Alan E. Kassan (SBN: 113864) 1 E-mail: akassan@kantorlaw.net Brent Dorian Brehm (SBN: 248983) 2913 SEP 30 PM 2: 48 2 E-mail: bbrehm@kantorlaw.net KANTOR & KANTOR LLP CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DIST. OF CALIF. LOS ANGELES 19839 Nordhoff Street 3 Northridge, California 91324 MAD (818) 886 2525 (Tel) (818) 350 6272 (Fax) 4 5 Attorneys for Plaintiff, PAMELA JAHN-DERIAN 6 7 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CV13-07221 10 PAMELA JAHN-DERIAN, 11 Plaintiff, COMPLAINT FOR: 12 KANTOR & KANTOR LLP 19839 Nordhoff Street Northridge, California 91324 (818) 886 2525 BREACH OF THE EMPLOYEE v. 13 RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE ACT OF 1974; ENFORCEMENT AND 14 COMPANY; KAISER PERMANENTE GROUP LONG TERM DISABILITY CLARIFICATION OF RIGHTS; PREJUDGMENT AND 15 INSURANCE PLAN, POSTJUDGMENT INTEREST: AND ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS 16 Defendants. 17 18 19 Plaintiff, Pamela Jahn-Derian, herein sets forth the allegations of her 20 Complaint against Defendants Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, and Kaiser 21 Permanente Group Long Term Disability Insurance Plan. 22 23 PRELIMINARY ALLEGATIONS 24 1. "Jurisdiction" – This action is brought under 29 U.S.C. §§ 1132(a), (e), (f) and (g) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 974 (hereinafter ERISA") as it involves a claim by Plaintiff for employee benefits under an ŝ employee benefit plan regulated and governed under ERISA. Jurisdiction is

predicated under these code sections as well a U.S.C. § 1331 as this action

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involves a federal question. This action is brought for the purpose of recovering benefits under the terms of an employee benefit plan, enforcing Plaintiff's rights under the terms of an employee benefit plan, and to clarify Plaintiff's rights to future benefits under the employee benefit plan named as Defendant. Plaintiff seeks relief, including but not limited to: payment of benefits, prejudgment and postjudgment interest, reinstatement to the benefit plans at issue herein, and attorneys' fees and costs.

- Plaintiff was at all times relevant, an employee of Kaiser Foundation 2. Healthplan, Inc., and a resident in the County of Ventura, State of California.
- Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendant Metropolitan Life 3. Insurance Company ("MetLife") is a corporation with its principal place of business in the State of New York, authorized to transact and transacting business in the Central District of California, and can be found in the Central District of California. MetLife is the insurer of benefits under the Kaiser Permanente Group Long Term Disability Insurance Plan, (hereinafter "LTD Plan") and acted in the capacity of a plan administrator. MetLife administered the claim with a conflict of interest, and the bias this created affected the claims determination.
- 4. Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendant LTD Plan is an employee welfare benefit plan regulated by ERISA, established by Kaiser Foundation Healthplan, Inc. under which Plaintiff is and was a participant, and pursuant to which Plaintiff is entitled to Long Term Disability ("LTD") benefits. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the LTD Plan, Plaintiff is entitled to LTD benefits for the duration of Plaintiff's disability, for so long as Plaintiff remains disabled as required under the terms of the LTD Plan. The LTD Plan is doing business in this judicial district, in that it covers employees residing in this judicial district.
- Defendants can be found in this judicial district and the Defendant Plan 5. is administered in this judicial district. The Laboration at issue herein was also

specifically administered in this judicial district. Thus, venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 1132(e)(2).

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#### FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

### AGAINST METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY AND KAISER PERMANENTE GROUP LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE PLAN, FOR PLAN BENEFITS, ENFORCEMENT AND CLARIFICATION OF RIGHTS, PREJUDGMENT AND POSTJUDGMENT INTEREST, AND **ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS** (29 U.S.C. § 1132(a)(1)(B))

- 6. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- At all times relevant, Plaintiff was employed by Kaiser Foundation 7. Healthplan, Inc. and was a covered participant under the terms and conditions of the LTD Plan.
- 8. During the course of Plaintiff's employment, Plaintiff became entitled to benefits under the terms and conditions of the LTD Plan. Specifically, while Plaintiff was covered under the LTD Plan, Plaintiff suffered a disability rendering Plaintiff disabled as defined under the terms of the LTD Plan.
- Pursuant to the terms of the LTD Plan, Plaintiff made a claim to 9. MetLife for LTD benefits under the LTD Plan. Plaintiff's last date of work was September 19, 2011. Thereafter, Plaintiff made a claim for benefits under the LTD Plan.
- In a letter dated August 24, 2012, and signed by MetLife's Kathy 10. Enggas, MetLife advised plaintiff that she did not qualify for benefits under the LTD Plan because, in MetLife's opinion, Plaintiff had not provided sufficient evidence of her disability.

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- Following the denial of benefits under the LTD Plan, Plaintiff 12. communicated to MetLife that it had not obtained certain of Plaintiff's medical information as MetLife's requests to her doctors had not been received by said doctors. Plaintiff supplied additional medical information which MetLife considered. On September 23, 2013, MetLife wrote to plaintiff advising that after considering the additional evidence, it was upholding its decision to deny benefits. Plaintiff has exhausted all administrative remedies required under ERISA, and has performed all duties and obligations on Plaintiff's part to be performed under the LTD Plan.
- 13. Defendants MetLife and the LTD Plan breached the Plan and violated ERISA in the following respects in that they:
  - (a) Failed to pay LTD benefit payments to Plaintiff at a time when MetLife and the LTD Plan knew, or should have known, that Plaintiff was entitled to those benefits under the terms of the LTD Plan, as Plaintiff was disabled and unable to work and therefore entitled to benefits. Even though the LTD Plan and MetLife had such knowledge, MetLife denied Plaintiff's LTD benefits;
  - (b) Failed to provide a prompt and reasonable explanation of the basis relied on under the terms of the LTD Plan documents, in relation to the applicable facts and LTD Plan provisions, for the denial of Plaintiff's claims for LTD benefits;
  - After Plaintiff's claim was denied in whote or in part, MetLife (c) failed to adequately describe to Plaintiff any additional material or information necessary for Plaintiff to perfect his/her claim along with an explanation of why such material is or was necessary;

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Concealed and withheld from Plaintiff the notice requirements (d) MetLife and the LTD Plan were required to provide Plaintiff pursuant to ERISA and the regulations promulgated thereunder, particularly Code of Federal Regulations § 2560.503-1(f)-(g), inclusive; and

- Failed to properly and adequately investigate the merits of (e) Plaintiff's disability claim and failed to provide a full and fair review of Plaintiff's claim.
- Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants wrongfully denied her disability benefits under the LTD Plan by other acts or omissions of which Plaintiff is presently unaware, but which may be discovered in this future litigation and which Plaintiff will immediately make Defendants aware of once said acts or omissions are discovered by Plaintiff.
- 15. As a proximate result of the aforementioned wrongful conduct of the LTD Plan and MetLife, and each of them, Plaintiff has damages for loss of disability benefits in a total sum to be shown at the time of trial.
- As a further direct and proximate result of this improper determination 16. regarding Plaintiff's LTD claim, Plaintiff in pursuing this action has been required to incur attorneys' costs and fees. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 1132(g)(1), Plaintiff is entitled to have such fees and costs paid by Defendants.
- The wrongful conduct of the LTD Plan and MetLife has created 17. uncertainty where none should exist, therefore, Plaintiff is entitled to enforce her rights under the terms of the LTD Plan and to clarify her right to future benefits under the terms of the LTD Plan.

### REQUEST FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief against Defendants as follows:

- Payment of disability benefits due Plaintiff 1.
- An order declaring that Plaintiff is entitled to immediate reinstatement 2.

to the LTD Plan and benefits thereunder, with all ancillary benefits to which she is also entitled by virtue of her disability, and that benefits are to continue to be paid under the LTD Plan for so long as Plaintiff remains disabled under the terms of the LTD Plan;

3. In the alternative to the relief sought in paragraphs 1 and 2, an order

- 3. In the alternative to the relief sought in paragraphs 1 and 2, an order remanding Plaintiff's claim to the claims administrator to the extent any new facts or submissions are to be considered;
- 4. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 1132(g), payment of all costs and attorneys' fees incurred in pursuing this action;
- 5. Payment of prejudgment and postjudgment interest as allowed for under ERISA; and
  - 6. Such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Dated: September 27, 2013

KANTOR & KANTOR LLP

By:

Alan E. Kassan

Brent Dorian Brehm Attorneys for Plaintiff

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL COVER SHEET

I (a) PLAINTIFFS (Check box if you are representing yourself □) Pamela Jahn-Derian							DEFENDANTS  Metropolitan Life Insurance Company; Kaiser Permanente Group Long Term  Disability Insurance Plan						
(b) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address and Telephone Number. If you are representing yourself, provide same.)							Attorneys (If Known)						
Kantor & Kantor LLP - (818) 886-2525 19839 Nordhoff Street Northridge, CA 91324													
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FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

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AFTER COMPLETING THE FRONT SIDE OF FORM CV-71, COMPLETE THE TYPO RMATION REQUESTED BELOW.

CIVIL COVER SHEET

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL COVER SHEET

VIII(a). IDENTICAL CASES: Has If yes, list case number(s):			nd dismissed, remanded or closed?   No □ Yes	
VIII(b). RELATED CASES: Have If yes, list case number(s):			at are related to the present case? V No Yes	
□ C. 1	Arise from the same Call for determination For other reasons we	e or closely related transactio on of the same or substantial ould entail substantial duplic	ons, happenings, or events; or Illy related or similar questions of law and fact; or cation of labor if heard by different judges; or t, and one of the factors identified above in a, b or c also is present.	
IX. VENUE: (When completing the	following informati	ion, use an additional sheet if	if necessary.)	
			if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH named plaintiff resides. f this box is checked, go to item (b).	
County in this District:*			California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country	
Ventura				
			if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH named defendant resides. If this box is checked, go to item (c).	
County in this District:*			California County outside of this District; State, if other than California, or Foreign Country	
			New York	
(c) List the County in this District; (Note: In land condemnation ca			if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH claim arose.	
County in this District:*			California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country	
Ventura			-	
* Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernar Note: In land condemnation cases, us	dino, Riverside, Ve	entura, Santa Barbara, or S	San Luis Obispo Counties	
X. SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY (	OR PRO PER):	12	Date September 27, 2013	
Notice to Counsel/Parties: The or other papers as required by law	ne CV-71 (JS-44) Ci v. This form, approv	ed by the Judicial Conferenc	ormation contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings ce of the United States in September 1974, is required pursuant to Local Rule 3-1 is not filed ating the civil docket sheet. (For more detailed instructions, see separate instructions sheet.)	
Key to Statistical codes relating to So	cial Security Cases:			
Nature of Suit Code	Abbreviation	Substantive Statement of	of Cause of Action	
861	HIA		parance benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social Security Act, as amended cospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc., for certification as providers of services under the (5FF(b))	
862	BL	All claims for "Black Lun (30 U.S.C. 923)	ng" benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969.	
863	DIWC	All claims filed by insured amended; plus all claims f	d workers for disability insurance benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as filed for child's insurance benefits based on disability (120).S.C. 405(g))	
863	DIWW	All claims filed for widow Act, as amended. (42 U.S	ws or widowers insurance benefits based on disability under Title 2 of the Social Security S.C. 405(g))	
864	SSID	All claims for supplementa Act, as amended.	tal security income payments based upon disability filed under Title 16 of the Social Securit	ty
865	RSI	All claims for retirement (U.S.C. (g))	(old age) and survivors benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42	

CV-71 (05/08) CIVIL COVER SHEET Page 2 of 2