

1 **EDELSBERG LAW, P.A.**

2 Scott Edelsberg, Esq. (CA Bar No. 330990)

3 1925 Century Park E #1700

4 Los Angeles, CA 90067

5 Telephone: 305-975-3320

6 scott@edelsberglaw.com

*Counsel for Plaintiff and Proposed Class*

7 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
8 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
9 **SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

10 IAN LASKY,  
11 individually and on behalf of all others  
12 similarly situated,

*Plaintiff,*

13 vs.

14 AVEN FINANCIAL, INC.,

*Defendant.*

Case No.

**CLASS ACTION**

**COMPLAINT FOR  
NEGLIGENCE, BREACH OF  
IMPLIED CONTRACT,  
INVASION OF PRIVACY AND  
UNJUST ENRICHMENT**

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

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**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

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2 Plaintiff Ian Lasky (“Plaintiff”), on behalf of herself and all others similarly  
3 situated, alleges the following Class Action Complaint (the “Action”) against Defendant  
4 Aven Financial, Inc. (“AVEN” or “Defendant”) upon personal knowledge as to herself  
5 and her own actions, and upon information and belief, including the investigation of  
6 counsel as follows:  
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8  
9 **I. SUMMARY**

10 1. Defendant provides financial products and services to individuals and  
11 organizations in California and beyond.

12 2. Plaintiff brings this Action on behalf of herself and all other similarly  
13 situated victims as a result of a recent cyberattack and data breach involving the  
14 personally identifiable information of members of Defendant (“Members”).  
15

16 3. On or about July 17, 2023, an unknown and unauthorized criminal actor  
17 gained access to AVEN’s network and exfiltrated Members’ personal identifiable  
18 information (“PII”) including their name, date of birth, and social security number,  
19 driver’s license number, financial account info along with other data provided to AVEN  
20 (the “Data Breach”).  
21

22 4. In Notice of Data Breach letter AVEN sent to Plaintiff and Class  
23 Members (“Notice”), attached hereto as *Exhibit A*, AVEN explains:  
24

25 “Aven Financial, Inc. (“AVEN”) committed to protecting the personal  
26 information we collect and maintain. We are writing to notify you of a  
27 data security incident that may have involved some of your personal  
28

1 information. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you. is  
2 writing to inform you of a recent data security incident that may have  
3 affected your personal information.

4 Aven was recently informed by a security researcher that he was able to  
5 access an internal, in-development storage system containing personal  
6 information, through a temporary vulnerability in that system.”

7 5. AVEN further admits in the Notice letter that the “[i]nformation that may  
8 have been involved includes your name, SSN, date of birth, driver’s license number,  
9 financial account info and other information.” AVEN thereafter admonishes victims “.  
10 . . . cybersecurity experts recommend changing passwords every 90 days. Consider  
11 placing a Fraud Alert and/or Security Freze on your credit files, and applying multi-  
12 factor authentication on your financial accounts. Additionally, you should always  
13 remain vigilant in reviewing your financial account statements and credit reports for  
14 fraudulent or irregular activity on a regular basis.”

15 6. The Notice is deficient for several reasons: (1) AVEN fails to state how  
16 they were able to contain or end the cybersecurity threat, leaving victims to fear whether  
17 the PII that AVEN continues to maintain is secure; and (2) AVEN fails to state how  
18 the breach itself occurred; This information is vital to victims of a data breach, let alone  
19 a data breach of this magnitude due to the sensitivity and wide array of information  
20 compromised in this specific breach.

21 7. As a result of the Data Breach, Plaintiff and Class Members suffered injury  
22 and ascertainable losses in the form of the present and imminent threat of fraud and  
23 identity theft, loss of the benefit of their bargain, out-of-pocket expenses, loss of value  
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1 of their time reasonably incurred to remedy or mitigate the effects of the attack, and  
2 the loss of, and diminution in, value of their PII.

3 8. In addition, Plaintiff's and Class Members' sensitive PII —which was  
4 entrusted to Defendant — was compromised and unlawfully accessed due to the Data  
5 Breach. This information, while compromised and taken by unauthorized third parties,  
6 also remains in Defendant's possession. Without additional safeguards and independent  
7 review and oversight, it remains vulnerable to future cyberattacks and theft.  
8

9  
10 9. The Data Breach was a direct result of Defendant's failure to implement  
11 adequate and reasonable cyber-security procedures and protocols necessary to protect  
12 victims' PII.

13  
14 10. Plaintiff brings this class action lawsuit on behalf of those similarly  
15 situated to address Defendant's inadequate safeguarding of Class Members' PII that  
16 Defendant collected and maintained, and for failing to provide timely and adequate  
17 notice to Plaintiff and other Class Members that their information had been subject to  
18 the unauthorized access by an unknown third party.

19  
20 11. Defendant maintained the PII in a reckless manner. In particular, the PII  
21 was maintained on Defendant's computer network in a condition vulnerable to  
22 cyberattacks.  
23

24 12. The mechanism of the cyberattack and potential for improper disclosure  
25 of Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII was a known risk to Defendant and entities like  
26 it, and Defendant was thus on notice that failing to take steps necessary to secure the  
27

1 PII against those risks left that property in a dangerous condition and vulnerable to  
2 theft. Defendant was further on notice of the severe consequences that would result to  
3 Plaintiff and Class Members from its failure to safeguard their PII.

4  
5 13. Defendant disregarded the rights of Plaintiff and Class Members (defined  
6 below) by, *inter alia*, intentionally, willfully, recklessly, or negligently failing to take  
7 adequate and reasonable measures to ensure its data systems were protected against  
8 unauthorized intrusions; failing to disclose that it did not have adequately robust  
9 computer systems and security practices to safeguard member PII; failing to take  
10 standard and reasonably available steps to prevent the Data Breach; failing to properly  
11 train its staff and employees on proper security measures; and failing to provide Plaintiff  
12 and Class Members prompt notice of the Data Breach.  
13  
14

15 14. In addition, Defendant and its employees failed to properly monitor the  
16 computer network and systems that housed the PII. Had Defendant properly  
17 monitored its computer network and systems, it would have discovered the intrusion  
18 sooner, as opposed to letting cyberthieves roam freely in Defendant's IT network for  
19 months or even years.  
20

21  
22 15. Plaintiff's and Class Members' identities are now at risk because of  
23 Defendant's negligent conduct since the PII that Defendant collected and maintained  
24 is now in the hands of data thieves. This present risk will continue for their respective  
25 lifetimes.  
26  
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1           16. Armed with the PII accessed in the Data Breach, data thieves can commit  
2 a variety of crimes including, e.g., opening new financial accounts in Class Members'  
3 names, taking out loans in Class Members' names, using Class Members' names to  
4 obtain medical services, using Class Members' information to obtain government  
5 benefits, filing fraudulent tax returns using Class Members' information, obtaining  
6 driver's licenses in Class Members' names but with another person's photograph, and  
7 giving false information to police during an arrest.  
8  
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10           17. As a result of the Data Breach, Plaintiff and Class Members have been  
11 exposed to a present and imminent risk of fraud and identity theft. Plaintiff and Class  
12 Members must now and in the future closely monitor their financial accounts to guard  
13 against identity theft.  
14

15           18. Plaintiff and Class Members will incur out of pocket costs for, e.g.,  
16 purchasing credit monitoring services, credit freezes, credit reports, or other protective  
17 measures to deter and detect identity theft.  
18

19           19. Plaintiff seeks to remedy these harms on behalf of herself and all similarly  
20 situated individuals whose PII was accessed during the Data Breach.  
21

22           20. Plaintiff seeks remedies including, but not limited to, actual damages,  
23 compensatory damages, nominal damages, and reimbursement of out-of-pocket costs.  
24

25           21. Plaintiff also seeks injunctive and equitable relief to prevent future injury  
26 on behalf of herself and the putative Class.  
27

28           **II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

1           22. This Court has subject matter and diversity jurisdiction over this action  
2 under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d) because this is a class action wherein the amount in  
3 controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$5 million, exclusive of interests and costs,  
4 there are more than 100 members of the proposed class, and at least one Class Member  
5 is a citizen of a state different from Defendant to establish minimal diversity, namely,  
6 Plaintiff is an California resident whereas Defendant is a Delaware corporation.  
7

8           23. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant  
9 is headquartered and does substantial business from and within in this District.  
10

11           24. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because  
12 Defendant and/or its parents or affiliates are headquartered in this District and a  
13 substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Plaintiff's claims occurred in  
14 this District.  
15

16           **III. PARTIES**  
17

18           25. Plaintiff is an individual citizen of California and received a Notice of Data  
19 Breach letter from Defendant. Plaintiff is a member of AVEN.  
20

21           26. Defendant Aven Financial, Inc. provides financial products and services  
22 to residents and organizations.  
23

24           **IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**  
25

26           *Defendant's Business*  
27

28           27. According to Defendant's website:

1 Bye high interest. Hello, Aven. Our mission is provide the lowest cost, most  
2 convenient, and most transparent access to capital.<sup>1</sup>

3 28. Defendant collects PII from their Members in the course of doing  
4 business. This PII includes the PII which was compromised in the Data Breach alleged  
5 herein.

6 29. Prior to receiving services from Defendant, Plaintiff and Class Members  
7 were required to and did in fact turn over their PII.  
8

9 30. Upon information and belief, Defendant promises to maintain the  
10 confidentiality of Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII to ensure compliance with federal  
11 and state laws and regulations, and not to use or disclose Plaintiff's and Class Members'  
12 PII for non-essential purposes.  
13

14 31. Indeed, Defendant's Privacy Policy states, "[w]e implement and maintain  
15 technical, organizational, and physical safeguards that are designed to protect the  
16 Personal Information we collect."<sup>2</sup>  
17

18 32. As a condition of receiving Defendant's services, Defendant requires that  
19 Plaintiff and Class Members entrust it with highly sensitive PII.  
20

21 33. By obtaining, collecting, using, and deriving a benefit from Plaintiff's and  
22 Class Members' PII, Defendant assumed legal and equitable duties and knew or should  
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27 <sup>1</sup> <https://www.aven.com/about> (last accessed Aug. 7, 2023).

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.aven.com/docs/PrivacyPolicy.html> (last accessed Aug. 7, 2023).



1 have known that it was responsible for protecting Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII  
2 from unauthorized disclosure.

3 34. Plaintiff and Class Members have taken reasonable steps to maintain the  
4 confidentiality of their PII. Plaintiff and Class Members would not have entrusted  
5 Defendant with their Private Information had they known that Defendant would fail  
6 to implement industry standard protections for that sensitive information.  
7

8 35. Plaintiff and the Class Members relied on Defendant to keep their PII  
9 confidential and securely maintained, to use this information for business purposes  
10 only, and to make only authorized disclosures of this information.  
11

12 ***The Attack and Data Breach***  
13

14 36. Defendant informed Plaintiff and the Class Members via the Notice that:

15 “Aven Financial, Inc. (“AVEN”) committed to protecting the personal  
16 information we collect and maintain. We are writing to notify you of a  
17 data security incident that may have involved some of your personal  
18 information. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you.  
19 While we have no evidence that any personal information was  
20 compromised, we wanted to inform you of this event out of an  
21 abundance of caution. This notice explains the incident, measures we  
22 have taken, and some steps you may consider taking in response. is  
23 writing to inform you of a recent data security incident that may have  
24 affected your personal information.  
25

26 Aven was recently informed by a security researcher that he was able to  
27 access an internal, in-development storage system containing personal  
28 information, through a temporary vulnerability in that system. Aven took  
immediate steps to secure that system.”

1 37. The PII that was compromised includes but is not limited to Members'  
2 name, SSN, date of birth, driver's license number, financial account info and other  
3 information and other data provided to AVEN.

4 38. In its Data Breach Notice letter, AVEN also encourages the victims to  
5 place fraud alerts and/or security freezes on their credit files, change their passwords  
6 and remain vigilant in reviewing their financial account statements. Through these  
7 statements, Defendant is acknowledging that Plaintiff and Class Members are subject  
8 to an imminent threat of identity theft and financial fraud.  
9

10 39. Due to Defendant's inadequate security measures, Plaintiff and the Class  
11 Members now face a present, immediate, and ongoing risk of fraud and identity theft  
12 and must deal with that threat forever.  
13

14 40. Upon information and belief, the PII was not encrypted prior to the data  
15 breach.  
16

17 41. Upon information and belief, the cyberattack was targeted at Defendant  
18 as a company that collects and maintains valuable personal and financial data from its  
19 many Members, including Plaintiff and Class Members.  
20

21 42. Upon information and belief, the cyberattack was expressly designed to  
22 gain access to private and confidential data, including (among other things) the PII of  
23 Plaintiff and Class Members.  
24

25 43. Defendant had obligations to keep Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII  
26 confidential and to protect it from unauthorized access and disclosure.  
27

1 44. Plaintiff and Class Members provided their PII to Defendant with the  
2 reasonable expectation and on the mutual understanding that Defendant would comply  
3 with its obligations to keep such information confidential and secure from unauthorized  
4 access.

5  
6 ***The Data Breach Was Foreseeable and the Defendant Was Aware of Its  
7 Risk***

8 45. It is well known that PII, particularly Social Security numbers and Member  
9 names, are invaluable commodities and a frequent target of hackers.

10 46. In 2021, there were a record 1,862 data breaches last year, surpassing both  
11 2020's total of 1,108 and the previous record of 1,506 set in 2017.<sup>3</sup>

12  
13 47. Individuals place a high value not only on their PII, but also on the privacy  
14 of that data. For the individual, identity theft causes “significant negative financial  
15 impact on victims” as well as severe distress and other strong emotions and physical  
16 reactions.

17  
18 48. Individuals are particularly concerned with protecting the privacy of their  
19 Social Security numbers, which are the “secret sauce” that is “as good as your DNA to  
20 hackers.”<sup>4</sup> There are long-term consequences to data breach victims whose social  
21 security numbers are taken and used by hackers. Even if they know their Social Security  
22

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25 <sup>3</sup> Bree Fowler, *Data breaches break record in 2021*, CNET (Jan. 24, 2022), <https://www.cnet.com/tech/services-and-software/record-number-of-data-breaches-reported-in-2021-new-report-says/>.

26 <sup>4</sup> See Cameron Huddleston, *How to Protect Your Kids From the Anthem Data Breach*, Kiplinger, (Feb. 9,  
27 2015), <https://www.kiplinger.com/article/credit/t048-c011-s001-how-to-protect-your-kids-from-the-anthem-data-brea.html> (last visited Aug. 4, 2023).

1 numbers have been accessed, Plaintiff and Class Members cannot obtain new numbers  
2 unless they become a victim of Social Security number misuse. Even then, the Social  
3 Security Administration has warned that “a new number probably won’t solve all []  
4 problems ... and won’t guarantee ... a fresh start.”<sup>5</sup>

5  
6 49. In light of recent high profile data breaches at other industry leading  
7 companies, including, Microsoft (250 million records, December 2019), Wattpad (268  
8 million records, June 2020), Facebook (267 million users, April 2020), Estee Lauder  
9 (440 million records, January 2020), Whisper (900 million records, March 2020), and  
10 Advanced Info Service (8.3 billion records, May 2020), and, in light of the recent data  
11 breaches Wells Fargo has suffered, Defendant knew or should have known that its  
12 electronic records would be targeted by cybercriminals.  
13

14  
15 50. Indeed, cyberattacks have become so notorious that the FBI and U.S.  
16 Secret Service have issued a warning to potential targets so they are aware of and take  
17 appropriate measures to prepare for and thwart such an attack.  
18

19 51. Despite the prevalence of public announcements of data breach and data  
20 security compromises, and despite their own acknowledgment of its duties to keep PII  
21 private and secure, Defendant failed to take appropriate steps to protect the PII of  
22 Plaintiff and the proposed Class from being compromised.  
23

24 ***Defendant Had a Duty to Plaintiff and Class Members to Secure PII***

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26  
27 <sup>5</sup> See Social Security Admin., *Identity Theft and Your Social Security Number*, at 6-7, <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10064.pdf> (last visited Aug. 4, 2023).

1           52. At all relevant times, Defendant had a duty to Plaintiff and Class Members  
2 to properly secure their PII, encrypt and maintain such information using industry  
3 standard methods, train its employees, utilize available technology to defend its systems  
4 from invasion, act reasonably to prevent foreseeable harm to Plaintiff and Class  
5 Members, and to *promptly* notify Plaintiff and Class Members when Defendant became  
6 aware that their PII may have been compromised.  
7

8           53. Defendant's duty to use reasonable security measures arose as a result of  
9 the special relationship that existed between Defendant, on the one hand, and Plaintiff  
10 and the Class Members, on the other hand. The special relationship arose because  
11 Plaintiff and the Members of the Class relied on Defendant to secure their PII when  
12 they entrusted Defendant with the information required to obtain Defendant's services.  
13  
14

15           54. Defendant had the resources necessary to prevent the Data Breach but  
16 neglected to adequately invest in security measures, despite its obligation to protect  
17 Members' PII. Accordingly, Defendant breached its common law, statutory, and other  
18 duties owed to Plaintiff and Class Members.  
19

20           55. Security standards commonly accepted among businesses that store PII  
21 using the internet include, without limitation:  
22

- 23           a. Maintaining a secure firewall configuration;
- 24           b. Maintaining appropriate design, systems, and controls to limit user  
25 access to certain information as necessary;
- 26           c. Monitoring for suspicious or irregular traffic to servers;
- 27
- 28

- 1 d. Monitoring for suspicious credentials used to access servers;
- 2 e. Monitoring for suspicious or irregular activity by known users;
- 3 f. Monitoring for suspicious or unknown users;
- 4 g. Monitoring for suspicious or irregular server requests;
- 5 h. Monitoring for server requests for PII;
- 6 i. Monitoring for server requests from VPNs; and
- 7 j. Monitoring for server requests from Tor exit nodes.

8  
9  
10 56. The Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”) defines identity theft as “a fraud  
11 committed or attempted using the identifying information of another person without  
12 authority.”<sup>6</sup> The FTC describes “identifying information” as “any name or number that  
13 may be used, alone or in conjunction with any other information, to identify a specific  
14 person,” including, among other things, “[n]ame, Social Security number, date of birth,  
15 official State or government issued driver’s license or identification number, alien  
16 registration number, government passport number, employer or taxpayer identification  
17 number.”<sup>7</sup>

18  
19  
20 57. The ramifications of Defendant’s failure to keep its Members’ PII secure  
21 are long lasting and severe. Once PII is stolen, particularly Social Security numbers,  
22 fraudulent use of that information and damage to victims is likely to continue for years.

23  
24 *The Value of PII*

25  
26  
27 <sup>6</sup> 17 C.F.R. § 248.201 (2013).

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

1           58. The PII of consumers remains of high value to criminals, as evidenced by  
2 the prices they will pay through the dark web. Numerous sources cite dark web pricing  
3 for stolen identity credentials. For example, personal information can be sold at a price  
4 ranging from \$40 to \$200, and bank details have a price range of \$50 to \$200.<sup>8</sup>  
5 According to the Dark Web Price Index for 2021, payment card details for an account  
6 balance up to \$1,000 have an average market value of \$150, credit card details with an  
7 account balance up to \$5,000 have an average market value of \$240, stolen online  
8 banking logins with a minimum of \$100 on the account have an average market value  
9 of \$40, and stolen online banking logins with a minimum of \$2,000 on the account have  
10 an average market value of \$120.<sup>9</sup>

11  
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13  
14           59. As a growing number of federal courts have begun to recognize the loss  
15 of value of PII as a viable damages theory, the sale of PII from data breaches, as in the  
16 Data Breach alleged herein, is particularly harmful to data breach victims – especially  
17 when it takes place on the dark web.

18  
19           60. The dark net is an unindexed layer of the internet that requires special  
20 software or authentication to access.<sup>10</sup> Criminals in particular favor the dark web as it  
21 offers a degree of anonymity to visitors and website publishers. Unlike the traditional  
22

23  
24  
25 <sup>8</sup> *Your personal data is for sale on the dark web. Here's how much it costs*, Digital Trends, Oct. 16, 2019,  
available at: <https://www.digitaltrends.com/computing/personal-data-sold-on-the-dark-web-how-much-it-costs/>  
(last accessed Aug. 4, 2023).

26 <sup>9</sup> *Dark Web Price Index 2021*, Zachary Ignoffo, March 8, 2021, available at: <https://www.privacyaffairs.com/dark-web-price-index-2021/> (last accessed December 10, 2021).

27 <sup>10</sup> *What Is the Dark Web?*, Experian, available at <https://www.experian.com/blogs/ask-experian/what-is-the-dark-web/>

1 or ‘surface’ web, dark web users need to know the web address of the website they  
2 wish to visit in advance. For example, on the surface web, the CIA’s web address is  
3 cia.gov, but on the dark web the CIA’s web address is  
4 ciadotgov4sjwlzihbbgxnqg3xiyrg7so2r2o3lt5wz5ypk4sxyjstad.onion.<sup>11</sup> This prevents  
5 dark web marketplaces from being easily identifiable to authorities or those not in the  
6 know.  
7

8  
9 61. A sophisticated black market exists on the dark web where criminals can  
10 buy or sell malware, firearms, drugs, and frequently, personal and medical information  
11 like the PII at issue here.<sup>12</sup> The digital character of PII stolen in data breaches lends  
12 itself to dark web transactions because it is immediately transmissible over the internet  
13 and the buyer and seller can retain their anonymity. The sale of a firearm or drugs on  
14 the other hand requires a physical delivery address. Nefarious actors can readily  
15 purchase usernames and passwords for online streaming services, stolen financial  
16 information and account login credentials, and Social Security numbers, dates of birth  
17 and medical information.<sup>13</sup> As Microsoft warns “[t]he anonymity of the dark web lends  
18 itself well to those who would seek to do financial harm to others.”<sup>14</sup>  
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24 <sup>11</sup> *Id.*

25 <sup>12</sup> *What is the Dark Web?* – Microsoft 365, available at <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365-life-hacks/privacy-and-safety/what-is-the-dark-web>

26 <sup>13</sup> *Id.*; *What Is the Dark Web?*, Experian, available at <https://www.experian.com/blogs/ask-experian/what-is-the-dark-web/>

27 <sup>14</sup> *What is the Dark Web?* – Microsoft 365, available at <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365-life-hacks/privacy-and-safety/what-is-the-dark-web>



1           62. Plaintiff and Class Members' PII is a valuable commodity, a market exists  
2 for Plaintiff and Class Members' PII (which is why the Data Breach was perpetrated in  
3 the first place), and Plaintiff and Class Members' PII is being likely being sold by hackers  
4 on the dark web (as that is the *modus operandi* of data thieves) – as a result, Plaintiff and  
5 Class Members have lost the value of their PII, which is sufficient to plausibly allege  
6 injury arising from a data breach.  
7

8           63. An active and robust legitimate marketplace for PII also exists. In 2019,  
9 the data brokering industry was worth roughly \$200 billion.<sup>15</sup> In fact, the data  
10 marketplace is so sophisticated that consumers can actually sell their non-public  
11 information directly to a data broker who in turn aggregates the information and  
12 provides it to marketers or app developers.<sup>1617</sup> Consumers who agree to provide their  
13 web browsing history to the Nielsen Corporation can receive up to \$50.00 a year.<sup>18</sup>  
14  
15

16           64. The PII stolen in this specific Data Breach was particularly harmful. Social  
17 Security numbers, for example, are among the worst kind of personal information to  
18 have stolen because they may be put to a variety of fraudulent uses and are difficult for  
19 an individual to change.  
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25 <sup>15</sup> <https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2019-11-05/column-data-brokers>

26 <sup>16</sup> <https://datacoup.com/>

27 <sup>17</sup> <https://worlddataexchange.com/about>

28 <sup>18</sup> Nielsen Computer & Mobile Panel, Frequently Asked Questions, available at  
<https://computermobilepanel.nielsen.com/ui/US/en/faqen.html> (last accessed Aug. 4, 2023).

1           65. The Social Security Administration stresses that the loss of an individual's  
2 Social Security number, as is the case here, can lead to identity theft and extensive  
3 financial fraud:

4           A dishonest person who has your Social Security number can use it to  
5 get other personal information about you. Identity thieves can use your  
6 number and your good credit to apply for more credit in your name.  
7 Then, they use the credit cards and don't pay the bills, it damages your  
8 credit. You may not find out that someone is using your number until  
9 you're turned down for credit, or you begin to get calls from unknown  
10 creditors demanding payment for items you never bought. Someone  
11 illegally using your Social Security number and assuming your identity  
12 can cause a lot of problems.<sup>19</sup>

13           66. Furthermore, trying to change or cancel a stolen Social Security number  
14 is no minor task. An individual cannot obtain a new Social Security number without  
15 significant paperwork and evidence of actual misuse. In other words, preventive action  
16 to defend against the possibility of misuse of a Social Security number is not permitted;  
17 an individual must show evidence of actual, ongoing fraud activity to obtain a new  
18 number.

19           67. Even then, a new Social Security number may not be effective, as "[t]he  
20 credit bureaus and banks are able to link the new number very quickly to the old  
21 number, so all of that old bad information is quickly inherited into the new Social  
22 Security number."<sup>20</sup>

23  
24  
25 <sup>19</sup> Social Security Administration, *Identity Theft and Your Social Security Number*, available at:  
26 <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10064.pdf> (last accessed Aug. 4, 2023).

27 <sup>20</sup> Brian Naylor, *Victims of Social Security Number Theft Find It's Hard to Bounce Back*, NPR (Feb. 9, 2015),  
28 <http://www.npr.org/2015/02/09/384875839/data-stolen-by-anthem-s-hackers-has-millions-worrying-about-identity-theft> (last accessed Aug. 4, 2023).

1           68. This data, as one would expect, demands a much higher price on the black  
2 market. Martin Walter, senior director at cybersecurity firm RedSeal, explained,  
3 “[c]ompared to credit card information, personally identifiable information and Social  
4 Security numbers are worth more than 10x on the black market.”<sup>21</sup>

5  
6           69. PII can be used to distinguish, identify, or trace an individual’s identity,  
7 such as their name and Social Security number. This can be accomplished alone, or in  
8 combination with other personal or identifying information that is connected or linked  
9 to an individual, such as their birthdate, birthplace, and mother’s maiden name.<sup>22</sup>

10  
11           70. Given the nature of Defendant’s Data Breach, as well as the delay in  
12 notification to Class Members, it is foreseeable that the compromised PII has been or  
13 will be used by hackers and cybercriminals in a variety of devastating ways. Indeed, the  
14 cybercriminals who possess Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ PII can easily obtain  
15 Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ tax returns or open fraudulent credit card accounts in  
16 Class Members’ names.  
17

18  
19           71. Based on the foregoing, the information compromised in the Data Breach  
20 is significantly more valuable than the loss of, for example, credit card information in a  
21 retailer data breach, because credit card victims can cancel or close credit and debit card  
22

23  
24  
25  
26 \_\_\_\_\_  
<sup>21</sup> Tim Greene, *Anthem Hack: Personal Data Stolen Sells for 10x Price of Stolen Credit Card Numbers*, Computer  
World (Feb. 6, 2015), [http://www.itworld.com/article/2880960/anthem-hack-personal-data-stolen-sells-for-10x-  
price-of-stolen-credit-card-numbers.html](http://www.itworld.com/article/2880960/anthem-hack-personal-data-stolen-sells-for-10x-price-of-stolen-credit-card-numbers.html) (last accessed Aug. 4, 2023).

27 <sup>22</sup> See OFFICE OF MGMT. & BUDGET, OMB MEMORANDUM M-07-16 n. 1.  
28

1 accounts.<sup>23</sup> The information compromised in this Data Breach is impossible to “close”  
2 and difficult, if not impossible, to change (such as Social Security numbers and dates of  
3 birth).

4 72. To date, Defendant has not offered its victims *any* form of identity  
5 monitoring services. This leaves Plaintiff and Class Members exposed to the threats  
6 they face for years to come, particularly in light of the PII at issue here.

7 73. The injuries to Plaintiff and Class Members were directly and proximately  
8 caused by Defendant’s failure to implement or maintain adequate data security measures  
9 for its current and former employees.

10  
11  
12 ***Plaintiff’s Experience***

13 74. Plaintiff was required to provide and did provide her PII to Defendant as  
14 a condition of receiving services with Defendant.

15 75. To date, Defendant has done next to nothing to adequately protect  
16 Plaintiff and Class Members, or to compensate them for their injuries sustained in this  
17 Data Breach particularly given the fact that Plaintiff’s PII has already been “impacted”  
18 in the Data Breach and likely been made available on the dark web to anyone wishing  
19 to purchase it.

20 76. Defendant has placed the burden squarely on Plaintiff and Class Members  
21 by requiring them to expend time signing up for fraud alerts, changing personal  
22

23  
24  
25  
26 <sup>23</sup> See Jesse Damiani, *Your Social Security Number Costs \$4 On The Dark Web, New Report Finds*, Forbes, Mar  
27 25, 2020, available at: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/jessedamiani/2020/03/25/your-social-security-number-costs-4-on-the-dark-web-new-report-finds/?sh=6a44b6d513f1> (last accessed Aug 4, 2023).

1 passwords, signing up for account security freezes, among other things.

2 77. Nor has Defendant compensated Plaintiff and Class Members for the  
3 time they will spend monitoring their accounts, placing credit freezes and fraud alerts,  
4 changing online passwords and other actions that Defendant instructs recipients of the  
5 Notice to take.  
6

7 78. Plaintiff and Class Members have been further damaged by the  
8 compromise of their PII in the Data Breach which was “impacted” and is in the hands  
9 of cybercriminals who illegally accessed Defendant’s network for the specific purpose  
10 of targeting the PII.  
11

12 79. Plaintiff typically takes measures to protect her PII and is very careful  
13 about sharing her PII. Plaintiff has never knowingly transmitted unencrypted PII over  
14 the internet or other unsecured source.  
15

16 80. Plaintiff stores any documents containing her PII in a safe and secure  
17 location, and he diligently chooses unique usernames and passwords for her online  
18 accounts.  
19

20 81. As a result of the Data Breach, Plaintiff has suffered a loss of time and  
21 has spent and continues to spend a considerable amount of time on issues related to  
22 this Data Breach. In response to the Data Breach, Plaintiff has spent significant time  
23 monitoring her accounts and credit score, changing her online account passwords and  
24 verifying the legitimacy of the Notice and researching the Data Breach. This is time that  
25 was lost and unproductive and took away from other activities and duties.  
26  
27  
28

1 82. Plaintiff also suffered actual injury in the form of damages to and  
2 diminution in the value of her PII — a form of intangible property that he entrusted to  
3 Defendant for the purpose of obtaining services from Defendant, which was  
4 compromised in and as a result of the Data Breach. Defendant acknowledges that  
5 Plaintiff and Class Members will need to “. . . remain vigilant in reviewing your financial  
6 account statements and credit reports for fraudulent or irregular activity on a regular  
7 basis.”  
8

9  
10 83. Plaintiff suffered lost time, annoyance, interference, and inconvenience as  
11 a result of the Data Breach and has anxiety and increased concerns for the loss of her  
12 privacy.  
13

14 84. Plaintiff suffered emotional distress and increased stress and anxiety as a  
15 result of the Data Breach because of the actions he has been forced to undertake, the  
16 loss of control over her most intimate information, and the fact that he must remain  
17 vigilant for the remainder of her life.  
18

19 85. Plaintiff has suffered imminent and impending injury arising from the  
20 substantially increased risk of fraud, identity theft, and misuse resulting from her PII,  
21 especially her Social Security Number, being placed in the hands of criminals.  
22

23 86. Defendant obtained and continues to maintain Plaintiff’s PII and has a  
24 continuing legal duty and obligation to protect that PII from unauthorized access and  
25 disclosure. Defendant required the PII from Plaintiff as a condition of sale by  
26 Defendant. Plaintiff, however, would not have entrusted her PII to Defendant had he  
27

1 known that it would fail to maintain adequate data security. Plaintiff's PII was  
2 compromised and disclosed as a result of the Data Breach.

3 87. As a result of the Data Breach, Plaintiff anticipates spending considerable  
4 time and money on an ongoing basis to try to mitigate and address harms caused by the  
5 Data Breach. As a result of the Data Breach, Plaintiff is at a present risk and will  
6 continue to be at increased risk of identity theft and fraud for years to come.  
7

## 8 **V. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

9

10 88. Plaintiff brings this suit on behalf of herself and a class of similarly situated  
11 individuals under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, which is preliminarily defined as:

12 All persons Defendant has identified as being among those individuals  
13 impacted by the Data Breach, including all who were sent a notice of  
14 the Data Breach (the "Class").

15 89. Excluded from the Class are the following individuals and/or entities:  
16 Defendant and Defendant's parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers and directors, and  
17 any entity in which Defendant has a controlling interest; all individuals who make a  
18 timely election to be excluded from this proceeding using the correct protocol for  
19 opting out; and all judges assigned to hear any aspect of this litigation, as well as their  
20 immediate family members.  
21

22  
23 90. **Numerosity.** The Class Members are so numerous that joinder of all  
24 members is impracticable. Though the exact number and identities of Class Members  
25 are unknown at this time, it is likely that hundreds, if not thousands, of individuals had  
26 their PII compromised in this Data Breach, given the Defendant operates in over 100  
27

1 markets in the United States. The identities of Class Members are ascertainable through  
2 Defendant's records, Class Members' records, publication notice, self-identification,  
3 and other means.

4  
5 91. **Commonality.** There are questions of law and fact common to the Class,  
6 which predominate over any questions affecting only individual Class Members. These  
7 common questions of law and fact include, without limitation:

- 8 i. Whether Defendant unlawfully used, maintained, lost, or disclosed  
9 Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII;  
10  
11 ii. Whether Defendant failed to implement and maintain reasonable  
12 security procedures and practices appropriate to the nature and  
13 scope of the information compromised in the Data Breach;  
14  
15 iii. Whether Defendant's data security systems prior to and during the  
16 Data Breach complied with applicable data security laws and  
17 regulations;  
18  
19 iv. Whether Defendant's data security systems prior to and during the  
20 Data Breach were consistent with industry standards;  
21  
22 v. Whether Defendant owed a duty to Class Members to safeguard  
23 their PII;  
24  
25 vi. Whether Defendant breached its duty to Class Members to  
26 safeguard their PII;  
27  
28 vii. Whether computer hackers obtained Class Members' PII in the



1 Data Breach;

2 viii. Whether Defendant knew or should have known that its data  
3 security systems and monitoring processes were deficient;

4  
5 ix. Whether Plaintiff and Class Members suffered legally cognizable  
6 damages as a result of Defendant's misconduct;

7 x. Whether Defendant's conduct was negligent; and;

8  
9 xi. Whether Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to damages, civil  
10 penalties, punitive damages, and/or injunctive relief.

11 92. **Typicality.** Plaintiff's claims are typical of those of other Class Members  
12 because Plaintiff's PII, like that of every other Class member, was compromised in the  
13 Data Breach.  
14

15 93. **Adequacy of Representation.** Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent  
16 and protect the interests of the Members of the Class. Plaintiff's Counsel is competent  
17 and experienced in litigating Class actions, including data privacy litigation of this kind.  
18

19 94. **Predominance.** Defendant has engaged in a common course of conduct  
20 toward Plaintiff and Class Members, in that all the Plaintiff's and Class Members' data  
21 was stored on the same computer systems and unlawfully accessed in the same way.  
22 The common issues arising from Defendant's conduct affecting Class Members set out  
23 above predominate over any individualized issues. Adjudication of these common  
24 issues in a single action has important and desirable advantages of judicial economy.  
25  
26

27 95. **Superiority.** A Class action is superior to other available methods for the  
28

1 fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy. Class treatment of common questions  
2 of law and fact is superior to multiple individual actions or piecemeal litigation. Absent  
3 a Class action, most Class Members would likely find that the cost of litigating their  
4 individual claims is prohibitively high and would therefore have no effective remedy.  
5 The prosecution of separate actions by individual Class Members would create a risk of  
6 inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual Class Members, which  
7 would establish incompatible standards of conduct for Defendant. In contrast, the  
8 conduct of this action as a Class action presents far fewer management difficulties,  
9 conserves judicial resources and the parties' resources, and protects the rights of each  
10 Class member.

11  
12  
13  
14 96. Defendant has acted on grounds that apply generally to the Class as a  
15 whole, so that Class certification, injunctive relief, and corresponding declaratory relief  
16 are appropriate on a Class-wide basis.

17  
18 97. Likewise, particular issues under Federal Rule 23(c)(4) are appropriate for  
19 certification because such claims present only particular, common issues, the resolution  
20 of which would advance the disposition of this matter and the parties' interests therein.  
21 Such particular issues include, but are not limited to:

- 22  
23 i. Whether Defendant owed a legal duty to Plaintiff and the Class to  
24 exercise due care in collecting, storing, and safeguarding their PII;  
25  
26 ii. Whether Defendant's security measures to protect their data  
27 systems were reasonable in light of best practices recommended by  
28

1 data security experts;

2 iii. Whether Defendant's failure to institute adequate protective  
3 security measures amounted to negligence; and

4 iv. Whether Defendant failed to take commercially reasonable steps to  
5 safeguard PII,  
6

7 98. Finally, all members of the proposed Class are readily ascertainable.  
8 Defendant has access to Class Members' names and addresses affected by the Data  
9 Breach. Class Members have already been preliminarily identified and sent notice of the  
10 Data Breach by Defendant.  
11

12 **VI. CAUSES OF ACTION**

13 COUNT I  
14 NEGLIGENCE

15 (On behalf of Plaintiff and all Class Members)

16 99. Plaintiff hereby repeats and realleges all preceding paragraphs contained  
17 herein.  
18

19 100. Defendant knowingly collected, came into possession of, and maintained  
20 Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII for pecuniary gain, and had a duty to exercise  
21 reasonable care in safeguarding, securing, and protecting such information from being  
22 compromised, lost, stolen, misused, and/or disclosed to unauthorized parties.  
23

24 101. Defendant had a duty under common law to have procedures in place to  
25 detect and prevent the loss or unauthorized dissemination of Plaintiff's and Class  
26 Members' PII.  
27

1           102. Defendant had full knowledge of the sensitivity of the PII and the types  
2 of harm that Plaintiff and Class Members could and would suffer if the PII were  
3 wrongfully disclosed. The harm that Plaintiff and Class Members experienced was  
4 within the zone of foreseeable harm known to Defendant.  
5

6           103. Defendants' duty to use reasonable security measures arose as a result of  
7 the special relationship that existed between each Defendant and Plaintiff and the Class.  
8 That special relationship arose because Plaintiff and the Class entrusted Defendants  
9 with their confidential PII, a mandatory step in receiving services from Defendant.  
10 While this special relationship exists independent from any contract, it is recognized by  
11 Defendant's privacy practices, as well as applicable laws and regulations. Specifically,  
12 Defendant actively solicited and gathered PII as part of their businesses and were solely  
13 responsible for and in the position to ensure that their systems were sufficient to protect  
14 against the foreseeable risk of harm to Plaintiff and Class Members from a resulting  
15 data breach.  
16  
17  
18

19           104. Defendant was subject to an "independent duty," untethered to any  
20 contract between Defendant and Plaintiff and the Class, to maintain adequate data  
21 security.  
22

23           105. A breach of security, unauthorized access, and resulting injury to Plaintiff  
24 and the Class was reasonably foreseeable, particularly in light of Defendant's inadequate  
25 security practices and the frequency of data breaches in general.  
26  
27  
28

1           106. Defendant also had a common law duty to prevent foreseeable harm to  
2 others. Plaintiff and the Class were the foreseeable and probable victims of Defendant's  
3 inadequate security practices and procedures. Defendant knew or should have known  
4 of the inherent risks in collecting and storing the PII of Plaintiff and the Class, the  
5 critical importance of adequately safeguarding that PII, and the necessity of encrypting  
6 PII stored on Defendant's systems. It was foreseeable that Plaintiff and Class members  
7 would be harmed by the failure to protect their personal information because hackers  
8 are known to routinely attempt to steal such information and use it for nefarious  
9 purposes.  
10

11  
12           107. Defendant's conduct created a foreseeable risk of harm to Plaintiff and  
13 the Class. Defendant's wrongful conduct included, but was not limited to, their failure  
14 to take the steps and opportunities to prevent the Data Breach as set forth herein.  
15 Defendant's misconduct also included their decision not to comply with industry  
16 standards for the safekeeping of Plaintiff's and the Class's PII, including basic  
17 encryption techniques available to Defendant.  
18  
19

20           108. Plaintiff and the Class had and have no ability to protect their PII that was  
21 in, and remains in, Defendant's possession.  
22

23           109. Defendant was in a position to effectively protect against the harm  
24 suffered by Plaintiffs and the Class as a result of the Data Breach.  
25

26           110. By assuming the responsibility to collect and store this data, and in fact  
27 doing so, and sharing it and using it for commercial gain, Defendant had a duty of care  
28

1 to use reasonable means to secure and safeguard their computer property—and Class  
2 Members’ PII held within it—to prevent disclosure of the information, and to safeguard  
3 the information from theft. Defendant’s duty included a responsibility to implement  
4 processes by which they could detect a breach of its security systems in a reasonably  
5 expeditious period of time and to give prompt notice to those affected in the case of a  
6 data breach.  
7

8  
9 111. Defendant, through its actions and/or omissions, unlawfully breached its  
10 duty to Plaintiff and Class members by failing to exercise reasonable care in protecting  
11 and safeguarding Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ PII within Defendant’s possession.  
12

13 112. Defendant, through its actions and/or omissions, unlawfully breached its  
14 duty to Plaintiff and Class members by failing to have appropriate procedures in place  
15 to detect and prevent dissemination of Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ PII.  
16

17 113. Defendant, through its actions and/or omissions, unlawfully breached its  
18 duty to timely disclose to Plaintiff and Class Members that the PII within Defendant’s  
19 possession might have been compromised and precisely the type of information  
20 compromised.  
21

22 114. Defendant’s breach of duties owed to Plaintiff and Class Members caused  
23 Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ PII to be compromised.  
24

25 115. Pursuant to Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 15 U.S.C. §  
26 45 (“FTCA”), Defendant had a separate and independent duty to provide fair and  
27

1 adequate computer systems and data security practices to safeguard Plaintiff's and Class  
2 members' PII.

3 116. The FTCA is intended, in part, to protect individuals whose PII is  
4 maintained by another and who are unable to safeguard their information as they cannot  
5 exercise control or direction over the data security practices.  
6

7 117. Plaintiff and the members of the Class are within the class of persons that  
8 the FTCA was intended to protect as their PII was collected and maintained by  
9 Defendant and they were unable to exercise control over Defendant's data security  
10 practices.  
11

12 118. The harm that occurred as a result of the Data Breach is the type of harm  
13 the FTCA was intended to guard against.  
14

15 119. The FTC has pursued enforcement actions against businesses, which, as a  
16 result of their failure to employ reasonable data security measures and avoid unfair and  
17 deceptive practices, caused the same harm as that suffered by Plaintiffs and the  
18 members of the Class.  
19

20 120. Defendant breached its duties to Plaintiffs and the members of the Class  
21 under the Federal Trade Commission Act by failing to provide fair, reasonable, or  
22 adequate computer systems and data security practices to safeguard Plaintiffs' and Class  
23 members' Private Information.  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

1           121. Had Plaintiffs and the members of the Class known that Defendant would  
2 not adequately protect their Private Information, Plaintiffs and the members of the  
3 Class would not have entrusted Defendant with their Private Information.

4           122. Defendant's failure to comply with applicable laws and regulations  
5 constitutes negligence per se.  
6

7           123. But for Defendant's wrongful and negligent breach of its duties owed to  
8 Plaintiff and the members of the Class, they would not have been injured.  
9

10           124. The injury and harm suffered by Plaintiff and the members of the Class  
11 was the reasonably foreseeable result of Defendant's breach of its duties. Defendant  
12 knew or should have known that it was failing to meet their duties, and that Defendant's  
13 breach would cause Plaintiff and the members of the Class to experience the foreseeable  
14 harms associated with the exposure of their Private Information.  
15

16           125. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's negligence and negligence  
17 per se, Plaintiff and the Class have suffered and will suffer injury, including but not  
18 limited to: (i) actual identity theft; (ii) the loss of the opportunity to control how their  
19 PII is used; (iii) the compromise, publication, and/or theft of their PII; (iv) out-of-  
20 pocket expenses associated with the prevention, detection, and recovery from identity  
21 theft, tax fraud, and/or unauthorized use of their PII for Plaintiff's and Class Members'  
22 respective lifetimes; (v) lost opportunity costs associated with effort expended and the  
23 loss of productivity addressing and attempting to mitigate the present and future  
24 consequences of the Data Breach, including but not limited to efforts spent researching  
25  
26  
27  
28



1 how to prevent, detect, contest, and recover from tax fraud and other identity theft; (vi)  
2 costs associated with placing freezes on credit reports; (vii) the continued risk to their  
3 PII, which remains in Defendant's possession and is subject to further unauthorized  
4 disclosures so long as Defendant fails to undertake appropriate and adequate measures  
5 to protect the current and former employees' PII in their continued possession; and  
6 (viii) present and future costs in the form of time, effort, and money that will be  
7 expended to prevent, detect, contest, and repair the impact of the compromise of PII  
8 as a result of the Data Breach for the remainder of the lives of Plaintiff and the Class  
9 Members.

12 126. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligence and negligence  
13 per se, Plaintiffs and the Class have suffered and will continue to suffer other forms of  
14 injury and/or harm, including, but not limited to, anxiety, emotional distress, loss of  
15 privacy, and other economic and non-economic losses.

17 127. Additionally, as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's negligence  
18 and negligence per se, Plaintiff and the Class have suffered and will suffer the continued  
19 risks of exposure of their PII, which remains in Defendant's possession and is subject  
20 to further unauthorized disclosures so long as Defendant fails to undertake appropriate  
21 and adequate measures to protect the PII in its continued possession.

24 128. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's negligence and negligence  
25 per se, Plaintiff and the Class are now at an increased risk of identity theft or fraud.  
26

1 129. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's negligence and negligence  
2 per se, Plaintiffs are entitled to and demand actual, consequential, and nominal damages  
3 and injunctive relief to be determined at trial.  
4

5 **COUNT II**  
6 **BREACH OF IMPLIED CONTRACT**  
7 **(On behalf of Plaintiff and all Class Members)**

8 130. Plaintiff hereby repeats and realleges all preceding paragraphs contained  
9 herein.  
10

11 131. Plaintiff and the Class entrusted their PII to Defendant as a condition of  
12 receiving Defendant's services. In so doing, Plaintiff and the Class entered into implied  
13 contracts with Defendant by which Defendant agreed to safeguard and protect such  
14 information, to keep such information secure and confidential, and to timely and  
15 accurately notify Plaintiff and the Class if their data had been breached and  
16 compromised or stolen.  
17

18 132. At the time Defendant acquired the PII of Plaintiffs and the Class, there  
19 was a meeting of the minds and a mutual understanding that Defendant would  
20 safeguard the PII and not take unjustified risks when storing the PII.  
21

22 133. Implicit in the agreements between Plaintiff and Class Members and  
23 Defendant to provide PII, was the latter's obligation to: (a) use such PII for business  
24 purposes only, (b) take reasonable steps to safeguard that PII, (c) prevent unauthorized  
25 disclosures of the PII, (d) provide Plaintiff and Class Members with prompt and  
26 sufficient notice of any and all unauthorized access and/or theft of their PII, (e)  
27

1 reasonably safeguard and protect the PII of Plaintiff and Class Members from  
2 unauthorized disclosure or uses, and (f) retain the PII only under conditions that kept  
3 such information secure and confidential.

4  
5 134. Plaintiff and the Class would not have entrusted their PII to Defendant  
6 had they known that Defendant would make the PII internet-accessible, not encrypt  
7 sensitive data elements such as Social Security numbers, and not delete the PII that  
8 Defendant no longer had a reasonable need to maintain it.

9  
10 135. Plaintiff and the Class fully performed their obligations under the implied  
11 contracts with Defendant.

12  
13 136. Defendant breached the implied contracts they made with Plaintiff and  
14 the Class by failing to safeguard and protect their personal information, by failing to  
15 delete the information of Plaintiff and the Class once the relationship ended, and by  
16 failing to provide timely and accurate notice to them that personal information was  
17 compromised as a result of the Data Breach.

18  
19 137. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's above-described breach  
20 of implied contract, Plaintiff and the Class have suffered (and will continue to suffer)  
21 ongoing, imminent, and impending threat of identity theft crimes, fraud, and abuse,  
22 resulting in monetary loss and economic harm; actual identity theft crimes, fraud, and  
23 abuse, resulting in monetary loss and economic harm; loss of the confidentiality of the  
24 stolen confidential data; the illegal sale of the compromised data on the dark web;  
25 expenses and/or time spent on credit monitoring and identity theft insurance; time  
26  
27  
28

1 spent scrutinizing bank statements, credit card statements, and credit reports; expenses  
2 and/or time spent initiating fraud alerts, decreased credit scores and ratings; lost work  
3 time; and other economic and non-economic harm.

4  
5 138. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's above-described breach  
6 of implied contract, Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to recover actual, consequential,  
7 and nominal damages to be determined at trial.

8  
9 **COUNT III**  
10 **INVASION OF PRIVACY – INTRUSION UPON SECLUSION**

11 139. Plaintiff hereby repeats and realleges all preceding paragraphs contained  
12 herein.

13 140. Plaintiff and Class Members have a legally protected privacy interest in  
14 their PII, which is and was collected, stored and maintained by Defendant, and they are  
15 entitled to the reasonable and adequate protection of their PII against foreseeable  
16 unauthorized access, as occurred with the Data Breach.

17  
18 141. Plaintiff and Class Members reasonably expected that Defendant would  
19 protect and secure their PII from unauthorized parties and that their PII would not be  
20 accessed, exfiltrated, and disclosed to any unauthorized parties or for any improper  
21 purpose.  
22

23  
24 142. Defendant intentionally intruded into Plaintiff's and Class Members'  
25 seclusion by disclosing without permission their PII to a third party. Defendant's acts  
26 and omissions giving rise to the Data Breach were intentional in that the decisions to  
27

1 implement lax security and failure to timely notice Plaintiff and the Class were  
2 undertaking willfully and intentionally.

3 143. By failing to keep Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII secure, and disclosing  
4 PII to unauthorized parties for unauthorized use, Defendants unlawfully invaded  
5 Plaintiff's and Class Members' privacy right to seclusion by, inter alia:  
6

- 7 a. intruding into their private affairs in a manner that would be highly  
8 offensive to a reasonable person;
- 9 b. invading their privacy by improperly using their PII obtained for a specific  
10 purpose for another purpose, or disclosing it to unauthorized persons;
- 11 c. failing to adequately secure their PII from disclosure to unauthorized  
12 persons; and
- 13 d. enabling the disclosure of their PII without consent.  
14

15 144. This invasion of privacy resulted from Defendant's intentional failure to  
16 properly secure and maintain Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII, leading to the  
17 foreseeable unauthorized access, exfiltration, and disclosure of this unguarded and  
18 private data.  
19

20 145. Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII is the type of sensitive, personal  
21 information that one normally expects will be protected from exposure by the very  
22 entity charged with safeguarding it. Further, the public has no legitimate concern in  
23 Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII, and such information is otherwise protected from  
24 exposure to the public by various statutes, regulations and other laws.  
25  
26  
27

1 146. The disclosure of Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII to unauthorized  
2 parties is substantial and unreasonable enough to be legally cognizable and is highly  
3 offensive to a reasonable person.

4 147. Defendant's willful and reckless conduct that permitted unauthorized  
5 access, exfiltration and disclosure of Plaintiff's and Class Members' sensitive PII is such  
6 that it would cause serious mental injury, shame or humiliation to people of ordinary  
7 sensibilities.  
8

9 148. The unauthorized access, exfiltration, and disclosure of Plaintiff's and  
10 Class Members' PII was without their consent, and in violation of various statutes,  
11 regulations and other laws.  
12

13 149. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's intrusion upon seclusion,  
14 Plaintiff and Class Members suffered injury and sustained actual losses and damages as  
15 alleged herein. Plaintiff and Class Members alternatively seek an award of nominal  
16 damages.  
17

18  
19 **COUNT IV**  
20 **UNJUST ENRICHMENT**

21 150. Plaintiff hereby repeats and realleges all preceding paragraphs contained  
22 herein.  
23

24 151. This Count is brought in the alternative to Count II, Breach of Implied  
25 Contract.  
26  
27

1           152. Plaintiff and Class Members conferred a monetary benefit on Defendant,  
2 by providing Defendant with their valuable PII. In so conferring this benefit, Plaintiff  
3 and Class Members understood that part of the benefit Defendant derived from the  
4 PII would be applied to data security efforts to safeguard the PII.  
5

6           153. Defendant enriched itself by saving the costs they reasonably should have  
7 expended on data security measures to secure Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII.  
8

9           154. Instead of providing a reasonable level of security that would have  
10 prevented the Data Breach, Defendant instead calculated to avoid their data security  
11 obligations at the expense of Plaintiff and Class Members by utilizing cheaper,  
12 ineffective security measures. Plaintiff and Class Members, on the other hand, suffered  
13 as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's failure to provide the requisite security.  
14

15           155. Under the principles of equity and good conscience, Defendant should  
16 not be permitted to retain the monetary value of the benefit belonging to Plaintiff and  
17 Class Members, because Defendant failed to implement appropriate data management  
18 and security measures that are mandated by industry standards.  
19

20           156. Defendant acquired the monetary benefit and PII through inequitable  
21 means in that they failed to disclose the inadequate security practices previously alleged.  
22

23           157. If Plaintiff and Class Members knew that Defendant had not secured their  
24 PII, they would not have agreed to provide their PII to Defendant.  
25

26           158. Plaintiff and Class Members have no adequate remedy at law.  
27  
28

1           159. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff and  
2 Class Members have suffered and will suffer injury, including but not limited to: (i)  
3 actual identity theft; (ii) the loss of the opportunity how their PII is used; (iii) the  
4 compromise, publication, and/or theft of their PII; (iv) out-of-pocket expenses  
5 associated with the prevention, detection, and recovery from identity theft, and/or  
6 unauthorized use of their PII; (v) lost opportunity costs associated with effort expended  
7 and the loss of productivity addressing and attempting to mitigate the actual and future  
8 consequences of the Data Breach, including but not limited to efforts spent researching  
9 how to prevent, detect, contest, and recover from identity theft; (vi) the continued risk  
10 to their PII, which remain in Defendant's possession and is subject to further  
11 unauthorized disclosures so long as Defendant fails to undertake appropriate and  
12 adequate measures to protect PII in their continued possession and (vii) future costs in  
13 terms of time, effort, and money that will be expended to prevent, detect, contest, and  
14 repair the impact of the PII compromised as a result of the Data Breach for the  
15 remainder of the lives of Plaintiff and Class Members.  
16  
17  
18  
19

20           160. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff and  
21 Class Members have suffered and will continue to suffer other forms of injury and/or  
22 harm.  
23

24           161. Defendant should be compelled to disgorge into a common fund or  
25 constructive trust, for the benefit of Plaintiff and Class Members, proceeds that they  
26 unjustly received from them.  
27  
28



**COUNT V**  
**DECLARATORY JUDGMENT**  
**(On behalf of Plaintiff and all Class Members)**

1  
2  
3 162. Plaintiff hereby repeats and realleges all preceding paragraphs contained  
4 herein.

5  
6 163. Defendant owes duties of care to Plaintiffs and Class Members that  
7 require Defendant to adequately secure their PII.

8 164. Defendant still possess Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII.

9  
10 165. Plaintiff and Class Members are at risk of harm due to the exposure of  
11 their PII and Defendant's failure to address the security failings that lead to such  
12 exposure.

13  
14 166. Plaintiff, therefore, seeks a declaration that (1) Defendant's existing  
15 security measures do not comply with its duties of care to provide reasonable security  
16 procedure and practices appropriate to the nature of the information to protect  
17 customers' PII, and (2) to comply with its duties of care, Defendant must implement  
18 and maintain reasonable security measures, including, but not limited to:

- 19  
20 a. Engaging third-party security auditors/penetration testers as well as  
21 internal security personnel to conduct testing, including simulated attacks,  
22 penetration tests, and audits on Defendant's systems on a periodic basis,  
23 and ordering Defendant to promptly correct any problems or issues  
24 detected by such third-party security auditors;  
25  
26  
27  
28

- 1 b. Engaging third-party security auditors and internal personnel to run  
2 automated security monitoring;
- 3 c. Auditing, testing, and training its security personnel regarding any new or  
4 modified procedures;
- 5
- 6 d. Segmenting its user applications by, among other things, creating firewalls  
7 and access controls so that if one area is compromised, hackers cannot  
8 gain access to other portions of Defendant's systems;
- 9
- 10 e. Conducting regular database scanning and security checks;
- 11
- 12 f. Routinely and continually conducting internal training and education to  
13 inform internal security personnel how to identify and contain a breach  
14 when it occurs and what to do in response to a breach;
- 15
- 16 g. Purchasing credit monitoring services for Plaintiffs and Class Members  
17 for a period of ten years; and
- 18
- 19 h. Meaningfully educating Plaintiffs and Class Members about the threats  
20 they face as a result of the loss of their PII and PHI to third parties, as  
21 well as the steps they must take to protect themselves.

22 **VII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

23 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the Class defined herein,  
24 prays for judgment as against Defendant as follows:

- 25
- 26 a.) For an Order certifying this action as a Class action and appointing  
27 Plaintiff and her counsel to represent the Class;

- 1 b.) For equitable relief enjoining Defendant from engaging in the  
2 wrongful conduct complained of herein pertaining to the misuse  
3 and/or disclosure of Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII, and from  
4 refusing to issue prompt, complete and accurate disclosures to Plaintiff  
5 and Class Members;  
6  
7 c.) For equitable relief compelling Defendant to utilize appropriate  
8 methods and policies with respect to data collection, storage, and  
9 safety, and to disclose with specificity the type of PII compromised  
10 during the Breach;  
11  
12 d.) For equitable relief requiring restitution and disgorgement of the  
13 revenues wrongfully retained as a result of Defendant's wrongful  
14 conduct;  
15  
16 e.) Ordering Defendant to pay for lifetime credit monitoring services for  
17 Plaintiff and the Class;  
18  
19 f.) For an award of actual damages, compensatory damages, statutory  
20 damages and statutory penalties, in an amount to be determined, as  
21 allowable by law;  
22  
23 g.) For an award of punitive damages, as allowable by law;  
24  
25 h.) For an award of attorneys' fees and costs, and any other expense,  
26 including expert witness fees;  
27  
28 i.) Pre- and post-judgment interest on any amounts awarded and,

1 j.) All such other and further relief as this court may deem just and  
2 proper.

3 **JURY TRIAL DEMAND**

4 Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury.

5  
6 **DOCUMENT PRESERVATION DEMAND**

7  
8 Plaintiff demands that Defendant take affirmative steps to preserve all records,  
9 lists, electronic databases, or other itemization of telephone numbers associated with  
10 the communications or transmittal of the calls as alleged herein.

11 DATED: August 8, 2023

12  
13 Respectfully submitted,

14 By: *Scott Edelsberg*  
15 Scott Edelsberg (CA Bar No. 330990)  
16 **EDELSBERG LAW, P.A.**  
17 1925 Century Park E #1700  
18 Los Angeles, CA 90067  
19 Telephone: 305-975-3320  
20 scott@edelsberglaw.com

21 Andrew J. Shamis  
22 **SHAMIS & GENTILE, P.A.**  
23 14 NE 1st Avenue, Suite 400  
24 Miami, FL 33132  
25 Telephone: 305-479-2299  
26 ashamis@shamisgentile.com

27 *Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Putative Classes*

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