| 1  | DIANA L. FITZGERALD, ESQ. (SBN 170405)  | ELECTRONICALLY FILED Superior Court of California, County of Orange   |
|----|---|---|
| 2  | Diana@FILawyers.com<br>DAVID C. ISAACSON, ESQ. (SBN 257500)   | 12/04/2017 at 04:05:54 PM   |
| 3  | David@FILawyers.com<br>FITZGERALD & ISAACSON, LLP<br>Florida Office   | Clerk of the Superior Court<br>By Dollie Campos,Deputy Clerk  |
| 4  | 901 Ponce De Leon Boulevard, Suite 202  |   |
| 5  | Miami, FL 33134<br>Telephone: (305) 372-7300  |   |
| 6  | Facsimile: (305) 447-0043  California Office  |   |
| 7  | 9701 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1000<br>Beverly Hills, CA 90212  |   |
| 8  | Telephone: (310) 480-0090<br>Facsimile: (310) 402-0306  |   |
| 9  | Attorneys for Plaintiff WENDY HASKELL   |   |
| 10 | STIDED TO COLUDE OF THE   | IE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  |
| 11 |   |   |
| 12 | FOR THE COUNTY OF ORANG   | GE, CENTRAL JUSTICE CENTER  |
| 13 | WENDY HASKELL, an individual,   | Judge Craig Griffin Case No. 30-2017-00959228-CU-OE-CJC   |
| 14 | Plaintiff,  | COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES:  |
| 15 | v.  | I. Sexual Harassment in Violation of FEHA -   |
| 16 |   | Quid Pro Quo; II. Sexual Harassment in Violation of FEHA -  |
| 17 | SPORTS 1 MARKETING CORP., a Delaware corporation; HAROLD WARREN MOON, an  | Hostile Work Environment; III. Discrimination Based on Sex in Violation   |
| 18 | individual, and DOES 1-10, inclusive,   | of FEHA; IV. Failure to Prevent Discrimination and  |
| 19 | Defendants.   | Harassment; V. Retaliation;   |
| 20 |   | VI. Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress; VII. Negligent Retention & Supervision; VIII. Sexual Battery; and |
| 21 |   | IX. Battery   |
| 22 |   |   |
| 23 |   | JURY TRIAL DEMANDED   |
| 24 |   |   |
| 25 | Comes now Plaintiff WENDY HASKELL for her Complaint against Defendants SPORTS 1  MARKETING CORP., HAROLD WARREN MOON and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, and alleges as |   |
| 26 |   |   |
| 27 | MARKETINO CORF., HAROLD WARREN MOC  | and DOES I unough to, inclusive, and aneges as  |
| 28 | follows:  |   |
|    |   |   |

12

13

14 15

16

17

18

19 20

21

22 23

24

25 26

27

28

#### INTRODUCTION

1. When Wendy Haskell was hired by Defendant Sports 1 Marketing Corp. ("S1M") as the executive assistant to the President and co-owner of the company, NFL Hall of Famer Defendant Harold Warren Moon ("Moon"), she was excited to advance her career in the sports industry with what she believed to be a reputable company. What Ms. Haskell did not know at the time but would unfortunately come to learn was that, despite his public persona, Moon had a dark and twisted side that commanded far more than just executive assistant services from his newly hired employee. Soon after she began her employment, Moon demanded Ms. Haskell submit to a variety of unnerving sexual and perverse controlling arrangements, including sleeping in the same bed with him on all business trips, providing him unfettered access to the bathroom every time she showered, wearing skimpy lingerie while in the obligatory single room, obtaining prior approval for her wardrobe, and being subjected to continuous unwanted and unsolicited sexual advances. Whenever Ms. Haskell expressed reservations about these outrageous "job duties", Moon insisted this was "just the way it is", and threatened Ms. Haskell that unless she was "comfortable" with him, he'd "find someone else who was". Moon insisted these "requirements" were part of the job, and made clear that Ms. Haskell's employment depended on her acceptance and compliance with Moon's lascivious behavior, demands and orders.

2. During the course of her employment, Ms. Haskell's attempts to stave off Moon's inappropriate sexual advances and controlling behavior only served to enrage Moon, and overwhelmed Ms. Haskell to a point of physical and emotional exhaustion, all of which proved too much to bear. Although she knew it would most likely mean losing her job, Ms. Haskell summoned the courage to report Moon's sexual harassment and reprehensible misconduct to the company's CEO, David Meltzer ("Meltzer"). Inexplicably, S1M did nothing to stop Moon's unlawful tortious behavior toward her. The company did not conduct an investigation, nor did it reprimand him. Instead, S1M's CEO disgracefully ordered Ms. Haskell to continue with her job duties, and essentially, just tough it out. And, while the company ignored Ms. Haskell's

complaints, Moon's outrageous predatory conduct escalated in violent behavior, including surreptitiously drugging her drink and despite her pleas to stop, ripping off her clothes.

3. Making matters worse for Ms. Haskell, not only did S1M fail to protect her from the maniacal abuse, but it also retaliated against her by demoting her, slashing her pay, and continuing to subject her to a hostile work environment. Ms. Haskell is a victim, but she will not remain silent. Indeed, the recently published, shocking revelations about the magnitude of sexual misconduct, which has captured the attention of our nation, has given victims a new voice to finally express what has gone on for far too long. The abuse of power as demonstrated by the company's President, Warren Moon, reveals that even our beloved sports heroes are not always who they portray themselves to be.

#### THE PARTIES

- 4. At all times herein mentioned, Plaintiff Wendy Haskell ("Plaintiff" or "Ms. Haskell") was, and now is, an individual residing in Orange County, State of California.
- 5. Upon information and belief, at all times herein mentioned, Defendant Sports 1 Marketing Corp. was, and now is, a Delaware corporation authorized to do business in the State of California, and doing business in this judicial district.
- 6. Upon information and belief, at all times herein mentioned, Defendant Harold Warren Moon was, and now is, an individual residing in the State of Washington. Defendant Moon is the President and an owner of Defendant S1M.
- 7. The true names and capacities of Defendants DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, are unknown to Plaintiff, who therefore, sues such DOE Defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff will amend this Complaint to show the true names and capacities of such DOE Defendants when same have been ascertained.
- 8. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that each Defendant is responsible in some manner and/or capacity for all of the acts and omissions alleged herein, and damages proximately caused thereby. Plaintiff is also informed and believes and thereon alleges that at all times relevant herein, each

Defendant was the agent, servant, employee, partner, co-venturer, assignee, delegatee or attorney-in-fact of each of the remaining Defendants and, in doing the acts and things alleged in this Complaint, was acting within the course and scope of said agency, service, employment, partnership, joint venture, assignment, delegation or attorney-in-fact relationship. Moreover, Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges Defendants, and each of them, acted or omitted to act as alleged herein, participated with, aided and abetted, or ratified and authorized the acts and omissions of the other Defendants as alleged herein, and as such, each Defendant is jointly and severally liable to Plaintiff.

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 9. Venue properly lies with this Court as the employment agreement was entered into in Orange County and was to be performed in Orange County, and a substantial portion of the material events or omissions upon which the within claims are based occurred in this judicial district.
- 10. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because S1M is registered to do business in the State of California, and a substantial portion of the material events or omissions upon which the within claims are based occurred in the State of California.
- 11. All conditions precedent to bringing this action, if any, have been performed, fulfilled or waived.

#### **EXHAUSTION OF REMEDIES**

12. Prior to the filing of this action, Plaintiff adequately filed her complaint with the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing ("DFEH") alleging that the acts of Defendants constituted multiple violations of California's Fair Employment and Housing Act ("FEHA"), Government Code Section 12900 *et. seq.* In response, Plaintiff received the "right to sue" letter from the DFEH against each named Defendant, and subsequently brought this action on a timely basis.

6

#### FACTS COMMON TO ALL CAUSES OF ACTION

- 13. In early July 2017, S1M employed Ms. Haskell as executive assistant to Defendant Moon and to pursue business development for the company. As executive assistant for Moon, Ms. Haskell's primary responsibilities included, but were not limited to: coordinating and managing Moon's calendar inclusive of scheduling appointments and appearances; responding to fan emails; vetting appearance and interview requests; handling communications related to Moon's Hall of Fame Board meetings/duties and requests; functioning as Moon's handler in connection with appearances, interviews, charity events, and the general public; arranging travel and restaurant accommodations; acting as a liaison between Moon and S1M employees; handling his personal finances; attending to essentially all of Moon's business and personal errands; and accompanying Moon on business trips to perform many of the same functions.
- 14. In addition to her duties as executive assistant to Moon, Ms. Haskell also had business development responsibilities for S1M, including generating new leads and securing sponsorships for S1M; obtaining appearances and speaking engagements for Moon and David Meltzer; soliciting athletes and celebrities to attend Meltzer's podcast and S1M events; acting as a project manager to focus on driving growth and revenue for S1M; and engaging in other related corporate responsibilities.
- 15. During Ms. Haskell's employment with S1M, Moon traveled, on an almost weekly basis, for business to various national and international destinations. As required, Ms. Haskell accompanied Moon on these business trips.
- 16. It was on her first business trip with Moon as his executive assistant to Las Vegas where he began his inappropriate sexual advances and misconduct toward Ms. Haskell by requiring her to adhere to a demeaning and degrading protocol replete with sexual innuendo, overtone and perverted acts.
- 17. For example, Moon required Ms. Haskell to not only stay in his hotel room, but to share his bed. As improper as this sleeping arrangement was, Moon explained to her that this was the way it was, and attempted to normalize it by claiming that his prior assistant accepted the same arrangement.

- 18. On the next business trip, Moon added to the protocol that Ms. Haskell be required to keep the bathroom door unlocked when she used the shower on the pretense he might need to use the bathroom. Not surprisingly, Moon entered the bathroom on every occasion while Ms. Haskell was showering.
- 19. Moon reiterated to Ms. Haskell on this trip, and on many occasions thereafter, that she needed "to be comfortable" with him and this travel protocol.
- 20. On subsequent trips, Moon's inappropriate behavior escalated whereby he demanded that Ms. Haskell remove her shorts before going to sleep and ordered her instead to wear skimpy thong lingerie bottoms.
- 21. Moon's exertion of control over what Ms. Haskell wore did not stop there. He also required Ms. Haskell wear only lingerie any time she was in the room. If she dared resist or failed to follow his command, Moon became aggressive even to the extent of pulling her shorts down. In some instances, Ms. Haskell learned that Moon had photographed her while she was partially unclothed and not looking.
- 22. On at least two separate occasions, Moon's abusive behavior included attempts to pull Ms. Haskell's shirt off.
- 23. Moon also demanded Ms. Haskell provide him by text message pictures of her outfits for his approval prior to any public appearances, which were frequent.
- 24. Rather than heed Ms. Haskell's unmistakable requests for Moon to stop his abhorrent behavior, Moon escalated his aggressive, sex-charged conduct toward her. On a business trip in Seattle, for example, Moon grabbed Ms. Haskell's crotch while she was sleeping. Startled out of her sleep, Ms. Haskell managed to push Moon's hand away from her genitalia and said "no!" But, she had to endure the remainder of the night with him sleeping with his hand on her buttocks.
- 25. Ms. Haskell did not consent to any of Moon's inappropriate advances, conduct or touching, and during the course of her employment, Ms. Haskell expressed to Moon that she was uncomfortable and troubled by his behavior. In response, however, Moon simply threatened that her job depended on her

compliance with his demands, and indicated such with increased aggression.

- 26. For example, on October 6, 2017, Ms. Haskell told Moon that while she loved working at S1M, she was very uncomfortable with the travel sleeping arrangements and shower protocol. Moon replied with his mantra that if she wasn't completely "comfortable" with it, or him, then she could not work for him. Later that evening after dinner with some of the company's officers, when dropping Ms. Haskell off at her home, Moon claimed he had to use the bathroom. After purportedly doing so, Moon approached Ms. Haskell and tried to remove her clothing. She stopped him and asked him to leave.
- 27. Enraged by Ms. Haskell's rejection the prior evening, early in the morning of October 7, 2017, Moon sent an email to Ms. Haskell stating that if she was not comfortable with his demands, he would "find someone who doesn't have inhibitions about this job."
- 28. Anxiously attempting to save her job, Ms. Haskell called Moon to try to calm him down. Explaining to her, yet again, that "this is the way it is," he reiterated that he would simply find someone who would be "comfortable" with the arrangement.
- 29. Physically and emotionally exhausted from the toll of staving off Moon's unwanted advances, on October 9, 2017, Ms. Haskell summoned her courage and through a sea of tears reported the details of Moon's sexual harassment to S1M's CEO, David Meltzer. To Meltzer, she detailed the business trip sleeping and shower arrangements, the unwelcome and offensive touching, and the inappropriate sexual advances.
- 30. Meltzer did not initiate or conduct an investigation of Ms. Haskell's allegations of Moon's sexual harassment, and took no steps to prevent or correct Moon's abusive and inappropriate conduct towards her.
- 31. Instead, Meltzer instructed Ms. Haskell to continue performing her duties as executive assistant to Moon, and instructed her to accompany Moon, as planned, on an upcoming trip to Cabo. Clearly, S1M did not consider Ms. Haskell's complaints or Moon's lascivious conduct a serious matter

despite being on notice that Moon's sexual harassment was more than likely to continue in Cabo.

- 32. Specifically, prior to the Cabo trip, Moon disseminated an email to the participating employees and their guests informing them that they were required to abide by a certain "dress code," including that the women wear "neon G-strings," and warning that "[t]here [would] be severe penalties if you are there without the required wardrobe..."
- 33. And, in a half-hearted attempt to address Ms. Haskell's very real concerns, Meltzer stated that he would "change" her position *after* the Cabo trip. He also advised her not to discuss the matter with Moon so as to not upset him.
- 34. As instructed, on October 11, 2017, Ms. Haskell traveled to Cabo with Moon and other S1M personnel including Meltzer. Of no surprise, Moon's unlawful behavior continued.
- 35. On the evening after Meltzer's departure from Cabo, who had stayed on for just the first few days, Moon slipped a drug into Ms. Haskell's drink without her knowledge or consent.
- 36. Feeling strange after ingesting the drink, Ms. Haskell asked Moon if he had put something in her drink.
- 37. Laughing, Moon admitted he drugged Ms. Haskell. He said he did so because he thought she was not "having fun."
- 38. During the Cabo trip, Moon also continued his other degenerate behavior by pulling Ms. Haskell's bathing suit off while they were on the beach despite her pleas with him to stop.
- 39. Emotionally distraught, on October 16, 2017, when she was first back in the office, Ms. Haskell again asked to speak with Meltzer. Sobbing, Ms. Haskell reported to Meltzer the details of Moon's inappropriate and abusive behavior during the Cabo trip, including that Moon admitted to drugging her and had pulled her bathing suit off despite her pleading with him to stop.
- 40. After feigning an apology, Meltzer shockingly stated that he thought Ms. Haskell "could handle Warren better than his other assistants because [she] was older."

- 41. Meltzer eventually proposed switching Ms. Haskell's position to her working directly with him instead of Moon. Concerned only about stroking Moon's ego, however, Meltzer indicated that he wanted Moon to believe it was Moon's idea to have Ms. Haskell's position changed. Meltzer also instructed Ms. Haskell to avoid Moon, but to continue forwarding emails to Moon through this transition period.
- 42. This so-called "solution" was nothing more than pretext for discrimination and retaliation. On or about October 24, 2017, Meltzer and S1M's Chief Operating Officer, Derek Shaw ("Shaw"), presented Ms. Haskell with a new employment agreement, which although they characterized as a promotion, was in fact a demotion as it substantially reduced Ms. Haskell's compensation.
- 43. At all times material hereto, Ms. Haskell was in all respects qualified to perform the job of executive assistant, and had at all times performed her job duties competently and diligently throughout her employment with S1M.
- 44. As a result, when Ms. Haskell was asked to sign the new employment contract cutting her pay, a handbook acknowledgement and a Non-Disclosure Agreement, clearly designed to sweep Moon's unlawful behavior under the rug, she did not.
- 45. Thereafter, S1M and Moon would make it difficult for Ms. Haskell to work with S1M. Immediately prior to handing Ms. Haskell her demotion contract, Moon emailed Ms. Haskell stating that "[w]e have to get someone in your position asap," and that she "should probably not attend any social or work functions for a while so there is no awkwardness or uncomfortableness by either of us."
- 46. Despite Moon's clear desire to push Ms. Haskell out of the company and the obvious risk that Ms. Haskell and Moon would come into close proximity with one another, to avoid losing potentially lucrative contacts of Ms. Haskell, S1M instructed Ms. Haskell to continue performing her job duties, and attend the upcoming Rose Bowl Series Speakers event, at which Ms. Haskell had guests appearing, including a guest speaker.

- 47. Although Ms. Haskell expressed appreciable concern at the prospect of running into Moon at the event, Meltzer stressed that she needed to attend the event and advised her to "just stay apart", and "do what he [Moon] asks."
- 48. When the inevitable happened and Moon saw Ms. Haskell at the Rose Bowl Speaker Series event on October 26<sup>th</sup>, he sent her a text message stating: "so much for staying out of my way. You just don't listen...".
- 49. Immediately thereafter, Shaw approached Ms. Haskell while she was speaking with a client, interrupted the conversation, and requested she step outside. Shaw and Meltzer then advised Ms. Haskell that Moon wanted her to leave the event.
- 50. Ultimately, Ms. Haskell was forced to sit in a back room away from the guests. Overwhelmed, Ms. Haskell again broke down in tears. Seeing Ms. Haskell visibly shaken, Meltzer instructed Ms. Haskell to "center herself" and not to let it bother her.
- 51. As a result of this, Ms. Haskell suffered humiliation and emotional distress in front of peers and invited guests.
- 52. The magnitude of the hostility and embarrassment forced Ms. Haskell to take a personal day away from the office. Amplifying Ms. Haskell's emotional distress, upon her return to work, Meltzer instructed Ms. Haskell, allegedly at Moon's behest, to send a false email to Moon's clients, friends, and family in which she was to explain that she received a "promotion," and as a result, would no longer be working as Moon's assistant. Ms. Haskell indicated she was uncomfortable sending the "promotion" email. Despite Meltzer's continued insistence, she did not send the email.
- 53. Because Moon was upset by Ms. Haskell's refusal, S1M threatened to withhold payment from Ms. Haskell for compensation she earned for initiating an appearance for Moon. S1M retracted the threat, but then hinged payment on Ms. Haskell's signing the new employment contract with the demotion.
  - 54. As a result of Moon's inappropriate sexual behavior and abusive conduct, and S1M's

retaliation, hostile work environment, and failure to correct or protect Ms. Haskell from further abuse, Ms. Haskell was forced to engage undersigned counsel.

# FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN VIOLATION OF FEHA QUID PRO QUO

(Against Defendants Moon and S1M)

- 55. Ms. Haskell realleges and incorporates ¶¶ 1 through 54 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 56. At all times herein mentioned, FEHA, Cal. Gov't Code §§ 12900, *et seq.*, was in full force and effect and was fully binding upon Defendants. Pursuant to § 12940(j), it is unlawful for an employer, because of sex, to sexually harass an employee.
  - 57. At all times material, Ms. Haskell was an employee at Defendant S1M.
- 58. Defendant S1M's President, Defendant Moon, was Ms. Haskell's direct supervisor during her employment with S1M.
- 59. While acting in the course and scope of his employment with Defendant S1M, Defendant Moon sexually harassed Ms. Haskell in violation of Cal. Gov't Code § 12940, by making unwanted sexual advances to Ms. Haskell, and engaging in other unwanted verbal and physical conduct of a sexual nature as set forth herein in ¶¶ 16-28, 32, and 34-38.
- 60. Defendant Moon made clear, by his words and by his conduct, that Ms. Haskell's job was conditioned on the Ms. Haskell's acceptance of Defendant Moon's sexual advances and inappropriate sexual conduct.
- 61. Ms. Haskell refused Defendant Moon's unwanted and unsolicited sexual advances, requests and demands for sexual compliance, as described herein.
- 62. As a result of Ms. Haskell's refusals of Defendant Moon's inappropriate advances, Defendant S1M demoted Ms. Haskell in her position at S1M, and her compensation was reduced significantly.

- 63. As a direct and proximate cause of the conduct alleged herein, Ms. Haskell has suffered and continues to suffer physical and emotional injuries, economic damages, including lost earnings, noneconomic damages, including, without limitation, humiliation, embarrassment and discomfort, physical and mental emotional distress and anguish, all to Ms. Haskell's damages in an amount to be proven at trial but in excess of the jurisdictional threshold of this court.
- 64. Defendants, and each of them, by the acts of its managing agents, officers and/or directors in the aforementioned acts and/or ratifying such acts, engaged in willful, malicious, intentional, oppressive and despicable conduct, and acted with willful and conscious disregard of the rights, welfare and safety of Ms. Haskell, thereby justifying the award of punitive and exemplary damages, against Defendants, in an amount to be determined at trial.
- 65. As a result of Defendants' discriminatory acts as alleged herein, Ms. Haskell is entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of said suit as provided by Cal. Gov't Code Section 12965.

# SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN VIOLATION OF FEHA HOSTILE WORK ENVIRONMENT (Against Defendants Moon and S1M)

- 66. Ms. Haskell realleges and incorporates ¶¶ 1 through 54 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 67. At all times herein mentioned, FEHA, Cal. Gov't Code §§ 12900, et seq., was in full force and effect and was fully binding upon Defendants. Pursuant to § 12940(j), is unlawful for an employer, because of sex, to sexually harass an employee.
  - 68. At all material times, Ms. Haskell was an employee at Defendant S1M.
- 69. During her employment, Defendant S1M's President, Defendant Moon, was Ms. Haskell's direct supervisor.
- 70. The actions of Defendant Moon while acting in his scope and course of employment as the President of S1M, including Defendant Moon's sexual advances, conduct and comments towards Ms.

Haskell as described herein at ¶¶ 16-28, 32, and 34-38, were unwelcomed, unwanted and uninvited by Ms. Haskell.

- 71. Defendant Moon's conduct toward the Ms. Haskell was based on the fact that Ms. Haskell is a person of the female sex, and was so severe and pervasive that it materially altered the conditions of Ms. Haskell's employment and created an abusive and hostile working environment in violation of Cal. Gov't Code § 12940.
- 72. As a direct and proximate cause of the conduct alleged herein, Ms. Haskell has suffered and continues to suffer physical and emotional injuries, economic damages, including lost earnings, noneconomic damages, including, without limitation, humiliation, embarrassment and discomfort, physical and mental emotional distress and anguish, all to Ms. Haskell's damages in an amount to be proven at trial but in excess of the jurisdictional threshold of this court.
- 73. Defendants, and each of them, by the acts of its managing agents, officers and/or directors in the aforementioned acts and/or ratifying such acts, engaged in willful, malicious, intentional, oppressive and despicable conduct, and acted with willful and conscious disregard of the rights, welfare and safety of Ms. Haskell, thereby justifying the award of punitive and exemplary damages, against Defendants, in an amount to be determined at trial.
- 74. As a result of Defendants' discriminatory acts as alleged herein, Ms. Haskell is entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of said suit as provided by Cal. Gov't. Code Section 12965.

# THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEX IN VIOLATION OF FEHA (Against Defendant S1M)

- 75. Ms. Haskell realleges and incorporates ¶¶ 1 through 54 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 76. At all times herein mentioned, FEHA, Cal. Government Code § 12940 *et seq.*, was in full force and effect and fully binding upon Defendant.

- 77. Ms. Haskell was a member of a group protected by the statute, in particular section 12940(a), prohibiting discrimination in employment based on sex.
- 78. Ms. Haskell was employed by Defendant S1M as the executive assistant to Defendant Moon.
- 79. During the course of her employment at Defendant S1M, Ms. Haskell was subjected to sexual harassment by Defendant Moon as specifically set forth in ¶¶16-28, 32, and 34-38.
- 80. On multiple occasions, Ms. Haskell expressed her opposition to Moon's sexually harassing behavior, and reported the inappropriate conduct to Defendant S1M's CEO, David Meltzer.
- 81. In response to Ms. Haskell's complaints, Defendant S1M demoted Ms. Haskell by reducing Ms. Haskell's job responsibilities and significantly cutting her pay.
- 82. As of the start date of employment with Defendant S1M, and at all times herein mentioned, Ms. Haskell was in all respects qualified for her position as an executive assistant, and had at all times performed her job duties competently and diligently throughout her employment with S1M.
- 83. Defendant S1M's alleged reasons for the demotion while calling it a promotion, were a pretext to the discriminatory nature of the demotion.
- 84. Defendant S1M's demotion of Ms. Haskell's position at S1M constitutes disparate treatment in violation of Cal. Gov. Code, § 12940 in that Defendant S1M intentionally demoted Ms. Haskell because of Ms. Haskell's acts in opposition to sex discrimination, and because of the fact that Ms. Haskell is a person of female sex.
- 85. As a direct and proximate cause of the conduct alleged herein, Ms. Haskell has suffered and continues to suffer physical and emotional injuries, economic damages, including lost earnings, noneconomic damages, including, without limitation, humiliation, embarrassment and discomfort, physical and mental emotional distress and anguish, all to Ms. Haskell's damages in an amount to be proven at trial but in excess of the jurisdictional threshold of this court.

- 86. Defendant S1M, by the acts of its managing agents, officers and/or directors in the aforementioned acts and/or ratifying such acts, engaged in willful, malicious, intentional, oppressive and despicable conduct, and acted with willful and conscious disregard of the rights, welfare and safety of Ms. Haskell, thereby justifying the award of punitive and exemplary damages, against Defendant S1M, in an amount to be determined at trial.
- 87. As a result of Defendant S1M's discriminatory acts as alleged herein, Ms. Haskell is entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of said suit as provided by Cal. Govt. Code Section 12965.

## FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION FAILURE TO PREVENT DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT (Against Defendant S1M)

- 88. Ms. Haskell realleges and incorporates ¶¶ 1 through 54 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 89. At all times herein mentioned, FEHA, Cal. Gov't Code §§ 12900, et seq., was in full force and effect and was fully binding upon Defendant. Section 2940(k) makes it an unlawful employment practice for an employer to fail to take all reasonable steps necessary to prevent sexual harassment from occurring.
  - 90. At all material times, Ms. Haskell was an employee at Defendant S1M.
- 91. During the course of her employment at Defendant S1M, Ms. Haskell was subjected to sexual harassment by Defendant Moon as specifically set forth in ¶¶16-28, 32, and 34-38.
- 92. Ms. Haskell made multiple complaints to Defendant S1M's CEO, David Meltzer about the sexually harassing and abusive behavior of Defendant Moon.
- 93. Despite having been warned, in detail, of Defendant Moon's misconduct, Defendant S1M failed to adequately investigate Defendant Moon's behavior, failed to discipline Defendant Moon and otherwise failed to take any reasonable steps to prevent him from further harassing Ms. Haskell.
  - 94. At all relevant time periods, Defendant S1M's failure to make an adequate inquiry or take any

steps to address Moon's harassing conduct as described above established a policy, custom, practice or usage, which condoned, encouraged, tolerated, sanctioned, ratified, approved of, and/or acquiesced in harassment against women employees, including, but not limited to, Ms. Haskell.

- 95. Ms. Haskell is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that during all relevant time periods, Defendant S1M failed to provide adequate or any training and education to its personnel and most particularly to its management and supervisory personnel regarding its discrimination and harassment policies and procedures. Defendant S1M knew or reasonably should have known that such failure would result in discrimination and/or harassment against female employees such as Ms. Haskell. Such failure on the part of Defendant S1M constituted deliberate indifference to the rights of female employees, including, but not limited to, Ms. Haskell under Cal. Gov't Code §§ 12940(k).
- 96. Defendant S1M's failure to prevent and/or stop the harassment described herein compounded and exacerbated the physical and emotional injuries Ms. Haskell was already suffering as a result of the unlawful conduct described above. As a proximate result of S1M's conduct as described more fully above, Ms. Haskell has suffered and continues to suffer economic damages, including lost earnings, noneconomic damages, including, without limitation, humiliation, embarrassment and discomfort, physical and mental emotional distress and anguish, all to Ms. Haskell's damages in an amount to be proven at trial but in excess of the jurisdictional threshold of this court.
- 97. Defendant S1M, by the acts of its managing agents, officers and/or directors in the aforementioned acts and/or ratifying such acts, engaged in willful, malicious, intentional, oppressive and despicable conduct, and acted with willful and conscious disregard of the rights, welfare and safety of Ms. Haskell, thereby justifying the award of punitive and exemplary damages, against Defendant S1M, in an amount to be determined at trial.
- 98. As a result of Defendants S1M's unlawful acts as alleged herein, Ms. Haskell is entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of said suit as provided by Cal. Govt. Code Section 12965.

## FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION RETALIATION (Against Defendant S1M)

- 99. Ms. Haskell realleges and incorporates ¶¶ 1 through 54 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 100. At all times herein mentioned, FEHA was in full force and effect and was fully binding upon Defendant. Section 12940(h) makes it an unlawful employment practice for an employer to discriminate against any person because the person has opposed any practices forbidden under this part.
- 101. At all material times, Ms. Haskell was employed by Defendant S1M as the executive assistant to S1M's President, Defendant Moon.
- 102. During the course of her employment at S1M, Ms. Haskell was subjected to sexual harassment by Defendant Moon as specifically set forth in ¶¶ 16-28, 32, and 34-38.
- 103. On multiple occasions, Ms. Haskell expressed her opposition to Defendant Moon's sexually harassing behavior, and reported the inappropriate conduct to Defendant S1M's CEO, David Meltzer.
- 104. In response to her reports and complaints, Defendant S1M retaliated against Ms. Haskell by demoting her with a significant pay cut in violation of Cal. Gov't Code § 12940 and the California Constitution that provides employees be free from retaliation.
- 105. Ms. Haskell's reporting Defendant Moon's unlawful conduct was a substantial and motivating factor for Defendant S1M's retaliation against Ms. Haskell.
- 106. As a direct and proximate cause of the conduct alleged herein, Ms. Haskell has suffered and continues to suffer physical and emotional injuries, economic damages, including lost earnings, noneconomic damages, including, without limitation, humiliation, embarrassment and discomfort, physical and mental emotional distress and anguish, all to Ms. Haskell's damages in an amount to be proven at trial but in excess of the jurisdictional threshold of this court.
  - 107. Defendant S1M, by the acts of its managing agents, officers and/or directors in the

aforementioned acts and/or ratifying such acts, engaged in willful, malicious, intentional, oppressive and despicable conduct, and acted with willful and conscious disregard of the rights, welfare and safety of Ms. Haskell, thereby justifying the award of punitive and exemplary damages, against Defendant S1M, in an amount to be determined at trial.

108. As a result of Defendant S1M's unlawful acts as alleged herein, Ms. Haskell is entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of said suit as provided by California Government Code Section 12965(b).

## SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS (Against Defendants S1M and Moon)

- 109. Ms. Haskell realleges and incorporates ¶¶ 1 through 54 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 110. As described herein, Defendants, and each of them, engaged in extreme and outrageous conduct by intentionally and recklessly subjecting Ms. Haskell to, and permitting her to be subjected to, unwanted, unwelcome, and non-consensual sexual advances, physical and verbal abuse, battery, harassment, discrimination and retaliation as described herein.
- 111. Defendants, and each of them, ratified such conduct by failing and refusing to take any and all reasonable steps necessary to prevent such conduct from occurring, by failing to take appropriate corrective action following such conduct and, in the case of Defendant Moon, who held a supervisory position with Defendant S1M, by engaging in such unlawful abusive conduct.
- 112. Defendants' conduct was willful, wanton, intentional, outrageous, malicious, and acted with the intent, or in reckless disregard of the probability, of causing emotional distress to Ms. Haskell.
- 113. As an actual and proximate cause of Defendants' outrageous conduct, Ms. Haskell was humiliated, became terrified and anxious and has suffered and continues to suffer damages including severe and extreme mental and emotional distress, which nature and extent of which are not presently known to

Ms. Haskell.

114. Defendants, by the acts of its managing agents, officers and/or directors in the aforementioned acts and/or ratifying such acts, engaged in willful, malicious, intentional, oppressive and despicable conduct, and acted with willful and conscious disregard of the rights, welfare and safety of Ms. Haskell, thereby justifying the award of punitive and exemplary damages, against Defendants, in an amount to be determined at trial.

## SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION NEGLIGENT RETENTION & SUPERVISION (Against Defendant S1M)

- 115. Ms. Haskell hereby incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 54 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
  - 116. Defendant Moon is employed as the President of Defendant S1M.
- 117. Defendant S1M, by and through its agents and employees, knew or reasonably should have known through reasonable investigation of Defendant Moon's propensity for unlawful sexual harassment and/or physical aggressive behavior.
- 118. Defendant S1M had a duty to terminate or, at the very least, provide reasonable supervision of Defendant Moon given his wrongful, dangerous, and sexually depraved propensities.
- 119. Defendant S1M negligently retained and/or failed to exercise reasonable care to adequately supervise Defendant Moon in his position as President of S1M and to prevent him from committing the wrongful acts complained of herein against Ms. Haskell.
- 120. As an actual and proximate cause of Defendant S1M's negligent retention and failure to supervise Defendant Moon, Ms. Haskell has suffered and continues to suffer physical pain, humiliation, embarrassment, mental and emotional distress, and discomfort, all to her damage in an amount in excess of the minimum jurisdiction of this Court, the precise amount of which will be proven at trial.

**EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION** 

- 131. Ms. Haskell was harmed and offended by Defendant Moon's conduct.
- 132. As an actual and proximate cause of Defendant Moon's offensive conduct, Ms. Haskell has suffered and continues to suffer physical pain, humiliation, embarrassment, mental and emotional distress, and discomfort, all to her damage in an amount in excess of the minimum jurisdiction of this Court, the precise amount of which will be proven at trial.
- 133. Defendant Moon, in the aforementioned acts and/or ratifying such acts, engaged in willful, malicious, intentional, oppressive and despicable conduct, and acted with willful and conscious disregard of the rights, welfare and safety of Ms. Haskell, thereby justifying the award of punitive and exemplary damages, against Defendant Moon, in an amount to be determined at trial.

### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Ms. Haskell prays for judgment against Defendants as follows:

- (1) For compensatory damages against each Defendant in the amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of this Court according to proof at trial;
- (2) For general, incidental, and consequential damages against each Defendant in the amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of this Court according to proof at trial;
- (3) For exemplary and punitive damages against each Defendant exceeding the jurisdictional limits of this Court according to proof at trial;
- (4) For reasonable attorney's fees incurred by reason of bringing this suit;
- (5) For costs of suit incurred herein;
- (6) For interest in damages as set forth herein; and
- (7) For such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

### **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Ms. Haskell hereby demands trial by jury on all causes of action so triable.

Dated: December 4, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

### FITZGERALD & ISAACSON, LLP

Florida Office

901 Ponce De Leon Boulevard, Suite 202

Miami, FL 33134

Telephone: Facsimile: (305) 372-7300 (305) 447-0043

California Office 9701 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1000

Beverly Hills, CA 90212

(310) 480-0090 Telephone: Facsimile:

(310) 402-0306

By:

Diana L. Fitzgerald David C. Isaacson

Attorneys for Plaintiff WENDY HASKELL