vanguard (- 1.09%)

2040 Fund	3-Year	5-Year	Life of Russell Fund
Higher Return Fund	Vanguard (+ 2.03%)	Vanguard (+ 1.37%)	Vanguard (+ 1.11%)
Lower Risk Fund	Vanguard (- 0.20%)	Vanguard (- 0.52%)	Vanguard (- 1.16%)

2035 Fund	3-Year	5-Year	Life of Russell Fund
Higher Return Fund	Vanguard (+ 1.41%)	Vanguard (+ 1.08%)	Vanguard (+ 1.20%)
Lower Risk Fund	Vanguard (- 0.63%)	Vanguard (- 0.77%)	Vanguard (- 1.25%)

2030 Fund	3-Year	5-Year	Life of Russell Fund
Higher Return Fund	Vanguard (+ 2.09%)	Vanguard (+ 1.39%)	Vanguard (+ 1.35%)
Lower Risk Fund	Russell (- 0.03%)	Vanguard (- .81%)	Vanguard (- 1.75%)

2025 Fund	3-Year	5-Year	Life of Russell Fund
Higher Return Fund	Vanguard (+ 2.67%)	Vanguard (+ 1.44%)	Vanguard (+ 1.27%)
Lower Risk Fund	Russell (- .82%)	Russell (- 0.75%)	Vanguard (- 0.16%)

2020 Fund	3-Year	5-Year	Life of Russell Fund
Higher Return Fund	Vanguard (+ 3.26%)	Vanguard (+ 1.60%)	Vanguard (+ 0.79%)
Lower Risk Fund	Russell (- 1.12%)	Russell (- 1.55%)	Russell (- 0.80%)

22 26. Despite taking on less risk than the Russell funds the majority of the time, the
23 Vanguard funds outperformed the Russell funds over 3-years, 5-years, and since the Russell fund's
24

25 ⁷ The Russell 2055 Fund did not have five years of performance history as of year-end 2014.

26 ⁸ The Russell target date funds did not have ten years of performance history as of year-end 2014. This column represents the risk or return as measured from the date of the first full month that the Russell funds were in operation through year-end 2014.

1 inception *for every vintage offered*, by at least **79 basis points**. Faced with these results, a prudent
 2 and objective fiduciary would not have replaced the Vanguard target date funds with Russell's
 3 target date funds in 2015. Nor would a prudent and objective fiduciary have chosen Russell's target
 4 date funds over parallel Vanguard funds if considering new investments for the Plan.

5 27. Vanguard's target date funds were not the only choice a prudent fiduciary could
 6 have made. When Russell was removed as the Plan's investment manager in 2019, the Russell
 7 target date funds were replaced with another suite of target date funds managed by American
 8 Funds. Whether the Russell target date funds are compared to the target date funds in the Plan
 9 before Russell took control of the Plan's menu (Vanguard), the target date funds that replaced the
 10 Russell funds after Russell was removed as the Plan's investment manager (American Funds), or
 11 to a standard industry target date fund benchmark created by Standard & Poor's,⁹ a prudent and
 12 objective fiduciary would not have selected the Russell target date funds for the Plan.

13 ***Illustration 2: Prior TDFs, Current TDFs, and TDF Indexes vs. Russell TDFs***
 14 ***As of Year-End 2014***

2055 Fund	3-Year	5-Year	Life of Russell Fund¹⁰
American Funds	16.51%	--	15.28%
Vanguard	15.49%	--	14.24%
S&P Target Date Index	15.20%	--	13.99%
Russell	13.42%	--	12.10%

2050 Fund	3-Year	5-Year	Life of Russell Fund
American Funds	16.52%	11.82%	7.08%
Vanguard	15.49%	11.58%	6.85%
S&P Target Date Index	14.86%	11.21%	6.25%
Russell	13.45%	10.18%	5.47%

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 24 ⁹ The S&P Target Date Index represents a market consensus of asset class exposure and glide path
 25 across the universe of target date fund managers. The index is designed to help retirement plan
 26 fiduciaries screen, select, and monitor appropriate target date funds.

¹⁰ The Russell Funds did not have ten years of performance history as of year-end 2014. This
 column represents the return as measured from the date of the first full month that the Russell
 funds were in operation through year-end 2014.

2045 Fund	3-Year	5-Year	Life of Russell Fund
American Funds	16.53%	11.80%	7.09%
Vanguard	15.49%	11.58%	6.84%
S&P Target Date Index	14.43%	11.04%	6.12%
Russell	13.40%	10.16%	5.31%

2040 Fund	3-Year	5-Year	Life of Russell Fund
American Funds	16.50%	11.79%	6.63%
Vanguard	15.48%	11.57%	5.78%
S&P Target Date Index	13.96%	10.81%	5.12%
Russell	13.45%	10.20%	4.67%

2035 Fund	3-Year	5-Year	Life of Russell Fund
American Funds	16.29%	11.71%	6.69%
Vanguard	14.90%	11.29%	6.21%
S&P Target Date Index	13.38%	10.50%	5.72%
Russell	13.49%	10.21%	5.01%

2030 Fund	3-Year	5-Year	Life of Russell Fund
American Funds	16.15%	11.72%	6.55%
Vanguard	13.84%	10.76%	5.45%
S&P Target Date Index	12.60%	10.07%	5.07%
Russell	11.75%	9.37%	4.10%

2025 Fund	3-Year	5-Year	Life of Russell Fund
American Funds	15.12%	11.23%	6.29%
Vanguard	12.78%	10.22%	5.97%
S&P Target Date Index	11.60%	9.55%	5.59%
Russell	10.11%	8.78%	4.70%

2020 Fund	3-Year	5-Year	Life of Russell Fund
American Funds	12.70%	10.00%	5.56%
Vanguard	11.71%	9.67%	5.51%
S&P Target Date Index	10.57%	8.95%	4.99%
Russell	8.45%	8.07%	4.71%

28. Russell yielded these deficient results—often underperforming Vanguard and

1 American Funds by 2-3% per year and the S&P target date indexes by about 1% per year—while
2 taking on comparable and often higher levels of risk. Indeed, over each period, Russell’s 2035,
3 2040, 2045, 2050, and 2055 funds exhibited higher risk (as measured by the standard deviation of
4 returns) than the corresponding vintages from Vanguard and American Funds.

5 ***RUSSELL LOOKED TO INCREASE ITS ASSET-BASE WHILE OTHER FIDUCIARIES FLED***

6 29. Prior to and during its time as the Plan’s outsourced investment fiduciary, Russell’s
7 business was threatened by diminishing assets in the Russell funds. Maintaining asset levels is
8 critical for fund managers. Managers charge fees and expenses as a percentage of the assets in the
9 fund, so a fund’s size determines the expense ratio the manager can offer in the marketplace. A
10 decline in assets means that a fund must charge higher fees or reduce services to maintain the same
11 level of profitability for the manager, or alternatively, the fund manager must subsidize the fund
12 and accept a lower level of profits. Further, a competitive marketplace for fees leaves little room
13 for managers to raise fees.¹¹ A material drop in assets therefore poses significant risks to the
14 survival of a fund.

15 30. Scale is especially critical for Russell’s target date funds. Russell’s target date funds
16 are composed of a dozen underlying Russell funds. Therefore, a drop in assets in the Russell target
17 date funds also reduces assets in a dozen other Russell funds.

18 31. Russell’s funds were at risk during its tenure as the Plan’s investment fiduciary as
19 fiduciaries of other large retirement plans withdrew their investments from the funds. After hitting
20 a high mark in terms of assets around 2013, Russell started to lose investors in its target date funds,
21 and assets in the funds started to decline. In 2014, Russell lost more than 30% of the assets in its
22 target date funds when the funds’ largest investor (which had more than \$500 million in the funds)
23 switched to Vanguard’s target date funds. Other large investors left Russell’s target date funds in

24 ¹¹ See CALLAN INSTITUTE, 2019 Investment Management Fee Study (“[S]ustained downward
25 pressure on both fee schedules and mandate sizes results in significantly lower dollar fees paid
26 (manager revenue) per client.”), available at
<https://www.callan.com/uploads/2020/05/0ce3d1da04c2c1d8e13a30a67dbdfabe/callan-2019-im-fee-study.pdf> (last visited June 2, 2021).

1 subsequent years, including Russell's own employee plan, which withdrew its entire investment
2 (around \$130 million) from the funds in 2016. During 2017, four additional fiduciaries,
3 representing twelve plans and over \$450 million invested the funds, pulled their investments. The
4 2017 exodus included nearly half the target date funds' remaining investors and more than one-
5 third of the reported assets as of year-end 2016. Five additional plans left the funds in 2018. During
6 Russell's tenure, the Plan represented around 15%-20% of the assets in Russell's target date funds.

7 32. Thus, while the change could not be justified based on prospective returns for
8 participants, *see supra*, swapping the Plan's target date funds for its own target date funds and
9 retaining those funds during its tenure gave Russell's funds a significant boost during a critical
10 time of large investor outflows.

11 33. The target date funds were not the only problematic funds in the Plan. No prudent
12 and loyal fiduciary would have made an across-the-board decision to select an all-Russell lineup
13 in late 2015, considering Russell's poor reputation and poor results as an investment manager.
14 Additionally, had Russell been prudently monitoring the funds after its self-serving decision to
15 add them to the Plan, it would have followed the lead of the numerous other fiduciaries that
16 removed Russell funds from their plans. Although the Plan sponsor ultimately removed Russell as
17 the Plan's outsourced investment fiduciary in mid-2019, Russell's self-serving fund choices had
18 already cost participants millions of dollars in retirement savings. Upon Russell's removal as the
19 Plan's investment fiduciary, the Russell funds were replaced¹² with a variety of funds managed by
20 other companies, including Vanguard and American Funds.

21 **V. PLAINTIFF LACKED KNOWLEDGE OF DEFENDANT'S FIDUCIARY MISCONDUCT**

22 34. Plaintiff did not have knowledge of all material facts (including, among other
23 things, the poor performance of the Russell funds before they were added to the Plan; the
24 performance of the Russell funds compared to the funds in the Plan before Russell's appointment

25 ¹² Only the Russell Investment Contract Fund remained in the Plan as of year-end 2019. The Plan's
26 form 5500s specify that Russell, as trustee, requires one-year advance notification for full
redemption of a stable value fund like the Russell Investment Contract Fund.

1 as investment manager; the performance of the Russell funds compared to other marketplace
2 options available to the Plan; the risk assumed by Russell funds compared to other options
3 available to the Plan; Russell’s poor reputation as a fund manager; the importance of maintaining
4 fund assets to Russell’s business strategy; the migration of other fiduciaries from the Russell funds;
5 Russell’s conflicted role in recommending its own funds for the Plan as a supposedly
6 “independent” investment manager; and the relative unpopularity of the Russell funds in the
7 retirement plan marketplace and the investment marketplace overall) necessary to understand that
8 Russell breached its fiduciary duties until shortly before this suit was filed. Further, Plaintiff did
9 not have actual knowledge of the specifics of Russell’s decision-making and monitoring processes
10 with respect to the Plan, because this information is solely within the possession of Russell prior
11 to discovery. For purposes of this Complaint, Plaintiff has drawn reasonable inferences regarding
12 these processes based upon (among other things) the facts set forth herein.

13 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

14 35. 29 U.S.C. § 1132(a)(2) authorizes any participant or beneficiary of the Plan to bring
15 an action individually on behalf of the Plan to seek the remedies provided by 29 U.S.C. § 1109(a).
16 Plaintiff seeks certification of this action as a class action pursuant to these statutory provisions
17 and Fed. R. Civ. P. 23.

18 36. Plaintiff asserts her claims against Russell on behalf of a class of participants and
19 beneficiaries of the Plan defined as follows:¹³

20 All participants and beneficiaries of the Royal Caribbean Cruises,
21 Ltd. Retirement Savings Plan at any time from October 1, 2015 to
the date Russell was removed as the Plan’s investment manager.

22 37. Numerosity: The Class is so numerous that joinder of all Class members is
23 impracticable. During the putative class period, the Plan had roughly 7,000 participants.

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26 ¹³ Plaintiff reserves the right to propose other or additional classes or subclasses in her motion for
class certification or subsequent pleadings in this action.

1 38. Typicality: Plaintiff’s claims are typical of the Class members’ claims. Like other
2 Class members, Plaintiff participated in the Plan, was invested in Russell funds (including the
3 Russell target date funds), and has suffered injuries as a result of Russell’s mismanagement of the
4 Plan. Russell treated Plaintiff consistent with other Class members with regard to the Plan. Russell
5 managed the Plan as a single entity, and therefore Russell’s imprudent decisions with respect to
6 the Russell funds affected all Class members similarly.

7 39. Adequacy: Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class.
8 Plaintiff’s interests are aligned with the Class that she seeks to represent, and she has retained
9 counsel experienced in complex class action litigation, including ERISA class action litigation.
10 Plaintiff does not have any conflict of interest with any Class members that would impair or impede
11 her ability to represent other Class members.

12 40. Commonality: Common questions of law and fact exist as to all Class members,
13 and predominate over any questions solely affecting individual Class members, including but not
14 limited to:

- 15 a) Whether Defendant is a fiduciary of the Plan, and the scope of its fiduciary duties;
- 16 b) Whether Defendant breached its fiduciary duties under 29 U.S.C. § 1104 by
17 engaging in the conduct described herein;
- 18 c) The proper form of equitable and injunctive relief; and
- 19 d) The proper measure of monetary relief.

20 41. Class certification is appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(1)(A) because
21 prosecuting separate actions against Russell would create a risk of inconsistent or varying
22 adjudications with respect to individual Class members that would establish incompatible
23 standards of conduct for Russell.

24 42. Class certification is also appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(1)(B) because
25 adjudications with respect to individual Class members, as a practical matter, would be dispositive
26 of the interests of the other persons not parties to the individual adjudications or would

1 substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests. Any award of equitable relief
2 by the Court would be dispositive of non-party participants' interests. Class certification is also
3 appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3) because questions of law and fact common to the Class
4 predominate over any questions affecting only individual Class members, and because a class
5 action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this litigation.
6 Russell's conduct as described in this Complaint applied uniformly to all Class members. Class
7 members do not have an interest in pursuing separate actions against Russell, as the amount of
8 each Class member's individual claims is relatively small compared to the expense and burden of
9 individual prosecution, and Plaintiff is unaware of any similar claims brought against Russell by
10 any Class members on an individual basis. Class certification also will obviate the need for unduly
11 duplicative litigation that might result in inconsistent judgments concerning Russell's practices.
12 Moreover, management of this action as a class action will not present any likely difficulties. In
13 the interests of justice and judicial efficiency, it would be desirable to concentrate the litigation of
14 all Class members' claims in a single forum.

15 **COUNT I**

16 **Breach of Duties of Loyalty and Prudence**

17 **29 U.S.C. § 1104**

18 43. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges Paragraphs 1 through 42 of the Complaint as though
19 fully set forth herein.

20 44. Russell was a fiduciary of the Plan during the proposed class period under 29 U.S.C.
21 § 1002(21) and 29 U.S.C. § 1002(38).

22 45. ERISA imposed strict fiduciary duties of loyalty and prudence upon Russell in its
23 administration of the Plan and its selection and monitoring of Plan investments. Section 404(a) of
24 ERISA, 29 U.S.C. § 1104(a), provides:

25 [A] fiduciary shall discharge his duties with respect to a plan solely in the interest of the
26 participants and beneficiaries and—

- 1 (A) for the exclusive purpose of
2 (i) providing benefits to participants and their beneficiaries; and
3 (ii) defraying reasonable expenses of administering the plan; [and]
4 (B) with the care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then
5 prevailing that a prudent man acting in a like capacity and familiar with
6 such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of like character and
7 with like aims

8 46. These fiduciary duties are continuing in nature, and apply to both the selection of
9 investments for the Plan and the subsequent monitoring, retention, removal, and replacement of
10 those investment options. *Tibble*, 575 U.S. at 529.

11 47. Russell breached its fiduciary duties by selecting the Russell funds for the Plan,
12 transferring over \$300 million in assets into the Russell funds, and retaining the funds throughout
13 its tenure as the Plan’s outsourced investment fiduciary. This was neither prudent nor in the interest
14 of Plan participants and beneficiaries.

15 48. A prudent fiduciary acting solely in the interest of Plan participants and
16 beneficiaries would not have selected the Russell funds or mapped Plan assets into those funds.
17 Moreover, a prudent and loyal fiduciary would not have retained Russell’s inferior proprietary
18 funds in the Plan’s investment lineup.

19 49. Russell’s fiduciary breaches resulted in significant losses to the Plan, and Russell
20 is liable for these losses under 29 U.S.C. §§ 1109(a) and 1132(a)(2).

21 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

22 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Ann Johnson, as the Class representative, and on behalf of the
23 Plan, prays for relief as follows:

- 24 A. A determination that this action may proceed as a class action under Rule 23(b)(1), or
25 in the alternative, Rule 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;
26

- 1 B. Designation of Plaintiff as Class Representative and designation of Plaintiff’s counsel
2 as Class Counsel;
- 3 C. A declaration that Defendant has breached its fiduciary duties under ERISA;
- 4 D. An order compelling Defendant to personally make good to the Plan all losses that the
5 Plan incurred as a result of the breaches of fiduciary duties described herein, and to
6 restore the Plan to the position it would have been in but for this unlawful conduct;
- 7 E. Other equitable relief to redress Defendant’s illegal practices and to enforce the
8 provisions of ERISA as may be appropriate;
- 9 F. An award of pre-judgment interest;
- 10 G. An award of attorneys’ fees and costs pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 1132(g) and/or the
11 common fund doctrine;
- 12 H. An award of such other and further relief as the Court deems equitable and just.

13 Dated: June 7, 2021

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**pro hac vice* motions forthcoming

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

CIVIL COVER SHEET

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

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

Ann Johnson, individually and as the representative of a class of similarly situated persons, and on behalf of the Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. Retirement Savings Plan,

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Miami-Dade County (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

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

Lindsay Halm, Schroeter Goldmark & Bender, 810 Third Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98104; Paul Lukas, Kai Richter, Brock Specht, Ben Bauer, Nichols Kaster, PLLP, 4700 IDS Center, 80 S 8th St, Minneapolis, MN (612) 256-3200

DEFENDANTS

Russell Investment Management LLC

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

Attorneys (If Known)

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

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

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

Table with columns for Plaintiff (Plf) and Defendant (Def) citizenship: Citizen of This State, Citizen of Another State, Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country, Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State, Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State, Foreign Nation.

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

Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.

Large table with categories: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, CIVIL RIGHTS, TORTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES.

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

- 1 Original Proceeding, 2 Removed from State Court, 3 Remanded from Appellate Court, 4 Reinstated or Reopened, 5 Transferred from Another District (specify), 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer, 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION: Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): ERISA, 29 U.S.C § 1001, et seq. Brief description of cause: Breach of fiduciary duty

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. DEMAND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY (See instructions): JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER

DATE 6/7/21 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD s/ Lindsay L. Halm

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: RECEIPT # AMOUNT APPLYING IFP JUDGE MAG JUDGE

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.
 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 – 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 statute.
- 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.

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

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Western District of Washington

Ann Johnson, as the representative of a class of similarly situated persons, and on behalf of the Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. Retirement Savings Plan,

Plaintiff(s)

v.

Russell Investment Management LLC,

Defendant(s)

Civil Action No.

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) Russell Investment Management LLC
C/O its registered agent CT Corporation System
711 Capitol Way S Ste 204
Olympia, WA, 98501

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: Lindsay Halm, Schroeter Goldmark & Bender, 810 Third Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle, Washington 98104

Paul Lukas, Kai Richter, Brock Specht, Ben Bauer
Nichols Kaster, PLLP, 4700 IDS Center, 80 S 8th St, Minneapolis, MN 55402

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:

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. _____

PROOF OF SERVICE

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

This summons for *(name of individual and title, if any)* _____
was received by me on *(date)* _____ .

I personally served the summons on the individual at *(place)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____ ; or

I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* _____
_____, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,
on *(date)* _____ , and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

I served the summons on *(name of individual)* _____ , who is
designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____ ; or

I returned the summons 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: [Russell Investment Management to Blame for Millions in Royal Caribbean Retirement Plan Losses, Lawsuit Alleges](#)
