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Counsel for Plaintiff and the Putative Cla	ass					
IN THE UNITED STAT	TEC DISTRICT COURT					
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA						
GUILLERMO MATA, individually) Case No. <u>'24CV1094L DEB</u>					
-)) Hon.					
marvidus,)					
Plaintiff,) Date:					
V) Time:					
v .) CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT					
REDFIN CORPORATION, a)					
Delaware corporation,	1. Video Privacy Protection Act,18 U.S.C. § 2710 et seq.					
) 10 C.S.C. § 2710 ct seq.					
Defendant.) 2. California Invasion of Privacy					
) Act, Cal. Penal Code § 630 et seq.					
) DEMAND EOD HIDV TDIAI					
	_) DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL					
CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT	No.					
	KERKONIAN DAJANI, LLP 15915 Ventura Blvd., Ste. 203 Encino, California 91436 Tel: (312) 416-6180 anazaryan@kerkoniandajani.com Timothy P. Kingsbury (SB No. 6329936) (pro hac vice forthcoming) KINGSBURY LAW LLC 8 S. Michigan Ave., Ste. 2600 Chicago, Illinois 60603 Tel: (312) 291-1960 tim@kingsburylawllc.com Counsel for Plaintiff and the Putative Cla IN THE UNITED STAT FOR THE SOUTHERN DIS GUILLERMO MATA, individually and on behalf of similarly situated individuals, Plaintiff, v. REDFIN CORPORATION, a Delaware corporation, Defendant.					

1 Plaintiff Guillermo Mata brings this Class Action Complaint against 2 Defendant Redfin Corporation ("Defendant"), on his own behalf and on behalf of other subscribers to Defendant's online real estate brokerage, to obtain relief for 3 Defendant's knowing disclosure of their personally identifiable information 4 5 ("PII") and prerecorded video viewing activity to third parties in violation of the Video Privacy Protection Act ("VPPA"), 18 U.S.C. § 2710, as well as the 6 7 California Invasion of Privacy Act ("CIPA"), Cal. Penal Code § 630 et seq. 8 ("CIPA"). Specifically, Defendant uses third-party code to track prerecorded videos its subscribers watch and sends that data to its third-party code vendors 9 along with subscribers' PII, all without its subscribers' valid consent. Plaintiff 10 alleges as follows based on Plaintiff's own personal knowledge, acts, and 11 12 experiences, and as to all other matters, on information and belief, including an investigation by his attorneys. 13 **NATURE OF THE CASE** 14 Defendant owns and operates one of the largest online real estate 15 1. 16

- brokerages in the nation. As such, a key element of Defendant's business model is to showcase for-sale residential properties on its website, redfin.com, using photographic and video content.
- For instance, Defendant offers "video tours" of many properties. These tours consist of prerecorded video productions with an accompanying audio track:1

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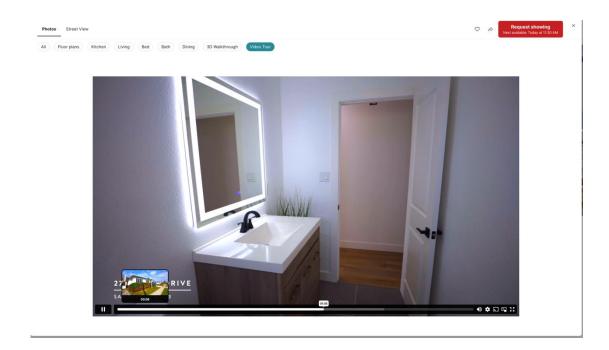
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CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

https://www.redfin.com/CA/San-Diego/2742-Kobe-Dr-92123/home/5214663 (last visited June 24, 2024). 2 No.

22.



- 3. In addition, Defendant has knowingly installed pixels and other tracking technologies developed by third party advertisers. These tracking technologies capture the PII of Defendant's subscribers relating to specific videos that the subscribers have viewed and disclose such PII to the third-party developers, all without the subscribers' informed, written consent.
- 4. The VPPA prohibits entities engaged in the business of delivering prerecorded audio visual materials, such as Defendant, from "knowingly disclos[ing]" consumers' PII absent the consumer's written consent, where PII is defined as "information which identifies a person as having requested or obtained specific video materials or services from a video tape service provider." 18 U.S.C. § 2710.
- 5. In direct contravention of the protections afforded by the VPPA, Defendant discloses to third-party companies its consumers' PII without first obtaining their written consent. Accordingly, Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and other of Defendant's registered users whose PII Defendant unlawfully disclosed.

7. Plaintiff seeks an order enjoining Defendant from further unauthorized disclosure of consumers' PII, awarding damages consistent with the VPPA and CIPA, and awarding reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 8. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d).
- 9. This Court may assert personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Plaintiff's cause of action arises out of Defendant's contacts with the state of California. Defendant has purposefully availed itself of the California marketplace and knowingly placed thousands of California residential properties on its online brokerage in an effort to transact business with California residents.
- 10. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because Plaintiff resides in this District and because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred within this District.

PARTIES

- 11. Plaintiff Guillermo Mata is a natural person and a resident of the County of San Diego, California.
- 12. Defendant Redfin Corporation is a Delaware corporation headquartered in Seattle, Washington.

COMMON FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

13. The genesis of the VPPA was President Ronald Reagan's nomination of Judge Robert Bork to the United States Supreme Court. During the confirmation process, a movie rental store shared Judge Bork's rental history with the Washington City Paper, which then published it. Congress responded by passing

the VPPA, with an eye toward the digital future. As Senator Patrick Leahy, who sponsored the Act, explained:

It is nobody's business what Oliver North or Robert Bork or Griffin Bell or Pat Leahy watch on television or read or think about when they are home. In an area of interactive television cables, the growth of computer checking and check-out counters, of security systems and telephones, all lodged together in computers, it would be relatively easy at some point to give a profile of a person and tell what they buy in a store, what kind of food they like, what sort of television programs they watch, who are some of the people they telephone. I think that is wrong.

- S. Rep. 100-599, at 5-6 (internal ellipses and brackets omitted).
- 14. At a more recent Senate Judiciary Committee meeting, "The Video Privacy Protection Act: Protecting Viewer Privacy in the 21st Century," Senator Leahy emphasized the point by stating: "While it is true that technology has changed over the years, we must stay faithful to our fundamental right to privacy and freedom. Today, social networking, video streaming, the 'cloud,' mobile apps and other newtechnologies have revolutionized the availability of Americans' information."²
- 15. The VPPA generally prohibits the knowing disclosure of information which identifies a consumer as having requested or obtained specific video materials or services. 18 U.S.C. § 2710(b)(1).
- 16. Defendant owns and operates an online residential real estate brokerage through its website, redfin.com, and mobile application.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

² See Statement of the Honorable Patrick Leahy, United States Senator, January 31, 2012,

https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/leahy_statement_01_31_12.pdf (last visited June 24, 2024).

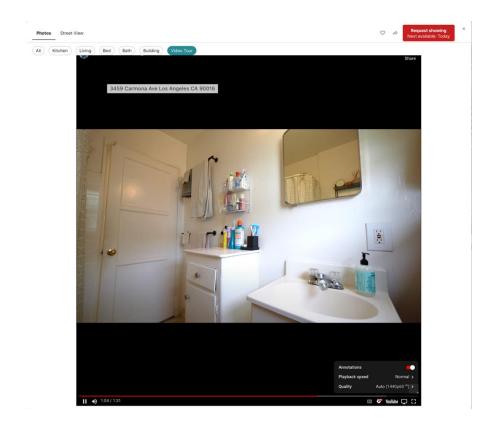
Defendant attempts to distinguish itself from competitors in the 1 17. residential real estate market by offering consumers "the best agents powered by 2 the best technology."3 3 One of the particular technology offerings which Defendant 4 18. 5 highlights is its guided video tours of real estate listings, promising prospective listing agents that "Homebuyers love watching guided video tours because they 6 7 can get a more detailed look at a house from the comfort of their couch. Your sellers will love this option because they can capture buyers' attention, while 8 limiting unnecessary foot traffic."4 9 19. As their name suggests, Defendant's guided video tours consist of a 10 video presentation of a given property accompanied by an audio soundtrack:⁵ 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 ³ https://www.redfin.com/why-redfin (last visited June 24, 2024). 23 ⁴ https://www.redfin.com/news/real-estate-agents-post-virtual-tours-to-redfin/ 24 (last visited June 24, 2024).

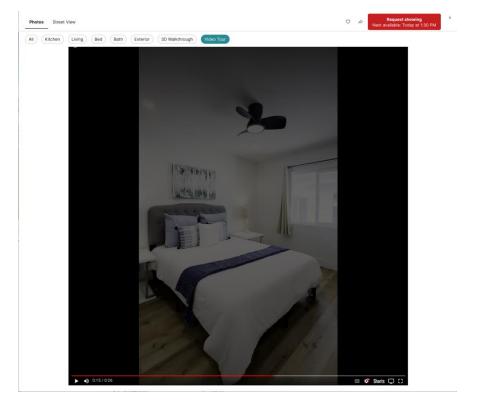
90016/home/6890227 (last visited June 24, 2024);

26 https://www.redfin.com/CA/El-Cajon/1105-Mary-St 92021/home/5598113 (last visited June 24, 2024). 27

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⁵ See https://www.redfin.com/CA/Los-Angeles/3459-Carmona-Ave-





CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

No.

- 20. In addition to such guided video tours, Defendant has also knowingly deployed third-party tracking pixels and other third-party tracking technologies on its Redfin.com webpages. Such tracking technology sends site user activity records to third parties including Reddit, Inc., Meta Platforms, Inc. ("Meta"), Microsoft Corporation, Alphabet, Inc. (Google), Oracle Corporation, and Snap, Inc. (Snapchat).
- 21. Defendant programmed such third-party tracking technology into its website for advertising purposes and to increase its profits. Defendant knew that such tracking technology would transmit site visitors' activity, including records of which video tours they have watched, as the entire purpose of implementing such technology is so that Defendant can target advertisements or send marketing emails through the technology's third-party providers.
- 22. Defendant permits redfin.com users to subscribe and create a "My Redfin" profile by registering their first name, last name, and email with Defendant. Creating a profile permits subscribers to save their real estate searches and easily access Redfin site materials they previously viewed, including video content.
- 23. When a registered user accesses one of Defendant's guided video tours, Defendant, through the third-party tracking technologies Defendant knowingly incorporated into its webpages, discloses such subscribers' PII, including names, emails, and/or IDs associated with Defendant's third-party technology vendors, along with records of the video content the registered user accessed, to its third-party tracking vendors.
- 24. For example, when a subscriber who is a Facebook user views a video on Defendant's website, Meta's "Meta Pixel," a tracking technology programmed into Defendant's website code, transmits that information to Facebook along with the subscriber's Facebook ID. The Facebook ID is a unique identifier assigned to

each Facebook user. Typing www.facebook.com/[subscriber's Facebook ID] into a web browser permits anyone to find that subscriber's Facebook account. A Facebook account generally contains a wide range of demographic information about a Facebook user.

- 25. At no time, however, does Defendant inform its subscribers that records of their viewing activity and PII will be shared with such third parties "in a form distinct and separate from any form setting forth other legal or financial obligations" of the subscriber, as VPPA requires. Nor does Defendant seek or obtain subscribers' informed, written consent to those disclosures.
- 26. Indeed, in recent filings with the Security Exchange Commission, Defendant itself has acknowledged its potential liability for its use of pixel and other subscriber-tracking technology: "We use evolving tools and technology, such as pixels, in the operation of our websites. We are from time to time involved in, and may in the future be subject to, enforcement actions and private third-party claims arising from the laws to which we are subject. This includes third party claims relying on older legislation as the basis for allegations of consumer data privacy violations against companies using new technology . . . Our use of such technology could subject us to expensive litigation, and to greater loss exposure due to insurance limits."

PLAINTIFF'S EXPERIENCE

27. At all relevant times, Plaintiff has been one of Defendant's subscribers after registering his first name, last name, and email with Defendant in order to create a "My Redfin" profile.

26 6 Redfin Corporation 2023 Form 10-K, available at

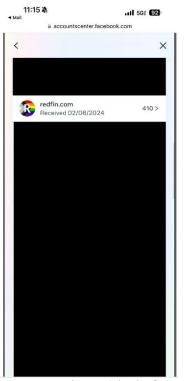
https://investors.redfin.com/financial-information/sec-

filings/content/0001382821-24-000027/0001382821-24-000027.pdf, at 12 (last visited June 24, 2024).

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

- 28. At all relevant times, Plaintiff has been a Facebook user.
- 29. While he was one of Defendant's subscribers, Plaintiff requested many of Defendant's prerecorded "guided video tours" of real estate properties, and viewed such video tours.
- 30. Whenever Plaintiff requested or obtained such prerecorded videos on Defendant's website, Defendant disclosed to third-party tracking vendors, including Meta, records of which specific videos Plaintiff requested as well as Plaintiff's PII in the form of his name, email address (which includes his last name), and Facebook ID.
- 31. In fact, Plaintiff's Facebook profile shows that Defendant has shared information with Facebook concerning Plaintiff's Redfin site activity, which includes specific records of the content Plaintiff viewed,⁷ on over 400 occassions:

⁷ Review your activity off Meta technologies, FACEBOOK, https://www.facebook.com/help/2207256696182627 (interactions include "Viewing content" and "Searching for an item") (last visited June 24, 2024). CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT 10 No.



32. Plaintiff has never given his informed consent, written or otherwise, to Defendant to disclose such information to third parties.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 33. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23, Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself, on behalf of a nationwide Class, and on behalf of a statewide Subclass, defined as follows:
 - a) The Class: All persons in the United States with a My Redfin account and who requested or viewed a guided video tour on or through Redfin.com during the applicable limitations period.
 - b) <u>The California Subclass</u>: All persons in California with a My Redfin account and who requested or viewed a guided video tour on or through Redfin.com during the applicable limitations period.

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- 34. Subject to additional information obtained through further investigation and discovery, the above-described Class and California Subclass may be modified or narrowed as appropriate.
- Numerosity. Upon information and belief, there are thousands of 35. members of both the Class and Subclass such that joinder of all members is impracticable.
- Typicality. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the Class he seeks to 36. represent. Plaintiff, like all Class members, had his PII knowingly disclosed by Defendant to third parties without his informed written consent. Plaintiff's claims arise out of the same conduct and are based on the same legal theories as those of any absent class member.
- Adequacy. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect 37. the interests of the other members of the Class and Subclass. Plaintiff has retained counsel with substantial experience in prosecuting complex litigation and class actions, and Plaintiff and his counsel are committed to vigorously prosecuting this action on behalf of the members of the Class and Subclass and have the financial resources to do so. Neither Plaintiff nor his counsel have any interest adverse to those of the other members of the Class and Subclass.
- Commonality and Predominance. Numerous common questions of 38. law and fact exist as to all members of the Class, and such questions predominate over questions affecting Plaintiff or individual members of the Class. Common questions for the Class include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Whether Defendant knowingly disclosed Class members' personal a. video viewing information to third parties;
 - Whether Defendant knowingly disclosed Class members' personallyb. identifiable information to third parties;

- c. Whether Class members are entitled to damages and equitable relief as a result of Defendant's conduct.
- 39. **Superiority**. Absent a class action, most members of the Class would find the cost of litigating their claims to be prohibitive and would have no effective remedy. The class treatment of common questions of law and fact is also superior to multiple individual actions or piecemeal litigation in that it conserves the resources of the courts and the litigants, and promotes consistency and efficiency of adjudication.

FRAUDULENT CONCEALMENT AND TOLLING

- 40. The applicable statutes of limitations are tolled by virtue of Defendant's knowing and active concealment of the facts alleged above. Plaintiff and Class members were ignorant of the information essential to the pursuit of these claims, without any fault or lack of diligence on their own part.
- 41. At the time the action was filed, Defendant was under a duty to disclose the true character, quality, and nature of its activities to Plaintiff and the Class. Defendant is therefore estopped from relying on any statute of limitations.
 - 42. Defendant's fraudulent concealment is common to the Class.

CAUSES OF ACTION

Count I

Violations of the Video Privacy Protection Act, 18 U.S.C. § 2710 (On behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)

- 43. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.
- 44. The VPPA prohibits a "video tape service provider" from knowingly disclosing "personally-identifying information" concerning any consumer to a third-party without the "informed, written consent (including through an electronic means using the Internet) of the consumer." 18 U.S.C. § 2710(b)(1).

- 46. As defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2710(a)(1), a "consumer' means any renter, purchaser, or subscriber of goods or services from a video tape service provider." As alleged above, Plaintiff and the Class members are subscribers to Defendant's services, including its services involving the provision of prerecorded video content. Thus, Plaintiff and the Class members are "consumers" under this definition.
- 47. As defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2710(a)(3), "personally identifiable information' includes information which identifies a person as having requested or obtained specific video materials or services from a video tape service provider."
- 48. Defendant knowingly disclosed Plaintiff's and the Class members' PII, including their names, email addresses, and Facebook or other social networking IDs, to its third-party tracking vendors.
- 49. This information constitutes personally identifiable information under 18 U.S.C. § 2710(a)(3) because it identified Plaintiff and each Class member to Defendant's third-party vendors as an individual who requested or obtained Defendant's video content, including the specific video materials requested or obtained on Defendant's Redfin website.
- 50. Under the VPPA, "informed, written consent" must be (1) in a form distinct and separate from any form setting forth other legal or financial obligations of the consumer; and (2) at the election of the consumer, is either given at the time the disclosure is sought or given in advance for a set period of time not to exceed

two years or until consent is withdrawn by the consumer, whichever is sooner."Id. § 2710(b)(2)(B). Defendant failed to obtain informed, written consent from Plaintiff and the Class members under this definition.

- 51. In addition, the VPPA creates an opt-out right for consumers. *Id.* § 2710(2)(B)(iii). It requires video tape service providers like Defendant to also "provide[] an opportunity for the consumer to withdraw on a case-by-case basis or to withdraw from ongoing disclosures, at the consumer's election." *Id.* Defendant failed to provide an adequate opportunity to opt out as required by the VPPA.
- 52. Defendant knowingly disclosed Plaintiff's and the Class members' personal viewing information to its third-party tracking vendors. Defendant programmed its third-party vendors' tracking technology into its website code, knowing that those third parties would receive records of which videos a subscriber requested and the subscriber's PII.
- 53. By disclosing Plaintiffs' and the Class's personal viewing information, Defendant violated Plaintiff's and the Class members' statutorily protected right to privacy in their video-watching habits.
- 54. As a result of the above violations, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff and the other Class members for actual damages in an amount to be determined at trial or, alternatively, for "liquidated damages" "not less than \$2,500" per violation. *Id.* § 2710(c)(2). Under the statute, Defendant is also liable for reasonable attorney's fees, and other litigation costs, injunctive and declaratory relief, and punitive damages in an amount to be determined by a jury, but sufficient to prevent the same or similar conduct by Defendant in the future. *Id.*

Count II

Violations of the California Invasion of Privacy Act, Cal. Penal Code §631(a)

(On behalf of Plaintiff and the California Subclass)

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- Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the foregoing allegations as 55. if fully set forth herein.
- CIPA § 631(a) imposes liability for "distinct and mutually 56. independent patterns of conduct." Tavernetti v. Superior Ct., 22 Cal. 3d 187, 192-93 (1978). Thus, to establish liability under CIPA § 631(a), a plaintiff need only establish that the defendant, "by means of any machine, instrument, contrivance, or in any other manner," does any of the following:

Intentionally taps, or makes any unauthorized connection, whether physically, electrically, acoustically, inductively or otherwise, with any telegraph or telephone wire, line, cable, or instrument, including the wire, line, cable, or instrument of any internal telephonic communication system,

Or

Willfully and without the consent of all parties to the communication, or in any unauthorized manner, reads or attempts to read or learn the contents or meaning of any message, report, or communication while the same is in transit or passing over any wire, line or cable or is being sent from or received at any place within this state,

Or

Uses, or attempts to use, in any manner, or for any purpose, or to communicate in any way, any information so obtained,

Or

 $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$

Aids, agrees with, employs, or conspires with any person or persons to unlawfully do, or permit, or cause to be done any of the acts or things mentioned above in this section.

57. § 631(a) is not limited to phone lines, but also applies to "new technologies" such as computers, the Internet, and email. *See Javier v. Assurance IQ, LLC*, 2022 WL 1744107, at *1 (9th Cir. May 31, 2022) ("Though written in terms of wiretapping, Section 631(a) applies to Internet communications.").

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- 58. The third-party tracking technologies Defendant programmed into its website are each a "machine, instrument, contrivance, or ... other manner" used to read or learn the contents or meaning of messages, reports, or communications between Plaintiff and the Subclass members and Defendant.
- 59. Defendant's third-party tracking vendors were third parties to communications between Plaintiff and the Subclass members and Defendant.
- 60. At all relevant times, Defendant's third-party tracking vendors willfully and without the consent of all parties to the communication, or in any unauthorized manner, read, attempted to read, and/or learned the contents or meaning of electronic communications between Plaintiff and the Subclass members, on the one hand, and Defendant, on the other, while the electronic communications were in transit or were being sent from or received at a place within California.
- 61. At all relevant times, Defendant aided, agreed with, employed, permitted, or otherwise enabled its third-party tracking vendors to wiretap Plaintiff and the Subclass members using their third-party tracking technologies. Defendant knew that the third-party tracking technology it installed on its website would result in the disclosure of user communications to third parties, as increasing its advertising presence on other platforms was one of Defendant's purposes for implementing such technology.

- 62. Plaintiff and the Subclass members did not provide their prior consent to such third parties' access, interception, reading, learning, recording, collection, and usage of their electronic communications. Nor did Plaintiff and the Subclass members provide their prior consent to Defendant aiding, agreeing with, employing, permitting, or otherwise enabling its third-party vendors' conduct.
- 63. The wiretapping of Plaintiff and the Subclass members occurred in California, where Plaintiff and the Subclass members accessed Defendant's Redfin website.
- 64. Pursuant to Cal. Penal Code § 637.2, Plaintiff and the Subclass members have been injured by Defendant's violations of § 631(a), and each seeks statutory damages of \$5,000 for each of Defendant's violations of § 631(a).

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the Class and California Subclass, respectfully prays for the following relief:

- a. An order certifying the Class and Subclass as defined above;
- b. An order declaring that Defendant's conduct violates the VPPA and CIPA;
- c. An award of statutory damages under the VPPA to the Class and under the CIPA to the California subclass;
- d. For punitive damages, as warranted, in an amount to be determined at trial;
- e. For prejudgment interest on all amounts awarded;
- f. For injunctive relief enjoining Defendant's ongoing misconduct, as the Court deems appropriate; and
- g. For any other relief the Court deems just and proper.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

65. Plaintiff demands a trial by jury for all issues so triable.

1		
2	Dated: June 25, 2024	Respectfully submitted,
3		GUILLERMO MATA, individually and on behalf of similarly situated individuals
5		By: /s/ Ani Nazaryan
6		Dy. 18/ Am Nazaryan
7		Ani Nazaryan (CA SB No. 351886)
8		KERKONIAN DAJANI, LLP Ventura Blvd., Ste. 203
		Encino, California 91436
9		Tel: (312) 416-6180
10		anazaryan@kerkoniandajani.com
11		Timothy P. Kingsbury
12		(IL ARDC No. 6329936)
13		(pro hac vice forthcoming) KINGSBURY LAW LLC
14		8 S. Michigan Ave., Ste. 2600
15		Chicago, Illinois 60603
16		Tel: (312) 291-1960
17		tim@kingsburylawllc.com
18		Counsel for Plaintiff and the
19		Putative Class and Subclass
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$_{ m JS~44~(Rev.~03/24)}$ Case 3:24-cv-01094-L-DEB Croumer 1/Files 106/25/24 PageID.20 Page 20 of 21

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 GUILLERMO MATA, individually and on behalf of simila situated individuals		arly	DEFENDANTS REDFIN CORPORATION, a Delaware corporation						
•	(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff County of San Diego, CA (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF					
KERKONIAN DA	Address, and Telephone Number JANI, LLP; 15915 Ve California 91436; (312)	ntura Blvd.,		THE TRAC Attorneys (If Known)	T OF I	AND INVOLVED.			
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	ICTION (Place an "X" in C	One Box Only)	III. CIT	TIZENSHIP OF P	RIN	CIPAL PARTIES	Place an "X" in (One Box fo	or Plaintiff
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	28 U.S.C. Section 133	ute under which you are 1 - Video Privacy Prote	ection Act	o not cite jurisdictional start; 28 U.S.C. Section 133	atutes 32 - C	unless diversity): lass Action Fairness Act			
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	Brief description of cat		et and Cal	lifornia Invasion of Priv	acv A	.et			
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VIII. RELATED CASE IF ANY	(See instructions):	JUDGE				DOCKET NUMBER			
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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 cases, if any. If there are related cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

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

ClassAction.org

This complaint is 1	art of ClassAction.o	org's searchable	class action	<u>lawsuit database</u>
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