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1 2	1 ERIC V. LUEDTKE, ESQ STATE BAR #172360 LAW OFFICES OF ERIC V. LUEDTKE 2 3230 E. Imperial Highway, Suite 208	LECTRONICALLY FILED Superior Court of California, County of Orange 08/07/2014 at 07:51:54 PM	
3		Clerk of the Superior Court Joseph Villegas,Deputy Clerk	
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5	Attorneys for Plaintiff, PEGGY SCHIMONITZ		
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9	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALLFORNIA		
10	IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF ORANGE		
11	30	-2014-00738777-CU-WT-CJC	
12	PEGGY SCHIMONITZ,	ıdge Geoffrey T. Glass	
13	Plaintiff, COMPLAINT		
14	vs. (V) 1) Discr	imination Against	
	KAISER PERMANENTE OF SOUTHERN 2) Viola	tion of	
15	20, Inclusive, (Fail	nment Code §12940 ure to Prevent	
16	Discr	imination) iation under FEHA	
17	7) 4) Haras	sment under FEHA	
18	Viola	nation in tion of Public	
19	Polic 6) Discr	Y imination Against	
20	7) Discr	ility; imination Against	
21		Natioinal Origin	
22	DEMAND FOR	JURY TRIAL	
23			
24	Plaintiff alleges in this COMPLAINT as follows:		
25	FACTS COMMON TO ALL CAUSES OF ACTION		
	1. Plaintiff, PEGGY SCHIMONITZ (hereinafter "Plaintiff")		
26	was employed with Defendants, KAISER PERMANENTE OF SOUTHERN		
27	CALIFORNIA, hereinafter ("Defendants" or "Defendants"		
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Defendant Kaiser Permanente of Southern California is located in and is doing business in the State of California, City of Anaheim, and County of Orange. All of the acts complained of herein occurred in the County of Orange, State of California.

- Plaintiff was employed for over twenty eight years with Kaiser Permanente of Southern California. For the majority of her career, Plaintiff was an LVN nurse; however, of about August 24, of 2012, Plaintiff was unilaterally demoted to the position of Medical Assistant until she was terminated. time of her termination, Plaintiff held toposition of Medical Thereafter, Plaintiff was terminated from employment Assistant. on Christmas Eve of 2012 (December 2012). Defendants harassed, retaliated, demoted, discriminated, and eventually terminated Plaintiff because of her age, disability, medical condition, defendant's falure to accommodate Plaintiff, and her national origin/race and her language restriction in not being able to speak Spanish Plaintiff was retaliated against and harassed because of her disability, and accused of being under the influence of a prescription drugs without a valid prescription One week prior to her investigatory suspension that Plaintiff was put on, on or about November 8, 2012, Plaintiff was falsely accused of attending a doctors appointment during working hours even though Plaintiff had documented proof that the doctors appointment was not during working hours. Plaintiff during the last year of her employment was harassed and falsely accused of many things.
- 3. Plaintiff performed all of her required job duties. Plaintiff's experience, training and knowledge surpassed other

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- Plaintiff was more than a satisfactory employee, was reliable, loyal, and was dedicated to her work Without cause, Plaintiff was terminated and her job responsibilities were taken from her. Prior to Plaintiff being terminated from gainful employment with Defendant Plaintift was demoted from an LVN to a Plaintiff was an LVN with internal medicine Medical Assistant. prior to being demoted in (ate August of 2012. Out of all of the LVN''s in late August or early September of 2012, Plaintiff was demoted while other LVF with less experience and qualifications were kept as LVN's Maintiff was the oldest or second oldest of all LVN's; nonetheless she was on LVN chosen to be demoted to the position of Medical Assistant. Of all LVN's at the Lakeview facility Plaintiff was demoted to Medical Assistant while other LVN's remained at their positions who were less qualified and who were of Latino National Origin, Asian, and Black.
- 5. Without listening to Plaintiff, Defendants ignored Plaintiff's complaints of discrimination and harassment. Plaintiff complained multiple times to management but to no avail and continued to be singled out and retaliated against by Defendants.
 - 6. In November of 2012 Defendants suspended Plaintiff and

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for a few years of her disability and the prescription medications that she was taking. Had Plaintiff Seen non-white and able to speak Spanish, Defendant would not have terminated her. Plaintiff fulfilled all of her job functions. At no time did Defendant ever hold a good faith interactive process meeting with Plaintiff so it could determine how best to help Plaintiff with her disability. All of Plaintiff's prescription medications were

prescribed through Kaiser and Kaiser failed to speak with

Plaintiff gave Defendant in order to support Plaintiff's

medications that she was taking and had been prescribed.

Plaintiff made Defendant's aware

Defendant's forced

Plaintiff's prescribing doctor as to her medications of the test

results and failed to speak with medical professionals whose name

contention that her test results for drugs were consistent to the

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unwarranted.

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- 3) being constantly ignored, singled out and harassed, discriminated against and suffering adverse employment actions based upon the causes baction in this complaint. In addition, Plaintiff also suffered adverse employment actions (demotion) up to and including her termination.
- 12. Plaintiff is a member of a protected class in that she was born in America, is Caucasian, and cannot speak Spanish.

 Plaintiff's primary language is English and her only language.

9. Plaintiff beginning in the 2012, was ostracized, ignored,

The discrimination against Plaintiff based upon her

Plaintiff was subjected to a hostile work environment

and singled out and harassed which said discrimination continued

until Plaintiff's termination. Plaintiff was excluded from

eventually was even precluded from performing her job duties.

meetings that she should have been invited to. Plaintiff

age, race/national origin, and disability and fail (to

where she was not protected from 1) his superiors abuse and

discrimination; 2) discrimination energetaliation based upon race

age, national origin (language use restrictions) and disability;

accommodate and the retaliation that she suffered

- 13. Other similarly situated employees who were not White and who spoke Spanish were treated differently than Plaintiff and were not demoted, forced to guit, or terminated.
- 14. The Human Resources and the President and COO of the Defendant defamed Plaintiff and did nothing to protect Plaintiff from the harassment, discrimination and retaliation she suffered.

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- 15. Instead of making a good faith investigation into Plaintiff's complaints and her request for an interactive meeting because of her medical condition/disability, Defendants elevated hostility by ratifying the discriminatory conduct, demoting Plaintiff, and subsequently terminating Plaintiff. As stated above, Defendant also failed to conduct a good faith interactive meeting to help her perform her job duties in spite of her disability.
- 16. Plaintiff is and was at all times a resident of the County of Orange, the State of California and worked in same county for Defendants during her entire tenure with Defendant. The unlawful employment practices complained of herein occurred in the City of Anaheim, the County of Orange, State of California.
- 17. Plaintiff is ignorant of the true names and capacities of defendants sued herein as DOES 1 through 20, inclusive, and therefore sues these Befendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff will amend this complaint to allege their true names and capacities when ascertained. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that each of the Defendants fictificately named herein is indebted and liable to Plaintiff as herein set forth.
- 18. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that at all relevant times, except where otherwise indicated, each Defendant was the agent, servant, or employee of each remaining Defendant, and was at all such times, except where otherwise indicated, acting within the scope and purpose of such agency, and that each act of each Defendant was authorized and

ratified by each remaining Defendant.

- 19. As a direct and proximate result of the unlawful conduct on the part of Defendants, and each of them, as alleged herein, plaintiff has suffered the loss of earnings and employment benefits in an amount yet unascertained, but subject to proof at trial.
- 20. As a direct and proximate result of the untawful conduct on the part of Defendants, and each of them, as alleged herein, plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer injury, pain and suffering, loss of self esteem, humiliation, mental anguish and emotional distress, all to Plaintiff's damage in an amount to be proven at trial, in excess of the threshold jurisdiction of this court.
- 21. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' discriminatory and retaliatory conduct as described herein, Plaintiff is entitled to recover general, special and other compensatory damages (including losses to his retirement package) in amounts to be proven at trial. Plaintiff is also entitled to recover reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit as provided by California Government Code Section 12965(b).
- 22 The conduct of Defendants, and each of them, as alleged herein, was intentional.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

23. Plaintiff has filed a charge of discrimination with the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing and requested her Right to Sue Notice via said Complaint. Plaintiff received her Right To Sue Notice on August 8, 2013 and thereafter served her charge of discrimination and her Right To Sue Notice

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upon all Defendants.

24. Plaintiff has now received her Right to Sue Notice from the DFEH and has now, within a year of the date of that Right to Sue Notice, filed the instant lawsuit in the Superior court of the State of California, County of Orange.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AGE

(Against Defendant and All DOES)

- 25. Plaintiff hereby repeats, re-alleges and repleads paragraphs 1 through 24 and incorporates the same as though fully set forth herein.
- 26. Plaintiff is a female who wer the age of forty year of age and who is 57 years old,
- 27. This cause of action is brought pursuant to the California Fair Employment and Practices Act, section 12940-41 of the Government Code, which prohibits discrimination against a person in the terms conditions, or privileges of employment on the basis of the person's age, and the corresponding regulations of the California Fair Employment and Housing Commission.
- 28. Based upon information and belief, other employees who were under the age of forty and/or substantially younger than Plaintiff prior to her demotion from LVN to Medical assistant were demoted. Likewise, other similarly situated employees in December of 2012 who had less experience and qualifications and who were under the age of 40 and/or substantially younger than Plaintiff remained when Plaintiff was terminated. The conduct of defendants, and each of them as alleged herein, constitutes unlawful discrimination on account of age in

violation of California Government Code Sections 12940 et seq in that Plaintiff was singled out for differential treatment, terminated, and deprived of her employment by reason of her age.

- 29. At all times mentioned in this complaint, Defendants regularly employed more than 100 persons.
- 30. None of the discriminatory or retaliating conduct of defendants, or any of them as alleged herein, was based upon a bona fide performance problem or occupational qualification.
- 31. Plaintiff was at least as qualified and based upon information and belief, more qualified to perform the duties of her job as well as other employees who were substantially younger than Plaintiff, who remained and were not demoted or terminated.
- 32. Plaintiff believes and alleges that plaintiff's age was a substantial and determining factor in defendant employer's decision to discriminate barass and in Plaintiff's demotion and eventual termination.
- 33. As a direct foreseeable, and proximate result of defendants' discriminatory acts, plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer substantial losses in earnings, job benefits, and has suffered and continues to suffer humiliation, embarrassment, mental and emotional distress, and discomfort, all to plaintiff's damage in an amount in excess of the jurisdictional limit, the precise amount of which will be proven at trial.

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VIOLATION OF GOVERNMENT CODE (Failure to Prevent Discrimination

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(Against Defendant and All Does)

FEHA subsection (k))

- 34. Plaintiff hereby repeats, re-alleges and repleads paragraphs 1 through 33 and incorporates the same as though fully set forth herein.
- 35. At all times mentioned in this complaint Government Code section 12940 was in full force and effect and was binding on defendants. This subsection requires defendants to take all reasonable steps necessary to prevent discrimination and harassment from occurring. As alleged above, defendants violated this subsection by failing to take all reasonable steps necessary to prevent discrimination and harassment from occurring.
- 36. Defendant had knowledge of Plaintiff's and other employees claims of harassment and discrimination in violation of Government Code Section 12940 et seq. Nonetheless, Defendant did nothing to protect employees from offenders of the law. Plaintiff rejected Defendants discrimination by complaining to her superiors and Human Resources. Defendants never made a good faith investigation into Plaintiff's claims or discrimination, or retaliation, discrimination against disability and/or her request for a good faith interactive meeting to discuss accommodations.
- Plaintiff was demoted and eventually terminated due to her race, age, disability, national origin, failure to speak Spanish and retaliated against because of her complaint
 - 38. The Human Resource Department also did not respond in any

way or advise or support Plaintiff after her complaints and requests to be accommodated. In short, based upon Defendants failure to take any steps to respond to Plaintiff's complaints of discrimination or to prevent discrimination, harassment and retaliation from occurring in its workplace, Defendants ratified President the conduct that led to Plaintiff's termination.

- 39. As a proximate result of defendants' conduct, Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer humiliation, motional distress, and mental and physical pain and anguish, all to her damage in a sum according to proof.
- 40. Plaintiff has incurred and continues to incur legal expenses and attorney fees. Plaintiff is presently unaware of the precise amount of these expenses and fees and prays leave of court to amend this complaint when the amounts are more fully known.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

RETALIATION UNDER FEHA

(Against Defendant and All Does)

- 41. Plaintiff hereby repeats, re-alleges and repleads paragraphs 1 through 40 and incorporates the same as though fully set forth herein.
- 42. This cause of action is brought pursuant to the California Fair Employment and Practices Act, section 12940-41 of the Government Code, which prohibits retaliation against a person in the terms, conditions, or privileges of employment on the basis of the person's age and race, and any retaliation for making a complaint thereunder.
 - 43. Plaintiff was retaliated against after making her

complaints to Defendants of discrimination, failure to accommodate her disability, and harassment and violation of policies and procedures by Plaintiff. Plaintiff was thereafter terminated based upon her age, race and national origin, her inability to speak Spanish, and retaliated against because of her protected class and the complaints she made regarding same.

- 44. The conduct of defendants, and each of them as alleged herein, constitutes unlawful retaliation in response to Plaintiff's age, race, disability and national orign in violation of California Government Code Sections 12000 et seq in that Plaintiff was retaliated against, and discharged because of complaining to Defendants and Human Resources and because of her age and race as well as conduct that she believed to be wrongful and in violation of statute.
- 45. At all times mentioned in this complaint, Defendants regularly employed more than 100 persons.
- 46. None of the retaliating conduct of defendants, or any of them as alleged herein, was based upon a bona fide performance problem or occupational qualification.
- 47. Plaintiff was at least as qualified, and based upon information and belief, more qualified to perform the duties of her job as well as other non Caucasian LVN and Mecical Assistants and those substantially younger than Plaintiff who remained employed and were not demoted or terminated. Further, none of the LVN's who were not demoted nor the Medical Assistants that remained employed after Plaintiff's demotion and termination had any disability.
 - 48. Plaintiff believes and alleges that her termination from

being an employed with Defendant was in retaliation for her complaints as stated in this Complaint.

- 49. As a direct, foreseeable, and proximate result of defendants' discriminatory and retaliation, plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer substantial losses in earnings, job benefits, and has suffered and continues to suffer humiliation, embarrassment, mental and emotional discress, loss to reputation, and discomfort, all to plaintiff damage in an amount in excess of the jurisdictional limit, the precise amount of which will be proven at trial.
- 50. Plaintiff's termination was not based upon a bona fide performance problem, legitimate business reason or occupational qualification.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

HARASSMENT UNDER FEHA

(Against A)1 Defendants and All Does)

- 51. Plaintiff hereby repeats, re-alleges and repleads paragraphs 1 through 50 and incorporates the same as though fully set forth herein.
- 52. Defendant purposefully and intentionally, through its
 Human Resource department and Plaintiff's supervisors,
 intentionally harassed Plaintiff and made statements about
 Plaintiff's age and retirement and also harassed Plaintiff during
 the last year of her employment. On or about August 24, 2014,
 Plaintiff was demoted and took a cut in pay and also certain
 responsibilities. Defendants also excluded her from projects,
 meetings, other functions and the like, and ignoring Plaintiff
 and ultimately terminating Plaintiff was all done to harass and

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attempt to induce Plaintiff into quitting or leaving. Defendants sole purpose in harassing Plaintiff, reducing her pay, job title and the like, and sabotaging her efforts, ignoring her, ostracizing her, excluding her, threatening her, was done to intentionally injure Plaintiff and cause her emotional distress as well as to force and coerce her to quit so that Defendant would not have to terminate Plaintiff. Plaintiff worked in a hostile environment where because of the harassment she suffered Plaintiff suffered with substantial emotional and physical injuries, and anxiety as well as loss of stantial monies when she was terminated.

- 53. Defendants purposely did not interview the people that it should have as to Plaintiff's complaints and did not conduct a good faith investigation. Detendant's also accused Plaintiff of seeking medical treatments and appointments while on the clock but this was false.
- 54. The acts, conduct and negligence of defendants caused Plaintiff to suffer emotional distress and, as a result thereof, Plaintiff has suffered damages as set out in this complaint in amounts to be proven at the time of trial.
- In doing the acts herein alleged, defendants intended to cause, or acted with a reckless disregard of the probability of causing, plaintiff to suffer emotional distress.
- 56. As a proximate result of defendants' actions as herein alleged, Plaintiff suffered, and continues to suffer, severe mental and emotional distress, all to her damage in an amount to be proven at trial but in excess of the jurisdictional threshold of this court.

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FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

TERMINATION IN VIOLATION OF PUBLIC POLICY (Against All Defendants and All Does)

- 57. Plaintiff hereby repeats, re-alleges and repleads paragraphs 1 through 56 and incorporates the same as though fully set forth herein.
- 58. Plaintiff alleges that Defendants dischard termination from employment by Defendant of Plaintiff was in violation of the public policy as expressed both in California constitution Article I, section 8 which prohibits discrimination against employees. The above described conduct of Defendants also constitutes race and age discrimination, harassment and retaliation, and wrongful termination of Plaintiff in violation of public policy embodied in the California Constitution.
- 59. As a direct, foreseeable, and proximate result of defendant employer's wrongful termination of Plaintiff in violation of the public policy of the State of California, Plaintiff has lost and will continue to lose compensation, benefits and the like, and has suffered and continues to suffer humiliation, embarrassment, mental and emotional distress, and discomfort all to Plaintiff's damage in an amount in excess of the jurisdictional limit, the precise amount of which will be proven at trial.
- 60. The acts, conduct and negligence of defendants caused Plaintiff to suffer emotional distress and, as a result thereof, Plaintiff has suffered damages as set out in this complaint in amounts to be proven at the time of trial.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Discrimination Against Disability (FEHA) (Against All Defendants and all Does)

- 61. Plaintiff hereby repeats, re-alleges and repleads paragraphs 1 through 60 and incorporates the same as though fully set forth herein. Plaintiff is a female who suffered from disabilities and medical conditions having to do with her occular migraines, back problems and other disabilities. Said disability resulted in medical treatments, and physical pain which required Plaintiff to take a prescription medication for several years up through and including her termination. With the proper accommodation, Plaintiff could have continued to work and fulfill her job duties.
- 62. This cause of action is brought pursuant to the California Fair Employment and Practices Act, section 12940 et seq. of the Government Code, which prohibits discrimination against a person in the terms, conditions, or privileges of employment on the basis of an employees disability, and the corresponding regulations of the California Fair Employment and Housing Commission.
- G3 The conduct of Defendant, Kaiser, constitutes unlawful discrimination on account of disability in violation of California Government Code Sections 12940 et seq. in that Plaintiff was singled out for differential treatment, terminated, and deprived of her employment by reason of her disability. Defendant failed to even hold a good faith interactive meeting even though Plaintiff requested same due to her disability. Thus, Defendant never attempted to accommodate her despite

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Plaintiff's repeated request. This was also discrimination against disability.

- 64. At all times mentioned in this complaint, Defendant regularly employed more than 100 persons.
- 65. None of the discriminatory or retaliating conduct of defendants, or any of them as alleged herein, was based upon a bona fide performance problem or occupational qualification.

 None of the discriminatory conduct of Defendant was based upon any lack of Plaintiff to fulfill any of her job duties.
- 66. Plaintiff believes and alleges that plaintiff's disability and her requesting accommodation and a good faith interactive meeting was a substantial factor in Defendant's decision to suspend and thereafter terminate Plaintiff
- 67. As a direct, foreseeable, and proximate result of Defendant's discriminator, acts, Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer substantial losses in earnings, job benefits, and has suffered and continues to suffer humiliation, embarrassment, mental and emotional distress, and discomfort, all to Plaintiff's damage in an amount in excess of the jurisdictional limit, the precise amount of which will be proven at trial.
- 68. Defendant and all Does committed the acts described in this complaint oppressively, maliciously, and with the intent to harm Plaintiff, entitling Plaintiff to an award of punitive damages against defendants in an amount appropriate to punish and make an example of Defendants.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Discrimination Against Race/National Origin (FEHA) (Against All Defendants and all Does)

- 69. Plaintiff hereby repeats, re-alleges and repleads paragraphs 1 through 68 and incorporate the same as though fully set forth herein.
- 70. Plaintiff's national origin is Caucasian. Plaintiff is also over the age of 40, to wit her actual age is 57.
- 71. This cause of action is brought pursuant to the California Fair Employment and Practices Act, section 12940-41 of the Government Code, which prohibits discrimination against a person in the terms, conditions, or privileges of employment on the basis of the person's national origin, and race and the corresponding regulations of the California Fair Employment and Housing Commission.
- Assistant who were employed by Defendants who were Caucasian at the time that Plaintiff was terminated were terminated at the same time as Plaintiff. Likewise, in late August of 2012, no other Caucasian's were demoted from LVN to Medical Assistant and other LWN's remained who were Black, Hispanica and Asian. Plaintiff was told that since she could not speak Spanish, that her job opportunities were not good and that she should learn to speak Spanish or she would not be promoted or may lose her job. Other Medical Assistant's who were not Caucasian and who were not white remained employed in December of 2011. There was a hostile working environment against Plaintiff during the last several months of her employment due to her race and national origin.

- 73. The conduct of defendants, and each of them as alleged herein, constitutes unlawful discrimination on account of national origin in violation of California Government Code Sections 12940 and 12941 in that Plaintiff was singled out for differential treatment, terminated, and deprived of his employment by reason of her national origin and race, that being of Caucasian descent and white.
- 74. At all times mentioned in this complaint Defendants regularly employed more than 100 persons.
- 75. None of the discriminatory or retaliating conduct of defendants, or any of them as alleged herein, was based upon a bona fide performance problem or occupational qualification.
- 76. Plaintiff was more qualified, and based upon information and belief, more qualified to perform the service duties of a Medical Assistant that were later filled or taken by less qualified and experienced employees than Plaintiff who were not white, not Caucasian, and substantially younger than Plaintiff.
- 77. Plaintiff believes and alleges that plaintiff's national origin and race were substantial and determining factors in defendants decision to terminate and harass Plaintiff up through the end of her employment with Defendants.
- 78. As a direct, foreseeable, and proximate result of defendants' discriminatory acts, plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer substantial losses in earnings, job benefits, and has suffered and continues to suffer humiliation, embarrassment, mental and emotional distress, and discomfort, all to plaintiff's damage in an amount in excess of the

1	jurisdictional limit, the precise amount will be proven at trial.		
2	79. Defendants and all Does committed the acts described in		
3	this complaint oppressively, maliciously, and with the intent to		
4	harm Plaintiffs, entitling Plaintiffs to an award of punitive		
5	damages against Defendants in an amount appropriate to punish and		
6	make an example of Defendants.		
7	REQUEST FOR JURY TRIAL		
8	Plaintiff requests a trial by jury		
9	PRAYER FOR RELIEF		
10	WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays judgment against defendants, for		
11	each cause of action, as follows:		
12	1. For general and compensatory camages in an amount		
13	according to proof as to all causes of action;		
14	2. For mental and emotional distress damages on each cause		
15	of action;		
16	3. For punitive damages as to all Defendants;		
17	4. For an award of interest, including prejudgment interest,		
18	at the legal race.		
19	5. For an award of attorney fees and for costs of suit;		
20	6. For a trial by jury; and		
21	(7. For such other and further relief as the court may deem		
22	just and proper.		
23	Respectfully submitted,		
24	Dated: August 6, 2014 LAW OFFICES OF ERIC V. LUEDTKE		
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26	By: redthe		
27	Eric V. Luedtke, Esq.		
28	Attorneys for Plaintiff, Peggy Shimonitz		