1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	JEAN-CLAUDE LAPUYADE (SBN 248676) JCL LAW FIRM, APC 3990 OLD TOWN AVENUE, SUITE C204 SAN DIEGO, CA 92110 TEL: (619) 599-8292 FAX: (619) 599-8291 JLAPUYADE@JCL-LAWFIRM.COM SHANI O. ZAKAY (STATE BAR #277924) ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC 3990 OLD TOWN AVENUE, SUITE, C204 SAN DIEGO, CA 92110 TEL: (619)255-9047 FAX: (858) 404-9203 WEBSITE: WWW.ZAKAYLAW.COM	FILED Superior Court Of California, Sacramento 07/02/2020 mwhitaker By
11	SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA	
12	COUNTY OF SA	CRAMENTO
13	DAMIEN HAMPTON, KERRI CRUZE &	Case No.
14	CHARLEAN ANHONY, individually and on behalf of all those similarly situated.	<u>Unlimited Civil Case</u>
15	Plaintiffs,	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR:
16 17	vs. PEGASUS VP INVESTORS I, a California	1. UNFAIR BUSINESS PRACTICES IN VIOLATION OF BUS. & PROF. CODE §§17200, et seq;
18	limited partnership d.b.a. WOODSPRINGS HOTEL; DASCH , INC. , a California corporation d.b.a. WOODSPRINGS HOTEL; and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,	2. VIOLATION OF CONSUMER LEGAL REMEDIES ACT AT CIVIL CODE §§1750, et seq.
19	Defendants.	3. NEGLIGENCE;
20	Dolonaumo.	, and the second
21		4. VIOLATION OF CIVIL CODE §1940.1;
22		5. VIOLATION OF CIVIL CODE §1940.2;
23 24		5. VIOLATION OF CIVIL CODE §1940.2; 6. UNLAWFUL LEVY OF TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX;
25		7. VIOLATION OF BANE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT AT CIVIL CODE §52.1
26		DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL
27 28	1 CLASS ACTIO	N COMPLAINT

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INTRODUCTION

- 1. The law recognizes two types of hotels: "Transient Hotels" and "Residential Hotels." Each type comes with different legal rights and obligations for its tenants, owners, operators, managers, landlords and lessors. A "Transient Hotel" is like the Marriott or the Sheraton, with maid, mail and room services, phone services, and a safe to store valuables. When the landlord wants to remove a "transient hotel guest" he simply removes him or her, without notice. On the other hand, a "Residential Hotel" functions essentially as a low-income apartment house, in which the landlord may provide scant amenities but the long-term "guests" have more substantial rights in their "leaseholds," including the right to 30 days' written notice of "eviction."
- 2. This is a case involving owners, operators, managers, landlords and lessors of the WOODSPRING SUITES SACRAMENTO ("WOODSPRING HOTEL"), an approximate 124 room residence, located at 7789 La Mancha Way, Sacramento, California, who want the WOODSPRING HOTEL to be a "Transient Occupancy Hotel" when it comes to evicting tenants and collecting room rates and transient occupancy tax payments, yet want the WOODSPRING HOTEL to be a "Residential Hotel" when it comes to accepting long-term residents and sidestepping statutory Transient Occupancy Hotel requirements. Specifically, defendants PEGASUS VP INVESTORS I, a California limited partnership (hereinafter "PEGASUS"). DASCH, INC., a California corporation (hereinafter "DASCH"), and DOES 1 through 50 inclusive (DASCH, PEGASUS and DOES 1 through 50 collectively "DEFENDANTS") as owners, operators, managers, landlords and lessors of the WOODSPRINGS HOTEL have violated the valuable tenant rights of plaintiffs DAMIEN HAMPTON ("HAMPTON"), KERRI CRUZE ("CRUZE") & CHARLEAN ANHONY ("ANTHONY") (HAMPTON, CRUZE and ANTHONTY collectively hereinafter "PLAINTIFFS"), and all those similarly situated, by wrongfully entering the tenant premises, invading the right of private occupancy of the tenant premises, unlawfully collecting transient occupancy taxes, unlawfully evicting tenants from their lawful premises, requiring them to move, or to check out and reregister, before the expiration of

30 days occupancy in an attempt to maintain transient occupancy status, and have used, or threatened to use, force, willful threats, or menacing conduct that has interfered with tenants' quiet enjoyment of their lawful rented premises, and in so doing, have created the a reasonable apprehension of harm despite their tenants.

- Although the WOODSPRING HOTEL provides accommodations to the public on both an overnight and a long-term basis, it is not the Marriott or the Sheraton. The WOODSPRING HOTEL features threadbare rooms, with no facilities for the safeguarding of personal property, and with no food service provided by a food establishment. PLAINTIFFS, like many other tenants, resided at the WOODSPRING HOTEL as their primary residence for more than thirty (30) consecutive days. However, to appear as a "Transient Occupancy" hotel, DEFENDANTS compelled PLAINTIFFS, and all those similarly situated, to move, or to check out and re-register before the expiration of 30 days of occupancy for the purpose of attempting to maintain transient occupancy status. DEFENDANTS' conduct is tantamount to a wrongful eviction from, wrongful entry into, or invasion of the right of private occupancy of a room occupied by PLAINTIFFS at the WOODSPRING HOTEL. At all times, DEFENDANTS conduct of wrongful entry and eviction caused annoyance and discomfort as a result of the injury to PLAINTIFFS peaceful enjoyment of the property/ tenancy occupied.
- 4. PLAINTIFFS in this case were tenants in DEFENDANTS' WOODSPRING HOTEL who, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated, seek an order from this Court compelling DEFENDANTS to comply with the law in all aspects of its hotel operations including a prohibition of the wrongful eviction from, wrongful entry into, or wrongful invasion of the right of private occupancy of a room occupied by PLAINTIFFS at the WOODSPRING HOTEL. PLAINTIFFS and those similarly situated further seek restitution of rent payments and transient occupancy taxes wrongfully taken and paid. PLAINTIFFS also seek damages for inconvenience, annoyance, discomfort, interference with quiet enjoyment.

California Legislature has thus recognized "that the need for decent housing among individuals of very low income is great, and that residential hotels are often the only form of housing affordable to those individuals." Cal. Health & Safety Code § 50519(a). Consistent with and in accordance of the health and safety code, DEFENDANTS were required to refrain from prohibited conduct of interference with the peace and quiet PLAINTIFFS were entitled during the course of their tenancy and at all material times, DEFENDANTS were to avoid any or have wrongful entry and eviction and to reasonably avoid annoyance and discomfort as a result of the injury to PLAINTIFFS peaceful enjoyment of the property/ tenancy occupied.

- 7. The WOODSPRING HOTEL should be considered a "Residential Hotel" because PLAINTIFFS and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS occupied rooms at the WOODSPRING HOTEL for more than thirty (30) consecutive days and used the WOODSPRING HOTEL as their primary residence. Cal. Health & Safety Code § 50519. A large proportion of the occupants are persons of low-income as defined by Cal. Health & Safety Code section 50093, elderly and/or cope with addiction issues or physical disability. These individuals tend to be unsophisticated in their commercial and legal dealings and have very limited, if any, access to legal counsel. They are, therefore, very vulnerable to predatory business practices. The California Supreme Court has recognized the vulnerability of low-income housing tenants, observing, among other things, that the "severe shortage of low and moderate cost housing has left tenants with little bargaining power" and thus deserving of legal protection. Green v. Superior Court, 10 Cal. 3d 616, 625 (1974).
- 8. To protect this vulnerable segment of society, California state law gives tenants substantial rights and protections. California Civil Code §1940 is the principal state law governing the relationship between landlords and those who hire their premises, including persons who hire rooms at Residential Hotels. This statutory scheme dispenses with many distinctions of common law between tenants, lessees, boarders and lodgers. Instead it denominates all of the foregoing as "persons who hire" and gives them the same rights as tenants. These rights and protections include:

A. Anti-retaliation provision. It is unlawful for a landlord to increase rent, decrease services, cause a tenant to quit involuntarily, bring an action to recover possession, or threaten to do any of those acts, for the purpose of retaliating against a tenant for making an oral or written complaint regarding tenantability or after commencing judicial proceedings involving the issue of tenantability. See Cal. Civ. Code § 1942.5(a). PLAINTIFFS are informed and believe that DEFENDANTS did, and continue to, carry out such retaliatory conduct and, therefore, have committed the wrongful eviction from, wrongful entry into, or invasion of the right of private occupancy of rooms occupied by PLAINTIFFS' and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS at the WOODSPRING HOTEL.

B. Eviction through "unlawful detainer" proceedings only. The only lawful method by which a Residential Hotel owner may recover possession of a unit from a tenant who is committing "unlawful detainer" by remaining in occupancy in violation of the terms of his or her rental agreement is through filing a judicial eviction action. Efforts to take matters into his or her own hands by evicting the tenant using "self-help" methods are strictly forbidden by law and constitute a criminal offense. See *Cal. Civ. Code § 1159, et seq.; Cal. Pen. Code § 418.* PLAINTIFFS are informed and believe that DEFENDANTS have attempted to gain possession, and have gained possession, of units from tenants by methods other than the judicial process unlawfully and therefore, have committed the wrongful eviction from, wrongful entry into, or wrongful invasion of the right of private occupancy of rooms occupied by PLAINTIFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS at the WOODSPRING HOTEL.

C. Anti-harassment provision. It is unlawful for a residential hotel owner, acting with the purpose to influence a tenant to vacate a dwelling, to use or threaten to use force, or to make willful threats, or to engage in menacing conduct that interferes with the tenant's quiet enjoyment of the premises and that would create apprehension of fear to a reasonable person. See Cal. Civ. Code § 1940.2. PLAINTIFFS are informed and believe that DEFENDANTS have engaged in such conduct and, therefore, have committed the wrongful eviction from, wrongful entry into, or wrongful invasion of the right of private occupancy of

, rooms occupied by PLAINTIFFS' and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS at the WOODSPRING HOTEL.

- D. Covenant of quiet enjoyment. California law imposes a duty on all landlords to ensure that a tenant has "quiet enjoyment" of the premises. The right to quiet enjoyment includes the ability to use and enjoy the premises without being subject to acts of the owner that disturb the tenant's peaceful possession of the premises, such as improper evictions or eviction attempts. See *Cal. Civ. Code § 1927; Cal Civ. Code § 1940.2*. PLAINTIFFS are informed and believe that DEFENDANTS have annoyed and disturbed PLAINTIFFS', and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, peaceful enjoyment and right to quiet enjoyment at the WOODSPRING HOTEL and, therefore, have committed the wrongful eviction from, wrongful entry into, i.e., trespass, or wrongful invasion of the right of private occupancy of rooms occupied by PLAINTIFFS' and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS at the WOODSPRING HOTEL.
- E. Restrictions on landlord's entry into dwelling. Except in case of emergency, a residential hotel owner is prohibited from entering into a rented dwelling unless upon written notice given 24 hours in advance. See *Cal Civ. Code § 1954*. PLAINTIFFS are informed and believe that DEFENDANTS have entered rented dwelling units at the WOODSPRING HOTEL in non-emergency situations without giving appropriate notice and, therefore, have committed the wrongful eviction from, wrongful entry into, i.e., trespass, or wrongful invasion of the right of private occupancy of rooms occupied by PLAINTIFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS at the WOODSPRING HOTEL.
- 9. PLAINTIFFS believe that DEFENDANTS attempt to prevent PLAINTIFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS from becoming permanent tenants and gaining these rights and protections by treating them as "transient occupants," rather than as tenants, even though PLAINTIFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are not "transient occupants."
- 10. Civil Code § 1940(b) excludes "transient occupants" from the protections of this statutory scheme. A "transient occupant" is an occupant who seeks only temporary

accommodations, such as a typical hotel guest, as opposed to a person who seeks housing on a permanent or semi-permanent basis or whose occupancy exceeds 30 consecutive days, such as a typical apartment renter. A proprietor of a residential hotel can "lock out" a "transient occupant" for nearly any reason, without notice, whereas such proprietor is required to begin formal eviction proceedings to evict a "tenant."

- 11. Although *some* occupants of DEFENDANTS' WOODSPRING HOTEL may indeed be "transient occupants," PLAINTIFFS and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are not. For many, including PLAINTIFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, their occupancy does not fit the definition of "transient occupancy" because they have been or want to be in residence for more than 30 consecutive days and/or were seeking housing on a permanent or semi-permanent basis. Under California state law, a hotel resident becomes a permanent tenant after a continuous stay of 30 days. See *Cal Civ. Code § 1940.1*. Each of these occupants (not all whose identities are presently known to PLAINTIFFS) became entitled during their occupancy to the full rights and protections of tenants.
- 12. DEFENDANTS have unlawfully, unfairly, negligently, wrongfully and/or fraudulently been depriving, and attempting to deprive, its residents of the tenant rights and protections by committing the wrongful eviction from, wrongful entry into, or invasion of the right of private occupancy of a rooms occupied by PLAINTIFFS' and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS at the WOODSPRING HOTEL as described above. Even though PLAINTIFFS and many members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS have lived at DEFENDANTS' WOODSPRING HOTEL for months, sometimes years as a primary residence, DEFENDANTS perpetuate a ruse by uniformly, systematically and regularly, as a matter of custom, practice and policy, requiring residents to pay rent on a daily basis (or other period less than 30 days), pay a "transient occupancy tax", and forcing each resident to "check-out" and re-register, to allow DEFENDANTS to perpetuate the ruse that the WOODSPRING HOTEL is a "transient hotel" rather than the "residential hotel" that it is. This systematic practice is infamously known and commonly referred to as the "28 Day Shuffle".

- have actually wrongfully evicted from, wrongfully entered into, or invaded the right of private occupancy of rooms at the WOODSPRING HOTEL occupied by PLAINTIFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS as described above. For instance, DEFENDANTS unlawfully evicted PLAINTIFFS from their room at the WOODSPRING HOTEL in November of 2016 without unlawful detainer proceedings. DEFENDANTS also unlawfully evicted PLAINTIFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS every time they required PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members to move, or to check out and re-register, without unlawful detainer proceedings.
- 14. PLAINTIFFS are informed and believe and thereon allege that DEFENDANTS compelled PLAINTIFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to move, or check out and re-register before the expiration of 30 days occupancy at the WOODSPRING HOTEL and at that at least one purpose of these practices is to deprive residents of their tenant rights by purporting to interrupt the occupancies so that those tenancies can be claimed not to have exceeded 30 consecutive days. Another purpose of these practices is to wrongfully interfere with the right of private occupancy of rooms occupied by PLAINTIFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS at the WOODSPRING HOTEL. Accordingly, DEFENDANTS' actions violate Civil Code § 1940.1, which states that "[n]o person may require an occupant of a residential hotel...to move, or to check out and register, before the expiration of 30 days occupancy if a purpose is to have that occupant maintain transient occupancy status." Cal. Civ. Code § 1940.1 (emphasis added).
- 15. An innkeeper may avoid the strict provisions of Civil Code § 1940 as to any occupancy where the innkeeper retains a right of access and control of the unit and provides certain amenities, including: (a) a fireproof safe exclusively for residents' property (b) central phone services; (c) maid, mail and room services; (d) occupancy for periods of less than 7 days; and (e) food service provided by a food establishment located on or adjacent to the hotel. Although DEFENDANTS purport to provide all of these things, they do not actually do so.

- In order to avail itself to this exception, DEFENDANTS must provide <u>all</u> of these services to <u>all</u> of the residents. DEFENDANTS do not do so. As a representative example, none of DEFENDANTS' WOODSPRING HOTEL units have fireproof safes, there are no locking mail receptacles for all of the residential units (see Health & Safety Code § 17958.3), and there is no food service provided by a food establishment.
- 17. DEFENDANTS go to these lengths in an illegal effort to circumvent Civil Code § 1940 et seq. and thereby try to avoid the affirmative obligations the statutes place upon DEFENDANTS such as providing advance notice of eviction and basic habitability requirements.
- 18. In their operation of the WOODSPRING HOTEL, DEFENDANTS have engaged in the business acts and practices described above in violation of their duties to the occupants of those hotels.
- 19. PLAINTIFFS ask that the Court issue an Order preventing DEFENDANTS from taking these types of actions in the future.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 20. PLAINTIFFS bring this action on his and her own behalf, and on behalf of all other persons similarly situated, in addition to the general public, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure §382.
- 21. The class is defined as follows: all individuals who are or previously resided at the WOODSPRING HOTEL ("CALIFORNIA CLASS") at any time during the period beginning four (4) years prior to the filing of the Complaint and ending on the date of the determined by the Court ("CLASS PERIOD"). PLAINTIFFS reserve the right to modify the class definition if appropriate.
- 22. PLAINTIFFS reasonably estimate that the class has hundreds of members in diverse locations, many of which are homeless or transient with no permanent address or telephone. Joining all these individuals in this lawsuit is impractical and unnecessary, but the disposition of their claims in a class action will benefit the parties, the Courts, DEFENDANTS and all the other citizens of the County of Sacramento. Although the exact number of class

members is presently unknown to PLAINTIFFS, PLAINTIFFS anticipate that DEFENDANTS maintain detailed lodging records, as required by law, that are sufficient to determine the number of class members and to ascertain their identities. The class is therefore readily ascertainable.

- 23. There is a well-defined community of interest in the questions of law and fact presented by this controversy. The questions of law and fact common to PLAINTIFFS and other class members predominate over questions that may affect only individual members, if any. DEFENDANTS have acted on grounds generally applicable to the entire class, thereby making final injunctive relief and corresponding declaratory relief appropriate with respect to the class as a whole. Among the questions of law and fact common to the class are the following:
 - (a) Whether DEFENDANTS' business acts and practices as alleged herein are unlawful and unfair;
 - (b) Whether DEFENDANTS violated California Civil Code § 1940 et seq.;
 - (c) Whether DEFENDANTS violated California Civil Code § 1940.1 by forcing its residents to "check-out" and reregister to prevent them from becoming permanent tenants;
 - (d) Whether the actions of DEFENDANTS as set forth herein violated the Consumers Legal Remedies Act, California Civil Code section 1750, et seq.;
 - (e) Whether the actions of DEFENDANTS as set forth herein violated Business and Professions Code section 17200, et seq.;
 - (f) Whether PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS are entitled to injunctive relief and, if so, what that relief should be; *and*
 - (g) What other forms of relief, if any, are appropriate to remedy the violations complained of herein.
- 24. PLAINTIFFS' claims are typical if not identical to the claims of the CALIFORNIA CLASS because PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were affected by the same wrongful practice in which DEFENDANTS engaged, as alleged herein.

- PLAINTIFFS will fairly and adequately protect the interest of members of the class. The interests of PLAINTIFFS are aligned with and not antagonistic to the interests of the class. PLAINTIFFS have retained lawyers who are competent and experienced in class action litigation. Neither PLAINTIFFS nor PLAINTIFFS' attorneys have any known conflict in undertaking this representation.
- 26. A class action is superior to the alternatives, if any, for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy alleged herein. PLAINTIFFS and the members of the class have suffered irreparable harm as a result of DEFENDANTS' unfair, deceptive and unlawful conduct. Class treatment will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently, and without duplication of evidence, effort and expense that numerous individual actions would engender. Absent the class action, the members of the class will continue to suffer losses and violations of law and wrongs described herein will continue without remedy. This action will result in the orderly and expeditious administration of claims. Uniformity of decisions especially with respect to injunctive or declaratory relief will be assured, thereby avoiding the risk of inconsistent and varying determinations. Prosecution of actions such as this in numerous forums would serve no purpose and would promote dis-uniformity in the interpretation of California law.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Unfair Business Practices in Violation of Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 et seq.

(By PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against DEFENDANTS)

- 27. PLAINTIFFS re-allege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs above.
- 28. PLAINTIFFS bring this claim pursuant to Business & Professions Code §§ 17200 17500 et seq. on behalf of herself and himself, and on behalf of all those similarly situated in the CALIFORNIA CLASS, and also in a representative capacity on behalf of the general public of the State of California, under the authority of these statutes.

- DEFENDANTS violated and continues to violate, the provisions of Business & Professions Code §§ 17200 17500 et seq. by engaging in the following unlawful business acts or practices, among others:
 - a. DEFENDANTS engage in a pattern and practice of requiring occupants of the WOODSPRING HOTEL, including PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS to move, or to check out and reregister before the expiration of 30 days in order to prevent the residents from gaining legal rights under State and Local law, in violation of Civil Code § 1940.1.
 - b. DEFENDANTS violated, and continue to violate, their legal duties to PLAINTIFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS by terminating their occupancy: (i) without a 3-day notice to pay, cure, or quit, in violation of California Code of Civil Procedure § 1161; (ii) without a notice of termination of tenancy, in violation of California Civil Code § 1946; (iii) in derogation of the covenant of quiet enjoyment, in violation of California Civil Code § 1927; and (iv) without initiating an unlawful detainer proceeding, in violation of the judicial authority making such an action the exclusive legal procedure for landlords seeking to evict tenants in such situations.
 - c. DEFENDANTS, through its employees and agents: (i) entered the rooms of PLAINTIFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS without providing advance written notice, in violation of California Civil Code § 1954; (ii) used force, threats, menace, intimidation and deceptive statements to force, direct and demand PLAINTIFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS vacate their rooms, in violation of California Civil Code § 1940.2; and (iii) locked PLAINTIFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS out of their rooms, in violation of California Civil Code § 789.3 thereby annoying and disturbing PLAINTIFFS' and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS' peaceful enjoyment of their leased rooms at WOODSPRING HOTEL. At all times, DEFENDANTS conduct of wrongful entry and eviction caused annoyance and discomfort as a result of the injury to PLAINTIFFS peaceful enjoyment of the property/ tenancy occupied. PLAINTIFFS and

- d. DEFENDANTS, through its employees and agents, collected transient occupancy taxes from PLAINITFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, on occupancies exceeding thirty (30) days in violation of Tax & Revenue Code § 7280 and the applicable sections of Chapter 3.28 of the Sacramento Code.
- 30. DEFENDANTS have engaged in a pattern and practices of unlawful acts and courses of conduct constituting unfair business practices and unfair competition as prohibited by Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq. The pattern of business practice and the course of conduct described herein have provided the DEFENDANTS with a competitive unfair advantage over similar businesses that have not engaged in such practices. Unless enjoined by this Court, DEFENDANTS will continue to engage in such practices.
- 31. DEFENDANTS' conduct as described in this Complaint has been immoral, unethical and oppressive, and substantially injurious to the occupants of DEFENDANTS' WOODSPRING HOTEL, as it exploits their lack of sophistication, fears and vulnerability to deny and deprive them of the valuable legal rights, protections and remedies to which they are entitled.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1750 et seq. (By PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against DEFENDANTS)

- 32. PLAINTIFFS re-allege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs above.
- 33. This claim arises under the Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code Section 1750, et seq. (the "CLRA").
- 34. PLAINTIFFS are a "consumer" as that term is defined in Cal. Civ. Code Section 1761(d).

- Heat; fire-proof safes to protect the guests/tenants' personal property; room services; phone access and maid services constitute "goods or services" as that term is defined in Cal. Civ. Code Section 1761(a).
- 36. PLAINTIFFS' payment of rent constituted a "transaction" as that term is defined in Civ. Code Section 1761(e).
- 37. The CLRA provides in relevant part that "[t]he following unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices undertaking by any person in a transaction intended to result or which results in the sale or lease of goods or services to any consumer are unlawful: "(5) Representing that goods or services have...approval, characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits...which they do not have...(7) Representing that goods...are of a particular standard, quality or grade, or that goods are of a particular style or model, if they are of another...(9) Advertising goods...with intent not to sell them as advertised...(14) Representing that a transaction confers or involves rights...which it does not have or involve...(16) Representing that the subject of a transaction has been supplied in accordance with a previous representation when it has not...(19) inserting an unconscionable provision in the contract." Civil Code §1770 (a)(5),(7),(9),(14),(16),(19).
- 38. The misrepresentations here include, but are not limited to, statements on the receipts provided by DEFENDANTS to PLAINTIFFS each time they paid for their room that DEFENDANTS' WOODSPRING HOTEL is a "hotel", not a residential hotel.
- 39. The statement that DEFENDANTS' WOODSPRING HOTEL is a "hotel", rather than a residential hotel, is misleading and deceiving to PLAINTIFFS and members of the public as it makes them believe that they are required to pay transient occupancy taxes even after they have resided at DEFENDANTS' WOODSPRING HOTEL for more than thirty (30) days.
- 40. PLAINTIFFS actually relied on DEFENDANTS' representation that the WOODSPRING HOTEL is a "hotel" as they did in fact continue to pay transient occupancy taxes after residing at DEFENDANTS' WOODSPRING HOTEL for more than thirty (30) days.

- 41. The Consumers Legal Remedies Act, California Civil Code Section 1750, et seq. ("CLRA"), was designed to protect consumers from unfair and deceptive business practices. To this end, the CLRA sets forth a list of unfair and deceptive acts and practices that are specifically prohibited in any transaction intended to result in the sale or lease of goods or services to a consumer (Civil Code §1770). DEFENDANTS' acts and practices, as set forth above, violate the following provisions of the CLRA:
 - a. Section1770(a)(5) in that DEFENDANTS represented that its hotels were "transient hotels" and that their hotels would provide services that have characteristics, uses, benefits, or quantities, such as providing fire proof safes, mail service, room and maid service, room phone access, and food service, which they did not provide;
 - b. Section 1770(a)(7) in that DEFENDANTS represented that the services, as described above, would be of a particular standard and quality that they did not possess:
 - c. Section 1770(a)(9) in that DEFENDANTS advertised and promoted these services with the intent not to provide them as advertised;
 - d. Section 1770(a)(14) in that DEFENDANTS represented that the transaction would confer rights and remedies which they did not have.
 - e. Section 1770(a)(16) in that DEFENDANTS represented that the subject of a transaction had been supplied (services as described above), when it had not.
- 42. PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were injured by DEFENDANTS' representations because they paid for these goods and services, yet did not receive them. PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were also damaged because they were deprived of their rights as tenants including: strict habitability standards; anti-retaliation provision; eviction through "unlawful detainer" proceedings only; the covenant of quiet enjoyment; anti-harassment provision; and restrictions on the access of the landlord into their dwelling.
- 43. PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS are therefore entitled to injunctive relief, restraining and enjoining DEFENDANTS from making any type of representations that

their hotels are "transient hotels" and that their hotels provide the goods and services of a transient hotel.

- 44. On November 11, 2019, PLAINTIFFS sent notice, pursuant to Civil Code Section 1782, via certified mail with return receipt requested, to DEFENDANTS. A copy of the notice is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**.
- 45. Pursuant to Civil Code Section 1780(a)(3), PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS seeks restitution and disgorgement from DEFENDANTS of all funds taken as alleged above, including the disproportionate and unlawful fees, unjust enrichments, and other funds from PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS. PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS also seeks an order enjoining DEFENDANTS from continuing to employ the unlawful methods, acts and practices set forth above, pursuant to Civil Code § 1780(a)(2). Pursuant to Civil Code § 1780 and 1781 PLAINTIFFS also hereby request certification of the PLAINTIFFS' Class and an award of reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and expenses pursuant to Civil Code §1780(d) and Code of Civil Procedure §1021.5.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

Negligence

(By PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against DEFENDANTS)

- 46. PLAINTIFFS re-allege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs above.
- 47. DEFENDANTS by their actions were negligent. DEFENDANTS had a duty to PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS not to unlawfully evict PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS and to protect PLAINTIFFS' and the CALIFORNIA CLASS' quiet enjoyment of the premises, not to retaliate or harass PLAINTIFFS or the CALIFORNIA CLASS, and not to enter wrongfully interfere with PLAINTIFFS' and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members possessory interest in their dwelling units without proper notice and/or due process.
- 48. By its acts, failures to act, false statements and omissions, including but not limited to DEFENDANTS conduct of wrongful entry and eviction which caused annoyance and

discomfort as a result of the injury to PLAINTIFFS peaceful enjoyment of the property/ tenancy occupied. PLAINTIFFS and those similarly situated further seek restitution of rent payments and transient occupancy taxes wrongfully taken and paid. PLAINTIFFS also seek damages for inconvenience, annoyance, discomfort, interference with quiet enjoyment set forth above, DEFENDANTS breached their duties to PLAINTIFFS and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

- 49. DEFENDANTS' actions and omissions set forth herein were a breach of its duties to PLAINTIFFS, and to members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, and as a direct and legal result of DEFENDANTS' actions, PLAINTIFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, have suffered financial loss to be proven at trial.
- 50. PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS seek restitution of wrongfully collected transient occupancy tax payments.
- 51. PLAINTIFFS' are informed and believe that DEFENDANTS' actions were willful, malicious and in conscious regard of PLAINTIFFS' rights, and the rights of the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, thus justifying an award of punitive and exemplary damages.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of Civil Code § 1940.1

(By PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against ALL DEFENDANTS)

- 52. PLAINTIFFS re-allege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs above.
- 53. Civil Code section 1940.1 makes it unlawful for any person to "require an occupant of a residential hotel, as defined in Section 50519 of the Health and Safety Code, to move, or to check out and reregister, before the expiration of 30 days occupancy if a purpose is to have that occupant maintain transient occupancy status pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 1940."
- 54. As previously alleged, DEFENDANTS conduct violates section 1940.1 because DEFENDANTS required PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS to move, or to check out

and reregister, before the expiration of 30 days occupancy, for the purpose of having PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS maintain transient occupancy status.

55. Pursuant to Civil Code section 1940.1, PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS seek statutory damages of \$500.00 per violation.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of Civil Code § 1940.2

(By PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against ALL DEFENDANTS)

- 56. PLAINTIFFS re-allege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs above.
- 57. Civil Code section 1940.2 makes it unlawful to use, or to threaten to use, force, willful threats, or menacing conduct constituting a course of conduct that interferes with the tenant's quiet enjoyment of the premises.
- DEFENDANTS conduct at all material times including but not limited to wrongful entry and eviction caused annoyance and discomfort as a result of the injury to PLAINTIFFS peaceful enjoyment of the property/ tenancy occupied. DEFENDANTS conduct included use of threats, or to threaten to use, force, willful threats, or menacing conduct constituting a course of conduct that interfered with the PLAINTIFFS' and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS' quiet enjoyment of the premises at the WOODSPRING HOTEL, including but not limited to, eviction without unlawful detainer, forcible eviction, threats of police action, and committing other acts of wrongful eviction from, wrongful entry into, or wrongful invasion of the right of private occupancy of occupancy of rooms occupied by PLAINTIFFS' and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS at the WOODSPRING HOTEL.
- 59. Pursuant to Civil Code § 1940.2(b), PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS seek civil penalties up to \$2,000 per violation. In addition, PLAINTIFFS and those similarly situated further seek restitution of rent payments and transient occupancy taxes wrongfully taken and paid. PLAINTIFFS also seek damages for inconvenience, annoyance, discomfort, interference with quiet enjoyment.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Unlawful Levy of Transient Occupancy Tax

(By PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against ALL DEFENDANTS)

- 60. PLAINTIFFS re-allege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs above.
- 61. Section 7280 of the Tax and Revenue Code empowers the legislative body of any city the power to "levy a tax on the privilege of occupying a room...in a hotel...or...motel...unless the occupancy is for a period of more than 30 days (emphasis added)."
- 62. Cumulatively, Section 3.28.030, 3.28.040, and 3.28.050 of Chapter 3.28, of the Sacramento City Code, imposes such a tax, "[f]or the privilege of occupancy in any hotel, each *transient* is subject to and shall pay a tax in the amount of [10] percent of the rent charged by the operator. (emphasis added)."
- 63. Section 3.28.020, Chapter 3.28, of the Sacramento City Code defines a "transient" as "any person who exercises occupancy...for a period of (30) consecutive calendars or less...."
- 64. Section 3.28.060, Chapter 3.28, of the Sacramento City Code, exempts from taxation "any person as to whom, or any occupancy as to which it is beyond the power of the city to impose the tax herein provided." Thus, occupancies at any hotel exceeding 30 days are not subject to the City of Sacramento's transient occupancy taxes.
- 65. As previously alleged, PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS resided at the WOODSPRING HOTEL for periods of thirty consecutive days or more. Nevertheless, DEFENDANTS levied and collected transient occupancy taxes from PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for those occupancies that exceeded thirty consecutive days in violation of Section 7280 of the Tax and Revenue Code and the applicable sections of the Sacramento City Code.
- 66. As a direct and proximate result of DEFENDANT's unlawful levy of transient occupancy taxes, PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS have been monetarily damaged in an amount to be proved at trial.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of Civil Code § 52.1

(By PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against ALL DEFENDANTS)

- 67. PLAINTIFFS re-allege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs above.
- 76. During the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS interfered with, or attempted to interfere with, PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members' exercise or enjoyment of their statutory rights secured by Division 3, Part 4, Title 5, Chapter 2 of the Civil Code by threats, intimidation, or coercion. The threats, intimidation and coercion included verbal harassment, physically removing, evicting or threatening to physically remove or evict PLAINTIFFS and CALIFORNIA CLASS members from the WOODSPRING HOTEL when demanded, physically removing or threatening to physically remove the PLAINTIFFS' and CALIFORNIA CLASS members' possessions, blocking or attempting to block residents from returning to their units, locking out the PLAINTIFFS' and CALIFORNIA CLASS members' from their units, unauthorized entry into the PLAINTIFFS' and CALIFORNIA CLASS members' units without notice or consent, and threats of police action and initiation of police action to assist in the unlawful eviction of the PLAINTIFFS' and CALIFORNIA CLASS members from their units.
- 77. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFFS and each of them experienced one or more forms of the aforementioned threats, intimidation or coercion intended to deprive PLAINTIFFS and CALIFORNIA CLASS members of their exercise and enjoyment of their statutory tenant rights.
- 78. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned wrongful conduct by DEFENDANTS, PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members are entitled to recover actual damages according to proof, statutory damages of \$25,000 for each violation pursuant to Civil Code Sections 52.1(b) and 52(b), and attorneys' fees as determined by the Court.

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PRAYER FOR RELIEF

As relief for the wrongdoing alleged in this Complaint, PLAINTIFFS, on behalf of himself and/or herself and all others similarly situated, asks for judgment and relief as follows:

- 1. Under Business and Professions Code § 17203 and the equitable powers of this Court, DEFENDANTS, their successors, their assigns, and all persons or entities who act in concert with them or on behalf of them or their successors or assigns, be permanently enjoined from engaging in any of the unlawful, unfair and/or fraudulent business acts and practices described in this Complaint;
- 2. Under Business and Professions Code § 17203 and the equitable powers of this Court, DEFENDANTS, their successors, their assigns, and all persons or entities who act in concert with them or on behalf of them or their successors or assigns, be ordered and directed to take such actions as may be necessary to prevent the unlawful, unfair and/or fraudulent business acts and practices described in this Complaint from recurring;
- 3. Under Business and Professions Code § 17203 and the equitable powers of this Court, DEFENDANTS, their successors, their assigns, and all persons or entities who act in concert with them or on behalf of them or their successors or assigns, be ordered to make restitution to occupants of the WOODSPRING HOTEL who were victims of the unlawful, unfair and/or fraudulent business acts and practices described in this Complaint, including but not limited to wrongfully collected transient occupancy tax payments;
- 4. Under Business and Professions Code § 17203 and the equitable powers of this Court, DEFENDANTS, their successors, their assigns and all persons or entities who act in concert with them or on behalf of them or their successors or assigns, be ordered to disgorge any ill-gotten gains from the unlawful, unfair and/or fraudulent business acts and practices described in this Complaint;
- 5. For statutory damages of \$500.00 per violation pursuant to Civil Code section 1940.1;
- 6. For civil penalties of up to \$2,000.00 per violation of Civil Code section 1940.2;

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

PLAINTIFFS hereby demand a trial by jury for each and every claim for which they have a right to jury trial.

Dated: June 26, 2020

Respectfully Submitted, JCL LAW FIRM, A.P.C.

Attorneys for PLAINTIFFS

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EXHIBIT 1



Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq.

3990 Old Town Avenue, Suite C204
San Diego, CA 92110
Tel: 619-599-8292
Fax: 619-599-8291
Toll Free: 1-888-498-6999
www.jcl-lawfirm.com

jlapuyade@jcl-lawfirm.com

November 19, 2019

DASCH, INC.

c/o Robert J. Dailey 1148 Alpine Road Walnut Creek, CA 94596 Via US Certified Mail No. 7019 0700 0001 5676 9622

Robert J. Dailey 1148 Alpine Road Walnut Creek, CA 94596 Via US Certified Mail No. 7019 0700 0001 5676 9677

Paula Shorf 1148 Alpine Road Walnut Creek, CA 94596 Via US Certified Mail No. 7019 0700 0001 5676 9660

Dwight Davis 1148 Alpine Road Walnut Creek, CA 94596 *Via US Certified Mail No. 7019 0700 0001 5676 9639* William D. Schmicker 1148 Alpine Road Walnut Creek, CA 94596 Via US Certified Mail No. 7019 0700 0001 5676 9646

Thomas A. Dailey 1148 Alpine Road Walnut Creek, CA 94596 Via US Certified Mail No. 7019 0700 0001 5676 9653

PEGASUS VP INVESTORS I

c/o Robert J. Dailey 1148 Alpine Road Walnut Creek, CA 94596 *Via US Certified Mail No. 7019 0700 0001 5676 9684*

Our Clients:

DAMIEN HAMPTON, KERRI CRUZE & CHARLEAN ANHONY

File No.:

003-017

Re:

Notice of Claim Pursuant to California Civil Code Section 1782

Dear Sir/Madam:

We represent DAMIEN HAMPTON, KERRI CRUZE & CHARLEAN ANHONY (hereinafter collectively "PLAINTIFFS"), and all other consumers similarly situated in a proposed action against DASCH, INC., PEGASUS VP INVESTORS I, ROBERT J. DAILEY, PAULA SHORF, DWIGHT DAVIS, WILLIAM D. SCHMICKER and THOMAS A. DAILEY (hereinafter collectively "DEFENDANTS"), arising out of, inter alia, unfair and deceptive business practices conducted by DEFENDANTS to the detriment of residents within the residential hotel owned and operated by DEFENDANTS located at 7789 La Mancha Way, Sacramento, California, commonly known as WOODSPRING SUITES SACRAMENTO.

Please take notice that this letter constitutes notification under the California Consumer Legal Remedies Act ("CLRA"), California Civil Code Section 1782, of your violations of the CLRA, as well as a demand that you remedy such violations.

PLAINTFFS and others similarly situated resided, and/or continue to reside, at residential hotels owned and operated by DEFENDANTS. In violation of the CLRA, DEFENDANTS unfairly and deceptively treated its resident consumers as "transient hotel guests" instead of as residential hotel "tenants." This deceptive practice works to the unfair advantage of DEFENDANTS, and severe detriment to residents, in that "transient hotel guests" are not entitled to the level of legal protections that "tenants" enjoy in California. Therefore, DEFENDANTS secured long-term tenants, but do not provide or honor the legal rights of these tenants pursuant to the law. DEFENDANTS' business practices violate numerous California laws and regulations, including but not limited to, California Civil Code Sections 52.1, 1940, 1940.1, and 1940.2, California Revenue and Taxation Code Section 7280, Section 50519 of the Health and Safety Code, and Chapter 3.28 of the Sacramento City Code.

DEFENDANTS represent that it is operating transient hotels. Pursuant to California law (California Civil Code Section 1940(b)), a transient hotel must offer a fire-proof safe, central telephone service, maid service, mail service, room service, and food service provider on or adjacent to the property to all occupants. The rooms operated by DEFENDANTS do not include all of these items. This deceptive misrepresentation has harmed and continues to harm PLAINITFFS and all others similarly situated.

These practices constitute a violation of California Civil Code Section 1770(a) under, inter alia, the following subdivisions:

- (a) DEFENDANTS represented its hotels were "transient hotels" and that their hotels would provide services that have characteristics, uses, quantities or benefits such as fire-proof safe, central telephone service, mail service, mail service, room service, and food service provider on or adjacent to the property, which it did not provide;
- (b) DEFENDANTS represented that the services (fire-proof safe, central telephone service, maid service, mail service, room service, and food service provider on or adjacent to the property) would be of a particular standard and quality, which they were not;
- (c) DEFENDANTS advertised these services (fire-proof safe, central telephone service, maid service, mail service, room service, and food service provider on or adjacent to the property) with the intent not to provide them;
- (d) DEFENDANTS represented the transaction would confer certain rights and benefits to the consumers, which were not conferred;
- (e) DEFENDANTS inserted an unconscionable provision in its purported hotel guest invoice agreement.

California Civil Code Section 1770(a)(5)-(19).

DEFENDANTS' business practices also constitute violations of California Business and Professions Code Section 17200, et seq.

Pursuant to California Civil Code Section 1782, we hereby demand on behalf of PLAINTIFFS and all others similarly situated that DEFENDANTS immediately correct and rectify these violations of California Civil Code Section 1770 by ceasing its misrepresentation that it is a "transient hotel" and engaging in immediate corrective measures to honor the rights of its "tenants" residing in its residential hotels. In addition, DEFENDANTS should offer to refund the rental payments and transient occupancy taxes received from tenants during the previous four years during DEFENDANTS' illegal operation of its residential hotels, plus reimbursement for interest, costs and fees.

After thirty days from the date of this letter, PLAINTIFFS will file a lawsuit that will include claims for injunctive relief, restitution, actual and punitive damages (as may be appropriate), courts costs and attorneys' fees if a full and adequate response to this letter is not received. In addition, California Civil Code Section 1780(b) provides in part that: "Any consumer who is a senior citizen or a disabled person, as defined in subdivisions (f) and (g) of Section 1761, as part of an action under subdivision (a), may seek and be awarded, in addition to the remedies specified therein, up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000)..." (emphasis added). Thus, to avoid litigation, it is in the interest of all parties concerned that DEFENDANTS address this problem immediately.

DEFENDANTS must undertake all of the following actions to satisfy the requirements of California Civil Code Section 1782(c):

- 1. Identify or make a reasonable attempt to identify past and current residents with occupancies exceeding 30 consecutive days at the subject property (WOODSPRING SUITES SACRAMENTO);
- 2. Notify all such residents so identified that upon their request, DEFENDANTS will offer an appropriate remedy for its wrongful conduct, which can include a full refund of the rental payments made, refund of wrongfully collected transient occupancy taxes, plus interest, costs and fees;
- 3. Undertake (or promise to undertake within reasonable time if it cannot be done immediately) the actions described above for all residents who so request; and
- 4. Cease from expressly or impliedly representing to consumers that DEFENDANTS operate a "transient hotel," when it does not.

We await your response.

Very truly yours, JCL LAW FIRM, APC

Jean-Claude Lapuyade Attorney at Law

1	Jean-Claude Lapuyade (SBN 248676)	
2	JCL LAW FIRM, APC 3990 OLD TOWN AVENUE, SUITE C204	
	SAN DIEGO, CA 92110	
3	TEL: (619) 599-8292	
4	FAX: (619) 599-8291	
5	<u>JLAPUYADE@JCL-LAWFIRM.COM</u>	
6	SHANI O. ZAKAY (STATE BAR #277924) ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC	
7	3990 OLD TOWN AVENUE, SUITE, C204 SAN DIEGO, CA 92110	
8	TEL: (619)255-9047	
	FAX: (858) 404-9203 Website: www.zakaylaw.com	
9	THE STILL THE STATE OF THE STAT	
10	ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS	
11	SUPERIOR COURT	OF CALIFORNIA
12	COUNTY OF SA	ACRAMENTO
13	DAMIEN HAMPTON, KERRI CRUZE & CHARLEAN ANHONY, individually and on	Case No.
14	behalf of all those similarly situated.	<u>Unlimited Civil Case</u>
15	Plaintiffs,	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR:
16	vs.	1. VIOLATION OF CA BUS. & PROF. CODE §§ 17200, et seq.
17	DASCH, INC., a California corporation; PEGASUS VP INVESTORS I, a California	(UNFAIR BUSINESS PRACTICES);
18	limited partnership; ROBERT J. DAILEY, an individual; PAULA SHORF, an individual;	2. VIOLATION OF CA CIVIL CODE §§ 1750, et seq. (CONSUMER
19	DWIGHT DAVIS, an individual; WILLIAM D. SCHMICKER, an individual; THOMAS A.	LEGAL REMEDIES ACT); 3. NEGLIGENCE;
20	DAILEY, an individual; and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,	4. STRICT STATUTORY LIABILITY FOR VIOLATION OF CIVIL
21	Defendants.	CODE § 1940.1 5. STRICT STATUTORY LIABILTY
22		FOR VIOLATIONS OF CIVIL
23		CODE § 1940.2; 6. UNLAWFUL LEVY OF TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX;
24		7. VIOLATION OF CIVIL CODE SECTION 52.1
25		
25 26		DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL

INTRODUCTION

- 1. The law recognizes two types of hotels: "Transient Hotels" and "Residential Hotels." Each type comes with different legal rights and obligations for its tenants, owners, operators, managers, landlords and lessors. A "Transient Hotel" is like the Marriott or the Sheraton, with maid, mail and room services, phone services, and a safe to store valuables. When the landlord wants to remove a "transient hotel guest" he simply removes him or her, without notice. On the other hand, a "Residential Hotel" functions essentially as a low-income apartment house, in which the landlord may provide scant amenities but the long-term "guests" have more substantial rights in their "leaseholds," including the right to 30 days' written notice of "eviction."
- 2. This is a case involving owners, operators, managers, landlords and lessors of the WOODSPRING SUITES SACRAMENTO ("WOODSPRING HOTEL") located at 7789 La Mancha Way, Sacramento, California, who want the WOODSPRING HOTEL to be a "Transient Occupancy Hotel" when it comes to evicting tenants and collecting room rates and transient occupancy tax payments, yet want the WOODSPRING HOTEL to be a "Residential Hotel" when it comes to accepting long-term residents and side-stepping statutory Transient Occupancy Hotel requirements. Specifically, DEFENDANTS have wrongfully entered the tenant premises, invaded the PLAINTIFFS right of private occupancy of the tenant premises by or on behalf of the direction of the DEFENDANT landlord. In doing so, DEFENDANTS invaded the right of private occupancy.
- 3. Defendants DASCH, INC., a California corporation, PEGASUS VP INVESTORS I, a California limited partnership, ROBERT J. DAILEY, an individual, PAULA SHORF, an individual, DWIGHT DAVIS, an individual, WILLIAM D. SCHMICKER, an individual, THOMAS A. DAILEY, an individual, (hereinafter collectively "DEFENDANTS") are the owners, operators, managers, landlords or lessors of the WOODSPRING HOTEL located at 7789 La Mancha Way, Sacramento, California. Although the WOODSPRING HOTEL provides

accommodations to the public on both an overnight and a long-term basis, it is not the Marriott or the Sheraton.

- 4. The WOODSPRING HOTEL features threadbare rooms, with no facilities for the safeguarding of personal property, and with no food service provided by a food establishment. PLAINTIFFS, like many other tenants, resided at the WOODSPRING HOTEL as their primary residence for more than thirty (30) consecutive days. However, to appear as a "Transient Occupancy" hotel, DEFENDANTS compelled PLAINTIFFS, and all those similarly situated, to move, or to check out and re-register before the expiration of 30 days of occupancy for the purpose of attempting to maintain transient occupancy status. DEFENDANTS' conduct is tantamount to a wrongful eviction from, wrongful entry into, or invasion of the right of private occupancy of a room occupied by PLAINTIFFS at the WOODSPRING HOTEL. At all times, DEFENDANTS conduct of wrongful entry and eviction caused annoyance and discomfort as a result of the injury to PLAINTIFFS peaceful enjoyment of the property/ tenancy occupied.
- 5. PLAINTIFFS in this case were tenants in DEFENDANTS' WOODSPRING HOTEL who, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated, seek an order from this Court compelling DEFENDANTS to comply with the law in all aspects of its hotel operations including a prohibition of the wrongful eviction from, wrongful entry into, or wrongful invasion of the right of private occupancy of a room occupied by PLAINTIFFS at the WOODSPRING HOTEL. PLAINTIFFS and those similarly situated further seek restitution of rent payments and transient occupancy taxes wrongfully taken and paid. PLAINTIFFS also seek damages for inconvenience, annoyance, discomfort, interference with quiet enjoyment.

PARTIES

6. PLAINTIFFS DAMIEN HAMPTON, KERRI CRUZE & CHARLEAN ANHONY ("PLAINTIFFS"), individuals, and on behalf of all those similarly situated, and at all times relevant, were and are residents of Sacramento County, California, as residents of the WOODSPRING HOTEL.

- 7. PLAINTIFFS are of low-income. See Cal. Health & Safety Code sections 50067, 50093.
- 8. PLAINTIFFS were unaware of the identities, roles, conduct, and/or legal capacities of other persons involved in the actions and breaches of duty set forth herein, but believe there may indeed be such others (identified herein as DOES 1-50) who are in some way responsible for such acts, omissions and damages. PLAINTIFFS will seek leave of Court to amend this complaint to allege their names and roles when ascertained.
- 9. PLAINTIFFS are informed and believe that Defendants DASCH, INC., PEGASUS VP INVESTORS I, ROBERT J. DAILEY, PAULA SHORF, DWIGHT DAVIS, WILLIAM D. SCHMICKER, and THOMAS A. DAILEY are the owners, managers, operators, landlords, or lessors of the WOODSPRING HOTEL, an approximately one hundred and twenty-four (124) room residence located in the State of California, County of Sacramento, at 7789 La Mancha Way, Sacramento, California.
- 10. At the times herein mentioned, PLAINTIFFS are informed and believe that each defendant was and is the agent and/or employee of each of the remaining DEFENDANTS, and in doing the acts hereinafter alleged, was acting within the course and scope of such agency and employment. Because of the agency and/or employment relationship between DEFENDANTS, and each of them, each defendant has knowledge and/or constructive notice of the acts of each of the DEFENDANTS. PLAINTIFFS are informed and believe that each defendant ratified and/or authorized the wrongful acts of DEFENDANTS, as set forth below, by their actions and by retaining the benefits of said wrongful acts.
- 11. Each of the DEFENDANTS aided, abetted, encouraged and rendered substantial assistance to the others in accomplishing the wrongful conduct and other wrongdoing complained of herein. In taking action, as alleged herein, to aid, abet, and substantially assist the commission of these wrongful acts, DEFENDANTS acted with awareness of their wrongdoing and realization that their conduct would substantially assist the wrongful conduct, wrongful goals, and wrongdoing, and that it would cause harm to PLAINTIFFS.

12.' PLAINTIFFS bring this Class Action on behalf of themselves and on behalf of a California Class, defined as all individuals who are or who previously have resided at the WOODSPRING HOTEL ("CALIFORNIA CLASS") at any time during the period beginning four (4) years prior to the filing of the Complaint and ending on the date of the determined by the Court ("CLASS PERIOD").

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 13. Jurisdiction and venue are proper in this Court because the WOODSPRING HOTEL is located at 7789 La Mancha Way, Sacramento, California, located in the County of Sacramento, and the amount in controversy exceeds \$25,000.
- 14. Further, venue is proper in this Court under Civil Code section 1750, et seq. (California Consumer Legal Remedies Act) because PLAINTIFFS suffered losses through transactions that occurred at DEFENDANTS' business locations in the County of Sacramento. Pursuant to Civil Code section 1780(d), attached to this Complaint as **Exhibit 1** is PLAINTIFFS' declaration establishing proper venue.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

15. California state law defines a "Residential Hotel" as any building containing six or more guestrooms that are primarily occupied by persons who use such rooms as their primary residence. Cal. Health & Safety Code §50519. Residential Hotels are an important segment of the limited housing stock that is available to very low-income individuals in California. The California Legislature has thus recognized "that the need for decent housing among individuals of very low income is great, and that residential hotels are often the only form of housing affordable to those individuals." Cal. Health & Safety Code § 50519(a). Consistent with and in accordance of the health and safety code, DEFENDANTS were required to refrain from prohibited conduct of interference with the peace and quiet PLAINTIFFS were entitled during the course of their tenancy and at all material times, DEFENDANTS were to avoid any or have wrongful entry and eviction and to reasonably avoid annoyance and discomfort as a result of the injury to PLAINTIFFS peaceful enjoyment of the property/ tenancy occupied.

- The WOODSPRING HOTEL should be considered a "Residential Hotel" because PLAINTIFFS and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS occupied rooms at the WOODSPRING HOTEL for more than thirty (30) days and used the WOODSPRING HOTEL as their primary residence. *Cal. Health & Safety Code* § 50519. A large proportion of the occupants are persons of low-income as defined by *Cal. Health & Safety Code* section 50093, elderly and/or cope with addiction issues or physical disability. These individuals tend to be unsophisticated in their commercial and legal dealings and have very limited, if any, access to legal counsel. They are, therefore, very vulnerable to predatory business practices. The California Supreme Court has recognized the vulnerability of low-income housing tenants, observing, among other things, that the "severe shortage of low and moderate cost housing has left tenants with little bargaining power" and thus deserving of legal protection. *Green v. Superior Court*, 10 Cal. 3d 616, 625 (1974).
- 17. To protect this vulnerable segment of society, California state law gives tenants substantial rights and protections. California Civil Code §1940 is the principal state law governing the relationship between landlords and those who hire their premises, including persons who hire rooms at Residential Hotels. This statutory scheme dispenses with many distinctions of common law between tenants, lessees, boarders and lodgers. Instead it denominates all of the foregoing as "persons who hire" and gives them the same rights as tenants. These rights and protections include:
 - A. Anti-retaliation provision. It is unlawful for a landlord to increase rent, decrease services, cause a tenant to quit involuntarily, bring an action to recover possession, or threaten to do any of those acts, for the purpose of retaliating against a tenant for making an oral or written complaint regarding tenantability or after commencing judicial proceedings involving the issue of tenantability. See Cal. Civ. Code § 1942.5(a). PLAINTIFFS are informed and believe that DEFENDANTS did, and continue to, carry out such retaliatory conduct and, therefore, have committed the wrongful eviction from, wrongful entry into, or

· invasion of the right of private occupancy of rooms occupied by PLAINTIFFS' and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS at the WOODSPRING HOTEL.

- B. Eviction through "unlawful detainer" proceedings only. The only lawful method by which a Residential Hotel owner may recover possession of a unit from a tenant who is committing "unlawful detainer" by remaining in occupancy in violation of the terms of his or her rental agreement is through filing a judicial eviction action. Efforts to take matters into his or her own hands by evicting the tenant using "self-help" methods are strictly forbidden by law and constitute a criminal offense. See Cal. Civ. Code § 1159, et seq.; Cal. Pen. Code § 418. PLAINTIFFS are informed and believe that DEFENDANTS have attempted to gain possession, and have gained possession, of units from tenants by methods other than the judicial process unlawfully and therefore, have committed the wrongful eviction from, wrongful entry into, or wrongful invasion of the right of private occupancy of rooms occupied by PLAINTIFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS at the WOODSPRING HOTEL.
- C. Anti-harassment provision. It is unlawful for a residential hotel owner, acting with the purpose to influence a tenant to vacate a dwelling, to use or threaten to use force, or to make willful threats, or to engage in menacing conduct that interferes with the tenant's quiet enjoyment of the premises and that would create apprehension of fear to a reasonable person. See Cal. Civ. Code § 1940.2. PLAINTIFFS are informed and believe that DEFENDANTS have engaged in such conduct and, therefore, have committed the wrongful eviction from, wrongful entry into, or wrongful invasion of the right of private occupancy of rooms occupied by PLAINTIFFS' and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS at the WOODSPRING HOTEL.
- D. Covenant of quiet enjoyment. California law imposes a duty on all landlords to ensure that a tenant has "quiet enjoyment" of the premises. The right to quiet enjoyment includes the ability to use and enjoy the premises without being subject to acts of the owner that disturb the tenant's peaceful possession of the premises, such as improper evictions or eviction attempts. See Cal. Civ. Code § 1927; Cal Civ. Code § 1940.2.

- PLAINTIFFS are informed and believe that DEFENDANTS have annoyed and disturbed PLAINTIFFS', and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, peaceful enjoyment and right to quiet enjoyment at the WOODSPRING HOTEL and, therefore, have committed the wrongful eviction from, wrongful entry into, i.e., trespass, or wrongful invasion of the right of private occupancy of rooms occupied by PLAINTIFFS' and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS at the WOODSPRING HOTEL.
- E. Restrictions on landlord's entry into dwelling. Except in case of emergency, a residential hotel owner is prohibited from entering into a rented dwelling unless upon written notice given 24 hours in advance. See *Cal Civ. Code § 1954*. PLAINTIFFS are informed and believe that DEFENDANTS have entered rented dwelling units at the WOODSPRING HOTEL in non-emergency situations without giving appropriate notice and, therefore, have committed the wrongful eviction from, wrongful entry into, i.e., trespass, or wrongful invasion of the right of private occupancy of rooms occupied by PLAINTIFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS at the WOODSPRING HOTEL.
- 18. PLAINTIFFS believe that DEFENDANTS attempt to prevent PLAINTIFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS from becoming permanent tenants and gaining these rights and protections by treating them as "transient occupants," rather than as tenants, even though PLAINTIFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are not "transient occupants."
- 19. Civil Code § 1940(b) excludes "transient occupants" from the protections of this statutory scheme. A "transient occupant" is an occupant who seeks only temporary accommodations, such as a typical hotel guest, as opposed to a person who seeks housing on a permanent or semi-permanent basis or whose occupancy exceeds 30 consecutive days, such as a typical apartment renter. A proprietor of a residential hotel can "lock out" a "transient occupant" for nearly any reason, without notice, whereas such proprietor is required to begin formal eviction proceedings to evict a "tenant."
- 20. Although *some* occupants of DEFENDANTS' WOODSPRING HOTEL may indeed be "transient occupants," PLAINTIFFS and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS

are not. For many, including PLAINTIFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, their occupancy does not fit the definition of "transient occupancy" because they have been or want to be in residence for more than 30 consecutive days and/or were seeking housing on a permanent or semi-permanent basis. Under California state law, a hotel resident becomes a permanent tenant after a continuous stay of 30 days. See *Cal Civ. Code § 1940.1*. Each of these occupants (not all whose identities are presently known to PLAINTIFFS) became entitled during their occupancy to the full rights and protections of tenants.

- 21. DEFENDANTS have unlawfully, unfairly, negligently, wrongfully and/or fraudulently been depriving, and attempting to deprive, its residents of the tenant rights and protections by committing the wrongful eviction from, wrongful entry into, or invasion of the right of private occupancy of a rooms occupied by PLAINTIFFS' and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS at the WOODSPRING HOTEL as described above. Even though PLAINTIFFS and many members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS have lived at DEFENDANTS' WOODSPRING HOTEL for months, sometimes years as a primary residence, DEFENDANTS perpetuate a ruse by uniformly, systematically and regularly, as a matter of custom, practice and policy, requiring residents to pay rent on a daily basis (or other period less than 30 days), pay a "transient occupancy tax", and forcing each resident to "check-out" and re-register, to allow DEFENDANTS to perpetuate the ruse that the WOODSPRING HOTEL is a "transient hotel" rather than the "residential hotel" that it is. This systematic practice is infamously known and commonly referred to as the "28 Day Shuffle".
- 22. PLAINTIFFS are informed and believe and thereon allege that DEFENDANTS have actually wrongfully evicted from, wrongfully entered into, or invaded the right of private occupancy of rooms at the WOODSPRING HOTEL occupied by PLAINTIFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS as described above. For instance, DEFENDANTS unlawfully evicted PLAINTIFFS from their room at the WOODSPRING HOTEL in November of 2016 without unlawful detainer proceedings. DEFENDANTS also unlawfully evicted PLAINTIFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS every time they required PLAINTIFFS and the

- 23. PLAINTIFFS are informed and believe and thereon allege that DEFENDANTS compelled PLAINTIFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to move, or check out and re-register before the expiration of 30 days occupancy at the WOODSPRING HOTEL and at that at least one purpose of these practices is to deprive residents of their tenant rights by purporting to interrupt the occupancies so that those tenancies can be claimed not to have exceeded 30 consecutive days. Another purpose of these practices is to wrongfully interfere with the right of private occupancy of rooms occupied by PLAINTIFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS at the WOODSPRING HOTEL. Accordingly, DEFENDANTS' actions violate Civil Code § 1940.1, which states that "[n]o person may require an occupant of a residential hotel...to move, or to check out and register, before the expiration of 30 days occupancy if a purpose is to have that occupant maintain transient occupancy status." Cal. Civ. Code § 1940.1 (emphasis added).
- 24. An innkeeper may avoid the strict provisions of Civil Code § 1940 as to any occupancy where the innkeeper retains a right of access and control of the unit and provides certain amenities, including: (a) a fireproof safe exclusively for residents' property (b) central phone services; (c) maid, mail and room services; (d) occupancy for periods of less than 7 days; and (e) food service provided by a food establishment located on or adjacent to the hotel. Although DEFENDANTS purport to provide all of these things, they do not actually do so.
- 25. In order to avail itself to this exception, DEFENDANTS must provide <u>all</u> of these services to <u>all</u> of the residents. DEFENDANTS do not do so. As a representative example, none of DEFENDANTS' WOODSPRING HOTEL units have fireproof safes, there are no locking mail receptacles for all of the residential units (see Health & Safety Code § 17958.3), and there is no food service provided by a food establishment.

- 26. DEFENDANTS go to these lengths in an illegal effort to circumvent Civil Code § 1940 et seq. and thereby try to avoid the affirmative obligations the statutes place upon DEFENDANTS such as providing advance notice of eviction and basic habitability requirements.
- 27. In their operation of the WOODSPRING HOTEL, DEFENDANTS have engaged in the business acts and practices described above in violation of their duties to the occupants of those hotels.
- 28. PLAINTIFFS ask that the Court issue an Order preventing DEFENDANTS from taking these types of actions in the future.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 29. PLAINTIFFS bring this action on his and her own behalf, and on behalf of all other persons similarly situated, in addition to the general public, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure §382.
- 30. The class is defined as follows: all individuals who are or previously resided at the WOODSPRING HOTEL ("CALIFORNIA CLASS") at any time during the period beginning four (4) years prior to the filing of the Complaint and ending on the date of the determined by the Court ("CLASS PERIOD"). PLAINTIFFS reserve the right to modify the class definition if appropriate.
- 31. PLAINTIFFS reasonably estimate that the class has hundreds of members in diverse locations, many of which are homeless or transient with no permanent address or telephone. Joining all these individuals in this lawsuit is impractical and unnecessary, but the disposition of their claims in a class action will benefit the parties, the Courts, DEFENDANTS and all the other citizens of the County of Sacramento. Although the exact number of class members is presently unknown to PLAINTIFFS, PLAINTIFFS anticipate that DEFENDANTS maintain detailed lodging records, as required by law, that are sufficient to determine the number of class members and to ascertain their identities. The class is therefore readily ascertainable.
- 32. There is a well-defined community of interest in the questions of law and fact presented by this controversy. The questions of law and fact common to PLAINTIFFS and other

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class members predominate over questions that may affect only individual members, if any. DEFENDANTS have acted on grounds generally applicable to the entire class, thereby making final injunctive relief and corresponding declaratory relief appropriate with respect to the class as a whole. Among the questions of law and fact common to the class are the following:

- (a) Whether DEFENDANTS' business acts and practices as alleged herein are unlawful and unfair;
- (b) Whether DEFENDANTS violated California Civil Code § 1940 et seq.;
- (c) Whether DEFENDANTS violated California Civil Code § 1940.1 by forcing its residents to "check-out" and reregister to prevent them from becoming permanent tenants;
- (d) Whether the actions of DEFENDANTS as set forth herein violated the Consumers Legal Remedies Act, California Civil Code section 1750, et seq.;
- (e) Whether the actions of DEFENDANTS as set forth herein violated Business and Professions Code section 17200, et seq.;
- (f) Whether PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS are entitled to injunctive relief and, if so, what that relief should be; *and*
- (g) What other forms of relief, if any, are appropriate to remedy the violations complained of herein.
- 33. PLAINTIFFS' claims are typical if not identical to the claims of the CALIFORNIA CLASS because PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were affected by the same wrongful practice in which DEFENDANTS engaged, as alleged herein.
- 34. PLAINTIFFS will fairly and adequately protect the interest of members of the class. The interests of PLAINTIFFS are aligned with and not antagonistic to the interests of the class. PLAINTIFFS have retained lawyers who are competent and experienced in class action litigation. Neither PLAINTIFFS nor PLAINTIFFS' attorneys have any known conflict in undertaking this representation.

adjudication of the controversy alleged herein. PLAINTIFFS and the members of the class have suffered irreparable harm as a result of DEFENDANTS' unfair, deceptive and unlawful conduct. Class treatment will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently, and without duplication of evidence, effort and expense that numerous individual actions would engender. Absent the class action, the members of the class will continue to suffer losses and violations of law and wrongs described herein will continue without remedy. This action will result in the orderly and expeditious administration of claims. Uniformity of decisions — especially with respect to injunctive or declaratory relief — will be assured, thereby avoiding the risk of inconsistent and varying determinations. Prosecution of actions such as this in numerous forums would serve no purpose and would promote dis-uniformity in the interpretation of California law.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Unfair Business Practices in Violation of Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 et seq. (By PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against DEFENDANTS)

- 36. PLAINTIFFS re-allege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs above.
- 37. PLAINTIFFS bring this claim pursuant to Business & Professions Code §§ 17200 17500 et seq. on behalf of herself and himself, and on behalf of all those similarly situated in the CALIFORNIA CLASS, and also in a representative capacity on behalf of the general public of the State of California, under the authority of these statutes.
- 38. DEFENDANTS violated and continues to violate, the provisions of Business & Professions Code §§ 17200 17500 et seq. by engaging in the following unlawful business acts or practices, among others:
 - a. DEFENDANTS engage in a pattern and practice of requiring occupants of the WOODSPRING HOTEL, including PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS to move, or to check out and reregister before the expiration of 30 days in order to prevent

the residents from gaining legal rights under State and Local law, in violation of Civil Code § 1940.1.

- b. DEFENDANTS violated, and continue to violate, their legal duties to PLAINTIFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS by terminating their occupancy: (i) without a 3-day notice to pay, cure, or quit, in violation of California Code of Civil Procedure § 1161; (ii) without a notice of termination of tenancy, in violation of California Civil Code § 1946; (iii) in derogation of the covenant of quiet enjoyment, in violation of California Civil Code § 1927; and (iv) without initiating an unlawful detainer proceeding, in violation of the judicial authority making such an action the exclusive legal procedure for landlords seeking to evict tenants in such situations.
- c. DEFENDANTS, through its employees and agents: (i) entered the rooms of PLAINTIFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS without providing advance written notice, in violation of California Civil Code § 1954; (ii) used force, threats, menace, intimidation and deceptive statements to force, direct and demand PLAINTIFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS vacate their rooms, in violation of California Civil Code § 1940.2; and (iii) locked PLAINTIFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS out of their rooms, in violation of California Civil Code § 789.3 thereby annoying and disturbing PLAINTIFFS' and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS' peaceful enjoyment of their leased rooms at WOODSPRING HOTEL. At all times, DEFENDANTS conduct of wrongful entry and eviction caused annoyance and discomfort as a result of the injury to PLAINTIFFS peaceful enjoyment of the property/ tenancy occupied. PLAINTIFFS and those similarly situated further seek restitution of rent payments and transient occupancy taxes wrongfully taken and paid. PLAINTIFFS also seek damages for inconvenience, annoyance, discomfort, interference with quiet enjoyment.
- d. DEFENDANTS, through its employees and agents, collected transient occupancy taxes from PLAINITFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, on

- occupancies exceeding thirty (30) days in violation of Tax & Revenue Code § 7280 and the applicable sections of Chapter 3.28 of the Sacramento Code.
- 39. DEFENDANTS have engaged in a pattern and practices of unlawful acts and courses of conduct constituting unfair business practices and unfair competition as prohibited by Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq. The pattern of business practice and the course of conduct described herein have provided the DEFENDANTS with a competitive unfair advantage over similar businesses that have not engaged in such practices. Unless enjoined by this Court, DEFENDANTS will continue to engage in such practices.
- 40. DEFENDANTS' conduct as described in this Complaint has been immoral, unethical and oppressive, and substantially injurious to the occupants of DEFENDANTS' WOODSPRING HOTEL, as it exploits their lack of sophistication, fears and vulnerability to deny and deprive them of the valuable legal rights, protections and remedies to which they are entitled.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code Section 1750 et seq.

(By PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against DEFENDANTS)

- 41. PLAINTIFFS re-allege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs above.
- 42. This claim arises under the Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code Section 1750, et seq. (the "CLRA").
- 43. PLAINTIFFS are a "consumer" as that term is defined in Cal. Civ. Code Section 1761(d).
- 44. Heat; fire-proof safes to protect the guests/tenants' personal property; room services; phone access and maid services constitute "goods or services" as that term is defined in Cal. Civ. Code Section 1761(a).
- 45. PLAINTIFFS' payment of rent constituted a "transaction" as that term is defined in Civ. Code Section 1761(e).

- 46.' The CLRA provides in relevant part that "[t]he following unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices undertaking by any person in a transaction intended to result or which results in the sale or lease of goods or services to any consumer are unlawful: "(5) Representing that goods or services have...approval, characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits...which they do not have...(7) Representing that goods...are of a particular standard, quality or grade, or that goods are of a particular style or model, if they are of another...(9) Advertising goods...with intent not to sell them as advertised...(14) Representing that a transaction confers or involves rights...which it does not have or involve...(16) Representing that the subject of a transaction has been supplied in accordance with a previous representation when it has not...(19) inserting an unconscionable provision in the contract." Civil Code §1770 (a)(5),(7),(9),(14),(16),(19).
- 47. The misrepresentations here include, but are not limited to, statements on the receipts provided by DEFENDANTS to PLAINTIFFS each time they paid for their room that DEFENDANTS' WOODSPRING HOTEL is a "hotel", not a residential hotel.
- 48. The statement that DEFENDANTS' WOODSPRING HOTEL is a "hotel", rather than a residential hotel, is misleading and deceiving to PLAINTIFFS and members of the public as it makes them believe that they are required to pay transient occupancy taxes even after they have resided at DEFENDANTS' WOODSPRING HOTEL for more than thirty (30) days.
- 49. PLAINTIFFS actually relied on DEFENDANTS' representation that the WOODSPRING HOTEL is a "hotel" as they did in fact continue to pay transient occupancy taxes after residing at DEFENDANTS' WOODSPRING HOTEL for more than thirty (30) days.
- 50. The Consumers Legal Remedies Act, California Civil Code Section 1750, et seq. ("CLRA"), was designed to protect consumers from unfair and deceptive business practices. To this end, the CLRA sets forth a list of unfair and deceptive acts and practices that are specifically prohibited in any transaction intended to result in the sale or lease of goods or services to a consumer (Civil Code §1770). DEFENDANTS' acts and practices, as set forth above, violate the following provisions of the CLRA:

- a. Section1770(a)(5) in that DEFENDANTS represented that its hotels were "transient hotels" and that their hotels would provide services that have characteristics, uses, benefits, or quantities, such as providing fire proof safes, mail service, room and maid service, room phone access, and food service, which they did not provide;

 b. Section 1770(a)(7) in that DEFENDANTS represented that the services, as described above, would be of a particular standard and quality that they did not possess;
- c. Section 1770(a)(9) in that DEFENDANTS advertised and promoted these services with the intent not to provide them as advertised;
- d. Section 1770(a)(14) in that DEFENDANTS represented that the transaction would confer rights and remedies which they did not have.
- e. Section 1770(a)(16) in that DEFENDANTS represented that the subject of a transaction had been supplied (services as described above), when it had not.
- 51. PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were injured by DEFENDANTS' representations because they paid for these goods and services, yet did not receive them. PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS were also damaged because they were deprived of their rights as tenants including: strict habitability standards; anti-retaliation provision; eviction through "unlawful detainer" proceedings only; the covenant of quiet enjoyment; anti-harassment provision; and restrictions on the access of the landlord into their dwelling.
- 52. PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS are therefore entitled to injunctive relief, restraining and enjoining DEFENDANTS from making any type of representations that their hotels are "transient hotels" and that their hotels provide the goods and services of a transient hotel.
- 53. On May 26, 2017, PLAINTIFFS sent notice, pursuant to Civil Code Section 1782, via certified mail with return receipt requested, to DEFENDANTS. Additionally, on July 18, 2017, the notice was personally served on DEFENDANTS. A copy of the notice is attached hereto as **Exhibit 2**.

Pursuant to Civil Code Section 1780(a)(3), PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS seeks restitution and disgorgement from DEFENDANTS of all funds taken as alleged above, including the disproportionate and unlawful fees, unjust enrichments, and other funds from PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS. PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS also seeks an order enjoining DEFENDANTS from continuing to employ the unlawful methods, acts and practices set forth above, pursuant to Civil Code § 1780(a)(2). Pursuant to Civil Code §§ 1780 and 1781 PLAINTIFFS also hereby request certification of the PLAINTIFFS' Class and an award of reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and expenses pursuant to Civil Code §1780(d) and Code of Civil Procedure §1021.5.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

Negligence

(By PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against ALL DEFENDANTS)

- 55. PLAINTIFFS re-allege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs above.
- 56. DEFENDANTS by their actions were negligent. DEFENDANTS had a duty to PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS not to unlawfully evict PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS' quiet enjoyment of the premises, not to retaliate or harass PLAINTIFFS or the CALIFORNIA CLASS, and not to enter wrongfully interfere with PLAINTIFFS' and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members possessory interest in their dwelling units without proper notice and/or due process.
- 57. By its acts, failures to act, false statements and omissions, including but not limited to DEFENDANTS conduct of wrongful entry and eviction which caused annoyance and discomfort as a result of the injury to PLAINTIFFS peaceful enjoyment of the property/ tenancy occupied. PLAINTIFFS and those similarly situated further seek restitution of rent payments and transient occupancy taxes wrongfully taken and paid. PLAINTIFFS also seek damages for inconvenience, annoyance, discomfort, interference with quiet enjoyment set forth above,

DEFENDANTS breached their	r duties to	PLAINTIFFS	and the	members	of the	CALIFOR	NIA
CLASS.							

- 58. DEFENDANTS' actions and omissions set forth herein were a breach of its duties to PLAINTIFFS, and to members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, and as a direct and legal result of DEFENDANTS' actions, PLAINTIFFS and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, have suffered financial loss to be proven at trial.
- 59. PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS seek restitution of wrongfully collected transient occupancy tax payments.
- 60. PLAINTIFFS' are informed and believe that DEFENDANTS' actions were willful, malicious and in conscious regard of PLAINTIFFS' rights, and the rights of the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, thus justifying an award of punitive and exemplary damages.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Strict Statutory Liability for Violation of Civil Code § 1940.1 (By PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against ALL DEFENDANTS)

- 61. PLAINTIFFS re-allege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs above.
- 62. Civil Code section 1940.1 makes it unlawful for any person to "require an occupant of a residential hotel, as defined in Section 50519 of the Health and Safety Code, to move, or to check out and reregister, before the expiration of 30 days occupancy if a purpose is to have that occupant maintain transient occupancy status pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 1940."
- 63. As previously alleged, DEFENDANTS conduct violates section 1940.1 because DEFENDANTS required PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS to move, or to check out and reregister, before the expiration of 30 days occupancy, for the purpose of having PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS maintain transient occupancy status.
- 64. Pursuant to Civil Code section 1940.1, PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS seek statutory damages of \$500.00 per violation.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Strict Statutory Liability for Violation of Civil Code § 1940.2

(By PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against ALL DEFENDANTS)

- 65. PLAINTIFFS re-allege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs above.
- 66. Civil Code section 1940.2 makes it unlawful to use, or to threaten to use, force, willful threats, or menacing conduct constituting a course of conduct that interferes with the tenant's quiet enjoyment of the premises.
- 67. DEFENDANTS conduct at all material times including but not limited to wrongful entry and eviction caused annoyance and discomfort as a result of the injury to PLAINTIFFS peaceful enjoyment of the property/ tenancy occupied. DEFENDANTS conduct included use of threats, or to threaten to use, force, willful threats, or menacing conduct constituting a course of conduct that interfered with the PLAINTIFFS' and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS' quiet enjoyment of the premises at the WOODSPRING HOTEL, including but not limited to, eviction without unlawful detainer, forcible eviction, threats of police action, and committing other acts of wrongful eviction from, wrongful entry into, or wrongful invasion of the right of private occupancy of occupancy of rooms occupied by PLAINTIFFS' and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS at the WOODSPRING HOTEL.
- 68. Pursuant to Civil Code § 1940.2(b), PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS seek civil penalties up to \$2,000 per violation. In addition, PLAINTIFFS and those similarly situated further seek restitution of rent payments and transient occupancy taxes wrongfully taken and paid. PLAINTIFFS also seek damages for inconvenience, annoyance, discomfort, interference with quiet enjoyment.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Unlawful Levy of Transient Occupancy Tax

(By PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against ALL DEFENDANTS)

- 69. PLAINTIFFS re-allege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs above.
- 70. Section 7280 of the Tax and Revenue Code empowers the legislative body of any city the power to "levy a tax on the privilege of occupying a room...in a hotel...or...motel...unless the occupancy is for a period of more than 30 days (emphasis added)."
- 71. Cumulatively, Section 3.28.030, 3.28.040, and 3.28.050 of Chapter 3.28, of the Sacramento City Code, imposes such a tax, "[f]or the privilege of occupancy in any hotel, each *transient* is subject to and shall pay a tax in the amount of [10] percent of the rent charged by the operator. (emphasis added)."
- 72. Section 3.28.020, Chapter 3.28, of the Sacramento City Code defines a "transient" as "any person who exercises occupancy...for a period of (30) consecutive calendars or less...."
- 73. Section 3.28.060, Chapter 3.28, of the Sacramento City Code, exempts from taxation "any person as to whom, or any occupancy as to which it is beyond the power of the city to impose the tax herein provided." Thus, occupancies at any hotel exceeding 30 days are not subject to the City of Sacramento's transient occupancy taxes.
- 74. As previously alleged, PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS resided at the WOODSPRING HOTEL for periods of thirty consecutive days or more. Nevertheless, DEFENDANTS levied and collected transient occupancy taxes from PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for those occupancies that exceeded thirty consecutive days in violation of Section 7280 of the Tax and Revenue Code and the applicable sections of the Sacramento City Code.
- 75. As a direct and proximate result of DEFENDANT's unlawful levy of transient occupancy taxes, PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS have been monetarily damaged in an amount to be proved at trial.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of Civil Code § 52.1

(By PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against ALL DEFENDANTS)

- 76. PLAINTIFFS re-allege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs above.
- 76. During the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS interfered with, or attempted to interfere with, PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members' exercise or enjoyment of their statutory rights secured by Division 3, Part 4, Title 5, Chapter 2 of the Civil Code by threats, intimidation, or coercion. The threats, intimidation and coercion included verbal harassment, physically removing, evicting or threatening to physically remove or evict PLAINTIFFS and CALIFORNIA CLASS members from the WOODSPRING HOTEL when demanded, physically removing or threatening to physically remove the PLAINTIFFS' and CALIFORNIA CLASS members' possessions, blocking or attempting to block residents from returning to their units, locking out the PLAINTIFFS' and CALIFORNIA CLASS members' from their units, unauthorized entry into the PLAINTIFFS' and CALIFORNIA CLASS members' units without notice or consent, and threats of police action and initiation of police action to assist in the unlawful eviction of the PLAINTIFFS' and CALIFORNIA CLASS members from their units.
- 77. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFFS and each of them experienced one or more forms of the aforementioned threats, intimidation or coercion intended to deprive PLAINTIFFS and CALIFORNIA CLASS members of their exercise and enjoyment of their statutory tenant rights.
- 78. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned wrongful conduct by DEFENDANTS, PLAINTIFFS and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members are entitled to recover actual damages according to proof, statutory damages of \$25,000 for each violation pursuant to Civil Code Sections 52.1(b) and 52(b), and attorneys' fees as determined by the Court.

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PRAYER FOR RELIEF

As relief for the wrongdoing alleged in this Complaint, PLAINTIFFS, on behalf of himself and/or herself and all others similarly situated, asks for judgment and relief as follows:

- 1. Under Business and Professions Code § 17203 and the equitable powers of this Court, DEFENDANTS, their successors, their assigns, and all persons or entities who act in concert with them or on behalf of them or their successors or assigns, be permanently enjoined from engaging in any of the unlawful, unfair and/or fraudulent business acts and practices described in this Complaint;
- 2. Under Business and Professions Code § 17203 and the equitable powers of this Court, DEFENDANTS, their successors, their assigns, and all persons or entities who act in concert with them or on behalf of them or their successors or assigns, be ordered and directed to take such actions as may be necessary to prevent the unlawful, unfair and/or fraudulent business acts and practices described in this Complaint from recurring;
- 3. Under Business and Professions Code § 17203 and the equitable powers of this Court, DEFENDANTS, their successors, their assigns, and all persons or entities who act in concert with them or on behalf of them or their successors or assigns, be ordered to make restitution to occupants of the WOODSPRING HOTEL who were victims of the unlawful, unfair and/or fraudulent business acts and practices described in this Complaint, including but not limited to wrongfully collected transient occupancy tax payments;
- 4. Under Business and Professions Code § 17203 and the equitable powers of this Court, DEFENDANTS, their successors, their assigns and all persons or entities who act in concert with them or on behalf of them or their successors or assigns, be ordered to disgorge any ill-gotten gains from the unlawful, unfair and/or fraudulent business acts and practices described in this Complaint;
- 5. For statutory damages of \$500.00 per violation pursuant to Civil Code section 1940.1;
- 6. For civil penalties of up to \$2,000.00 per violation of Civil Code section 1940.2;

7. For a Civil Penalty that is	s compensatory in nature in the amount of \$25,000 per
violation pursuant to Civil (Code Sections 52.1(b) and 52(b).
8. For restitution of wrongfull	y collected transient occupancy taxes;
9. For damages and penalties	under the Consumer Legal Remedies Act;
10. Declarations that: (i) D	EFENDANTS' representations and claims that the
WOODSPRING HOTEL	is a "transient hotel" was and is wrongful; (ii) the
	s a "residential hotel;" and (iii) PLAINTIFFS and the class
	ties and obligations owed to those residing in a "residential
hotel;"	<u> </u>
	fees pursuant to Civil Code sections 52(b), 1940, et seq.,
	and/or Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5;
	nd costs of suit, as allowed by law;
13. Punitive damages as approp	•
For such other and further relie	•
Tor such other and further tene	i as the court may deem proper.
Dated: November 19, 2019	Respectfully Submitted, JCL LAW FIRM, A.P.C.
	By: Jean-Claude Lapuyade Attorneys for PLAINTIFFS
DEMA	AND FOR JURY TRIAL
PLAINTIFFS hereby demand a	a trial by jury for each and every claim for which they have
a right to jury trial.	
Dated: November 19, 2019	Respectfully Submitted, JCL LAW FIRM, A.P.C.
	By:
	Jean-Clau lle Lap dyade
	Attorneys for PLAINTIFFS

()	SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY A. Signature
	Complete items 1, 2, and 3.Print your name and address on the reverse	PT A must
	so that we can return the card to you.	X
	Attach this card to the back of the mailplece, or on the front if space permits.	B. Received by (Printed Name) C. Date of Delivery
*	Article Addressed to:	D. is define address different from Homels : If Yes If Yes enter delivery educes below : In No
	William D. Schnicker_	If YES efficer deliver) address back a line No
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	SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY
	■ Complete items 1, 2, and 3.	A. Signature
	■ Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.	X ☐ Agent ☐ Addressee
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	or on the front if space permits. 1. Article Addressed to:	D. Is delivery address different from flefff 7
	_	If YES, enter delivery address below:
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Restricted Delivery

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9590 9402 4876 9032 4238 88 2. Article Number (Transfer from service label) 7019 0700 0001 5676	3. Service Type □ Adult Signature □ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery □ Certified Mail® □ Certified Mail® □ Certified Mail® Restricted Delivery □ Collect on Delivery □ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery □ Collect Delivery Restricted Delivery □ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery □ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery □ Signature Confirmation™ □ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery
PS Form 3811, July 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053	Domestic Return Receipt

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

NOTICE:	TO DE	FENDAI	NT:
(AVISO A	L DEN	/ANDAL	00).

PEGASUS VP INVESTORS I, a California limited partnership d.b.a. WOODSPRINGS HOTEL; DASCH, INC., a California corporation d.b.a. WOODSPRINGS HOTEL; and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):

DAMIEN HAMPTON, KERRI CRUZE & CHARLEAN ANHONY, individually and on behalf of all those similarly situated.

	<u> </u>
FOR COURT USE ONLY FILE UP PARA USO DE LA CO	RTE)
Superior Court Of	California
Sacramento	
07/06/2020	
mwhitaker	
Ву	_ , Deputy
Case Number:	
34-2020-002	81394

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol/), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol/) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales.

The name and address of the (El nombre y dirección de la c	orte es):		CASE NUMBER: (Número del Caso):	
	ourt, Gordon D. Schaber Court	house		
720 9th Street				
Sacramento, CA 95814				
The name, address, and telep	hone number of plaintiffs attorney, o	r plaintiff without an at	torney, is:	
Tean-Claude Lanuvade I	úmero de teléfono del abogado del d Esq. SBN:248676 Te	emandante, o del dem 1. (610) 500 9202	nandante que no tiene abogado, es): For: (610) 500 9201	
ICI I aw Firm APC = 20	990 Old Town Avenue, Suite (1. (01 <i>3) 333-</i> 6232 2201 San Diaza <i>(</i>	Tax. (013) 333-0231 TA 02110	
	Joo Old Town Avenue, Sulle C	ا Diego, راکن کاری ا	M. WHITAKER	
DATE: JUL - 6 2020		Clerk, by	771	, Deputy
(Fecha)		(Secretario)		(Adjunto)
(For proof of service of this su	mmons, use Proof of Service of Sum	mons (form POS-010)	.)	
(Para pruena de entrega de es	sta citatión use el formulario Proof of		(POS-010)).	
[SEAL]	NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVENTS as an individual defendance of the servents of t			
	2. as the person sued unde		f (specify):	
SUPERIOR CO		namedo namo o	. (56.50.7).	
	3. L on behalf of (specify):			
	under: CCP 416.10 (co	rporation)	CCP 416.60 (minor)	
		funct corporation)	CCP 416.70 (conservatee)
PAMENTO	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	sociation or partnershi		
	other (specify):	·	,	,
	4. by personal delivery on (date).		

Page 1 of 1