

JOONG Y. IM, SBN: 163720 LUIS H. OROZCO, SBN: 291487 LAW OFFICE OF JOONG Y. IM 601 Van Ness Ave., #2056 San Francisco, CA 94102 Tel. #:(415)775-9854 NOV 0 7 2016 Fax. #: (415)775-1308 CLERKOF Ingourery FOURT Attorneys for Plaintiff YURY KAMENETSKY 6 8 9 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 10 IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA 11 Case No. R616838108 YURY KAMENETSKY, 12 COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES: 13 Plaintiff, 14 Age Discrimination; VS. Disability and/or Medical Condition KAISER FOUNDATION HOSPITALS, INC., Discrimination: a California corporation, THE PERMANENTE Violation of California Family Rights Act; 16 MEDICAL GROUP, INC. Disability, Medical Condition, and/or a California corporation, and DOES 1-20 Medical Leave Retaliation; 17 Defendants Retaliation; 18 Policy. 19 .20 JURY DEMANDED 21

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Failure to Prevent Discrimination and/or Wrongful Discharge in Violation of Public BY FAX

Plaintiff, YURY KAMENETSKY, (hereinafter "Plaintiff"), complains against Defendants, KAISER FOUNDATION HOSPITALS, INC., a California corporation, THE PERMANENTE MEDICAL GROUP, INC., a California corporation, and DOES 1-20, (hereinafter "Defendants"), and demands a trial by jury of all issues and for causes of action alleged:

I. NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is an individual action brought by an employee against his former employer alleging

violations of the California Fair Employment and Housing Act ("FEHA"), the California Family Rights Act ("CFRA"), and wrongful termination in violation of public policy. Plaintiff alleges that Defendants violated the law by interfering with his CFRA rights, and terminating his employment because of age and/or disability or perceived disability and because he sought a qualifying medical leave.

II. PARTIES

- 2. Plaintiff is, and at all times relevant herein was, a resident of Contra Costa County, California.
- 3. On information and belief, Defendant, KAISER FOUNDATION HOSPITALS, INC., is a California corporation with its principal place of business in Alameda County, California, and employs more than 100 employees.
- 4. On information and belief, Defendant, THE PERMANENTE MEDICAL GROUP, INC., is a California corporation with its principal place of business in Alameda County, California, and employs more than 100 employees.
- 5. Defendants, and each of them, were a joint employer of Plaintiff and is an "employer" as that term is defined by California Government Code §§12926, 12940.
- 6. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate or otherwise, of Defendant DOES 1 to 20 are unknown to Plaintiff, who therefore sues said Defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff will amend this Complaint by inserting the true names and capacities of each such Defendant, with appropriate charging allegations, when they are ascertained. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and, thereon alleges, that each of the Defendants designated herein as a Doe is responsible in some manner for the injuries suffered by Plaintiff and for damages proximately caused by the conduct of each such Defendant has herein alleged.
- 7. Defendants, and each of them, have such a unity of interest and ownership that the separate personalities do not in reality exist and that the corporate structure is just a shield for the alter ego of each other. Inequity will result if the acts in question are treated as those of one of the Defendants over the other and, therefore, these entities and DOES 1 to 20 should be held collectively liable for the acts of complained of herein.
 - 8. At all times herein mentioned, each of the Defendants was the agent, managing agent, servant

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and/or employee of the remaining Defendants, and each of them, and at all times herein mentioned, was acting within the course and scope of said agency, service and employment.

III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

9. This Court has jurisdiction over Plaintiff's claims pursuant to California Government Code § 12965. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to Section 12965 because Plaintiff is informed and believes the records relevant to the alleged unlawful practices are maintained and administered in the County of Alameda, California. The amount in controversy exceeds \$25,000

IV. EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

10. On or about October 31, 2016, Plaintiff filed a timely charge of discrimination with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing ("DFEH"). On October 31, 2016, the DFEH issued a right-to-sue letter on this charge and it was timely served on Defendants. (Attached hereto as Exhibit A and fully incorporated herein is a true and correct copy of the DFEH complaint and right-to-sue letter.)

V. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CAUSES OF ACTION

11. Plaintiff worked for Defendants as a licensed and certified Registered Nurse in the Labor and Delivery Department of Defendants' facility located in Walnut Creek, California. Before his termination in March 2016, Plaintiff had been employed with Defendants for about 23 years. Over the years, Plaintiff received satisfactory and higher performance reviews, was promoted, and received numerous commendations, awards, recognitions and patient appreciation letters. He had a good working relationship with his peers and managers. At the time of the termination, Plaintiff was 59 years old and earned approximately \$180,000 a year.

Nurse Midwife at the David Grant United States Air Force Medical Center on Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, California. On or about March 31, 2009, Respondent was a member of a team that managed a 20 year old patient in labor. The patient delivered an infant diagnosed with Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy. In or about 2014, The Board of Registered Nursing of the Department of Consumer Affairs ("Board") initiated a disciplinary proceeding against Plaintiff. In or about June 2015, the Board and Plaintiff entered in to a Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order ("Order"). The Board placed

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Plaintiff on probation for 3 years pending successful completion of probation terms and conditions. As a condition for continued employment as a Registered Nurse during probation, the Board required, among other things, prior approval from the Board regarding the required "Moderate" level of supervision by a registered nurse in good standing.

- 13. In or about June 2015, Plaintiff informed Defendants of the Order. Without any explanation, Defendants placed Plaintiff on an unpaid leave of absence contrary to and in violation of the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement ("CBA") between Defendants and the California Nurses Association, a nurses union of which Plaintiff was a member. The CBA requires Plaintiff to be placed on a paid leave.
- 14. Commencing on or about July 20, 2015, after he was nexplicably placed on an unpaid leave of absence, Plaintiff sought medical care for a serious medical condition stress and anxiety. His treating doctors at Kaiser placed him on disability due to his debilitating medical condition. When Plaintiff presented the doctor's note to his manager and inquired about CFRA or any other leave for which he may qualify, Defendants refused to authorize CFRA leave despite the fact that Plaintiff met the CFRA eligibility requirements of 1250 hours worked during 12 months of employment prior to the time he sought CFRA leave, and was entitled to 480 hours of CFRA leave.
- 15. On March 1 2016, while he was on disability, Defendants informed Plaintiff that his employment is terminated effective immediately. The only reason given for the termination was that Defendants were not able to accommodate the conditions of probation imposed on Plaintiff by the Board for Plaintiff's continued employment with Defendants. Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendants' stated reason for termination was simply a pretext to discriminate against and terminate Plaintiff based on his age and disability. In fact, many of his colleagues submitted petitions to Defendants and provided testimony at union grievance hearings detailing what they can and will do to

[!] Moderate level of supervision requires the individual providing supervision and/or collaboration be in the patient care unit or in any other work setting at least half the hours Plaintiff works.

fully comply with the Board Order in regards to supervision and reporting requirements for Plaintiff's continued employment as a nurse while on probation. Moreover, in the past years, Defendants routinely provided accommodations to nurses who were placed on probation by the Board. Plaintiff is further informed and believes that Defendants hired a younger nurse - earning substantially less than Plaintiff - after he was terminated.

16. Plaintiff currently works as a part-time nurse at an elder care facility and earns approximately \$20/hr. His current employer obtained the Board approval for continued employment as a nurse during probation without difficulty.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(AGE DISCRIMINATION)

- 17. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 16, above, as if fully set forth herein.
- 18. California Government Code §12940(a) prohibits an employer from discriminating against an employee on the basis of age in compensation or in terms, conditions, or privileges of employment.
 - 19. Plaintiff is a member of a protected group based on his age.
- 20. Defendants have unlawfully discriminated against Plaintiff based on his age in violation of California Government Code \$12940(a) by treating him less favorably than similarly situated employees because of his age.
- 21. As a result of Defendants' discriminatory practices, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer preparable injury and monetary damages.
- 22. By reason of the conduct of the Defendant, Plaintiff has necessarily retained attorneys to prosecute this action. Plaintiff is therefore entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred in bring this action.
- 23. Defendants committed the despicable acts, as herein alleged, maliciously, fraudulently, and oppressively, with the intent of injuring Plaintiff, and have acted with an improper motive amounting to malice, and in conscious disregard of Plaintiff's rights. Because the despicable acts taken toward Plaintiff were carried out by managerial employees and/or "managing agents," acting in a deliberate,

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cold, callous and intentional manner in order to injure and damage Plaintiff, Plaintiff is entitled to recover punitive damages from Defendants in an amount according to proof.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief as set forth herein.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(DISABILITY AND/OR MEDICAL CONDITION DISCRIMINATION)

- 24. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 23 as if fully set forth herein.
- 25. California Government Code §12940(a) prohibits an employer and any person from discriminating against any employee on the basis of physical disability, mental disability, medical condition or perceived disability.
- 26. Defendants violated California Government Code §12940(a) with regard to Plaintiff when they discriminated against Plaintiff on the basis of physical disability, mental disability, medical condition or perceived disability, and/or took other adverse employment actions against Plaintiff on the basis of physical disability, mental disability, medical condition or perceived disability.
- 27. As a direct, foreseeable and proximate result of Defendants' acts, Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer substantial past and future economic losses and other employment and economic benefits and opportunities and other consequential and foreseeable damages and has suffered and continues to suffer humiliation, embarrassment, mental and emotional distress, and discomfort.
- 28. By reason of the conduct of the Defendants, Plaintiff has necessarily retained attorneys to prosecute this action. Plaintiff is therefore entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred in bring this action.
- 29. Defendants committed the despicable acts, as herein alleged, maliciously, fraudulently, and oppressively, with the intent of injuring Plaintiff, and have acted with an improper motive amounting to malice, and in conscious disregard of Plaintiff's rights. Because the despicable acts taken toward Plaintiff were carried out by managerial employees and/or "managing agents," acting in a deliberate, cold, callous and intentional manner in order to injure and damage Plaintiff. Plaintiff is entitled to recover punitive damages from Defendants in an amount according to proof.

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WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief as set forth herein.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

(VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA FAMILY RIGHTS ACT)

- 30. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 29 as if fully set forth herein.
- 31. The California Family Rights Act, California Government Code § 12945.2(t), provides that it is an unlawful employment practice for an employer to interfere with, restrain, or deny the exercise of, or the attempt to exercise rights under CFRA.
- 32. Defendants knew or should have know that Plaintiff was entitled by law and policy to take leaves of absence from work for his own serious medical condition(s).
 - 33. Defendants refused to authorize CFRA leave for Plaintiff's serious medical condition.
- 34. Defendants' mistreatment of Plaintiff in the terms and conditions of his employment, including interfering with the exercise of Plaintiff's CFRA rights, and termination, constitutes unlawful discrimination in violation of CFRA.
- 35. As a direct, foreseeable and proximate result of Defendants' acts, Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer substantial past and future economic losses and other employment and economic benefits and opportunities and other consequential and foreseeable damages and has suffered and continues to suffer humiliation, embarrassment, mental and emotional distress, and discomfort.
- 36. By reason of the conduct of the Defendants, Plaintiff has necessarily retained attorneys to prosecute this action. Plaintiff is therefore entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred in bring this action.
- 37. Defendants committed the despicable acts, as herein alleged, maliciously, fraudulently, and oppressively, with the intent of injuring Plaintiff, and have acted with an improper motive amounting to malice, and in conscious disregard of Plaintiff's rights. Because the despicable acts taken toward Plaintiff were carried out by managerial employees and/or "managing agents," acting in a deliberate, cold, callous and intentional manner in order to injure and damage Plaintiff. Plaintiff is entitled to recover punitive damages from Defendants in an amount according to proof.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief as set forth herein.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Disability, Medical Condition, and/or Medical Leave Retaliation)

- 38. Plaintiff incorporates herein by reference all the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 37 of this complaint as fully set forth herein.
- 39. California Government Code §12945.2(1) provides that it is an unlawful employment practice for an employer or any other person to refuse to hire, or to discharge, the, suspend, expel, or discriminate against an individual's exercise of the right to family care and medical leave.
- 40. Defendants violated 12945.2(l) with regard to Plaintiff when they retaliated and took adverse employment actions against Plaintiff termination.
- 41. As a direct and proximate result of defendant's retaliatory conduct, Plaintiff has suffered loss of employment, indignity, great humiliation and emotional distress manifesting in physical symptoms.
- 42. Defendants' actions have caused and continue to cause Plaintiff substantial losses in earnings, significant reputation and professional injury, loss of promotional opportunities and other employment benefits, lost wages, attorneys' fees, medical expenses, future earnings and benefits, cost of suit, humiliation, embarrassment and anguish, all to his damage in an amount according to proof.
- 43. The acts of these said defendants as alleged herein, were intentional, outrageous, despicable, oppressive, fraudulent, and done with ill will and intent to injure Plaintiff and to cause Plaintiff mental anguish, anxiety, and distress. The defendants acts were done in conscious disregard of the risk of severe emotional harm to Plaintiff and with the intent to injure Plaintiff, constituting oppression, fraud, malice under California Civil Code §3294, entitling Plaintiff to punitive damages against these defendants only.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief as set forth herein.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(FAILURE TO PREVENT DISCRIMINATION AND/OR RETALIATION)

44. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 43 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

45. California Government Code § 12940(k) provides that it is an unlawful employment practice for an employer to fail to take all reasonable steps necessary to prevent discrimination, retaliation, and harassment from occurring in the workplace.

46. Defendants violated Government Code § 12940(k) with regard to Plaintiff when Defendants.

46. Defendants violated Government Code § 12940(k) with regard to Plaintiff when Defendants failed to take reasonable steps necessary to prevent discrimination, retaliation, and harassment from occurring in the workplace.

47. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful acts, Plaintiff has suffered loss of employment opportunities, loss of dignity, great humiliation, and emotional injuries manifesting in physical illness and emotional distress.

48. Defendants' actions have caused and continue to cause Plaintiff substantial losses in earnings, significant reputation and professional injury, loss of promotional opportunities and other employment benefits, lost wages, attorneys' fees, medical expenses, future earnings and benefits, costs of suit, embarrassment and anguish, all to his damage in an amount according to proof.

49. Defendants committed the despicable acts, as herein alleged, maliciously, fraudulently, and oppressively, with the wrongful intent of injuring Plaintiff, and have acted with an improper and evil motive amounting to malice, and in conscious disregard of Plaintiff's rights. Because the despicable acts taken toward Plaintiff were carried out by managerial employees and/or "managing agents," acting in a deliberate, cold, callous and intentional manner in order to injure and damage Plaintiff, she is entitled to recover punitive damages from Defendants in an amount according to proof.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief as set forth herein.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(WRONGFUL TERMINATION IN VIOLATION OF PUBLIC POLICY)

- 50. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 49 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 51. Defendants discriminated, harassed and retaliated against Plaintiff on the basis of his disability, and/or medical condition and/or mental condition and, further, their was a nexus (causal connection) between the termination of Plaintiff and his protected status under the California Fair Employment and

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Housing Act (because of his disability, and/or medical condition) and /or his assertion of rights under CFRA - each and all are matters of public policy.

- 52. Accordingly, the discharge of Plaintiff was wrongful as it violated public policy, California common law and Plaintiff's constitutional rights, and statutory rights.
- 53. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' discriminatory acts, Plaintiff has suffered loss of employment opportunities, loss of dignity, great humiliation, and emotional injuries manifesting in physical illness and emotional distress.
- 54. Defendants' actions have caused and continue to cause Plaintiff substantial losses in earnings, significant reputation and professional injury, loss of promotional opportunities and other employment benefits, lost wages, attorneys' fees, medical expenses, future earnings and benefits, costs of suit, embarrassment and anguish, all to his damage in an amount according to proof.
- 55. Defendants committed the despicable acts, as herein alleged, maliciously, fraudulently, and oppressively, with the wrongful intent of injuring Plaintiff, and have acted with an improper and evil motive amounting to malice, and in conscious disregard of Plaintiff's rights. Because the despicable acts taken toward Plaintiff were carried out by managerial employees and/or "managing agents," acting in a deliberate, cold, callous and intentional manner in order to injure and damage Plaintiff, she is entitled to recover punitive damages from Defendants in an amount according to proof.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief as set forth herein.

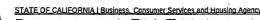
PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants, and each of them, as follows:

For a money judgment representing compensatory damages including lost wages, earnings, retirement benefits and other employee benefits, and all other sum of money, together with interest on these amounts, according to proof;

- 2. For an award of money judgment for mental pain and anguish and emotional distress, according to proof;
 - 3. For punitive damages;
 - 4. For costs of suit and attorney fees;

EXHIBIT A



www.dfeh.ca.gov l email: contact.center@dfeh.ca.gov



DEPARTMENT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT & HOUSING

DIRECTOR KEVIN KISH 2218 Kausen Drive, Suite 100 I Elk Grove I CA I 95758 800-884-1684 I TDD 800-700-2320

October 31, 2016

RE: Notice to Complainant or Complainant's Attorney

DFEH Matter Number: 492966-259811

Right to Sue: Kamenetsky / Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, Inc.

Dear Complainant or Complainant's Attorney:

Attached is a copy of your complaint of discrimination filed with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) pursuant to the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, Government Code section 12900 et seq. Also attached is a copy of your Notice of Case. Closure and Right to Sue. Pursuant to Government Code section 12962, DFEH will not serve these documents on the employer. You or your attorney must serve the complaint. If you do not have an attorney, you must serve the complaint yourself. Please refer to the attached Notice of Case Closure and Right to Sue for information regarding filing a private lawsuit in the State of California.

Be advised that the DFEH does not review or edit the complaint form to ensure that it meets procedural or statutory requirements

Sincerely

Department of Fair Employment and Housing





DEPARTMENT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT & HOUSING

2218 Kausen Drive; Suite 100 | Elk Grove | CA | 95758 800-884-1684 | TDD 800-700-2320 www.deh.ca.gov | email: contact:center@dfeh.ca.gov DIRECTOR KEVIN KISH

October 31, 2016

RE: Notice of Filing of Discrimination Complaint

DFEH Matter Number: 492966-259811

Right to Sue: Kamenetsky / Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, Inc.

To All Respondent(s):

Enclosed is a copy of a complaint of discrimination that has been filed with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) in accordance with Government Code section 12960. This constitutes service of the complaint pursuant to Government Code section 12962. The complainant has requested an authorization to file a lawsuit. This case is not being investigated by DFEH and is being closed immediately. A copy of the Notice of Case Closure and Right to Sue is enclosed for your records.

Please refer to the attached complaint for a list of all respondent(s) and their contact information.

No response to DFEH is requested or required.

Sincerely,

Department of Fair Employment and Housing



800-884-1684 I TDD 800-700-2320

www.dfeh.ca.gov l email: contact.center@dfeh.ca.gov

DIRECTOR KEVIN KISH

October 31, 2016

Yuri Kamenetsky 3079 Welwyn Place Walnut Creek, California 94598

RE: Notice of Case Closure and Right to Sue

DFEH Matter Number: 492966-259811

Right to Sue: Kamenetsky / Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, Inc

Dear Yuri Kamenetsky,

This letter informs you that the above-referenced complaint was filed with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) has been closed effective October 31, 2016 because an immediate Right to Sue notice was requested. DFEH will take no further action on the complaint.

This letter is also your Right to Sue notice. According to Government Code section 12965, subdivision (b), a civil action may be brought under the provisions of the Fair Employment and Housing Act against the person, employer, labor organization or employment agency named in the above-referenced complaint. The civil action must be filed within one year from the date of this letter.

To obtain a federal Right to Sue notice, you must visit the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to file a complaint within 30 days of receipt of this DFEH Notice of Case Closure or within 300 days of the alleged discriminatory act, whichever is earlier.

Sincerely,

Department of Fair Employment and Housing



DIRECTOR KEVIN KISH

Enclosures

cc: The Permanente Medical Group, Inc.

COMPLAINT OF EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION 2 BEFORE THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING 3 Under the California Fair Employment and Housing Act 4 (Gov. Code, § 12900 et seg.) 5 6 In the Matter of the Complaint of DFEH No. 492966-259811 Yuri Kamenetsky, Complainant. 7 3079 Welwyn Place 8 Walnut Creek, California 94598 9 vs. 10 Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, Inc., Respondent. 11 C/o CT Corporation System, One Kaiser Plaza Oakland, California 94612 12 13 14 Complainant alleges: 15 1. Respondent Kaiser Foundation Hospitals One, is a Private Employer subject to suit under the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) (Gov. Code, § 12900 et seq.). Complainant believes respondent is 16 subject to the FEHA. 17 2. On or around March 01, 2016, complainant alleges that respondent took the following adverse actions against complainant: Discrimination Terminated, . Complainant believes respondent committed these actions 18 because of their: Age 40 and over, Disability, Family Care or Medical Leave, Medical Condition -Including cancer or cancer related medical condition or genetic characteristics. 19 3. Complainant Yuri Kamenetsky resides in the City of Walnut Creek, State of California. If complaint 20 includes co-respondents please see below. 21 22

DFEH 902-1

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Complaint ± DFEH No. 492966-259811

Date Filed: October 31, 2016

.1 **Co-Respondents:** The Permanente Medical Group, Inc. C/o Kristin C. Chambers, 1950 Franklin St. Oakland California 94612 .8 20. OFEH 902-1 Complaint ± DFEH No. 492966-259811 Date Filed: October 31, 2016

Additional Complaint Details: Complainant believes that he was terminated from employment due to his age and/or 7. :8 -20 21. .DFEH 902-1 Date Filed: October 31, 2016

VERIFICATION I, Joong Y. Im, am the Attorney for Complainant in the above entitled complaint. I have read the foregoing complaint and know the contents thereof. The same is true of my own knowledge, except as to those matters: which are therein alleged on information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe it to be true: 3. On October 31, 2016, I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. San Francisco, CA 11.

Jeeng Y. Im

DFEH 902-1

Complaint ± DFEH No. 492966-259811

Date Filed: October 31, 2016