	Case 3:22-cv-04645-WHO Docum	nent 24	Filed 11/22/22	Page 1 of 25			
1	Anne B. Shaver (CA Bar No. 255928)						
2	ashaver@lchb.com Michelle A. Lamy (CA Bar No. 308174)						
3	mlamy@lchb.com Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein LLP						
4	275 Battery St., Fl. 29 San Francisco CA 94111						
5	Phone: (415) 956-1000						
6	James P. Keenley (CA Bar No. 253106) jkeenley@bkkllp.com						
7	Emily Å. Bolt (CA Bar No. 253109) ebolt@bkkllp.com						
8	BOLT KEENLEY KIM LLP 2855 Telegraph Ave., Suite 517						
9	9 Berkeley CA 94705 Phone: (510) 225-0696						
10							
11	Matthew J. Matern (CA Bar No. 159798) mmatern@maternlawgroup.com						
12	Mikael H. Stahle (CA Bar No. 182599) mstahle@maternlawgroup.com						
13	MATERN LAW GROUP, PC 1230 Rosecrans Ave., Suite 200						
14 15	Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 Phone: (310) 531-1900						
15 16	Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the Class						
10	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT						
18	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA						
19	SAN FRAN	CISCO	DIVISION				
20	KATHERINE BAKER, JOSE LUNA,	) Case	No.: 3:22-cv-4645	5-WHO			
21	EDGAR POPKE, and DENNY G. WRASKE, JR., on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated,		SS ACTION				
22							
23	Plaintiffs,	) FIRS )	T AMENDED C	OMPLAINT (ERISA)			
24	v.	)					
25		)					
26	SAVE MART SUPERMARKETS,	)					
27	Defendant.	)					
28		2					
	CASE NO. 3:22-CV-4645-WHO 2705441.6	1		FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT			

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. This case seeks redress for breaches of fiduciary duty by Defendant Save Mart Supermarkets ("Save Mart" or "Defendant") with respect to the Save Mart Select Retiree Health Benefit Plan (the "Plan"). Save Mart repeatedly represented to Named Plaintiffs Katherine Baker, Jose Luna, Edgar Popke, and Denny G. Wraske, Jr. ("Plaintiffs"), and all other similarly situated Class members, that the company would provide non-union retirees with medical benefits as good or better than their union counterparts, and that the retiree medical benefits would be provided to any eligible non-union retiree and their spouse *for the life of the retiree*. Save Mart made these representations consistently up until the company announced it was terminating the non-union retiree medical plan in April 2022. These representations were false and misleading because they obscured that the Plan could in fact be eliminated at any time, and that Save Mart did in fact intend to (and did) eliminate the Plan as a cost-saving measure when that became advantageous to Save Mart, which occurred immediately upon Save Mart's acquisition by a private equity firm from the family that had owned the company since its founding 70 years ago.

2. Save Mart's motive for misrepresenting the terms and value of the Plan was simple: to save money, suppress union activity, and induce Plaintiffs and the Class to work for Save Mart long enough to qualify for retiree medical benefits. Save Mart repeatedly and successfully used the medical benefits provided by the Plan to persuade employees not to join the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW)—a union that represented many grocery workers including at certain Save Mart stores during the relevant period—and to instead work in positions that were not covered by the UFCW's collective bargaining. Specifically, Save Mart touted the company's non-union retiree medical benefits as superior or equal to the benefits workers could obtain through union employment. As explained in detail below, this representation was made numerous times over a period of many years by Save Mart's Human Resources (HR) and executive level employees in group and individual meetings with workers. According to former Vice President of HR Wendy Kennedy, "[t]hese statements were made so regularly by management, supervisors, and Human Resources personnel that it was commonly understood and repeated by and amongst Save Mart employees." Decl. of Wendy Kennedy ("Kennedy Decl."), submitted herewith, ¶ 12. This message was also expressly set forth in

CASE NO. 3:22-CV-4645-WHO 2705441.6

### Case 3:22-cv-04645-WHO Document 24 Filed 11/22/22 Page 3 of 25

written materials that were disseminated to employees to persuade those employees to vote no to unionization in their stores; for example a pamphlet entitled "Save Mart Answers Your Questions About Unions" was given to Plaintiff Jose Luna, and it states: "your benefits are already better, or equal to, the benefits in a union store." Exhibit A, submitted herewith. Save Mart also distributed a pamphlet entitled "Save Mart Select Retiree Benefits" to each employee on an annual basis, which states that retiree medical coverage ends "[u]pon the death of the retiree." Exhibit B, submitted herewith.

3. These representations were false. In reality, the UFCW's collective bargaining agreement—which Save Mart is a party to—provided for, and continues to provide for, retiree medical benefits to union retirees that were and are more secure than those offered by the Plan. Unlike benefits provided by the Plan, the terms of the union's retiree medical benefit program do not permit Save Mart to eliminate the benefits at its own discretion. Unlike the benefits provided by the Plan, the money that funds the union benefits is held by a trust and can only be used for purposes of providing benefits, and it cannot be taken back by Save Mart. Unlike the Plan, the union retiree medical benefits are sponsored by a joint labor-management board of trustees that ensures employee representatives have equal representation and negotiation leverage in the decisions that are made around how benefits will be provided. Crucially, unlike the Plan, the only process that could result in elimination of the union benefits is collective bargaining. By contrast, the Plan's non-union benefits could be eliminated on the company's whim and were eliminated as soon as the company was acquired by new owners, who were eager to turn a quick profit on their investment.

4. Thus, Save Mart's representations to its workers that it would provide benefits as good or better than the union's benefits were false. Save Mart's retiree medical benefits for non-union employees were in fact far less secure and allowed Save Mart to eliminate the benefits at any time, at Save Mart's sole discretion. Put simply, Save Mart made false assurances about the Plan's benefits as a means of suppressing union enrollment among Save Mart employees. When Save Mart functionally terminated the Plan for non-union employees in April 2022, Save Mart's non-union employees including Plaintiffs and other Class members—no longer had any form of retiree medical benefits, while Save Mart's UFCW employees continue to enjoy those benefits. Save Mart's

CASE NO. 3:22-CV-4645-WHO 2705441.6

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

misrepresentations therefore harmed Plaintiffs and the Class by inducing them to continue working for Save Mart as long as it took to become eligible for benefits under the Plan instead of other employment opportunities in order to secure retiree medical benefits for themselves and their spouses 3 that have now been taken away, preventing them from adequately planning for and saving for their 4 retirements because they relied on the availability of this valuable benefit, and, for members of the 5 Subclass, retiring earlier than they otherwise would have, as explained below in Paragraph 5. 6

5. Save Mart compounded these misrepresentations when it amended the Plan for 2016, by leveraging the non-union medical benefits to save costs for the company. Specifically, Save Mart told retirement-eligible employees that if they did not retire on or before December 31, 2017, then they would lose the Plan's medical benefits for their spouses. This representation caused Plaintiffs, as well as numerous other Subclass members, to retire earlier than they otherwise would have in order to retain the spousal benefit for life. By doing so, Plaintiffs and the Subclass lost years of income from work that they would otherwise have earned, in addition to losing entirely the medical benefits that they worked so long to secure. Indeed, had these Subclass members continued working as they had intended to do prior to Save Mart's actions described herein, these workers would have maintained medical benefit coverage for their spouses as active employees. Thus, rather than remaining as active employees with medical benefits for themselves and their spouses as they had intended in their fifties and sixties, Save Mart's actions left them as retirees with no medical benefits for themselves or their spouses.

6. Plaintiffs and the Class are dedicated, loyal, and long-time Save Mart employees. Plaintiff Baker worked for Save Mart for 28 years; Plaintiff Luna for 33 years; Plaintiff Popke for 39 years; and Plaintiff Wraske for 46 years. Indeed, in order to be eligible to participate in the Plan, an employee had to meet one of the following service requirements: (a) age 55 with 30 years of service; (b) age 60 with 15 years of service; (c) age 65 with ten years of service; or (d) the "Golden 85," whereby years of service plus age equals or exceeds 85. Thus, Plaintiffs and the Class dedicated their entire careers, or major portions thereof, to Save Mart in return for the promise of the Plan's benefits upon retirement, including the medical benefits. Save Mart induced Plaintiffs and the Class to remain employed at Save Mart these many years by misrepresenting that upon retirement, the medical benefits

1

2

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

would be theirs for the duration of their lives.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

7. Absent legal recourse, these long-time employees will be forced to pay for medical care and health insurance entirely on their own for the rest of their lives at significant cost—a cost they had not prepared for, given Save Mart's repeated representations that their decades of loyalty to the company had resulted in a lifetime medical benefit. To deny them legal recourse would be to reward Save Mart's breach of the trust Plaintiffs and the Class placed in Save Mart over the course of their life-long dedication to the company's success. Further, Plaintiffs and the Class lost all of the unused money that they had accumulated in their Health Reimbursement Arrangement ("HRA") benefit accounts as of June 2022, which for many Class members was in the tens-of-thousands of dollars. Thus, in eliminating the HRA benefit program, Save Mart not only broke faith with its most dedicated employees by eliminating their medical benefits going forward, it also realized ill-gotten savings of millions of dollars in existing liability that Plaintiffs and Class members had intended to use towards health insurance premiums and to reimburse medical expenses, based on the amounts that had already accrued in Class member accounts. Through this action, Plaintiffs and the Class seek to prevent these unlawful and unjust results.

### **JURISDICTION**

Plaintiffs bring this action for declaratory, injunctive, and monetary relief pursuant to sections 502(a)(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"), 29 U.S.C. § 1132 (a)(3). This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' claim pursuant to ERISA § 502(e) and (f), 29 U.S.C. § 1132(e) and (f), and 28 U.S.C. § 1331.

# **VENUE**

9. Venue lies in the Northern District of California pursuant to ERISA § 502(e)(2), 29
U.S.C. § 1132(e)(2), because the breaches alleged occurred in this District, and the ERISA-governed plan at issue was administered in this District.

10. Venue is also proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Plaintiffs' claim occurred within this District. Save Mart operates dozens of stores in this District. Plaintiff Baker currently resides, and did reside for the entire course of her career, in this District and received Plan benefits in this District. Plaintiffs Wraske, Popke and

CASE NO. 3:22-CV-4645-WHO 2705441.6

Baker all lived and worked in this District while accumulating the service credits necessary to become eligible for benefits under the Plan. Save Mart frequently transferred its employees into and within this District, including Plaintiffs Wraske and Popke.

### **PARTIES**

11. At all relevant times, Plaintiff Katherine Baker was a participant in the Plan within the meaning of ERISA § 3(7), 29 U.S.C. § 1002(7). Ms. Baker began working for Save Mart in 1989 when Save Mart purchased Fry's Food Stores, where Ms. Baker had been working since 1977. Ms. Baker continued working at Save Mart until 2017, during which time she obtained the age and service requirements necessary to become eligible for benefits under the Plan, including participation in the HRA benefit program for herself and her spouse. Ms. Baker retired from Save Mart in 2017 specifically to lock in the HRA benefit for her spouse. She was 57 years old at the time, and had not planned on retiring until at least 2023.

12. At all relevant times, Plaintiff Jose Luna was a participant in the Plan within the meaning of ERISA § 3(7), 29 U.S.C. § 1002(7). Mr. Luna worked for Save Mart from 1984 to 2017, during which time he obtained the age and service requirements necessary to become eligible for benefits under the Plan, including participation in the HRA benefit program for himself and his spouse. Mr. Luna retired from Save Mart in 2017 specifically to lock in the HRA benefit for his spouse. He was 53 years old at the time, and had not planned on retiring until at least 2023.

13. At all relevant times, Plaintiff Edgar Popke was a participant in the Plan within the meaning of ERISA § 3(7), 29 U.S.C. § 1002(7). Mr. Popke worked for Save Mart from 1978 to 2017, during which time he obtained the age and service requirements necessary to become eligible for benefits under the Plan, including participation in the HRA benefit program for himself and his spouse. Mr. Popke retired from Save Mart in 2017 specifically to lock in the HRA benefit for his spouse. He was 56 years old at the time, and had not planned on retiring until at least 2023.

14. At all relevant times, Plaintiff Denny G. Wraske, Jr. was a participant in the Plan within the meaning of ERISA § 3(7), 29 U.S.C. § 1002(7). Mr. Wraske worked for Save Mart from 1971 to 2017, during which time he obtained the age and service requirements necessary to become eligible for benefits under the Plan, including participation in the HRA benefit program for himself and his

CASE NO. 3:22-CV-4645-WHO 2705441.6

spouse. Mr. Wraske retired from Save Mart in 2017 specifically to lock in the HRA benefit for his spouse. He was 64 years old at the time, and had not planned on retiring until at least 2020.

15. Defendant Save Mart is a grocery store operator headquartered in Modesto, California. At all relevant times, the Plan was an employee welfare benefit plan within the meaning of ERISA § 3(1), 29 U.S.C. § 1002(1). At all relevant times, Save Mart was the Plan administrator within the meaning of ERISA § 3(16), 29 U.S.C. § 1002(16)(A)(i), the Plan sponsor within the meaning of ERISA § 3(16), 29 U.S.C. § 1002(16)(B), and a fiduciary of the Plan within the meaning of ERISA § 3(21), 29 U.S.C. § 1002(21).

# **FACTS**

16. Save Mart is the largest regional grocer in California, operating over 200 stores across northern and central California and western Nevada. Save Mart employs tens of thousands of people and generates billions of dollars in annual revenue.

17. Save Mart employees receive different benefits from the company depending on whether they are union members or non-union employees. Most of the union employees receive benefits through the UFCW & Employers Trust pursuant to collective bargaining agreements. Nonunion employees receive benefits pursuant to the terms of benefit plans adopted by Save Mart, governed by the terms of the benefit plans Save Mart has chosen to establish.

18. The Save Mart Select Retiree Health Benefit Plan, referred to herein as the Plan, is one of the benefit plans adopted by Save Mart for its non-union employees. It provides health care benefits to eligible retirees and their dependents. At all relevant times, the Plan provided for a substantial medical benefit for retirees and their spouses, whether in the form of an HRA plan or payment of insurance premiums.

19. From the Plan's inception until the end of 2015, the Plan provided group medical benefits to retirees and their dependents and contributed toward the premiums for that coverage. Starting in 2016, Save Mart modified the Plan to provide funding to a Health Reimbursement Account in lieu of premium contributions, referred to herein as the HRA benefit. The HRA benefit was a monthly \$500 contribution to a health reimbursement account for each eligible retiree and an additional \$500 for their spouse. The retiree and spouse could use the money accrued in their HRA

28

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

account to pay for qualified medical expenses, including paying premiums for individual health insurance coverage that retirees purchased for themselves and their spouses. Under the terms of the Plan, the monthly contributions for each retiree and spouse accumulated until they were used for qualified medical expenses. Members of Save Mart's HR Department communicated to employees that this benefit "could accumulate up until the retiree's death, [] could not be taken away, and that there was no deadline by which the amounts in the employee's HRA needed to be used prior to the death of the retiree." Decl. of Valerie Vallo ("Vallo Decl."), submitted herewith, ¶ 16.

20. At all times pertinent to this case, Save Mart UFCW-member employees received retiree medical benefits based on similar eligibility criteria to the Plan. UFCW retirees continue to receive those benefits to this day, and unlike the benefits provided by the Plan, those retiree medical benefits cannot be taken away at Save Mart's discretion.

21. The terms of the Plan and the Plan's Summary Plan Description stated that Save Mart "has the right to modify or terminate the Plan at any time for any reason." However, Save Mart consistently and repeatedly misrepresented the meaning of this term to its employees. Specifically, it consistently and repeatedly told employees that—like the union benefits—retirees and their spouses would keep their retirement benefits provided by the Plan until the death of the retiree. Save Mart made this misrepresentation both orally and in writing.

22. Save Mart made repeated oral misrepresentations about the terms of the Plan to Plaintiffs, to existing employees, to potential recruits, and to the employees of stores that Save Mart acquired over the years, in order to convince them not to join the union. Any time a new store opened or the union started to organize at an existing store, Save Mart sent a senior executive and an HR employee or employees to that store to meet with the employees. In these meetings, the HR representative(s) and company executive were trained to communicate that employees should not pay dues to join the union, since the non-union benefits—including retirement benefits—would always be as good as or better than the benefits enjoyed by union employees.

23. This understanding of the Plan emanated from the very top of the company. Wendy Kennedy served as Save Mart's Vice President of HR in the early 2000s. Kennedy Decl. ¶ 3. In that role, Ms. Kennedy "oversaw the entire Human Resources Department, including payroll, benefits,

CASE NO. 3:22-CV-4645-WHO 2705441.6

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

recruiting, hiring, employee relations, and training." Id. ¶ 5. "All Human Resources employees ultimately reported to [her]," and she in turn "reported directly to Mike Silveira, the Senior Vice President of Human Resources." Id. With respect to retirement benefits, Ms. Kennedy's "job duties included participating in meetings with Human Resources personnel including the Benefits Manager as well as Store Managers, Division Supervisors, and other employees about these benefits." Id. ¶ 8. Ms. Kennedy confirms that "Save Mart leadership reassured employees coming from union stores that non-union benefits would be as good as or better than the union's," *id.* ¶ 12, and that she "always understood that Save Mart would provide eligible non-union retirees with health care benefits . . . for the duration of their lives," *id*. ¶ 8.

24. In her role as Vice President of HR, Ms. Kennedy "conveyed this understanding to the rest of the Human Resources personnel because [she] believed it to be true." Kennedy Decl. ¶ 10. Ms. Kennedy therefore "directed the personnel on [her] Human Resources Department team to disseminate this message and they did so." Id. ¶ 14. Those personnel would in turn communicate that understanding to other Save Mart employees. For example, Kit Tharp explains that in her role as a member of Save Mart's HR Department, one of her "primary job duties" was "pitching how generous the non-union benefits packages were and specifically that they were as good or better than the union 16 benefits." Decl. of Kathleen Tharp ("Tharp Decl."), submitted herewith, ¶¶ 4-5. Ms. Tharp received the instruction to deliver this message from Save Mart executives, including Director of HR Jerry 18 Sauer, Director of HR Steve Goodman, and Vice President of HR Mike Silveira. Id. Ms. Tharp also 19 received this instruction in "training that [she] received when [she] joined Save Mart and over the course of [her] employment there," and on the basis of this training she "always understood that Save Mart would provide eligible non-union retirees with health care benefits for the duration of their lives." Id. ¶ 9. Indeed, "[i]n nearly 30 years of working in the Human Resources Department at Save Mart, no one ever told [Ms. Tharp] that the company could decide to eliminate [a] retiree's health 24 benefits or mentioned any sort of end date." Id. ¶ 15. Ms. Tharp therefore confidently delivered the message to Save Mart employees that the Plan's medical benefits were guaranteed for life at 26 orientations for new store openings as well as in meetings with new hires or transferring employees. *Id*. ¶ 6. 28

CASE NO. 3:22-CV-4645-WHO 2705441.6

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

17

20

21

22

23

25

27

25. At new store openings—which Ms. Tharp participated in between six and ten times per year—she was joined in delivering this message by a Vice President of HR, a Division Supervisor, a Store Manager, a Training Manager, and/or a HR Benefits Department Manager. Tharp Decl. ¶ 6. When a new store opened, it was not part of a union and would unionize only if the employees later voted to unionize. New stores were staffed by both new employees and employees transferring from an existing Save Mart location. When existing employees who were union members at their prior location expressed concern about losing their union benefits, they were repeatedly assured "not to worry" because "their benefits would be as good or better than the union's." Id.  $\P$  7. In reassuring these existing employees, Ms. Tharp recalls believing that "Save Mart intended to take care of eligible non-union retirees for life because . . . the union benefits [were] for life and the non-union benefits were promised to be as good or better." Id. Similarly, Ms. Kennedy recalls multiple employee rallies at which owner Bob Piccinini told employees that they were "a family." Kennedy Decl. ¶7. It was her "true understanding" that "non-union retiree health benefits would always be as good or better than the union's," *id.* ¶ 15, and that "lifetime benefits" were a "key pillar" of the promise that Bob Piccinini would take care of the Save Mart family, *id*. ¶ 7.

26. When Save Mart received reports that a store may be unionizing, it deployed HR professionals to "tout the generousness of the benefits package and reiterate that the non-union benefits were always as good or better than the union benefits." Tharp Decl. ¶ 8. For example, Valerie Vallo recalls that an "important part of her role" as Manager of Employee Relations "was visiting stores to discuss the advantages to employees of stores remaining non-unionized, by talking about how generous the employee benefits were for non-union employees." Vallo Decl. ¶ 5. Internally, these meetings were referred to as "the roadshow" or "kumbaya" meetings because "the purpose was to foster harmony amongst the employees by reassuring them about their benefits and quelling any desires to give up those benefits" by unionizing. *Id.* As with Ms. Tharp, Ms. Vallo had been trained by Save Mart to understand and communicate "that Save Mart would provide eligible non-union retirees with health care benefits for the duration of their lives." *Id.* ¶ 6. In addition to receiving this message at "training that [she] received when [she] joined Save Mart and over the course of [her] employment there," *id.*, Ms. Vallo recalls being told by Save Mart's Vice President of

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

HR, John Bacon, to deliver this message to employees, *id*. ¶ 10. The message worked: many Save
Mart stores remained non-union "because the employees wanted to retain the benefits promised to
non-unionized staff." *Id*. ¶ 10. Ms. Kennedy likewise recalls that Save Mart's anti-union messaging
"was very effective and convincing to employees, and many Save Mart stores remained non-union
because employees understood that their benefits would always be as good or better than the union's."
Kennedy Decl. ¶ 13.

27. Save Mart also misrepresented the terms of the Plan to employees in writing. In various descriptions of the Plan that Save Mart disseminated to employees over the years, it told employees that they would be covered under the Plan until they died.

28. For example, Save Mart sent a pamphlet entitled "Save Mart Select Retiree Benefits" to each employee on an annual basis. Exhibit B; Vallo Decl. ¶ 15; Tharp Decl. ¶ 12. That pamphlet specifically stated that retiree medical coverage ends "[u]pon the death of the retiree," as shown in the screenshot below:

- WHEN COVERAGE ENDS
  - Upon non-receipt of your monthly premium contribution payment by the payment due date.
  - Upon the death of the retiree. 🗸
  - Spousal coverage ends upon divorce from or death of the retiree. Domestic partner coverage ends upon termination of the domestic partnership or death of the retiree. Spouses only may be eligible to extend medical plan coverage upon death or divorce under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA).

29. Save Mart's HR professionals relied on this document to explain retirement benefits to Save Mart employees. Tharp Decl. ¶ 12; Vallo Decl. ¶ 15. Ms. Tharp and Ms. Vallo "understood this to mean that benefits would last until the retiree died." *Id.* Accordingly, when employees asked HR about the HRA plan, they were told "that this provision meant the benefit would last for the duration of the retiree's life." *Id.* 

CASE NO. 3:22-CV-4645-WHO 2705441.6

30. Save Mart made similar written misrepresentations of the Plan in a document entitled "Save Mart Supermarkets 2010 Retiree Health Plan Highlights." Exhibit C, submitted herewith. This document, also, told employees that the medical benefit would last until the death of the retiree, as shown in the screenshot below:

When Coverage Ends

• Upon the death of the retiree

 Spousal coverage ends upon divorce from or death of the retiree. Spouses may be eligible to extend medical plan coverage upon death or divorce under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA).

31. Upon information and belief, discovery will show many more written misrepresentations of the Plan informing employees that the retiree medical benefits they worked so hard to secure would be theirs for the duration of their lives. None of these written materials informed employees that the governing Plan documents stated that Save Mart retained the discretion to terminate the Plan and any of its component benefits at any time, including retroactively. Indeed, Ms. Kennedy confirms that in her years as Vice President of HR, she "oversaw the dissemination" of "booklets, pamphlets, letters, and other documents describing non-union retiree health benefits to employees," and does "not recall ever seeing mention in any of these documents that Save Mart reserved the right to terminate these benefits." Kennedy Decl. ¶ 16.

32. Plaintiffs and their beneficiaries, and hundreds or thousands of similarly situated employees, made employment decisions and planned the financial details of their retirements, including vitally important decisions like how long they would work before retirement, based on Save Mart's misrepresentations about the duration of the retiree medical benefits, which they reasonably believed would last for the rest of their lives based on Save Mart's direct misrepresentations that they would.

33. At the time of the 2016 Plan amendment implementing the HRA benefit program for
non-union employees, Save Mart told retirement-eligible employees that if they retired before
December 31, 2017, they would be able to retain the HRA benefit for their spouses, but that the
spousal benefit would not be available to employees who retired after this date. The purpose of this
feature of the amendment was to persuade eligible employees to retire because Save Mart had

### Case 3:22-cv-04645-WHO Document 24 Filed 11/22/22 Page 13 of 25

concluded that their retirements were in the best economic interests of the company, and in so doing Save Mart acted against the best interests of their employees and potential Plan participants. The HR professionals charged with communicating this change to Save Mart employees and with fielding any questions about the amendment understood that the purpose of the change was to drive up retirement numbers. Vallo Decl. ¶ 12. These employees were also trained to communicate that the new "HRA benefit would belong to an employee until they died." *Id.* ¶ 14.

34. In connection with this announcement, Plaintiffs and other similarly situated employees spoke with HR employees who were specifically tasked by Save Mart to communicate information about retiree medical benefits. HR told them that by retiring by December 31, 2017, they would retain the HRA benefit for them and their spouses for life.

35. Plaintiffs and numerous other similarly situated employees retired earlier than they were planning to, on the basis of Save Mart's misrepresentation that they would retain the HRA benefit for life for them and their spouses if they retired by December 31, 2017.

36. Save Mart's representations that the HRA benefit would continue for life were false and misleading. The terms of the Plan allowed Save Mart to terminate the program at any time, including for employees who retired before December 31, 2017.

37. In March 2022, a private equity firm called Kingswood Capital Management LP acquired Save Mart from the family that had owned it since its founding 70 years prior. The new owners *immediately* took action to eliminate the non-union benefits that Save Mart had so long promised would be as good or better than the union's and would last for life. In April 2022, Save Mart announced that it was eliminating the HRA benefit entirely as of June 2022, which eliminated all retiree medical benefits for non-union retirees. Plan participants were told that they had until June 2022 to incur covered medical expenses that would be paid for by the funds accumulated in their HRA accounts. After June 2022, no further medical expenses would be covered, and all funds accumulated in the HRA accounts would revert to Save Mart. The decision to eliminate the HRA benefit and reclaim the accrued funds from employee accounts has saved Save Mart's new owners tens of millions of dollars to date and will amount to potentially hundreds of millions of dollars over the lifetimes of the eligible retirees in the Class.

CASE NO. 3:22-CV-4645-WHO 2705441.6

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

38. This abrupt change in policy shocked not only Plaintiffs, but also the HR professionals who had been communicating to employees for years that the Plan's medical benefits were guaranteed for life and who had themselves relied upon this lifetime guarantee in making personal employment decisions. For example, Ms. Tharp had "counted on" receiving the benefits for both herself and her spouse until she died, and was therefore "shocked when [she] received notice from the company that it was terminating these benefits." Tharp Decl. ¶ 17. As was the case for Plaintiffs and many other Save Mart employees, Ms. Tharp "had chosen to continue [her] employment at Save Mart for so many years specifically because of the promise of retiree medical benefits," and "would not have retired in 2015 had [she] believed Save Mart could terminate the HRA benefit." Id. ¶¶ 17-18. Similarly, Ms. Vallo had retired early in 2017 in direct response to Save Mart's promise that early retirees could preserve the Plan's medical benefits for themselves and their spouses for life, as her husband had just undergone two major surgeries and it was a top priority for her to preserve his medical benefits. Vallo Decl. ¶ 19. She, too, "was shocked when [she] received notice in April 2022 from the company that it was terminating these benefits," as this was "not something that [she] ever thought could happen" and she "would not have retired in 2017 had [she] believed Save Mart could terminate the HRA benefit." Id.

39. As a direct and proximate result of Save Mart's misrepresentations regarding the duration of the HRA benefit, Plaintiffs and a similarly situated class of retirees and their beneficiaries were harmed in the form of lost retiree health benefits. As a direct and proximate result of Save Mart's misrepresentations regarding the duration of the HRA benefit, Plaintiffs and a similarly situated Subclass of retirees and their beneficiaries were also harmed in the form of lost opportunity to work and earn additional income and attendant medical benefits because of having retired prematurely on the basis of Save Mart's misrepresentations.

### **RULE 23 ALLEGATIONS**

40. Plaintiffs bring this action as a proposed class action on behalf of themselves and a Class and Subclass of those similarly situated.

CASE NO. 3:22-CV-4645-WHO 2705441.6

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

41. The proposed Class is all retired non-union employees who were participants in the
 Save Mart Select Retiree Health Benefit Plan (the "Class") as of the amendment terminating benefits
 in April 2022.

42. The proposed Subclass is all retired non-union employees who were participants in the Save Mart Select Retiree Health Benefit Plan, who received a communication from Save Mart in 2016 informing them of their eligibility to retire and of the fact that if they did not retire by December 31, 2017, they would lose the spousal health benefit, and who did in fact retire by December 31, 2017.

8 43. The proposed Class is numerous, consisting of thousands of people, such that joinder is
9 impractical.

44. The proposed Subclass is numerous, consisting of hundreds of people, such that joinder
is impractical.

12 45. There are questions of law and fact common to the Class and Subclass, including but
13 not limited to:

a.	Whether Save Mart misrepresented the terms of the retiree medical benefit to
	Class members?

b. Whether such misrepresentations constituted breaches of fiduciary duty under ERISA § 401(a)(1)(A)-(B)?

- c. Whether Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to equitable surcharge or other monetary relief to make them whole for Save Mart's breaches of fiduciary duty?
- d. Whether Plaintiffs and the Class are entitled to equitable relief to reform the terms of the Plan to make those terms consistent with the representations
   Save Mart made about the Plan benefits?

46. These common questions of law and fact predominate over any relevant individual issues.

47. Plaintiffs are members of the Class and Subclass, and have claims typical of the Class and Subclass.

28

4

5

6

7

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

48. Plaintiffs are adequate class representatives, and have secured counsel experienced in the prosecution of claims under ERISA § 502(a)(3) and class actions.

# **ALLEGATIONS OF NAMED PLAINTIFFS**

## **Plaintiff Katherine Baker**

49. Plaintiff Baker began her career in 1977, at the age of eighteen, as a Bagger at a Fry's store in Fremont, California. She worked in various positions until she was promoted to Store Manager in 1988. At all times at Fry's, her position was union.

50. Save Mart purchased Fry's in 1989, and Ms. Baker became a Save Mart employee. Her years of service and her union status were preserved with the acquisition. However, in approximately 1991 Ms. Baker's boss, Dennis Nutson, told her that if she wanted to remain a Store Manager with Save Mart, she would have to give up her union status. Because of the medical needs of her family, Ms. Baker was especially concerned about preserving her medical benefits. Mr. Nutson assured her that as a non-union manager, her benefits would always be as good as or better than the union's benefits. On the basis of this representation, Ms. Baker decided to remain in management and give up her union status.

51. Ms. Baker worked in Fremont, California until approximately 1993, when she moved to manage a store in San José, California. In approximately 1994, she was promoted to General Merchandise Supervisor for the Bay Area. In approximately 2001, she was promoted to Grocery Supervisor for the Bay Area. In approximately 2006, Ms. Baker was promoted to Senior Director of Operations, based out of Dublin, California but with responsibility for the greater Bay Area. She remained in this position until her retirement in October, 2017.

52. Over the years, Ms. Baker observed Save Mart's efforts to defeat the union from representing additional stores. One common theme that she heard repeatedly from Save Mart representatives was that there was no need to join the union, because non-union employees' benefits would always be as good as or better than the union's benefits.

53. Ms. Baker received a version of the "Save Mart Select Retiree Benefits" pamphlet on one or more occasions that contained the language: "WHEN COVERAGE ENDS:...Upon the Death of the Retiree." Exhibit B. Ms. Baker understood this to mean that provided she met the eligibility

requirements for retirement, she would receive retirement health benefits for the duration of her life.

54. Ms. Baker participated in meetings with the non-union employees whom she supervised in which it was clear that the retirement benefits really mattered to these employees, particularly the store managers, and that the understanding on the part of the employees was that as long as one met the eligibility requirements, they would retain the retiree medical benefits for life. As their supervisor, Ms. Baker reinforced this understanding because she also understood that the benefits were intended to be for life and would always be as good or better than the union's.

55. Throughout Ms. Baker's tenure at Save Mart, she worked long hours and six-day weeks, as well as numerous holidays. This was the expectation communicated by Save Mart executives, management, and owner Bob Piccinini. As a salaried worker, Ms. Baker was not compensated by way of added hourly earnings for the heavy workload, but the message from Save Mart was that workers would be rewarded for their years of dedicated service, hard work, and sacrifice with generous retirement benefits, including retiree health care benefits, for the rest of their lives.

56. Ms. Baker was never told by anyone at Save Mart, nor did she ever see or read anything in writing stating or suggesting that the non-union retiree benefits could be terminated. At all trainings, meetings, and presentations in which she participated or attended, the consistent message was that non-union retiree benefits were for life and would be as good or better than the union's.

57. In approximately 2017, Ms. Baker received a letter from Save Mart advising her of her eligibility for retirement, and notifying her that if she retired by December 31, 2017, both she and her spouse would receive the HRA benefit, but if she did not, her spouse would lose his benefit. She was fifty-seven years old with forty years of service. Ms. Baker believed the terms of the letter were cut-and-dry: that if she retired by the deadline, she and her spouse would both receive the HRA benefit until she died.

58. Ms. Baker attended a presentation by HR about this letter and the HRA changes for all the non-union employees from the twenty-eight stores that Ms. Baker supervised. The employees had many questions about the HRA changes. The message from the HR representative was that provided one met the eligibility requirements and retired by December 31, 2017, then the HRA benefit and spousal benefit would last for the life of the retiree.

CASE NO. 3:22-CV-4645-WHO 2705441.6

59. Ms. Baker had planned to work until the age of at least sixty-five, and those years of income figured prominently in her family's retirement planning. However, she did not want to lose the HRA benefit for her spouse, knowing that medical care is especially important and costly as one ages.

60. In reliance on Save Mart's written and verbal representations that the HRA benefit for her and her spouse would continue for the duration of her life, Ms. Baker decided to retire early to keep the spousal benefit, and retired effective October 2017 at the age of fifty-seven.

61. Save Mart's termination of the HRA benefit will cost Ms. Baker tens-of-thousands of dollars over the duration of her life. In addition, Ms. Baker lost at least seven years of income, active employee health benefits for herself and her spouse, and 401(k) deferrals and matching employer contributions towards her retirement savings, that she would have earned, absent early retirement, as a direct result of Save Mart's misrepresentations about the HRA benefit.

## **Plaintiff Jose Luna**

62. Plaintiff Luna began his lifelong career with Save Mart in 1984, at age twenty-one, as a Cashier in Tracy, California. The store that he joined was one of the few non-unionized Save Mart stores, and the company was working hard to keep it that way. When Mr. Luna joined, the recruiters told him that as a non-union employee his benefits would be as good as or better than the union's benefits.

63. Within two years, Mr. Luna worked his way up to a Head Clerk position. In 1989, he was promoted to Assistant Store Manager and moved to a store in Turlock, California. The store was unionized but management positions were not included in the union. At the time of his promotion, Save Mart again reassured Mr. Luna that his benefits as a non-union employee would be as good as or better than the union's benefits.

64. Mr. Luna became a Store Manager in 1993 in Modesto, California. From that time until his retirement in December 2017, Mr. Luna worked as a Store Manager of unionized Save Mart stores, though he was ineligible to join the union due to his management position. Throughout that period of time, Mr. Luna heard many times that benefits for non-union management positions would be as good as or better than the union's. For example, from approximately 1993 until 2017, Mr. Luna

18

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

attended regular, monthly meetings at John's Incredible Pizza in Modesto. The meetings were for store managers in the Northern District, and sometimes assistant store managers attended as well. If there was a change in benefits, a representative of the benefits department would attend to discuss it. HR representatives who attended these meetings over the years included Beth Fugate, Wendy Kennedy, Valerie Vallo, Kit Tharp, and Vickie Del Re. These HR representatives consistently said during these meetings that the store managers and assistant store managers (both non-union positions) would always have retirement benefits as good as or better than the union's.

65. Mr. Luna attended a meeting for store managers and assistant store managers in approximately 2010 or 2011 at a local brewery in Turlock called The Dustbowl. HR representative Beth Fugate was present at the meeting to discuss retiree benefits. Ms. Fugate described the retiree health benefits as lasting for the life of the retiree.

66. In 2015, through his combination of age (then fifty-three) and years of service (thirtytwo), Mr. Luna met the "Golden 85" rule making him eligible for retirement. He received a letter from Save Mart advising him of his eligibility, and notifying him that if he retired by December 31, 2017, both he and his spouse would receive the HRA benefit, but if he did not, his spouse would lose her benefit.

67. Mr. Luna was extremely torn by this decision. On the one hand, he had planned to work until the age of at least sixty-two, and those years of income figured prominently in his family's retirement planning. Also, management had just offered him a new position in a store that was projected to bring large bonuses. On the other hand, he did not want to lose the HRA benefit for his spouse, knowing that medical care is especially important and costly as one ages. In 2017, he spoke with Valerie Vallo in Save Mart's HR department to ask questions about his retirement benefits to help him make this critical decision. Ms. Vallo told him that as long as he retired by December 31, 2017, both he and his spouse would keep their HRA benefit for the duration of Mr. Luna's life.

68. In reliance on Save Mart's written and verbal representations that the HRA benefit would be for the duration of his life, Mr. Luna decided to retire early to keep the spousal benefit, and retired effective December 31, 2017 at the age of fifty-six.

```
28
```

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

69. Save Mart's termination of the HRA benefit will cost Mr. Luna tens-of-thousands of

dollars over the duration of his life. In addition, Mr. Luna lost at least six years of income, active
employee health benefits for himself and his spouse, and 401(k) deferrals and matching employer
contributions towards his retirement savings, that he would have earned, absent early retirement, as a
direct result of Save Mart's misrepresentations about the HRA benefit.

### Plaintiff Edgar Popke

70. Plaintiff Popke was raised on Save Mart food and in the Save Mart family. His mother worked most of her career for Save Mart. Mr. Popke joined Save Mart in 1978, at age eighteen, as a Produce Clerk in Modesto, California. The position was union and Mr. Popke received union benefits.

71. Mr. Popke was soon promoted to Produce Manager, and then recruited to become a Store Manager, which was a non-union position. Mr. Popke deferred the promotion for several years because of the additional hours of work it would require and the young age of his children. In 2003, he decided to accept a promotion, and at that time he spoke with his managers Steve Beaver and Bob Bauer about the impact that the promotion would have on his benefits package. They assured Mr. Popke that his benefits would always be as good as or better than the union's.

72. Mr. Popke was promoted several times in the following years. He moved from Produce Supervisor for the Central Division, to Special assistant to Executive Vice President Junquiero, to Senior Director for the Bay Area District, to Senior Director of the Modesto Region, and finally to Vice President of Operations in 2011. He remained in that role until his retirement in 2017.

73. During his tenure as Senior Director for the Bay Area, one of Mr. Popke's primary responsibilities was to oversee the integration of stores that Save Mart acquired through purchase (such as former Albertson's stores) into the Save Mart model. Save Mart worked hard to prevent these stores from joining the union. Mr. Popke was advised by Wendy Kennedy, then Vice President of HR, to tell newly-acquired store employees that their benefits would always be as good as or better than the union's. He visited many Bay Area stores alongside representatives from Save Mart's HR department to speak to the employees and their families about compensation and benefits. He consistently heard the refrain that non-union employees' benefits would always be equal to or better than the union's.

74. Mr. Popke received a version of the "Save Mart Select Retiree Benefits" pamphlet on one or more occasions that contained the language: "WHEN COVERAGE ENDS:...Upon the Death

of the Retiree." Exhibit B. Mr. Popke understood this to mean that provided he met the eligibility requirements for retirement, he would receive retirement health benefits for the duration of his life.

75. In approximately 2017, Mr. Popke received a letter from Save Mart advising him of his eligibility for retirement, and notifying him that if he retired by December 31, 2017, both he and his spouse would receive the HRA benefit, but if he did not, his spouse would lose her benefit. At that time he was fifty-six years old with and thirty-eight years of service.

76. Mr. Popke had planned to work until the age of at least sixty-two, and those years of income figured prominently in his family's retirement planning. He was well paid for his work and enjoyed it. However, he did not want to lose the HRA benefit for his spouse, knowing that medical care is especially important and costly as one ages.

77. In reliance on Save Mart's written and verbal representations that the HRA benefit would be for the duration of his life, Mr. Popke decided to retire in time to keep the spousal benefit, and retired effective January 3, 2017 at the age of fifty-six.

78. Save Mart's termination of the HRA benefit will cost Mr. Popke tens-of-thousands of dollars over the duration of his life. In addition, Mr. Popke lost at least six years of income, active employee health benefits for himself and his spouse, and 401(k) deferrals and matching employer contributions towards his retirement savings, that he would have earned, absent early retirement, as a direct result of Save Mart's misrepresentations about the HRA benefit.

Plaintiff Denny G. Wraske, Jr.

79. Plaintiff Wraske joined Save Mart in 1971, at the age of seventeen, as a Grocery Clerk in Modesto, California. The position was union and Mr. Wraske received union benefits. He worked in various union positions until he was promoted to Assistant Store Manager in approximately 1985.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

80. Mr. Wraske was promoted several times in the following years. He moved from Assistant Store Manager to Store Manager, to Grocery Superior of Modesto and the Bay Area, to Senior Director in Modesto and in Fresno, and finally to Senior Director of Operations for Northern California in approximately 2010. He remained in that role until his retirement in 2017.

81. Over the years, Mr. Wraske observed Save Mart's efforts to defeat the union from
representing additional stores. One common theme he heard repeatedly from Save Mart

representatives was that there was no need to join the union, because non-union employees' benefits would always be as good as or better than the union's benefits.

82. In approximately 2017, Mr. Wraske received a letter from Save Mart advising him of his eligibility, and notifying him that if he retired by December 31, 2017, both he and his spouse would receive the HRA benefit, but if he did not, his spouse would lose her benefit. He was sixty-three years old and had worked for Save Mart for forty-six years.

83. At that time, Mr. Wraske and his wife's retirement plan was that Mr. Wraske would work for another three years. However, he did not want to lose the HRA benefit for his spouse, knowing that medical care is especially important and costly as one ages, and because his wife also wanted to retire, which would eliminate her medical benefits.

84. Mr. Wraske received a version of the "Save Mart Select Retiree Benefits" pamphlet on at least one occasion that contained the language: "When Coverage Ends:...Upon the Death of the Retiree." Exhibit B. Mr. Wraske understood this to mean that provided he met the eligibility requirements for retirement, he would receive retirement health benefits for the duration of his life.

85. In reliance on Save Mart's written and verbal representations that the HRA benefit would be for the duration of his life, Mr. Wraske decided to retire in time to keep the spousal benefit, and retired effective December 28, 2017 at the age of sixty-four.

86. Save Mart's termination of the HRA benefit will cost Mr. Wraske tens-of-thousands of dollars over the duration of his life. It also meant that his wife has had to postpone her retirement in order to maintain her medical benefits. In addition, Mr. Wraske lost three years of income, active employee health benefits for himself and his spouse, and 401(k) deferrals and matching employer contributions towards his retirement savings, that he would have earned, absent early retirement, as a direct result of Save Mart's misrepresentations about the HRA benefit.

# FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Breach of Fiduciary Duty Under ERISA § 401(a)(1) (A) and (B) against Defendant Save Mart)

87. Plaintiffs incorporate the preceding paragraphs as though set forth herein.
88. ERISA § 404(a)(1), 29 U.S.C. § 1104(a)(1), requires that a fiduciary discharge his or her duties with respect to a plan solely in the interest of the participants and beneficiaries, (A) for the

exclusive purpose of providing benefits to participants and the beneficiaries of the Plan, and (B) with the care, skill, prudence and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent person acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with like aims.

89. A fiduciary's duties of loyalty and prudence include a duty to disclose and inform. These duties not only require that a fiduciary comply with the disclosure provisions in Title I of ERISA, but also require: (a) a negative duty not to misinform; (2) an affirmative duty to inform when the fiduciary knows or should know that silence might be harmful; and (3) a duty to convey complete and accurate information material to the circumstances of participants and beneficiaries.

90. Save Mart breached these duties as to Plaintiffs and the Class by misrepresenting that the company would provide health care benefits to eligible retirees and their spouses that were as good or better than those enjoyed by UFCW members, including by misrepresenting the duration of retiree and spousal medical benefits as lasting until the death of the retiree. These breaches occurred and continued from the inception of the Plan up through the date that Save Mart announced it was terminating the HRA benefit in April 2022. Plaintiffs and other employees relied on Save Mart's misrepresentations to their detriment.

91. ERISA § 502(a)(3), 29 U.S.C. § 1102(a)(3), authorizes a plan participant to bring a civil action to obtain appropriate equitable relief to redress violations of ERISA, including Save Mart's breaches of its fiduciary duties under ERISA § 401(a)(1), 29 U.S.C. § 1104(a)(1).

92. Under ERISA § 502(a)(3), 29 U.S.C. § 1102(a)(3), Plaintiffs and the Class are entitled to: have the Plan reformed to reflect Save Mart's repeated promise to provide benefits as good or better than the union's and to reflect Save Mart's repeated promise that retiree medical benefits, including the HRA benefit for retirees and their spouses specifically, would last until the death of the retiree; and/or have Save Mart pay an equitable surcharge or restitution to compensate Plaintiffs and the Class for the loss of retiree medical benefits and the HRA benefit specifically and the retirement decisions they made based on Defendant's misrepresentations. For Subclass Members, this includes lost earnings due to their falsely induced early retirement.

1	PRAYER FOR RELIEF				
2	WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray that the Court grant the following relief:				
3	A. Declare that Save Mart has breached its fiduciary duties to Plaintiffs and the				
4	Class and Subclass and/or knowingly participated in breaches of fiduciary duty;				
5	B. Order that Save Mart provide appropriate equitable relief to Plaintiffs and the				
6	Class and Subclass, including but not limited to surcharge, reformation of the Plan, and/or an				
7	injunction requiring Save Mart to administer the Plan with respect to Plaintiffs and the Class and				
8	Subclass in a manner consistent with the terms of the Plan in existence prior to the elimination of the				
9	HRA benefit in 2022;				
10	C. Award Plaintiffs and the Class attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein				
11	pursuant to ERISA § 502(g), 29 U.S.C. § 1132(g); and				
12	D. Provide such other relief as the Court deems equitable and just.				
13					
14	Respectfully submitted,				
15	Dated: November 22, 2022BOLT KEENLEY KIM LLP				
16	By: /s/ James P. Keenley				
17	James P. Keenley (CA Bar No. 253106)				
18	Emily A. Bolt (CA Bar No. 2531027)				
19	BOLT KEENLEY KIM LLP 2855 Telegraph Ave., Suite 517				
20	Berkeley CA 94705 Phone: (510) 225-0696				
21	jkeenley@bkkllp.com				
22	ebolt@bkkllp.com				
23	Anne B. Shaver (CA Bar No. 255928)				
24	Michelle A. Lamy (CA Bar No. 308174) Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein LLP				
25	275 Battery St., Fl. 29 San Francisco, CA 94111				
26	Phone: (415) 956-1000				
20 27	ashaver@lchb.com mlamy@lchb.com				
27					
20					
	CASE NO. 3:22-CV-4645-WHO 2705441.6 FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT				

Matthew J. Matern (CA Bar No. 159798) Mikael H. Stahle (CA Bar No. 182599) MATERN LAW GROUP, PC 1230 Rosecrans Ave., Suite 200 Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 Phone: (310) 531-1900 mmatern@maternlawgroup.com mstahle@maternlawgroup.com

Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the Class