FILED
Clerk of the Superior Court

DEC 2 3 2014 Anne Costin (SBN 260126) **COSTIN LAW INC.** 369 Pine Street, Ste. 506 San Francisco, CA 94104 Tel: (415) 977-0400 Fax: (415) 977-0405 Email: anne@costinlawfirm.com Attorney for PLAINTIFF ASSIGNED TO 5 DONGMI SURH JUDGE SCOTTL KAYS 6 FOR ALL PURPOSES 7 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA 8 IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SOLANO 9 UNLIMITED CIVIL JURUSDICTION CMFF 168453. \$435 10 11 DONGMI SURH, 12 Plaintiff. COMPLAINT 13 1. Failure to Accommodate Disability in 14 Violation of the Fair Employment and Housing THE PERMANENTE MEDICAL CROUP. Act: INC.; KAISER PERMANENTE 2. Discrimination Based on Disability in INTERNATIONAL, and/or DOES 1-25, Violation of the Fair Employment and Housing 16 inclusive, 17 3. Retaliation in Violation of the Fair Employment and Housing Act; 4. Failure to Take Steps to Prevent and 18 Correct Discrimination and Retaliation in Violation of the Fair Employment and Housing 19 5. Retaliation in Violation of the California 20 Family Rights Act; 6. Violations of California Labor Code 21 Sections 226, 432, and 1198.5 (Failure to Provide Personnel and Pay Documents). 22 23 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL** 24 25 26

COMPLAINT - PAGE 1

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COMPLAINT

Now comes DONGMI SURH, Plaintiff in this action, and files this Complaint, and further alleges as follows:

Parties to the Civil Action

- 1. Plaintiff DONGMI SURH (hereinafter referred to as "PLAINTIFF") is a female adult natural person who is and was at times mentioned herein a resident of the State of California.
- 2. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes that named Defendants THE PERMANENTE MEDICAL GROUP, INC. and/or KAISER PERMANENTE INTERNATIONAL (hereinafter collectively referred to as "DEFENDANTS") are each California Corporations doing business in the State of California, and are entities subject to suit before this Court.
- 3. PLAINTIFF asserts that DEFENDANTS were, at all times material to this Complaint, her employer.
- 4. DOES 1-25 are herein such under fictitious names. Their true names and capacities are unknown to PLAINTIFF. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes and thereon alleges that DOES 1-25 are business organizations of unknown form who were the employers of the PLAINTIFF. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate, or otherwise, of DOES 1-25, inclusive, are unknown to PLAINTIFF, who therefore sues the DOE Defendants by fictitious names. PLAINTIFF will amend this complaint to show their true names and capacities when they have been ascertained. For the purposes of this Complaint, each use of the term "DEFENDANT" refers not only to named Defendants THE PERMANENTE MEDICAL GROUP, INC. and KAISER PERMANENTE INTERNATIONAL, but also to DOES 1-25.
- 5. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes and thereon alleges that DEFENDANTS are employer subject to suit under California Government Code Section 12900, et seq., the Fair Employment and Housing Act ("FEHA") in that DEFENDANTS are business organizations with 5 or more employees doing business in the State of California.
- 6. PLAINTIFF is an "eligible employee" under the California Family Rights Act ("CFRA"), as she had been employed by DEFENDANTS for at least 12 months and had been

- 17. PLAINTIFF underwent surgery on August 8 (20)
- PLAINTIFF was released to work (with modified duties including limited computer 18. typing/mousing time) in approximately late November of 2013.
- When PLAINTIFF returned to work, however, DEFENDANTS informed her that she 19. would no longer be permitted to work solely on the mammography rotation (which involved more time looking at seeing patients and performing procedures, and less time performing computer typing/mousing duties than other obtations in the Radiology department) and instead informed her that she would be returned to a "regular" Radiology position which involved shifts on rotations that required more time performing computer typing/mousing duties.
- In late November of 2013, PLAINTIFF met with DEFENDANTS' representatives 20. Chief of Radiology Michael Hines and Human Resources Representative Pamela Gourley. DEFENDANTS' representatives informed PLAINTIFF that, despite her doctor's written job restrictions, they did not believe she actually required modified duty.
- 21. PLAINTIFF promptly provided DEFENDANTS with "clarification" from her physician(s) of her need for modified duty and with medical certification of her disability. Despite this documentation, DEFENDANTS refused to permit PLAINTIFF to assign PLAINTIFF to work solely on the mammography rotation (i.e. the accommodation that had successfully allowed her to perform her position for approximately seven months in 2013). Despite her repeated requests for

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- In early 2014, PLAINTIFF attempted to perform her job despite the fact that her
- PLAINTIFF is informed and believes that in early 2014 Dr. Hines instructed DEFENDANTS' employees to schedule PLAINTIFF for rotations that included heavy computer
- Further, PLAINTIFF believes that DEFENDANTS implemented changes in the department's after hours on-call program so as to force PLADVILFF to unnecessarily perform call
- In April of 2014, PLAINTIFF (and her retained legal counsel) repeatedly informed DEFENDANTS that her physician's restrictions were not being followed, and repeatedly requested that DEFENDANTS provide PLAINTIFF with reasonable accommodation, for example in the form of placement solely on the mammography rotation or a part time work schedule. DEFENDANTS refused, in blatant disregard for the law and without any valid explanation for the denial. For example, DEFENDANTS Senior Legal Counsel Susan Hartley stated (incorrectly) that legally accommodations for disabilities were only required on a temporary basis and that as such no
- PLAINTIFF continued to attempt to interact with DEFENDANTS regarding her disability and requested accommodation. For example, on April 28, 2014 she met directly with Dr. Hines, Ms. Gourley, and Physician-in-Chief Steven Stricker. During this meeting, PLAINTIFF again stressed that she had shown that she could effectively perform on the mammography rotation. Dr. Hines responded with words to the effect, "Well you are not going to be able to do it much longer."
- 27. Two days later, PLAINTIFF received the work schedule for May of 2014, and she was not included on it. PLAINTIFF promptly complained, in writing, about DEFENDANTS' continued refusal to provide accommodation and questioned her removal from the May 2014 work

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employers subject to suit under California Government Code Section 12900, et seq., the Fair

PLAINTIFF is informed and believes and thereon alleges that DEFENDANTS are

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oppressively in conscious disregard for PLAINTIFF's rights. DEFENDANTS committed and/or

of fitness in the workplace but were allowed to proceed, by officers, directors, and/or managing

ratified the acts alleged herein. These acts were committed with the knowledge of employees' lack

agents of DEFENDANT. PLAINTIFF is, therefore, entitled to recover punitive damages from DEFENDANT in an amount according to proof at trial.

49. As a result of the conduct of DEFENDANTS, PLAINTIFF was forced to retain an attorney in order to protect her rights. Accordingly, PLAINTIFF seeks the reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in this litigation in an amount according to proof at trial.

WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF prays for judgment as set forth below,

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

Retaliation in Violation of the FEHA

- 50. By this reference, PLAINTIFF hereby incorporates each and every paragraph set forth above as though fully set forth at this place.
- 51. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes and thereon alleges that DEFENDANTS are employers subject to suit under California Government Code Section 12900, et seq., the Fair Employment and Housing Act ("FEHA") in that DEFENDANTS are business organizations with 5 or more employees doing business in the State of California.
- 52. Pursuant to the FEHA, PLAINTIFF had a legal right to complain of discrimination, and retaliation in the workplace, had a legal right to take a medical/disability leave from her employment, and had a legal right to request accommodation due to her disability.
- 53. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that as a result of exercising her legal rights to complain of discrimination and retaliation in the workplace, and/or as a result of taking a medical/disability leave from her employment, and/or as a result of requesting and requiring accommodation due to her disability, DEFENDANTS retaliated against her in violation of FEHA. Such retaliation is outlined above, and includes but is not limited to placing PLAINTIFF on a forced leave of absence and refusing to place her on the work schedule since May of 2014.
- 54. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes and thereon alleges that DEFENDANTS willfully and/or with reckless indifference, violated the FEHA as outlined above by failing to provide PLAINTIFF with reasonable accommodation. Such action has resulted in damage and injury to PLAINTIFF as alleged herein.

employers subject to suit under California Government Code Section 12900, et seq., the Fair

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Employment and Housing Act ("FEHA") in that DEFENDANTS are business organizations with 5 or more employees doing business in the State of California.

- 62. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes and thereon alleges that DEFENDANTS failed to take reasonable steps to prevent and/or stop discrimination and retaliation from occurring in the workplace, in violation of the FEHA.
- 63. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes and thereon alleges that discrimination and/or retaliation against her resulted from DEFENDANTS' failure to have in place an effective prophylactic policy and/or reporting mechanism and/or their failure to take all reasonable steps to prevent or correct discrimination and/or retaliation from occurring in the workplace.
- 64. PLAINTIFF repeatedly complained to DEFENDANTS that she believed her physician's work restrictions were not being followed complained that she was not being provided with reasonable accommodation, and complained that she believed her removal from the work schedule was improper. To PLAINTIFF's knowledge DEFENDANT failed to fully and neutrally investigate PLAINTIFF'S complaints and failed to remedy the unlawful conduct.
- 65. As a direct and proximate result of the unlawful conduct of DEFENDANTS, PLAINTIFF has suffered special damages including but not limited to past and future loss of income, benefits an dical expenses, and other damages to be proven at time of trial.
- 66. As a direct and proximate result of the unlawful conduct of DEFENDANTS,
 PLAINTIFF has suffered general damages including but not limited to shock, embarrassment,
 humiliation, emotional distress, stress and other damages to be proven at the time of trial.
- 67. The unlawful conduct alleged above was engaged in and/or ratified by the officers, directors, supervisors and/or managing agents of DEFENDANTS. DEFENDANTS are, therefore, liable for the conduct of said agents and employees.
- 68. DEFENDANTS committed the acts herein alleged maliciously, fraudulently and oppressively in conscious disregard for PLAINTIFF's rights. DEFENDANTS committed and/or ratified the acts alleged herein. These acts were committed with the knowledge of employees' lack of fitness in the workplace but were allowed to proceed, by officers, directors, and/or managing

12945.2, by retaliating against PLAINTIFF for exercising her right to take a medical leave. Such actions have resulted in damage and injury to PLAINTIFF as alleged herein.

- 77. As a direct and proximate result of the unlawful conduct of DEFENDANTS, PLAINTIFF has suffered special damages including but not limited to past and future loss of income, benefits, medical expenses, and other damages to be proven at time of trial.
- 78. As a direct and proximate result of the unlawful conduct of DEFENDANTS, PLAINTIFF has suffered special damages including but not limited to past and future loss of income, benefits, medical expenses, and other damages to be proven at time of trial.
- 79. As a direct and proximate result of the unlawful conduct of DEFENDANTS, PLAINTIFF has suffered general damages including but not limited to shock, embarrassment, humiliation, emotional distress, stress and other damages to be proven at the time of trial.
- 80. The unlawful conduct alleged above was engaged in and/or ratified by the officers, directors, supervisors and/or managing agents of DEFENDANTS. DEFENDANTS are, therefore, liable for the conduct of said agents and employees.
- 81. DEFENDANTS committed the acts herein alleged maliciously, fraudulently and oppressively in conscious disregard for PLAINTIFF's rights. DEFENDANTS committed and/or ratified the acts alleged herein. These acts were committed with the knowledge of employees' lack of fitness in the workplace but were allowed to proceed, by officers, directors, and/or managing agents of DEFENDANT. PLAINTIFF is, therefore, entitled to recover punitive damages from DEFENDANT in an amount according to proof at trial.
- 82. As a result of the conduct of DEFENDANTS, PLAINTIFF was forced to retain an attorney in order to protect her rights. Accordingly, PLAINTIFF seeks the reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in this litigation in an amount according to proof at trial.

WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF prays for judgment as set forth below.

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SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Violations of California Labor Code Sections 226, 432, and 1198.5

(Failure to Provide Personnel and Pay Documents).

- 83. By this reference, PLAINTIFF hereby incorporates each and every paragraph set forth above as though fully set forth at this place.
- 84. Labor Code Section 226 provides that an employer who receives a written or oral request to inspect or copy records wage records shall comply with the request as soon as practicable, but no later than 21 calendar days from the date of the request. On ovember 18, 2014 PLAINTIFF, through her retained legal counsel, issued a written request for copies of such records and to date (34 days later) DEFENDANTS have failed to comply.
- 85. Labor Code Section 432 provides: "Han employee or applicant signs any instrument relating to the obtaining or holding of employment, he shall be given a copy of the instrument upon request." On November 18, 2014 PLAINTIFF, through her retained legal counsel, issued a written request for such instruments and to gate (34 days later) DEFENDANTS have failed to comply.
- 86. Labor Code Section 1198.5 provides "Every current and former employee, or his or her representative, has the right to inspect and receive a copy of the personnel records that the employer maintains relating to the employee's performance or to any grievance concerning the employee. The employer shall make the contents of those personnel records available for inspection to the current or former employee, or his or her representative, at reasonable intervals and at reasonable times, but not later than 30 calendar days from the date the employer receives a written request. On November 18, 2014 PLAINTIFF, through her retained legal counsel, issued a written request for copies of such records and to date (34 days later) DEFENDANTS have failed to comply.
- 87. As a result of the conduct of DEFENDANTS, PLAINTIFF was forced to retain an attorney in order to protect her rights. Accordingly, PLAINTIFF seeks the reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in this litigation in an amount according to proof at trial,
- 88. PLAINTIFF additionally seeks any and all penalties available to her for the above violations.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

PLAINTIFF hereby demands Trial by Jury.

DATED: December 2014

COSTIN LAW INC.

ANNE COSTIN, Attorney for PLAINTIFF

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