IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA INDIANAPOLIS DIVISION

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Chapter 11

USA GYMNASTICS, 1

Case No. 18-09108-RLM-11

Debtor.

DEBTOR'S MOTION FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER HOLDING THAT THE BOWLES LITIGATION VIOLATES THE AUTOMATIC STAY

USA Gymnastics, as debtor and debtor in possession in the above-captioned chapter 11 case ("USAG"), files this motion ("Motion") for the entry of an order, substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, holding that the lawsuit captioned *Bowles, et al. v. USA Gymnastics, et al.*, Case No. A-21-828017-C, recently filed against USAG in the Eighth Judicial District Court for Clark County, Nevada (the "Bowles Litigation") violates the Bankruptcy Code's automatic stay, *see* 11 U.S.C. § 362(a)(1), and ordering the plaintiffs to immediately dismiss all allegations and counts asserted against USAG. In support of this Motion, USAG states as follows:

1. On January 19, 2021, Plaintiffs Morgan Bowles, Mikaela Dayton, Elizabeth Gangale, Tiffani Lewis, McKinley Pavicic, Matalasiaufaiga Peko, Teagan Plutte, and Alyssa Resly (collectively, "Plaintiffs") commenced the Bowles Litigation by filing a complaint against USAG, Brown's Gymnastics Las Vegas ("Brown's Gymnastics"), and various named and unnamed employees and related entities of Brown's Gymnastics. A copy of the complaint is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

¹ The last four digits of the Debtor's federal tax identification number are 7871. The location of the Debtor's principal office is 130 E. Washington Street, Suite 700, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

- 2. Plaintiffs seek recovery for sexual, physical, and emotional abuse allegedly committed by a gymnastics coach at Brown's Gymnastics, Terry Gray, between 2009 and 2015 and assert eight claims against USAG under a variety of legal theories. On January 21, 2021, the Nevada court issued a summons to USAG.
- 3. The Bowles Litigation is a textbook violation of the automatic stay. Section 362(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code imposes an automatic stay on "the commencement" of a "judicial . . . action . . . against the debtor that was or could have been commenced" prior to the debtor's bankruptcy case. 11 U.S.C. § 362(a)(1). As the Seventh Circuit has noted, "an outright suit against the bankrupt" to recover on a prepetition claim "would incontrovertibly violate the stay." *Central States, Southeast & Southwest Areas Pension Fund v. Slotky*, 956 F.2d 1369, 1376 (7th Cir. 1992); *In re Richardson*, No. 00-10506-JKC-7, 2012 WL 3958548, at *2 (Bankr. S.D. Ind. Sept. 10, 2012). Stunningly, despite the clear and express text of the Bankruptcy Code, Plaintiffs seek to do exactly that, hauling USAG into state court to litigate sexual abuse claims that arose prior to USAG's chapter 11 filing. The Bowles Litigation unquestionably violates section 362(a)(1).
- 4. Plaintiffs' disregard for the automatic stay is particularly egregious given that seven out of the eight Plaintiffs were served directly with notice of USAG's bankruptcy case and the bar date for filing abuse claims, and that USAG gave broad, nationwide public notice of its bankruptcy and the bar date for sexual abuse claims in multiple forums and publications, including directing all member facilities to post a notice of the bar date notice in the facilities. Indeed, one of the Plaintiffs filed a claim (by different counsel) in the bankruptcy case.²

² Consistent with the confidentiality protocols regarding sexual abuse proofs of claim in this case, USAG does not identify the specific Plaintiff who filed a proof of claim in this case by name, but can provide this information to the Court if requested.

5. In an attempt to avoid burdening this Court and incurring additional legal costs, USAG tried to resolve this matter without involving this Court. On January 20, 2020, counsel for USAG sent counsel for Plaintiffs a letter in which USAG explained that the Bowles Litigation violated the automatic stay and asked Plaintiffs to immediately dismiss all allegations and claims against USAG. On January 26, 2021, USAG's counsel spoke with one of the attorneys for Plaintiffs and reiterated that the automatic stay required dismissal of the Bowles Litigation. Counsel refused to dismiss the suit, forcing USAG to bring this Motion.

NOTICE

6. USAG will provide notice of this Motion in accordance with the *Order Granting Debtor's Motion For Order Establishing Certain Notice, Case Management, And Administrative Procedures* [Dkt. 213], as well as by electronic mail and first class mail to counsel for the Plaintiffs in the Bowles Litigation. In light of the nature of the relief requested herein, USAG submits that no other or further notice is necessary.

WHEREFORE, USAG respectfully requests the entry of an Order holding that the Bowles Litigation violates the automatic stay and directing the Plaintiffs to immediately dismiss all allegations and claims against USAG and granting such other relief as may be just.

Dated: February 1, 2021 Respectfully submitted,

JENNER & BLOCK LLP

By: <u>/s/ Catherine Steege</u>

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EXHIBIT A

Proposed Order

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA INDIANAPOLIS DIVISION

In re:	Chapter 11
USA GYMNASTICS, ¹	Case No. 18-09108-RLM-11
Debtor.	

ORDER GRANTING DEBTOR'S MOTION FOR ORDER HOLDING THAT THE BOWLES LITIGATION VIOLATES THE AUTOMATIC STAY

This matter came before the Court on the *Debtor's Motion For Entry Of An Order Holding That The Bowles Litigation Violates The Automatic Stay* (the "**Motion**"), filed by USA Gymnastics as debtor and debtor in possession (the "**Debtor**"), for the entry of an order pursuant to section

¹ The last four digits of the Debtor's federal tax identification number are 7871. The location of the Debtor's principal office is 130 E. Washington Street, Suite 700, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

362(a) of title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101–1532 (the "Bankruptcy Code"); and the Court finds that (i) it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1334; (ii) this matter is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2)(A); (iii) the relief requested in the Motion is in the best interests of the Debtor, its estate, and creditors; and after due deliberation, and good and sufficient cause appearing therefore, the Court hereby determines the Motion should be GRANTED.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

- 1. The Motion is granted as set forth herein.
- 2. Plaintiffs shall dismiss all allegations and counts asserted against the Debtor in the action styled *Bowles, et al. v. USA Gymnastics, et al.*, Case No. A-21-828017-C, currently pending in the Eighth Judicial District Court for Clark County, Nevada.
- 3. The Court retains jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation of this Order.

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Exhibit B

Bowles Litigation Complaint

Case 18-09108-RLM-11 Doc 1417-2 Filed 02/01/21 EOD 02/01/21 13:02:38 Electronically Filed 1/19/2021 1:49 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT **COMP** 1 ROBERT T. EGLET, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 3402 2 ARTEMUS W. HAM, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 7001 3 CASE NO: A-21-828017-¢ DANIELLE C. MILLER, ESQ. Department 22 Nevada Bar No. 9127 4 **EGLET ADAMS** 400 South Seventh Street, Suite 400 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Telephone: (702) 450-5400 Facsimile: (702) 450-5451 7 Email: eservice@egletlaw.com Attorneys for Plaintiffs 8 **DISTRICT COURT** 9 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA EGLET TAPADAMS 10 MORGAN BOWLES, an Individual: Case No.: 11 MIKAELA DAYTON, Individual: an ELIZABETH GANGALE, Individual Dept. No.: an 12 TIFFANI LEWIS; an Individual; MCKINLEY 13 PAVICIC, Individual: MATALASIAUFAIGA PEKO; an Individual; **COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR** TEAGAN PLUTTE, an Individual; ALYSSA JURY TRIAL 14 RESLY, an Individual; 15 **Exemption Requested: Damages Exceed** Plaintiffs, \$50,000.00 16 v. 17 BROWN'S GYMNASTICS LAS VEGAS, 18 INC., a Nevada corporation doing business as BROWN'S GYMNASTICS; **DAYNA** 19 WAROE, an individual; GYMNASTICS, a Texas corporation; DOES 20 1 through 40; ROE CORPORATIONS 1 through **ACCREDITING** 40; DOE 21 ORGANIZATIONS 1 through 40; ROE **ORGANIZATIONS** ACCREDITING 22 through 40; DOES COACHES 1 through 40; ROE COACHES 1 through 40; DOE 23 TRAINERS 1 through 40; ROE TRAINERS 1 24 through 40; ROE TRAINING CENTERS 1 through 40; DOE EMPLOYEES 1 through 40; 25 DOE NEGLIGENT EMPLOYEES 1 through 40; DOE NEGLIGENT EMPLOYERS 26 through 40; and ROE **NEGLIGENT** CORPORATIONS 1 through 40, inclusive, 27 Defendants. 28

COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

COMES NOW Plaintiffs, by and through their attorneys of record, Robert T. Eglet, Esq., Artemus W. Ham, Esq., and Danielle C. Miller, Esq. of the law firm of EGLET ADAMS, and hereby demand a trial by jury and complain and allege against Defendants as follows:

I.

INTRODUCTION

This action arises out of the disturbing pattern of grotesque child molestation, and sexual, physical, psychological, and emotional abuse that TERRY GRAY inflicted on Plaintiffs while he was a registered gymnastics coach for USA GYMNASTICS and while he was employed as a gymnastics coach at BROWN'S GYMNASTICS LAS VEGAS, INC. d/b/a BROWN'S GYMNASTICS from approximately 2009 to 2015. He has been charged by way of indictment with fifteen (15) counts of Open and Gross Lewdness, twenty-five (25) counts of Lewdness With A Child Under The Age Of 14, and five (5) counts of Sexual Assault.

II.

PARTIES AND JURISDICTION

- 1. Plaintiff, MORGAN BOWLES, was, at all times relevant hereto, a resident of the County of Clark, State of Nevada, a minor, and a member of BROWN'S GYM as an elite gymnast during TERRY GRAY's employment at BROWN'S GYM from 2009 to 2015. She is now nineteen (19) years old and brings her claims pursuant to Nev. Rev. Stat. 11.250 and Nev. Rev. Stat. 11.190, which are timely as they are brought within two (2) years of Plaintiff having reached the age eighteen (18), and pursuant to Nev. Rev. Stat. 11.215, which are timely as they are brought within twenty (20) years of Plaintiff having reached the age eighteen (18).
- 2. Plaintiff, MIKAELA DAYTON, was, at all times relevant hereto, a resident of the County of Clark, State of Nevada, a minor, and a member of BROWN'S GYM as an elite gymnast during TERRY GRAY's employment at BROWN'S GYM from 2009 to 2015. She is now twenty-one (21) years old and brings her claims pursuant to Nev. Rev. Stat. 11.215, which are timely as they are brought within twenty (20) years of Plaintiff having reached the age eighteen (18).

3.

the County of Clark, State of Nevada, a minor, and a member of BROWN'S GYM as an elite gymnast during TERRY GRAY's employment at BROWN'S GYM from 2009 to 2015. She is now twenty-four (24) years old and brings her claims pursuant to Nev. Rev. Stat. 11.215, which are timely as they are brought within twenty (20) years of Plaintiff having reached the age eighteen (18).

4. Plaintiff, TIFFANI LEWIS, was, at all times relevant hereto, a resident of the County of Clark, State of Nevada, a minor, and a member of BROWN'S GYM as an elite gymnast

Plaintiff, ELIZABETH GANGALE, was, at all times relevant hereto, a resident of

twenty-four (24) years old and brings her claims pursuant to Nev. Rev. Stat. 11.215, which are timely as they are brought within twenty (20) years of Plaintiff having reached the age eighteen (18).

5. Plaintiff, MCKINLEY PAVICIC, was, at all times relevant hereto, a resident of the County of Clark, State of Nevada, a minor, and a member of BROWN'S GYM as an elite example of the County of Clark, State of Nevada, a minor, and a member of BROWN'S GYM from 2009 to 2015. She is

during TERRY GRAY's employment at BROWN'S GYM from 2009 to 2015. She is now

- gymnast during TERRY GRAY's employment at BROWN'S GYM from 2009 to 2015. She is now twenty-one (21) years old and brings her claims pursuant to Nev. Rev. Stat. 11.215, which are timely as they are brought within twenty (20) years of Plaintiff having reached the age eighteen (18).

 6. Plaintiff, MATALASIAUFAIGA PEKO, was, at all times relevant hereto, a
- resident of the County of Clark, State of Nevada, a minor, and a member of BROWN'S GYM as an elite gymnast during TERRY GRAY's employment at BROWN'S GYM from 2009 to 2015. She is now twenty-six (26) years old and brings her claims pursuant to Nev. Rev. Stat. 11.215, which are timely as they are brought within twenty (20) years of Plaintiff having reached the age eighteen (18).
- 7. Plaintiff, TEAGAN PLUTTE, was, at all times relevant hereto, a resident of the County of Clark, State of Nevada, a minor, and a member of BROWN'S GYM as an elite gymnast during TERRY GRAY's employment at BROWN'S GYM from 2009 to 2015. She is now twenty (20) years old and brings her claims pursuant to Nev. R. Stat. 11.215, which are timely as they

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are brought within twenty (20) years of Plaintiff having reached the age eighteen (18).

- 8. Plaintiff, ALYSSA RESLY, was, at all times relevant hereto, a resident of the County of Clark, State of Nevada, a minor, and a member of BROWN'S GYM as an elite gymnast during TERRY GRAY's employment at BROWN'S GYM from 2009 to 2015. She is now nineteen (19) years old and brings her claims pursuant to Nev. Rev. Stat. 11.250 and Nev. Rev. Stat. 11.190, which are timely as they are brought within two (2) years of Plaintiff having reached the age eighteen (18), and pursuant to Nev. Rev. Stat. 11.215, which are timely as they are brought within twenty (20) years of Plaintiff having reached the age eighteen (18).
- 9. Defendant BROWN'S GYMNASTICS LAS VEGAS, INC. d/b/a BROWN'S GYMNASTICS (hereinafter "BROWN'S GYM"), is and was a Nevada corporation, which at all times relevant hereto, was authorized to do and was doing business in the County of Clark, State of Nevada.
- 10. Defendant DAYNA WAROE (hereinafter "WAROE"), upon information and belief, was at all times relevant hereto, a resident of County of Clark, State of Nevada during the relevant period of Plaintiff's abuse.
- 11. Defendant WAROE, upon information and belief, was at all times relevant hereto, the president, secretary, treasurer, director, shareholder, and/or owner of Defendant BROWN'S GYM and was responsible for the overall management of BROWN'S GYM. It is alleged herein that WAROE was, and is, the alter ego of BROWN'S GYM.
- 12. Upon information and belief, and at all times relevant hereto, TERRY GRAY (hereinafter "GRAY") was an employee of BROWN'S GYM.
- 13. Upon information and belief, and at all times relevant hereto, Defendant BROWN'S GYM, at the direction and under the supervision of WAROE, engaged in a pattern and practice of employing staff, coaches, and volunteers known to be a physical and psychological danger to the gymnasts in their care, including GRAY.
- 14. Upon information and belief, and at all times relevant hereto, Defendants WAROE and BROWN'S GYM are all alter egos of each other as each are run, maintained, managed via commingled assets and liabilities and/or influence and governance, unity of interest, and

inseparableness that they should be considered as one so as not to sanction a fraud or injustice. They were each involved with each other to such an extent that they are liable per alter ego, joint enterprise, common enterprise liability, single business enterprise and/or affiliate liability.

- 15. Plaintiffs further allege upon information and belief that WAROE, DOES and ROES set forth above, and each of them, were the alter egos of BROWN'S GYM and ROE ENTITIES as set forth above, inclusive, and each of them named herein, having influenced and governed the entities, there is such unity of interest and ownership that the corporation and the person are inseparable from each other; and adherence to the notion of the corporation being an entity separate from the person would sanction fraud or manifest injustice. Further, WAROE is liable for the damages caused to Plaintiffs as a result of the duties she owed to them as an individual, separate and apart from her role as the owner of BROWN'S GYM, including without limitation her individual negligence concerning her direct knowledge of actions that threatened sexual abuse, molestation, physical, and psychological injuries to Plaintiffs.
- 16. Upon information and belief, and at all times relevant hereto, Defendants BROWN'S GYM, WAROE, DOES and ROES set forth above, inclusive, and each of them, were the agent, representative, servant, independent contractor, subcontractor, partner, joint venture, alter ego, successor in interest, affiliate, parent and/or subsidiary, employee and franchise of each of the remaining Defendants, and each of them herein, and were at all times acting within the purpose and scope of said agency, service, employment, partnership, joint venture, parent/subsidiary and franchise as such and with the express and/or implied permission, knowledge, consent, and ratification of all said other Defendants.
- 17. Defendant USA GYMNASTICS ("USAG"), USAG is an organization incorporated in Texas with its principal place of business in Indianapolis, Indiana. USAG is authorized to conduct business and does conduct business throughout the United States, including but not limited to Nevada, and has repeatedly held gymnastics competitions in Nevada.
- 18. That Defendants, DOES 1 through 40, and ROE CORPORATIONS 1 through 40 were acting within the course and scope of their employment, service and/or agency, with the other

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sustained by Plaintiffs as alleged herein. 19.

Defendants, the Defendants, and each of them, are vicariously liable for the injuries and damages

- That Defendants, DOES 1 through 40, and ROE CORPORATIONS 1 through 40, were acting in concert with the other Defendants, the Defendants and each of them, are vicariously and jointly and severally liable for the injuries and damages sustained by Plaintiffs as alleged herein.
- 20. That the true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate, or otherwise, of the Defendants herein designated as DOES 1 through 40; ROE CORPORATIONS 1 through 40; DOE ACCREDITING ORGANIZATIONS 1 through 40; ROE ACCREDITING ORGANIZATIONS 1 through 40; DOES COACHES 1 through 40; ROE COACHES 1 through 40; DOE TRAINERS 1 through 40; ROE TRAINERS 1 through 40; ROE TRAINING CENTERS 1 through 40; DOE EMPLOYEES 1 through 40; DOE NEGLIGENT EMPLOYEES 1 through 40; DOE NEGLIGENT EMPLOYERS 1 through 40; and ROE NEGLIGENT CORPORATIONS 1 through 40, are unknown to Plaintiffs at this time who therefore sues said Defendants by fictitious names.
- 21. Plaintiffs allege that each named Defendants herein designated as DOES 1 through 40; ROE CORPORATIONS 1 through 40; DOE ACCREDITING ORGANIZATIONS 1 through 40; ROE ACCREDITING ORGANIZATIONS 1 through 40; DOES COACHES 1 through 40; ROE COACHES 1 through 40; DOE TRAINERS 1 through 40; ROE TRAINERS 1 through 40; ROE TRAINING CENTERS 1 through 40; DOE EMPLOYEES 1 through 40; DOE NEGLIGENT EMPLOYEES 1 through 40; DOE NEGLIGENT EMPLOYERS 1 through 40; and ROE NEGLIGENT CORPORATIONS 1 through 40, are negligently, willfully, contractually, and/or otherwise legally responsible for the events and happenings herein referred to and proximately caused injury and damages to Plaintiffs as herein alleged. Plaintiffs will seek leave of Court to amend this Complaint to insert the true names and capacities of such Defendants when same have been ascertained and will further seek leave to join said Defendants in these proceedings.
 - 22. That exercise of the jurisdiction by this Court over each and every Defendant in

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each and every Defendant has done, or continues to do, business in the State of Nevada.

23. the County

the County of Clark, State of Nevada.

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this action is appropriate because Defendants are either residents of the State of Nevada, and/or

That all facts and circumstances that give rise to the subject lawsuit occurred in

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 24. That the elite national governing body for gymnastics in the United States, USA Gymnastics ("USAG"), selects and trains the United States gymnastics teams for the Olympics and World Championships.
- 25. That USAG has more than 174,000 athletes and professional members, it sanctions approximately 4,000 gymnastic competitions and events throughout the United States annually, and more than 148,000 athletes register for its competitive programs.
- 26. That upon information and belief, and at all times relevant hereto, GRAY is, and was, a certified and registered USAG coach.
- 27. That upon information and belief, and at all times relevant hereto, BROWN'S GYM is, and was, a USAG National Training Center.
- 28. That all times relevant hereto, Plaintiffs, and each of them, were under the age of eighteen (18) and were members of USAG and BROWN'S GYM as elite gymnasts during 2009 to 2015.
- GRAY first began coaching Plaintiffs in 2009. Plaintiffs allege that shortly after GRAY began coaching at BROWN'S GYM, until his departure in 2015, BROWN'S GYM was a hostile and sexually charged environment wherein GRAY sexually groomed, molested and abused some and/or all Plaintiffs by, among other things, inappropriately hugging them, lifting them up and squeezing their buttocks, slapping their buttocks with such force that it left handprints on their thigh and buttocks area, touching their breasts and vagina, giving them lingering massages to their lower back, inner thigh, groin and vaginal area, kissing them on or around mouth, stroking and kissing their necks, using his lips and teeth to nibble and bite their ears, whispering in their ear, calling them "babe," and having an ongoing sexual relationship with at

least one gymnast.

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- 30. Plaintiffs allege that under the guise of assisting some gymnasts with "stretching," GRAY would "tickle" the area near their vagina by placing his hands and fingers on their waist and massaging his fingers down towards their vagina. GRAY's "tickling" was not done in a manner to generate laughter, but instead, a sexual grooming technique to use tickling as an excuse to move his hands and fingers around their body, close to their vagina. GRAY's "stretching" also consisted of him straddling a gymnast's body, massaging her shoulders and arms, working his way down to her back and hamstrings, then placing his hands on her buttocks, and while using both his fingers and fists, rub and massage her buttocks. At the same time, GRAY would straddle their buttocks and rub his penis against their buttocks while rocking himself back and forth. Another "stretch" GRAY liked to perform consisted of him positioning himself in between a gymnast's legs, similar to a sexual intercourse position, and either placing their feet in his thigh and groin area, placing his penis against their vagina, or laying directly on top of them. Often, GRAY would have gymnasts roll down their leotard, leaving them only in their sports bra and underwear, and rub his thumbs down their back, with his fingers eventually moving underneath their leotard.
- 31. Plaintiffs allege that GRAY's sexual abuse and molestation also occurred while he was spotting gymnasts during practice. During which time, GRAY would make his best effort to try and touch their buttocks and vagina area by placing one hand on their buttocks and placing his other hand on top of their vagina. While some gymnasts were performing a press handstand, rather than spotting a gymnast near her knees and feet, GRAY would position himself behind the gymnast, grab her underneath her legs along the edge of her leotard, all while touching her vagina, then position her so that her vagina would point directly in his face. GRAY also required gymnasts to wear leotards, rather than shorts, and would tell them that he liked it when their leotards "rode up" their buttocks. Plaintiffs allege that GRAY's perversion even went so far that he would get upset if a gymnast adjusted her leotard so that it was no longer riding up and exposing her buttocks and would make fun gymnasts if their leotard covered their entire buttocks.
 - 32. Plaintiffs further allege that GRAY manipulated some and/or all Plaintiffs with

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"rewards" for their performance. In one instance, he invited a gymnast to attend a Cirque du Soleil show, which, he claimed, was because she was performing well. However, this was not a reward for performance but instead, it was GRAY's opportunity to go on a date with her. GRAY not only had the gymnast dress up for the show, but he picked her up for the show and throughout the evening, kissed her on the cheek, grabbed her buttocks, continuously pulled her close to him, and nibbled and bit her earlobe.

- 33. Plaintiffs also allege that GRAY sexually groomed some and/or all Plaintiffs by routinely telling them that he wanted a girl that was blonde with blue eyes, young, with a "nice butt," and would specifically tell some gymnasts that he wished he could find a girl "that looked like her." GRAY even texted one gymnast an unsolicited shirtless "selfie" and nicknamed a gymnast "wonderbutt." GRAY also regularly told some gymnasts that they should dye their hair blonde, which some gymnasts did, hoping that if they had an appearance that GRAY liked, he would be more eager to coach them.
- 34. Plaintiffs further allege that GRAY exhibited control and manipulation by telling some and/or all Plaintiffs what they could and could not wear to school. He told one gymnast that she was not allowed to wear skirts to school because he did not want boys to look at her "like that." GRAY also told her that she could only wear sweatpants to school and that she was not allowed to have a boyfriend. GRAY told her that he was the second man in her life, indicating that her father was the first man in her life. Plaintiffs allege that GRAY's sexualization even went so far as telling one gymnast that she better not be having sex with boys because "she needed to save herself" for him, and that he did not like it when she had a boyfriend because she "needed to be with him."
- 35. None of these sexual contacts or abuse behaviors was in any way necessary as part of GRAY's duties as an elite gymnastics coach. These sexual assaults occurred when Plaintiffs were under the supervision of BROWN'S GYM and on the premises of BROWN'S GYM. Plaintiffs had no reason to suspect GRAY was anyone other than an elite gymnastics coach who truly cared for the well-being and advancement of BROWN'S GYM members. Plaintiffs trusted and had substantial confidence in GRAY.

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- 36. Plaintiffs allege that in addition to GRAY's sexual abuse, GRAY was physically abusive to some and/or all Plaintiffs, which came in the form of forcing them to do a "Terry Run." A "Terry Run" consisted of numerous types of high intensity physical activities that took approximately twenty (20) minutes to complete. While doing a "Terry Run," GRAY would scream at the gymnasts and make them start over prior to completion without any regard as to whether a gymnast was overexerted and no longer able to stand.
- 37. Plaintiffs also allege that GRAY was psychologically, emotionally, and mentally abusive to some and/or all Plaintiffs. In one instance, after a gymnast broke her back and was working to return to gymnastics, GRAY told her that there was "no light at the end of the tunnel" and that she "was going nowhere." GRAY would also routinely scream at the gymnasts until they cried and use fear and manipulation to control them. GRAY would separate his favorite and least favorite gymnasts, and if a gymnast were not his favorite, he would tell her that she was going nowhere in gymnastics, that she "looked like shit," that she "should give up, that she "sucked," and would often call gymnasts "little bitch." GRAY would also manipulate some gymnasts by playing a "hard to get game," which required them to "earn his attention."
- 38. Plaintiffs further allege that GRAY had a practice of weighing and body shaming some and/or all Plaintiffs. GRAY would require gymnasts to weigh-in several times a week and would post their weight on a sticky note for everyone to see. After each weigh-in, GRAY would have the gymnasts line up so he could inspect their bodies. Plaintiffs allege that GRAY would then publicly shame some gymnasts and tell them if their butt looked "big," if they looked "good," or if they were someone he wanted to be around. If GRAY "called out" a gymnast for gaining weight, he would not allow her to participate in practice and would force her to do a "Terry Run" until she was crying or until she was no longer able to stand.
- 39. Because some Plaintiffs were so anxious about gaining weight, they would eat very little, or not at all, and would regularly use laxatives to purge. As a result, some Plaintiffs have suffered from extreme and severe mental anguish and emotional distress, resulting in disordered eating, which required, and continues to require, medical and psychological treatment. Plaintiffs have suffered and continue to suffer as a result of GRAY's physical, mental and

emotional abuse.

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- 40. During Plaintiffs' gymnastics careers, BROWN'S GYM hired GRAY as a gymnastics coach and gave him unfettered access to young gymnasts, even though it knew or should have known, of GRAY's sexual, physical, psychological, and emotional abuse and could have prevented it by taking abuse allegations seriously and maintaining a culture of accountability and transparency. BROWN'S GYM could have fired GRAY before he abused Plaintiffs, but instead of tackling the abuse head on, BROWN'S GYM elected to put its head in the sand, ignoring and actively concealing the sexual, physical, psychological, and emotional abuse being perpetrated by GRAY. When GRAY's inappropriate touching and abuse was reported to WAROE, WAROE indicated that unless she saw something "illegal," to never come to her again with a complaint about GRAY, and outright refused to fire GRAY, despite the numerous complaints she received about his inappropriate sexual and abusive behavior. WAROE even went to such great lengths to conceal GRAY's behavior that she asked GRAY to conduct his "stretching" on gymnasts in an area out of the public's view. More disturbing, after GRAY's departure, WAROE intentionally destroyed numerous documented complaints of GRAY's inappropriate sexual and abusive behavior.
- 41. Plaintiffs further allege that even after GRAY's departure from BROWN'S GYM, the physical, psychological, and emotional abuse continued under WAROE, who inflicted psychical, psychological and emotional abuse, by, among other things, humiliating Plaintiffs, body shaming Plaintiffs, pressuring Plaintiffs to lose weight, not allowing some and/or all Plaintiffs to practice until they lost weight, and requiring some and/or all Plaintiffs to continue intense training despite having serious injuries. As the owner of BROWN'S GYM, WAROE could have prevented Plaintiffs' abuse. Instead, WAROE enabled and ratified the abuse by GRAY against Plaintiffs and other members of BROWN'S GYM, furthered the ongoing concealment of abuse at BROWN'S GYM, and individually engaged in abuse.
- 42. BROWN'S GYM represented to the gymnastics community that GRAY was safe, trustworthy, ethical, and professionally competent. This led many parents to believe their children were safe in the care and custody of BROWN'S GYM, when in fact these children were in grave

- 43. BROWN'S GYM maintained a hostile and sexually charged environment, as well as a culture of abuse, that intimidated impressionable young gymnasts who participated in its programs and kept them silent about illegal sexual activity and misconduct at BROWN'S GYM.
- 44. Plaintiffs did not discover their psychological injuries until 2017 when other victims of GRAY publicly came forward with their own experiences of sexual, physical, psychological, and emotional abuse at the hands of GRAY. Until this time, Plaintiffs never made a mental connection between the sexual, physical, psychological, and emotional abuse by GRAY and their permanent and irreversible psychological, physical, mental, and emotional injuries. At the time of the public revelations of other victims, Plaintiffs realized for the first time that GRAY was a serial molester, and abuser, and that Plaintiffs were his victims. This deferred realization is common for victims of abuse, particularly child sexual abuse and particularly sexual abuse arising out of relationships of trust and confidence, similar to that of GRAY and Plaintiffs. The commonplace nature of deferred realization of child sexual, physical, psychological, and emotional abuse is one of the reasons why the Nevada legislature has enacted a special statute of limitations for child sexual abuse. See Nev. Rev. Stat. 11.215.
- 45. Plaintiffs also allege that USAG had a legal responsibility to exercise reasonable care to protect the young gymnasts in its custody and care from abuse by its personnel. Instead of tackling a culture of abuse head on, USAG elected to ignore and actively conceal the abuse being perpetrated by its registered coaches, including GRAY. USAG also maintained a culture of abuse that intimidated impressionable young gymnasts who practiced in their USAG National Training Centers and kept them silent about the misconduct occurring at their training centers.
- 46. USAG has a written Code of Ethical Conduct that meant nothing in practice. The Code of Ethical Conduct states, in pertinent part:
 - ...Members of [USAG] are expected to promote a safe environment for participants, coaches, officials, volunteers and staff in all gymnastics disciplines, which includes an environment free from sexual misconduct. It is inconsistent with this obligation for any Member to: 1. Solicit or engage in sexual relations with any

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- minor. 2. Engage in any behavior that utilizes the influence of a professional Member's position as coach, judge, official or administrator to encourage sexual relations with an athlete or participant. 3. Engage in sexual harassment by making unwelcome advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature where such conduct creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.
- 47. USAG's policies allow sexual relationships among its members to occur: "Professional Members of [USAG] must protect the integrity of the sport and the interests of the athletes they serve by avoiding sexual relationships with athletes except where the capacity and quality of the athlete's consent to enter that relationship is beyond question." It is indisputable that a girl under the age of 18 does not have the capacity to consent, or her consent lacks the sufficient quality to be beyond question.
- 48. According to its policies, USAG enforces this Code of Ethical Conduct "primarily upon understanding and voluntary compliance, secondarily upon reinforcement by peers, and when necessary, upon enforcement through disciplinary action.... Any Member ('Complainant') who believes that another Member of [USAG] has failed to meet such Member's obligations under this Code is, under all but the most egregious circumstances, encouraged to first address that concern directly to that Member."
- 49. Despite the Code of Ethical Conduct, USAG was notorious for maintaining a recklessly lax system of vetting coaches, staff, and administrators. It failed to follow its policy of reporting coaches who were known abusers to authorities. Its culture allowed coaches to move from gym to gym despite USAG's knowledge and notice of their inappropriate behavior. The organization has admitted to routinely dismissing allegations of abuse unless they came directly from the victim or the victim's parents. USAG kept records of complaints against coaches but kept them in a secret file, exposing thousands of young girls to the risk of sexual, physical, psychological, and emotional abuse.
- 50. Upon information and belief, and at all times relevant hereto, USAG engaged in a pattern and practice of employing coaches, staff, and volunteers and retaining members known to be a danger to the girls in their care, including GRAY. Defendants employed other coaches, professionals, staff, and agents who were known to be sexually, physically, psychologically, and

emotional abusive and continued to be a risk to young female gymnasts.

- 51. USAG's own systems to protect the girls from child sex abusers were a sham. USAG touted a list of banned coaches because they were child sex abusers. USAG's own website catalogues a list of over twenty (20) individuals, nationwide, who are "Permanently Ineligible Members" at USAG for violation of Bylaw § 9.2(a)(iii). Among other "Special Categories of Misconduct," this section of USAG's Bylaws specifically bars members who have 'been convicted of or ha[ve] entered a plea of guilty or no contest to a criminal charge or indictment issued by an applicable City, County, State or Federal jurisdiction, and such charge or indictment directly or indirectly involved or related to sexual misconduct, child abuse or conduct that is a violation of any law or regulation that is specifically designed to protect minors." But this list omitted several coaches who should have been on it, including GRAY, who had previously been reported as a child sex abuser.
- 52. Plaintiffs allege that as a USAG registered coach, GRAY held a position of trust and confidence of team members like Plaintiffs. Through this position of trust and confidence, GRAY was able to perpetrate his molestation and sexual, physical and psychological abuse upon Plaintiffs. GRAY abused Plaintiffs for his personal gratification and pleasure, and had a grotesque predilection for young gymnasts, like Plaintiffs. GRAY's molestation and sexual, physical and psychological abuse of Plaintiffs annoyed, disturbed, irritated, anguished, embarrassed, humiliated, permanently injured and offended Plaintiffs as it would have a reasonable person.
- 53. Plaintiffs did not consent to GRAY's sexual grooming, molestation, and sexual, physical, and psychological abuse and further, Plaintiffs were incapable of consenting to such because Plaintiffs were all minors at the time of GRAY's abuse.
- 54. By allowing GRAY to remain registered as a USAG coach, USAG represented to the gymnastics community that GRAY was safe, trustworthy, ethical, and professionally competent. This led many parents to believe their children were safe while training with GRAY, when in fact these children were in grave danger. USAG portrayed this public image of GRAY

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to preserve its own public image and reputation so USAG could retain and recruit members, thus allowing membership, donations, and other financial support to continue.

- 55. USAG had a duty to disclose to Plaintiffs' parents its knowledge and notice of complaints that GRAY was a child sex abuser. USAG breached this duty to disclose these facts to Plaintiffs, and their parents, by negligently or intentionally suppressing, concealing, and failing to disclose these prejudicial facts. The duty to disclose arose from the special relationship between USAG and Plaintiffs.
- 56. Defendants had notice of, knew of, or should have known of GRAY's past sexual, physical, psychological, and emotional abuse of children, past claims and investigations, and his propensity and disposition to engage in unlawful sexual activity with young gymnasts like Plaintiffs. Accordingly, Defendants knew or should have known that GRAY would commit wrongful sexual acts in the future with young gymnasts and members, including Plaintiffs.
- 57. Because of the relationship between Plaintiffs and Defendants, Defendants had an obligation and duty under the law not to hide material facts and information about GRAY's past, and his deviant sexual behavior and propensities. Additionally, Defendants had an affirmative duty to inform, warn, and institute appropriate protective measures to safeguard minors that were reasonably likely to encounter GRAY. Defendants willfully refused to notify, give adequate warning, and implement appropriate safeguards, thereby creating the peril that ultimately damaged Plaintiffs.
- By virtue of Defendants' conspiratorial conduct, and in keeping with their intent 58. to conceal GRAY's misconduct from the gymnastics community, the public, and law enforcement, Defendants allowed GRAY to remain in a position of influence where his unsupervised or negligently supervised conduct with minor participants and members made the molestation and abuse of minor participants and members possible.
- 59. During the period Plaintiffs were being sexually groomed, molested and physically and psychologically abused by GRAY, Defendants had the authority and ability to prevent such abuse by placing GRAY on USAG's list of banned coaches and by removing GRAY from his position as a coach at BROWN'S GYM. Defendants failed to do so, allowing the abuse to occur

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and to continue unabated. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, on that basis, allege that this failure was a part of Defendants' conspiratorial plan and arrangement to conceal GRAY's wrongful conduct, to avoid and inhibit detection, to block public disclosure, to avoid scandal, to avoid the disclosure of their tolerance of child sexual, physical, and psychological abuse, to preserve a false appearance of propriety, and to avoid investigation and action by public authority including law enforcement. Such actions were motivated by a desire to protect the reputation of Defendants and protect the monetary support of Defendants, while fostering an environment where such abuse could continue to occur.

- 60. Defendants, each of them, by actions and omissions as alleged herein directly and proximately caused the damages set forth in this Complaint.
- 61. As a result of the above-described conduct, Plaintiffs have suffered and continue to suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress including embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliations, and loss of enjoyment of life; have suffered and continue to suffer and were prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; will sustain loss of earnings and earning capacity, and/or have incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy, and counseling, each in an amount in excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00).
- 62. As a direct and approximate result of the Defendants' conduct, as set forth herein, Plaintiffs have suffered injuries and/or severe emotional distress in an amount in excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00).
- 63. Defendants, and each of them, acted with fraud, oppression, and/or malice toward Plaintiffs, exhibited an intention and willingness to injure Plaintiffs and/or a conscious disregard for the rights and safety of the Plaintiffs, and Defendants should be punished and made an example of by imposition of punitive or exemplary damages in an amount in excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00).
- 64. As a result of Defendants' conduct, as set forth herein, Plaintiffs have been required to retain the services of an attorney, and, as a direct, natural, and foreseeable consequence

thereof, have been damaged thereby, and are entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

IV.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Negligence – As Against Defendants USAG, BROWN'S GYM, WAROE And All Named DOES and ROES)

- 65. Plaintiffs reallege each and every allegation contained in the preceding and subsequent paragraphs, and by this reference incorporates said paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 66. Prior to and after the first incident of GRAY's sexual grooming, molestation, sexual, physical, psychological, and emotional abuse of Plaintiffs, through the present, Defendants, knew and/or had reason to know that GRAY had and was capable of sexually, physically, psychologically, and emotionally abusing and harassing Plaintiffs or other victims.
- 67. Defendants and each of them had special duties to protect the minor Plaintiffs and the other participants and members, when such minors were entrusted to Defendants' care by their parents. Plaintiffs' care, welfare and physical custody was entrusted to Defendants. Defendants voluntarily accepted the entrusted care of Plaintiffs. As such, Defendants owed Plaintiffs, minor children, a special duty of care that adults dealing with children owe to protect them from harm. The duty to protect and warn arose from the special, trusting, confidential, and fiduciary relationship between Defendants and Plaintiffs.
- 68. Defendants breached their duties of care to the minor Plaintiffs by allowing GRAY to come into contact with the minor Plaintiffs and other participants and members, without supervision; by failing to adequately hire, supervise and retain GRAY whom they permitted and enabled to have access to Plaintiffs; by concealing from Plaintiffs, their families, and law enforcement that GRAY was sexually grooming, molesting and abusing minors; and by holding GRAY out to Plaintiffs and their families as being of high moral and ethical repute, in good standing and trustworthy.
- 69. Defendants breached their duties to Plaintiffs by failing to investigate or otherwise confirm or deny such facts of sexual, physical, psychological, and emotional abuse by GRAY,

failing to reveal such facts to Plaintiffs, their parents, the community, and law enforcement agencies, and by placing GRAY into a position of trust and authority, holding him out to Plaintiffs, their parents, and the public as being in good standing and trustworthy.

- 70. Defendants breached their duty to Plaintiffs by failing to adequately monitor and supervise GRAY and failing to prevent GRAY from committing wrongful sexual acts with minors including Plaintiffs. Defendants' past records of sexual, physical, psychological, and emotional misconduct by GRAY caused Defendants to know, or gave them reason to know, of GRAY's incapacity to serve as a coach.
- 71. As a result of the above-described conduct, Plaintiffs have suffered and continue to suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress including embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliations, and loss of enjoyment of life; have suffered and continue to suffer and were prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; will sustain loss of earnings and earning capacity, and/or have incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy, and counseling, each in an amount in excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00).
- 72. Defendants, each of them, by actions and omissions as alleged herein directly and proximately caused the damages set for forth in this Complaint.
- 73. As a direct and approximate result of the Defendants' negligence, Plaintiffs have suffered injuries and/or severe emotional distress in an amount in excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00).
- 74. Defendants, and each of them, acted with fraud, oppression, and/or malice toward Plaintiffs, exhibited an intention and willingness to injure Plaintiffs and/or a conscious disregard for the rights and safety of the Plaintiffs, and Defendants should be punished and made an example of by imposition of punitive or exemplary damages in an amount in excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00).
- 75. As a result of Defendants' conduct, as set forth herein, Plaintiffs have been required to retain the services of an attorney, and, as a direct, natural, and foreseeable consequence

thereof, have been damaged thereby, and are entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

V.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(Negligence *Per Se* Violation of Nevada Revised Statute Chapter 432B, et seq. – As Against Defendants USAG, BROWN'S GYM, WAROE And All Named DOES and ROES)

- 76. Plaintiffs reallege each and every allegation contained in the preceding and subsequent paragraphs, and by this reference incorporates said paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 77. Under the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act, Defendants, by and through their employees and agents, were childcare custodians and were under a statutory duty to report known or suspected incidents of sexual molestation or abuse of minors to a child protective agency, pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 432B, and not to impede the filing of any such report.
- 78. Defendants knew or had reason to know that their coach, GRAY, and other staff of Defendants, had sexually groomed, molested, physically, psychologically and emotionally abused or caused touching, battery, harm, and/or other injuries to minors, including Plaintiffs, giving rise to a duty to report such conduct under Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 432B.
- 79. Defendants knew, or had reason to know, in the exercise of reasonable diligence, that an undue risk to minors, including Plaintiffs, existed because Defendants did not comply with Nevada's mandatory reporting requirements.
- 80. By failing to report the continuing molestations and abuse by GRAY, which Defendants knew or had reason to know about, and by ignoring the fulfillment of the mandated compliance with the reporting requirements provided under Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 432B, Defendants created the risk and danger contemplated by the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act, and as a result, unreasonably and wrongfully exposed Plaintiffs and other minors to sexual molestation and abuse.
- 81. Plaintiffs were a member of the class of persons for whose protection Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 432B was specifically adopted to protect.

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- 82. Had Defendants adequately reported the sexual, physical, psychological, and emotional abuse of Plaintiffs and other minors as required by Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 432B, further harm to Plaintiffs and other minors would have been avoided.
- 83. As a proximate result of Defendants' failure to follow the mandatory reporting requirements of Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 432B, Defendants wrongfully denied Plaintiffs and other minors the intervention of child protection services. Such public agencies would have changed the then-existing arrangements and conditions that provided the access and opportunities for GRAY's sexual, physical, and psychological abuse of Plaintiffs.
- 84. The physical, mental, and emotional damages and injuries resulting from the sexual molestation of Plaintiffs by GRAY, were the type of occurrence and injuries that the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act was designed to prevent.
- 85. As a result, Defendants' failure to comply with the mandatory reporting requirements of Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 432B also constituted a per se breach of Defendants' duties to Plaintiffs.
- 86. Defendants, and each of them, breached their duty to Plaintiffs by, inter alia, by failing to adequately monitor and supervise GRAY and stop GRAY from committing wrongful sexual acts with minors including Plaintiffs.
- 87. As a result of the above-described conduct, Plaintiffs have suffered and continue to suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress including embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliations, and loss of enjoyment of life; have suffered and continue to suffer and were prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; will sustain loss of earnings and earning capacity, and/or have incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy, and counseling.
- 88. Defendants, each of them, by actions and omissions as alleged herein directly and proximately caused the damages set for forth in this Complaint.
- 89. As a direct and approximate result of the Defendants' negligence, Plaintiffs have suffered injuries and/or severe emotional distress in an amount in excess of Fifteen Thousand

| Dollars (\$15,000.00).

- 90. Defendants, and each of them, acted with fraud, oppression, and/or malice toward Plaintiffs, exhibited an intention and willingness to injure Plaintiffs and/or a conscious disregard for the rights and safety of the Plaintiffs, and Defendants should be punished and made an example of by imposition of punitive or exemplary damages in an amount in excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00).
- 91. As a result of Defendants' conduct, as set forth herein, Plaintiffs have been required to retain the services of an attorney, and, as a direct, natural, and foreseeable consequence thereof, have been damaged thereby, and are entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

VI.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

(Negligent Failure to Warn, Train, or Educate – As Against Defendants USAG, BROWN'S GYM, WAROE And All Named DOES and ROES)

- 92. Plaintiffs reallege each and every allegation contained in the preceding and subsequent paragraphs, and by this reference incorporates said paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 93. Defendants owed Plaintiffs a duty to take reasonable protective measures to protect Plaintiffs and other minor participants and members from the risk of sexual, physical, psychological, and emotional abuse by GRAY by properly warning, training, or educating Plaintiffs and others about how to avoid such a risk.
- 94. Defendants breached their duty to take reasonable protective measures to protect Plaintiffs and other minor participants and members from the risk of child sexual, physical, psychological, and emotional abuse by GRAY, such as the failure to properly warn, train or educate Plaintiffs and other minor participants and members about how to avoid such a particular risk that GRAY posed of sexual misconduct.
- 95. Defendants breached their duty to take reasonable protective measures to protect Plaintiffs and other minor participants and members from the risk child sexual, physical, psychological, and emotional abuse by GRAY, by failing to supervise and stop employees of

Defendants, including GRAY, from committing wrongful sexual acts with minors, including Plaintiffs.

- 96. As a result of the above-described conduct, Plaintiffs have suffered and continue to suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress including embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliations, and loss of enjoyment of life; have suffered and continue to suffer and were prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; will sustain loss of earnings and earning capacity, and/or have incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy, and counseling.
- 97. Defendants, each of them, by actions and omissions as alleged herein directly and proximately caused the damages set for forth in this Complaint.
- 98. As a direct and approximate result of the Defendants' negligence, Plaintiffs have suffered injuries and/or severe emotional distress in an amount in excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00).
- 99. Defendants, and each of them, acted with fraud, oppression, and/or malice toward Plaintiffs, exhibited an intention and willingness to injure Plaintiffs and/or a conscious disregard for the rights and safety of the Plaintiffs, and Defendants should be punished and made an example of by imposition of punitive or exemplary damages in an amount in excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00).
- 100. As a result of Defendants' conduct, as set forth herein, Plaintiffs have been required to retain the services of an attorney, and, as a direct, natural, and foreseeable consequence thereof, have been damaged thereby, and are entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

VII.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Negligent Hiring/Retention/Supervision – As Against Defendants USAG, BROWN'S GYM, WAROE And All Named DOES and ROES)

101. Plaintiffs reallege each and every allegation contained in the preceding and subsequent paragraphs, and by this reference incorporates said paragraphs as though fully set

forth herein.

102. By virtue of Plaintiffs' special relationship with Defendants, and Defendants' relation to GRAY, Defendants owed Plaintiffs a duty to provide reasonable supervision of GRAY, to use reasonable care in investigating GRAY's background, and to provide adequate warning to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' family, and minor participants and members of GRAY's dangerous propensities and unfitness. As an organization responsible for, and entrusted with, the welfare of minor children, USAG, BROWN'S GYM and WAROE had a duty to protect, supervise, and monitor both the Plaintiffs from being preyed upon by sexual predators, and to supervise and monitor GRAY such that he would not be placed in seclusion with minor children, including the Plaintiffs.

- 103. As representatives of USAG and BROWN'S GYM, where many of the participants and members thereof are vulnerable minors entrusted to USAG and BROWN'S GYM, Defendants' agents expressly and implicitly represented that coaches and staff, including GRAY, were not a sexual, physical, or psychological threat to children and others who would fall under GRAY's influence, control, direction, and care.
- 104. Defendants, by and through their respective agents, servants, and employees, knew or had reason to know of GRAY's dangerous and exploitive propensities and that GRAY was an unfit agent. Despite such knowledge, Defendants negligently failed to supervise GRAY in his position of trust and authority as a coach and authority figure over children, where he was able to commit wrongful acts of sexual, physical, and psychological misconduct against Plaintiffs. Defendants failed to provide reasonable supervision of GRAY, failed to use reasonable care in investigating GRAY, and failed to provide adequate warning to Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' family of GRAY's dangerous propensities and unfitness. Defendants further failed to take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of minors, including Plaintiffs, from molestation and sexual, physical, psychological, and emotional abuse.
- 105. At no time during the periods of time alleged did Defendants have in place a reasonable system or procedure to investigate, supervise and monitor the coaches or staff, including GRAY, to prevent pre-sexual grooming, sexual molestation, and sexual, physical,

psychological, and emotional abuse of children, nor did they implement a system or procedure to oversee or monitor conduct toward minors and others in Defendants' care.

- 106. Defendants were aware or had reason to be aware of how vulnerable children were to sexual grooming, molestation and abuse by teachers, coaches, and other persons of authority within Defendants' entities.
- 107. Defendants were put on notice, knew, and had reason to know that GRAY had previously engaged and was continuing to engage in unlawful sexual conduct with minors, and had committed other felonies, for his own personal sexual gratification, and that it was foreseeable that he was engaging, or would engage in illicit sexual activities with Plaintiffs, and others, under the cloak of the authority, confidence, and trust, bestowed upon him through Defendants.
- 108. Defendants were placed on actual or constructive notice that GRAY had molested other minors and participants and members during his employment with Defendants. Defendants were informed of molestations of minors committed by GRAY prior to Plaintiffs' sexual, physical, and psychological abuse, and of conduct by GRAY that would put a reasonable person on notice of such propensity to molest and sexually, physically, psychologically, and emotionally abuse children.
- 109. Even though Defendants knew or had reason to know of these illicit sexual activities by GRAY, Defendants did not reasonably investigate, supervise, or monitor GRAY to ensure the safety of the minor participants and members.
 - 110. Defendants' conduct was a breach of their duties to Plaintiffs.
- 111. Defendants, and each of them, breached their duty to Plaintiffs by, inter alia, by failing to adequately monitor and supervise GRAY and stop GRAY from committing sexual acts with minors including Plaintiffs.
- 112. As a result of the above-described conduct, Plaintiffs have suffered and continue to suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress including embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliations, and loss of enjoyment of life; have suffered and continue to suffer and were prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; will

sustain loss of earnings and earning capacity, and/or have incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy, and counseling.

- 113. Defendants, each of them, by actions and omissions as alleged herein directly and proximately caused the damages set for forth in this Complaint.
- 114. As a direct and approximate result of the Defendants' negligence, Plaintiffs have suffered injuries and/or severe emotional distress in an amount in excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00).
- Plaintiffs, exhibited an intention and willingness to injure Plaintiffs and/or a conscious disregard for the rights and safety of the Plaintiffs, and Defendants should be punished and made an example of by imposition of punitive or exemplary damages in an amount in excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00).
- 116. As a result of Defendants' conduct, as set forth herein, Plaintiffs have been required to retain the services of an attorney, and, as a direct, natural, and foreseeable consequence thereof, have been damaged thereby, and are entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

VIII.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Vicarious Liability/Respondeat Superior – As Against Defendant BROWN'S GYM And All Named DOES and ROES)

- 117. Plaintiffs reallege each and every allegation contained in the preceding and subsequent paragraphs, and by this reference incorporates said paragraphs as though fully set forth herein
- 118. That employers, masters and principals are vicariously liable for the torts committed by their employees, servants and agents if the tort occurs while the employee, servant or agent was acting in the course and scope of employment.
- 119. That at all times mentioned herein, GRAY was an employee of Defendant BROWN'S GYM and was acting within the course and scope of his employment with Defendant BROWN'S GYM.

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- 120. Based on GRAY's history, and considering the nature and scope of his employment, it was reasonably foreseeable to BROWN'S GYM, that GRAY would sexually groom, molest, and abuse Plaintiffs.
- That as GRAY's employer, Defendant BROWN'S GYM is vicariously liable for all of GRAY's actions, omissions and inactions performed within the course and scope of his agency, ostensible agency, joint venture, contractual or employment relationship with Defendant BROWN'S GYM.
- 122. That as a direct and proximate result of the acts of Defendants, and each of them, Plaintiffs are entitled to a judgment against Defendant BROWN'S GYM stating that it is vicariously liable for all of GRAY's actions as set forth herein.
- As a result of the above-described conduct, Plaintiffs have suffered and continue to suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress including embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliations, and loss of enjoyment of life; have suffered and continue to suffer and were prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; will sustain loss of earnings and earning capacity, and/or have incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy, and counseling.
- 124. Defendants, each of them, by actions and omissions as alleged herein directly and proximately caused the damages set for forth in this Complaint.
- 125. As a direct and approximate result of the Defendants' negligence, Plaintiffs have suffered injuries and/or severe emotional distress in an amount in excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00).
- 126. Defendants, and each of them, acted with fraud, oppression, and/or malice toward Plaintiffs, exhibited an intention and willingness to injure Plaintiffs and/or a conscious disregard for the rights and safety of the Plaintiffs, and Defendants should be punished and made an example of by imposition of punitive or exemplary damages in an amount in excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00).
 - As a result of Defendants' conduct, as set forth herein, Plaintiffs have been 127.

required to retain the services of an attorney, and, as a direct, natural, and foreseeable consequence thereof, have been damaged thereby, and are entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

IX.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Negligent Infliction Of Emotional Distress – As Against Defendants USAG, BROWN'S GYM, WAROE And All Named DOES and ROES)

- 128. Plaintiffs reallege each and every allegation contained in the preceding and subsequent paragraphs, and by this reference incorporates said paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 129. The conduct of GRAY toward Plaintiffs, as described herein, was outrageous and extreme.
- 130. A reasonable person would not expect or tolerate the sexual grooming, molestation, and sexual, physical, psychological, and emotional abuse of Plaintiffs by GRAY, and Defendants' knowledge and callous indifference thereof. Plaintiffs had great trust, faith, and confidence in in Defendants, which, by virtue of GRAY's and Defendants' wrongful conduct, turned to fear.
- 131. Defendants' conduct toward Plaintiffs, as described herein, was outrageous and extreme.
- 132. A reasonable person would not expect or tolerate Defendants putting GRAY, who was known to Defendants to have physically and sexually groomed, molested and abused other participants and members, in a position of care of Plaintiffs and other minor participants and members, which enabled GRAY to have access to minor participants and members so that he could commit wrongful sexual acts, including the conduct described herein, with minors, including Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs had great trust, faith, and confidence in Defendants, which, by virtue of Defendants' wrongful conduct, turned to fear.
- 133. A reasonable person would not expect or tolerate the Defendants and their agents to be incapable of supervising and/or stopping participants and members of Defendants, including GRAY, from committing wrongful sexual acts with minors, including Plaintiffs, or to supervise

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GRAY. Plaintiffs had great trust, faith, and confidence in Defendants, which, by virtue of Defendants' wrongful conduct, turned to fear.

- 134. Defendants' conduct described herein was negligent and malicious and done for the purpose of causing or with the substantial certainty that Plaintiffs would suffer humiliation, mental anguish, and emotional and physical distress.
- As a result of the above-described conduct, Plaintiffs have suffered and continue 135. to suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress including embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliation, and loss of enjoyment of life; have suffered and continue to suffer and were prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; will sustain loss of earnings and earning capacity, and/or have incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy, and counseling.
- 136. Defendants, each of them, by actions and omissions as alleged herein directly and proximately caused the damages set for forth in this Complaint.
- 137. As a direct and approximate result of the Defendants' negligence, Plaintiffs have suffered injuries and/or severe emotional distress in an amount in excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00).
- Defendants, and each of them, acted with fraud, oppression, and/or malice toward 138. Plaintiffs, exhibited an intention and willingness to injure Plaintiffs and/or a conscious disregard for the rights and safety of the Plaintiffs, and Defendants should be punished and made an example of by imposition of punitive or exemplary damages in an amount in excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00).
- As a result of Defendants' conduct, as set forth herein, Plaintiffs have been required 139. to retain the services of an attorney, and, as a direct, natural, and foreseeable consequence thereof, have been damaged thereby, and are entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

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X.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Breach of Fiduciary Duty - As Against Defendants USAG, BROWN'S GYM, WAROE And All Named DOES and ROES)

- 140. Plaintiffs reallege each and every allegation contained in the preceding and subsequent paragraphs, and by this reference incorporates said paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 141. Defendants owed a fiduciary duty to Plaintiffs that arose out of the special relationship founded upon trust and confidence between Plaintiffs and Defendants. A fiduciary duty was formed because Defendants actively promoted itself as providing a safe and nurturing environment for its gymnasts and intended that Plaintiffs believe this to be true so as to participate in Defendants' programs.
- 142. Plaintiffs believed and trusted that USAG, and its member institutions, including BROWN'S GYM, would employ skilled, trained, competent, and ethical coaches and trainers, who would carry out said coaching and training without sexual, physical, and psychological abuse, and molestation.
- 143. Plaintiffs believed and trusted that Defendants would inform Plaintiffs and the public of any allegations and concerns relating to sexual, physical, and psychological abuse, and molestation committed by Defendants' coaches and trainers.
- 144. Defendants owed Plaintiffs the highest duty to protect them and other gymnasts from sexual predator coaches and trainers like GRAY.
- 145. Defendants breached its fiduciary duty to Plaintiffs by, among other things, creating a hostile and sexually charged environment, failing to protect them from sexual predators such as GRAY, and failing to warn them regarding same.
- 146. Defendants, each of them, by actions and omissions as alleged herein directly and proximately caused the damages set for forth in this Complaint.
- 147. As a direct, proximate, and foreseeable consequence of these breaches, Plaintiffs sustained significant damages, including, without limitation, loss of opportunities, economic

injuries, and other direct and consequential damages. Plaintiffs are entitled to damages in an amount to be determined at trial, plus prejudgment interest, and appropriate equitable relief, as directed by the Court.

148. As a result of Defendants' conduct, as set forth herein, Plaintiffs have been required to retain the services of an attorney, and, as a direct, natural, and foreseeable consequence thereof, have been damaged thereby, and are entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

XI.

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Breach Of The Implied Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing - As Against Defendants USAG, BROWN'S GYM, WAROE And All Named DOES and ROES)

- 149. Plaintiffs reallege each and every allegation contained in the preceding and subsequent paragraphs, and by this reference incorporates said paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 150. At all times material hereto, a contractual relationship existed between Plaintiffs and Defendants. Defendants' mission statement, rules, policies, and procedures governing situations such as this one, the terms of which were unilaterally promulgated by Defendants, comprise the contract.
- 151. Pursuant to that contract, Defendants were required to act in accordance with their mission statement, rules, policies, and procedures, in resolving complaints of misconduct, in the investigation of those complaints, and in the process of adjudicating complaints of sexual misconduct.
- 152. The promises set forth in Defendants' mission statement, rules, policies, and procedures, are and were supported by valid consideration.
- 153. Plaintiffs fully complied with all their contractual obligations, including payment of membership dues and compliance with membership requirements.
- 154. Plaintiffs had a justifiable expectation to receive certain benefits consistent with the spirit of the contract, and that USAG, and its membership institutions, including BROWN'S GYM, would employ skilled, trained, competent, and ethical coaches and trainers, who would

carry out said coaching and training without sexual assault, sexual, physical, and psychological abuse, and molestation.

- 155. Defendants owed a duty to Plaintiffs that arose out of the special relationship founded upon trust and confidence between Plaintiffs and Defendants. A special relationship was formed because Defendants actively promoted itself as providing a safe and nurturing environment for its gymnasts and intended that Plaintiffs believe this to be true so as to participate in Defendants' programs.
- 156. Because of the special relationship between Plaintiffs and Defendants, Plaintiffs had a justifiable expectation that Defendants would not hide material facts and information about GRAY's past, and his deviant sexual behavior and physically and psychologically abusive propensities. Additionally, that Defendants would inform, warn, and institute appropriate protective measures to safeguard minors that were reasonably likely to encounter GRAY.
- 157. Defendants willfully and deliberately refused to notify, give adequate warning, and implement appropriate safeguards, thereby creating the peril that ultimately damaged Plaintiffs and that was direct violation of, and unfaithful to, the spirit of the contract.
- 158. Defendants, each of them, by actions and omissions as alleged herein directly and proximately caused the damages set for forth in this Complaint.
- 159. As a direct, proximate, and foreseeable consequence of these breaches, Plaintiffs sustained significant damages, including, without limitation, loss of opportunities, economic injuries, and other direct and consequential damages. Plaintiffs are entitled to damages in an amount to be determined at trial, plus prejudgment interest, and appropriate equitable relief, as directed by the Court.
- 160. Defendants, and each of them, acted with fraud, oppression, and/or malice toward Plaintiffs, exhibited an intention and willingness to injure Plaintiffs and/or a conscious disregard for the rights and safety of the Plaintiffs, and Defendants should be punished and made an example of by imposition of punitive or exemplary damages in an amount in excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00).

161. As a result of Defendants' conduct, as set forth herein, Plaintiffs have been required to retain the services of an attorney, and, as a direct, natural, and foreseeable consequence thereof, have been damaged thereby, and are entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

XII.

NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Breach of Contract - As Against Defendants USAG, BROWN'S GYM, WAROE And All Named DOES and ROES)

- 162. Plaintiffs reallege each and every allegation contained in the preceding and subsequent paragraphs, and by this reference incorporates said paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 163. At all times material hereto, a contractual relationship existed between Plaintiffs and Defendants. Defendants' mission statement, rules, policies, and procedures governing situations such as this one, the terms of which were unilaterally promulgated by Defendants, comprise the contract.
- 164. Pursuant to that contract, Defendants were required to act in accordance with their applicable mission statement, rules, policies, and procedures, in resolving complaints of misconduct, in the investigation of those complaints, and in the process of adjudicating complaints of sexual misconduct.
- 165. The promises set forth in the contract, among other mission statement, rules, policies, and procedures, are and were supported by valid consideration.
- 166. Plaintiffs fully complied with all their contractual obligations, including payment of membership dues and compliance with membership requirements.
- 167. Based on the aforementioned facts and circumstances, Defendants materially breached their contractual obligations to Plaintiffs by, among other things:
 - a. failing to use reasonable care to protect participants and members from known or foreseeable dangers;
 - b. failing to protect participants and members, and provide adequate supervision;

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- failing to ensure that any direction given to participants and members is c. lawful, and that its coaches and employees act fairly, responsible and respectfully towards participants and members;
- d. failing to properly train coaches, staff, and employees so that they are aware of their individual responsibility for creating and maintaining a safe environment;
- failing to review the criminal history of applicants and current employees, e. coaches and staff;
- f. failing to provide diligent supervision over minors;
- failing to act promptly and diligently and not ignore or minimize problems; g. and
- failing to report suspected incidents of child abuse and more specifically h. child sexual abuse (Nev. Rev. Stat. 432B.220, et seq).
- 168. Defendants and each of them had and have a duty to protect participants and members, including Plaintiffs. Defendants were required to, and failed, to provide adequate supervision, and failed to be properly vigilant in seeing that supervision was sufficient.
- 169. Despite having a duty to do so, Defendants failed to adequately train and supervise all staff to create a positive and safe environment, specifically including training to perceive, report and stop inappropriate sexual conduct by its coaches and employees, specifically GRAY, with children.
- 170. Defendants failed to enforce their own rules and regulations designed to protect the health and safety of the participants and members. Further, they failed to adopt and implement safety measures, policies and procedures designed to protect minor children such as Plaintiffs from the sexually exploitive and abusive acts of their coaches and employees such as GRAY.
- 171. As a direct, proximate, and foreseeable consequence of these breaches, Plaintiffs sustained significant damages, including, without limitation, loss of opportunities, economic injuries, and other direct and consequential damages. Plaintiffs are entitled to damages in an amount to be determined at trial, plus prejudgment interest, and appropriate equitable relief, as

1 directed by the Court.

172. As a result of Defendants' conduct, as set forth herein, Plaintiffs have been required to retain the services of an attorney, and, as a direct, natural, and foreseeable consequence thereof, have been damaged thereby, and are entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

XIII.

TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Alter Ego Liability - As Against WAROE)

- 173. Plaintiffs reallege each and every allegation contained in the preceding and subsequent paragraphs, and by this reference incorporates said paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 174. Upon information and belief, Defendant DAYNA WAROE is the alter ego of BROWN'S GYMNASTICS LAS VEGAS, INC. d/b/a BROWN'S GYM.
- 175. Additionally, Defendant WAROE and BROWN'S GYM are all alter egos of each other as each are run, maintained, managed via commingled assets and liabilities and/or influence and governance, unity of interest, and inseparableness that they should be considered as one so as not to sanction a fraud or injustice. In addition, WAROE and BROWN'S GYM were acting as alter egos, as a joint enterprise, common enterprise, single business enterprise, or affiliates and thus are liable pursuant to alter ego, joint enterprise, common enterprise liability, single business enterprise and/or affiliate liability.
- 176. Among other things, Defendant BROWN'S GYM was and is influenced and governed by Defendant WAROE, there is a unity of interest and ownership that one is inseparable from the other, the corporation was improperly capitalized, the corporation's assets were commingled with personal assets, and adherence to the corporate fiction of a separate entity would, under the circumstances, sanction a fraud or promote injustice. They are all one and should be treated as one under alter ego, joint enterprise, common enterprise liability, single business enterprise and/or affiliate liability.
- 177. Accordingly, Defendant WAROE is liable for the debts of BROWN'S GYM, including all liability for damages suffered by Plaintiffs, under an alter ego theory.

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PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against Defendants, and each of them, as follows:

- 1. General damages in an amount in an amount in excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars \$15,000.00);
- 2. Compensatory damages in an amount in excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00);
 - 3. Special damages in an amount in excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00);
- 4. Medical and/or incidental expenses incurred and to be incurred in an amount in excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00);
- 5. Defendants, and each of them, acted with fraud, oppression, and/or malice toward Plaintiffs, exhibited an intention and willingness to injure Plaintiffs and/or a conscious disregard for the rights and safety of the Plaintiffs, and Defendants should be punished and made an example of by imposition of punitive or exemplary damages in an amount in excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00);
- 6. Damages for past and future pain, suffering, mental anguish, and loss of enjoyment of life in amount in excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00);
 - 7. For pre- and post-judgment interest as provided by law;
 - 8. Costs of suit, reasonable attorney fees, interest incurred herein;
 - 9. For such other and further relief as is just and proper.

Dated this 19th day of January, 2021.

EGLET ADAMS

/s/ Robert T. Eglet, Esq.
ROBERT T. EGLET, ESQ.
Nevada Bar No. 3402
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Attorneys for Plaintiffs

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiffs, by and through their attorneys of record, **EGLET ADAMS**, hereby demand a jury trial of all of the issues in the above matter.

Dated this 19th day of January, 2021.

EGLET ADAMS

/s/ Robert T. Eglet, Esq.
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