	Case 8:16-cv-01062-JVS-JCG Document 1	-iled 06/08/16	Page 1 of 28	Page ID #:1
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JURISDICTION AND VENUE

The jurisdiction of this Court with respect to the copyright infringement
 claims is based upon 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a) in that the controversy arises under
 the Copyright Act and Copyright Revision Act of 1976 (17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.*), which
 is within the exclusive jurisdiction of federal courts pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331.

2. This Court has general personal jurisdiction over Defendants because they
may be found within, and conduct systematic and continuous business in, California, as
discussed fully herein.

9 3. This Court has specific personal jurisdiction over Defendants given the
10 systematic and continuous business contacts of both corporate and individual Defendants
11 in California with respect to the Infringing Works (defined below), evidenced by the
12 connections discussed below, which, collectively, prove purposeful availment to
13 California.

4. Plaintiffs' claims implicate widespread, pervasive infringement of a
copyright owned by HaloSongs, Inc. ("HaloSongs"), Martin Harrington ("Harrington")
and Thomas Leonard ("Leonard"), individuals who reside in California. Among other
things, and as explained more fully below:

18 5. Defendants offered the Infringing Works for sale in California, and/or
19 authorized the same.

20

6.

Defendants advertised the Infringing Works to California residents.

7. Defendants benefited substantially from the sale of a substantial number of
copies of the Infringing Works in California.

8. Defendants licensed and/or authorized the licensing of the Infringing Works
with California companies and for exploitation in California, including but not limited the
licensing of the Infringing Works in at least one major motion picture just recently
released.

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9. A substantial number of purchasers of the Infringing Works are California
28 residents.

1 10. Defendants are, at a minimum, constructively aware of their continuous and
 2 substantial commercial interactions with California residents.

3 11. A coordinated plan existed among all Defendants to distribute the Infringing
4 Works throughout the U.S., including California.

5 12. Defendants actively participated in and/or authorized the unauthorized and
6 unlawful manufacture of the Infringing Works.

7 13. Defendants actively participated in the unauthorized and unlawful
8 distribution of the Infringing Works to California residents.

9 14. Edward Christopher Sheeran p/k/a Ed Sheeran ("Sheeran") has made, and
10 he and other Defendants have authorized, organized, and promoted, performances of the
11 Infringing Works numerous times in California.

12 15. Defendants have generated touring revenues from the unauthorized and
13 unlawful exploitation of the Infringing Works, including receiving substantial revenue
14 from such exploitation in California.

15 16. Defendants, individually and collectively, have generated substantial
16 revenue from the exploitation of the Infringing Works in California.

17 17. Sheeran and John "Johnny" McDaid ("McDaid") have traveled to California
18 on business related to the Infringing Works.

19 18. Sheeran and McDaid frequently visit California, and each lived in Los
20 Angeles while working on the album *Multiply*, containing the Infringing Works.

21 19. Defendants have knowingly and willfully exploited the Infringing Works in
22 California, and the harm resulting from such infringement was knowingly directed at
23 HaloSongs, Harrington, and Leonard, individuals who reside in this District.

24 20. California has a considerable interest in adjudicating disputes wherein
25 California residents are the target of the harm resulting from exploitation of infringing
26 works.

27 21. The Defendants herein, who are primarily based out of the U.K., facilitated
28 the infringing acts occurring in the U.S., and actively participated in a scheme aiding,

1 inducing, and contributing to copyright infringement in the U.S. Furthermore, on 2 information and belief, these companies have also entered into agreements with California 3 companies, or companies that have a significant presence in California, with the intention 4 that such contracts will be performed in California.

5 22. For those Defendants primarily based out of the U.K., given their willful and knowing exploitations of the Infringing Works in California, each could certainly 6 7 reasonably anticipate being haled into a court in the U.S., and California specifically. 8 Thus, jurisdiction could also be exercised constitutionally in this Court pursuant to Rule 9 4(k)(2).

10 23. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 and 1400(a) 11 because Defendants are subject to personal jurisdiction in this Judicial District and have 12 committed unlawful acts of infringement in this Judicial District.

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COMPLAINT

24. This is an action for willful copyright infringement in which Sheeran and 14 15 McDaid, the credited writers of the international hit song "Photograph," among others, copied, and exploited, without authorization or credit, the work of other active, 16 17 professional songwriters, on a breathtaking scale, unabashedly taking credit for the work of these songwriters by claiming it to be their own. This copying is, in many instances, 18 19 verbatim, note-for-note copying, makes up nearly one half of "Photograph," and raises 20 this case to the unusual level of strikingly similar copying. While Sheeran, McDaid, and the other Defendants received career-defining accolades, awards, and a fortune for "Photograph," the true writers of much of "Photograph" received nothing, and, following 22 23 notice and a failure to cure, bring this action to vindicate their rights for the deliberate 24 taking of their work, to recover damages, and to ask, as the law provides, that Defendants 25 be required to disgorge their ill-gotten profits attributable to their infringement.

26 25. HaloSongs, Harrington, and Leonard (collectively, "Plaintiffs"), by their 27 attorneys, for their Complaint against Sheeran, Ed Sheeran Limited, Nathan Cable Touring LLP, McDaid, Sony/ATV Songs LLC, Sony/ATV Music Publishing (UK) 28

Limited, Polar Patrol Music Limited d/b/a Polar Patrol Music Publishing, Warner Music
 UK Ltd., Warner Music Group Corporation d/b/a Asylum Records, and Atlantic
 Recording Corporation d/b/a Atlantic (collectively, "Defendants"), for willful copyright
 infringement, further allege, upon knowledge as to its own acts and upon information and
 belief as to the acts of others, as follows:

NATURE OF THIS ACTION THE PARTIES

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8 26. Plaintiff HaloSongs is a Delaware corporation, and is co-owner of the legal
9 and equitable copyright in the musical composition "Amazing" via written assignment
10 from Leonard, who is a co-writer of "Amazing" with Harrington. Plaintiff Harrington is
11 the sole shareholder of HaloSongs. HaloSongs is located at 28382 Constellation Road,
12 Valencia, CA, 91355.

13 27. Plaintiff Harrington, an individual, is a co-owner of the legal and equitable
14 copyright in the musical composition and sound recording "Amazing," which he co-wrote
15 with Leonard. Harrington is a resident of San Diego, California.

16 28. Plaintiff Leonard, an individual, is a co-owner of the legal and equitable
17 copyright in the musical composition and sound recording "Amazing." Leonard is a
18 resident of Orange County, California.

19 29. Defendant Sheeran, an individual, is a writer and performer of the infringing composition and sound recording "Photograph" (collectively "Infringing Works," unless 20 21 otherwise noted), and co-owner of the copyright of the infringing composition "Photograph." Sheeran has offered for sale, and caused and authorized others to offer for 22 sale, the Infringing Works in California. Sheeran has sold, licensed, authorized for sale, 23 24 distribution and license, and benefited from the sale, distribution, and licensing of, the Infringing Works in California. Sheeran has performed the Infringing Works numerous 25 26 times in California. Upon information and belief, Sheeran lived in Los Angeles while working on the album Multiply, containing the infringing composition and sound 27 recording "Photograph." Upon information and belief, Sheeran conducts systematic and 28

continuous business in this District, and has generated substantial revenue from the
 exploitation of the Infringing Works in California. Upon further information and belief,
 Sheeran is a resident of Suffolk, England.

4 30. Defendant Ed Sheeran Limited is a United Kingdom ("U.K.") entity with its principal place of business at 41 Great Portland Street, London, London, W1W 7LA, 5 United Kingdom. Upon information and belief, Ed Sheeran Limited organizes and 6 7 negotiates Mr. Sheeran's touring arrangements. Mr. Sheeran is the sole shareholder of Ed Sheeran Limited. Upon information and belief, Ed Sheeran Limited has arranged for the 8 9 performance of the Infringing Works numerous times in California. Upon information and belief, Ed Sheeran Limited conducts systematic and continuous business in this 10 11 District, and has generated substantial revenue from the exploitation of the Infringing 12 Works in California, including but not limited to the public performances of "Photograph" in California. Upon further information and belief, Ed Sheeran Limited entered into 13 contracts with other Defendants which authorized and caused widespread exploitation of 14 15 the Infringing Works in the United States, and specifically in California, with a significant 16 amount of the harm directed to California and its residents.

17 31. Defendant Nathan Cable Touring LLP (Ed Sheeran Limited and Nathan Cable Touring LLP, together are "Ed Sheeran Ltd.") is a U.K. entity with its principal 18 place of business at 41 Great Portland Street, London, London, W1W 7LA, United 19 Kingdom. Upon information and belief, Nathan Cable Touring LLP organizes and 20 21 negotiates Mr. Sheeran's touring arrangements. Upon information and belief, Sheeran is 22 an officer and LLP designated member of Nathan Cable Touring LLP. Upon information 23 and belief, Nathan Cable Touring LLP has arranged for the performance of the Infringing Works numerous times in California. Upon information and belief, Nathan Cable Touring 24 LLP conducts systematic and continuous business in this District, and has generated 25 substantial revenue from organizing and negotiating the public performances of 26 "Photograph" in California. Upon further information and belief, Nathan Cable Touring 27 LLP entered into contracts with other Defendants which authorized and caused public 28

performance of "Photograph" in the United States, and specifically in California, with a
 significant amount of the harm directed to California and its residents.

32. 3 Defendant McDaid, an individual, upon information and belief, is a writer of the infringing composition "Photograph." McDaid is a songwriter signed with Defendant 4 5 Polar Patrol. McDaid has offered for sale and license, and caused others to offer for sale and license, the Infringing Works in California. McDaid has sold, licensed, and authorized 6 the sale and license of "Photograph" and benefited from the sale and license of 7 "Photograph" in California. Upon information and belief, McDaid is a resident of the 8 U.K., but spends a substantial amount of time in this District, and maintains a home in 9 Malibu, California. Upon information and belief, McDaid lived in Los Angeles for some 10 time while working on the album Multiply, containing the infringing composition 11 12 "Photograph." Upon information and belief, McDaid conducts systematic and continuous business in this District, and has generated substantial revenue from the exploitation of 13 the Infringing Works in California. 14

15 33. Defendant Sony/ATV Songs LLC ("Sony/ATV Songs") is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 550 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 16 17 10022. Upon information and belief, Sony/ATV Songs serves as music publisher and has exploited the infringing composition and sound recording "Photograph." Sony/ATV 18 Songs is responsible for coordinating, among other things, the marketing, promotion, and 19 sale and license of the musical composition "Photograph" in the United States. Upon 20 21 further information and belief, Sony/ATV Songs entered into contracts which caused widespread exploitation of the Infringing Works in the United States, including licenses 22 for exploitation of "Photograph" in California. Upon further information and belief, 23 Sony/ATV Songs can be served via its registered agent The Prentice-Hall Corporation 24 System, Inc. at 2711 Centerville Road Suite 400, Wilmington, DE 19808. Upon 25 26 information and belief, Sony/ATV Songs conducts systematic and continuous business in 27 this District, including operating an office in this District, and has generated substantial revenue from the exploitation of "Photograph" in California. 28

34. Defendant Sony/ATV Music Publishing (UK) Limited ("Sony/ATV UK") is 1 a U.K. company with its principal place of business located at 30 Golden Square, London, 2 W1F 9LD, United Kingdom. Upon information and belief, Sony/ATV UK is an affiliate 3 4 of U.S. based Sony/ATV Music Publishing, which maintains offices in this District at 5 10635 Santa Monica Blvd #300, Los Angeles, CA 90025. Sony/ATV UK serves as music publisher and has exploited the infringing composition "Photograph." Sony/ATV UK is 6 7 responsible for coordinating, among other things, the marketing, licensing, promotion, 8 and sale of the Infringing Works in the United States. Upon information and belief, 9 Sony/ATV UK enters into contractual relationships with residents of California. Upon information and belief, Sony/ATV UK conducts systematic and continuous business in 10 this District, and has generated substantial revenue from the exploitation of the Infringing 11 Works in California. 12

13 35. Defendant Polar Patrol Music Limited d/b/a Polar Patrol Music Publishing ("Polar Patrol") is a U.K. company with its principal place of business located at 55 14 15 Loudoun Road, St. John's Wood, London, NW8 0DL, United Kingdom. Polar Patrol is 16 the co-owner of the copyright of, serves as music publisher for, and has exploited the infringing composition "Photograph." Upon information and belief, Polar Patrol enters 17 into contractual and licensing relationships with residents of California with respect to 18 "Photograph" and other of its musical compositions. Upon information and belief, Polar 19 20 Patrol is responsible for coordinating, among other things, the marketing, promotion, sale 21 and licensing of its share of the infringing musical composition "Photograph" in California and in the United States, and has specifically entered into licenses for the 22 exploitation of "Photograph" in California. Upon information and belief, Polar Patrol 23 conducts systematic and continuous business in this District, including but not limited to 24 entering into contracts and agreements with California companies, which are to be 25 26 performed in California, and has generated substantial revenue from those contracts, the 27 exploitation of "Photograph," and the exploitation of other of its musical compositions in California. One such contract involves, in just the last few weeks, an acquisition, in whole 28

or in part, by a California based company, although Polar Patrol has remained a separately
 distinct corporation.

Defendant Warner Music UK Ltd. ("Warner UK") is a U.K. affiliate of 3 36. 4 Warner Music Group with its principal place of business at 90 High Holborn, Seventh 5 Floor, London, WC1V 6XX, United Kingdom. Warner UK is the owner of the copyright of the infringing sound recording "Photograph." Warner UK is the music label 6 7 responsible for coordinating, among other things, the production, manufacture, distribution, marketing, promotion, and exploitation, of the Infringing Works. Upon 8 9 information and belief, Warner UK enters into contractual relationships in, and with residents of, California. Warner UK authorized the production and distribution of the 10 Infringing Works throughout the United States, and specifically, on information and 11 12 belief, authorized its affiliated entities, Asylum and Atlantic, to distribute the Infringing Works in California. Warner UK has therefore offered for sale, and caused others to offer 13 for sale, the Infringing Works in California. Warner UK has sold, and benefited from the 14 15 sale of, the Infringing Works in California. Warner UK entered into contracts with other 16 Defendants which caused widespread exploitation of the Infringing Works in the United States, including California, with a significant amount of the harm directed to California 17 and its residents. Upon information and belief, Warner UK is part of the Warner Music 18 Group Corporation, a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 1633 19 Broadway, New York, NY 10019, and with offices in Los Angeles County at 3400 W 20 21 Olive Ave, Burbank, CA 91505.

37. Defendant Warner Music Group Corporation d/b/a Asylum Records
("Asylum") is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business located at 1633
Broadway, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10019. Asylum is owned by Warner Music Group
Corporation, which maintains offices at 3400 West Olive Avenue, Burbank, CA 91505.
Asylum is a music label responsible for coordinating, among other things, the production,
manufacture, distribution, marketing, and promotion, of the Infringing Works in the
United States. Asylum has offered for sale, and caused others to offer for sale, the

Infringing Works in California. Asylum has sold, and benefited from the sale of, the
 Infringing Works in California. Upon information and belief, Asylum conducts
 systematic and continuous business in this District, and has generated substantial revenue
 from the exploitation of the Infringing Works in California. Asylum can be served via its
 registered agent CT Corporation System at 818 West Seventh Street, Suite 930, Los
 Angeles, CA 90017.

7 38. Defendant Atlantic Recording Corporation d/b/a Atlantic ("Atlantic") is a 8 Delaware corporation with its principal place of business located at 1633 Broadway, New 9 York, NY 10019. Atlantic is a wholly owned subsidiary of Warner Music Group Corporation, which maintains offices at 3400 West Olive Avenue, Burbank, CA 91505. 10 11 Atlantic is a record label responsible for coordinating, among other things, the production, 12 manufacture, distribution, marketing, and promotion, of the Infringing Works in the United States. Atlantic has offered for sale, and caused others to offer for sale, the 13 Infringing Works in California. Atlantic has sold, and benefited from the sale of, the 14 15 Infringing Works in California. Upon information and belief, Atlantic conducts 16 systematic and continuous business in this District, and has generated substantial revenue 17 from the exploitation of the Infringing Works in California. Atlantic can be served via its registered agent CT Corporation System at 818 West Seventh Street, Suite 930, Los 18 19 Angeles, CA 90017.

FACTS RELEVANT TO COMPLAINT

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Background

1. Background of Harrington and Leonard

39. Harrington is a British songwriter, record producer, and music publisher.
Over the past 16 years, Harrington has co-written and produced multiple international hit
songs for recording artists in the pop, adult, Latin, and dance genres.

40. Harrington's first ever release was "What Took You So Long," a No. 1
hit single in the U.K. for former Spice Girl Emma Bunton. The song peaked at No. 1
on the U.K. Singles Chart and No. 6 on the European Hot 100 Singles. Harrington

received a Chart Newcomers award for being one of the youngest songwriters to have
 a No. 1 song in the U.K.

41. Subsequently, Harrington wrote the U.K. and European No. 1 song "Let's
Dance" by the boyband 5ive and co-wrote five songs from their No. 1 album *Kingsize*.

5 Additionally, Harrington wrote Kylie Minogue's "Love at First Sight" on 42. her album Fever, which peaked at No. 3 on the Billboard 200 Chart and No. 1 on the 6 7 U.K. Albums Chart. "Love at First Sight" was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Dance Recording, was nominated for an Ivor Novello Award (Most Performed 8 9 Work Category), and won an ASCAP award in 2002. The single was a hit on U.K. and European radio, rising as high as No. 2 on the U.K. Singles Chart. The song also 10 peaked at 23 on the Billboard Hot 100, which introduced Harrington to the U.S. Market 11 12 as a songwriter.

43. Harrington produced and co-wrote many songs on Natalie Imbruglia's
album *Counting Down the Days*. The album entered the U.K. Albums Chart at No.
1. Harrington co-produced the album's lead single "Shiver," which reached No. 8 in
the U.K. Singles Chart, and spent five consecutive weeks at No. 1 on the U.K. Airplay
chart. "Shiver" was the most played song on U.K. Radio for 2005.

44. Stevie Wonder, Celine Dion, Thalia, Prince Royce, Westlife, Sonique, 5ive,
Busted, Atomic Kitten, Flipsyde, Lee Ryan, Simon Webbe, Echosmith, and Blue have all
released songs that were written or produced by Harrington or published by HaloSongs.

45. Leonard is a successful American singer, songwriter, and multiinstrumentalist.

46. Leonard's writing credits include, "Safest Place to Hide" by Backstreet
Boys, "You Know Me" by George Huff (No. 32 on *Billboard*'s Gospel Songs chart),
"Thank You" by Charice, as well as multiple songs by Zero 7, Bo Bruce, and Echosmith.

26

2. The Formation of HaloSongs

47. Harrington formed HaloSongs in an attempt to build a successful music
28 publishing company, and in order to write and co-write songs with writers signed to

HaloSongs for popular recording artists to release. Harrington intended to develop
 talented songwriters and help them achieve commercial success.

48. Leonard was a writer signed to HaloSongs. Leonard assigned to
HaloSongs 50% of musical compositions co-written by Harrington and himself, and
also granted HaloSongs administration rights, for a specified term. Leonard has
assigned 50% of his copyright in the musical composition "Amazing" to HaloSongs,
as well as the non-exclusive right of HaloSongs to pursue this action for infringement.

49. As active, professional songwriters, the misappropriation of Harrington
and Leonard's work, and the work of the writers of HaloSongs, deprives the writers
of the rightful recognition to which the writers are due, while others unfairly build
their publishing portfolio, careers, and a fortune on their wrongful misappropriation.
As discussed fully below, that is precisely what has happened here.

13 50. Indeed, having songs properly licensed and credited is vital for a songwriter, which in turn generates other writing opportunities well into the future. It is particularly 14 15 harmful to active songwriters when a song is unlawfully misappropriated. The damage to 16 a boutique publishing company, like HaloSongs, and the writers associated with it, goes, 17 therefore, well beyond the damage directly associated with not being compensated when their work is used. Being associated with a hit song, like "Photograph," would necessarily 18 generate interest in other songs in the HaloSongs' catalog, and other songs written by 19 20 Harrington and Leonard.

51. Defendants' willful infringement of "Amazing" has harmed HaloSongs,
Harrington, and Leonard because, among other things, Harrington and Leonard were not
properly credited for their contributions to "Photograph." The proper licensing of
"Amazing" for "Photograph" would not have only generated substantial revenues, but it
would have generated international recognition for Harrington and Leonard as co-writers
of a worldwide hit song. Instead, Harrington and Leonard had to sit by and watch
Defendants receive awards, acclaim, and compensation without any of the proper

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recognition being received, as it should have been, by Harrington, Leonard, and
 HaloSongs.

52. In fact, Keith Urban stated in an interview with *Rolling Stone* that he "fell in
love with this song ('Photograph') at Wembley [Stadium], watching everybody in the
audience sing along. The songwriting is just spellbinding."

53. Little did Mr. Urban or the crowd know, they were singing along to the
"Amazing" chorus written by Harrington and Leonard.

54. Furthermore, in just the last week, the major motion picture *Me Before You*was released. Not only is "Photograph" contained within the film, but its presence is
heavily promoted by the movie, with a portion of the very chorus copied by Defendants
contained in two trailers promoting the movie. The trailers are available for view on
YouTube and similar websites.

13 55. Being acknowledged by Mr. Urban and others of his stature, and having
14 music highlighted in a major motion picture, are game changers for the careers of active
15 songwriters. Songwriters are deprived of these opportunities when music is wrongly taken
16 from them, as has happened here.

17

3. Background of "Amazing"

18 56. "Amazing" was written by Harrington and Leonard on May 14, 2009.
19 "Amazing" was finalized, recorded, produced, and mixed by Harrington on June 12,
20 2009. Harrington and Leonard are the sole writers of "Amazing."

57. "Amazing" was registered with Broadcast Music, Inc. ("BMI") on July 29,
2009.

58. A complete application for copyright registrations for the musical
composition and sound recording of "Amazing" has been filed with the United States
Copyright Office, with Copyright Application Case Number 1-3529378721.

26 59. In early January 2011, Harrington was contacted by Ash Howes, who along
27 with Richard "Biff" Stannard, was producing portions of Matt Cardle's upcoming album
28 *Letters*.

60. Mr. Cardle is the winner of the 2010 season of *The X Factor*.

2 61. At the request of Mr. Howes, Harrington submitted a finished and fully
3 mixed recording of "Amazing," among other songs, to Mr. Howes to be considered as a
4 potential song to be covered (i.e., re-recorded) by Mr. Cardle.

62. On or about January 13, 2011, Harrington and Leonard agreed to send to
them the chorus only version of "Amazing," but informed Mr. Howes that Harrington and
Leonard retained all rights to their original version of "Amazing."

63. A few days later, Mr. Stannard emailed Harrington and Leonard and stated
that Mr. Cardle loved the chorus, and asked Harrington and Leonard to send the
multitracks of "Amazing" to Mr. Howes so Mr. Cardle could create a derivative version
of "Amazing" with the same name ("Amazing 2").

12 64. Upon hearing "Amazing 2," Harrington and Leonard immediately
13 recognized that "Amazing 2" copied the entire musical track, chords, chorus melody,
14 chorus lyrics, and structure from their original "Amazing," as well as copying some of
15 Harrington's instrumentation from the original multitracks, including guitars, backing
16 vocals, and keyboards. There is no part of the chorus of the musical composition
17 "Amazing 2" that is not in the musical composition "Amazing."

18 65. "Amazing 2" was credited as co-written by Messrs. Harrington, Leonard,
19 Howes, Stannard, and Cardle, and released on February 19, 2012 as the third single from
20 Mr. Cardle's debut studio album, *Letters*.

21 66. *Letters* was released on October 14, 2011 and peaked at No. 2 on The Official
22 U.K. Albums Chart.

23

24

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67. "Amazing 2" peaked at No. 84 on The Official U.K. Singles chart.

68. As of June 1, 2016 "Amazing 2" has over 1 million views on YouTube.

69. "Amazing 2" was performed on national television stations in the U.K., and
was played on national and regional U.K. Radio, including, but not limited to, BBC Radio
27 2, MTV, ITV1, ITV2, Virgin, and The Voice.

28

70. Mr. Cardle performed "Amazing 2" on his 2012 Letters Live tour in the U.K.

71. Defendants, therefore, had access to the "Amazing" musical composition
 through the foregoing. In addition, as discussed below, the sheer magnitude, and verbatim
 copying of "Amazing" by Defendants, is so blatant in both scale and degree, that it raises
 this matter to an unusual level of striking similarity where access is presumed.

B. Infringement by Defendants

<u>1. Intentional Copying of "Amazing"</u>

7 72. As discussed above, this action for willful copyright infringement arises
8 from Defendants' infringement of Plaintiffs' copyright in the musical composition
9 "Amazing."

10 73. Defendants are the performer, writers, producers, record labels,
11 manufacturers, distributors, and publishers of the infringing "Photograph" musical
12 compositions, sound recordings, music videos, and other products embodying the
13 Infringing Works.

14 74. BBC News stated Sheeran was the most-played pop act in the U.K. in 2015.
15 BBC News further stated, "Sheeran was No. 3 on the list in 2014, largely due to the
16 'broadcast and public use' of 'Thinking Out Loud,' 'Photograph' and 'Bloodstream.'"

17 75. Sheeran stated in an interview with *Nova FM*, that he thought "Photograph"
18 "will be the one that will change [his], kind of, career path." Sheeran stated in a July 2014
19 interview with *The Telegraph* that "Photograph" is his "collateral" song and that "[i]f the
20 rest of the album is s___, we can sell it on this one."

21 76. While "Photograph" did so for Defendants, HaloSongs, Harrington, and
22 Leonard have not been nearly as fortunate. As discussed below, the copying of "Amazing"
23 by "Photograph" is breathtaking in its deliberateness, magnitude, and hubris.

24

5

6

2. Unauthorized Release and Exploitation of "Photograph"

25 77. The infringing composition and sound recording "Photograph" appears on
26 the album titled *x* (pronounced "multiply") (hereinafter, "*Multiply*").

78. *Multiply* was released in the United States on June 20, 2014. Warner UK,
Asylum, and Atlantic released, manufactured, distributed, and marketed the single and

1 the album.

79. Defendants released the single for "Photograph" on or about May 11, 2015.
The song "Photograph" reached No. 1 on the *Billboard* US Adult Top 40 chart, No. 3 on
the *Billboard* Adult Contemporary chart, No. 5 on the *Billboard* US Mainstream Top 40
chart, No. 10 on the US *Billboard* Hot 100 chart, and No. 18 on the US Dance/Mix Show
Airplay chart.

80. The album *Multiply* reached No. 1 on the *Billboard* 200 chart, No. 1 on the *Billboard* Top Album Sales chart, and No. 3 on the *Billboard* US Digital Albums chart.

81. As of June 8, 2016, the official music video for "Photograph," has attracted
more than 208 million views on YouTube and was nominated for Best Video at 2016 Brit
Awards.

12 82. "Photograph" has sold more than 3.5 million copies worldwide. On February
13 29, 2016, "Photograph" was certified 2x Multi-Platinum by the RIAA for selling over 2
14 million copies in the U.S. alone, and was certified Platinum in the U.K.

15 83. As of August 25, 2015, *Multiply* sold more than 10 million copies
16 worldwide. On December 17, 2015, *Multiply* was certified 2x Multi-Platinum by the
17 RIAA for selling over 2 million copies in the U.S. alone. *Multiply* was also certified 9x
18 Platinum in the U.K., 7x Platinum in New Zealand, and 3x Platinum in Canada. *Multiply*19 was the first album to be certified Diamond in Australia.

20 84. *Multiply* received Grammy nominations for Album of the Year and Best Pop
21 Vocal Album and was nominated for a Brit Award for Album of the Year.

85. As discussed above, "Photograph" is featured in the major motion picture
film *Me Before You*. On information and belief, Defendants licensed the Infringing Works
for inclusion in that film, and on its soundtrack, after notice of the infringement was
received, and with knowledge of the infringement. At minimum, Defendants were on
notice of the infringement well before the film or the soundtrack were released.

27

3. Striking Similarity Between "Amazing" and "Photograph"

28

86. In late 2014, Leonard called Harrington and asked Harrington to listen to

1 "Photograph."

2 87. Upon hearing "Photograph," Harrington immediately recognized the
3 similarity with "Amazing."

88. The chorus of "Photograph" is an interpolation of the chorus of "Amazing,"
as transcribed in the same key in the example below. "Photograph" is strikingly similar
to "Amazing." As explained below, in all cases, these elements of each of these songs are
both quantitatively and qualitatively important to both the infringed and infringing
compositions and sound recordings, and instantly recognizable to the ordinary observer.

89. To write and record the song "Photograph," Defendants intentionally and
unlawfully copied the unique and original chorus from "Amazing." The misappropriated
portions of "Amazing" run throughout nearly one half of both "Photograph" and
"Amazing." "Amazing" and "Photograph" are both extrinsically and intrinsically
strikingly similar.

The chorus sections of "Amazing" and the infringing "Photograph" share 39 90. 14 15 identical notes — meaning the notes are identical in pitch, rhythmic duration, and placement in the measure. Additionally, the chorus sections of "Amazing" and the 16 infringing "Photograph" share 4 substantially related notes-meaning the notes are the 17 same in pitch, but not necessarily the same in rhythmic duration or identical placement in 18 the measure. In other words, out of the 61 notes in the chorus section of "Photograph," 19 approximately 70 percent of the notes are identical to or substantially related to notes in 20 the chorus section of "Amazing." Further, 64 percent of the notes in the chorus section of 21 "Photograph" are identical to the notes in the chorus section of "Amazing." 22

91. Both the "Amazing" chorus, and the infringing "Photograph" chorus, utilize
similar structures of the songs (both have verses followed by bridge and chorus sections),
and the first chorus of each song is half as long as the chorus sections that follow.

26 92. Both the "Amazing" chorus and the infringing "Photograph" chorus have an
27 added resolving chord at the end of each song and in one of the previous chorus sections.

28

93. The chorus sections of "Amazing" and the infringing "Photograph" chorus
make up large percentages of each song. The chorus sections of "Amazing" comprise 47
percent of the song. The chorus sections of the infringing "Photograph" comprise 41
percent of the song. The chorus of a song is generally considered a very important part of
a song, and that is the case here for both "Photograph" and "Amazing."

94. The chorus section of "Photograph" uses the same melodic rhythm as the
chorus section of "Amazing." Both chorus sections use suspended notes in the same
corresponding measures. Further, both chorus sections use quarter notes on beats 1 and 3
in corresponding measures.

10 95. Both chorus sections have remarkably similar melody notes, melodic
11 phrases, melodic rhythm, harmony, and harmonic rhythm.

12 13

14

15

16

The chorus section of "Photograph" uses substantially the same chord 96. Μ 1 2 3 4 5 6 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

Bb Eb Eb Cm Ab(add2) Gm7 Cm Ab(add2) A P* Eb Bb Cm Ab Eb Bb Ab Cm * transposed from the key of E major down a half step to the key of Eb

major for purposes of comparison

progression as the chorus section of "Amazing." The chords in the chorus section of
"Amazing" are as follows:

97. The only difference in the chord progression of the two choruses comes in
measure 12 where "Amazing" uses Gm7, whereas "Photograph" uses Bb. The Gm7 chord
is the related minor chord to Bb major, which uses three of the four notes found in Gm7.
The change between Gm7 and Bb major is not meaningful and does not affect the overall
similarity between the two songs.

24 98. In fact, "Photograph" simply repeats, in measures 9-16, the harmonic pattern
25 established in measures 1-8.

26 99. Further, the chorus section of "Photograph" uses the same phrase structure
27 as the "Amazing" chorus. Both songs make use of two eight-measure sections with two28 measure phrases.

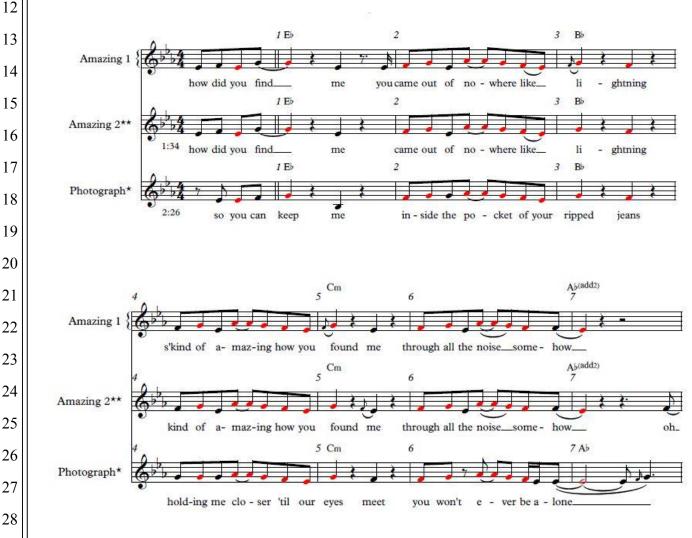
1 100. The chorus section of "Photograph" uses the same harmony and harmonic
 2 rhythm as the "Amazing" chorus with the only exception being one chord in measure 12.

101. The chorus section of "Photograph" uses the same rhyming structure as the
chorus section of "Amazing." The measures 1, 5, 9, 11, and 13 all end in a similar "ee"
sound. Measures 1, 9, and 13 actually end in the same word ("me").

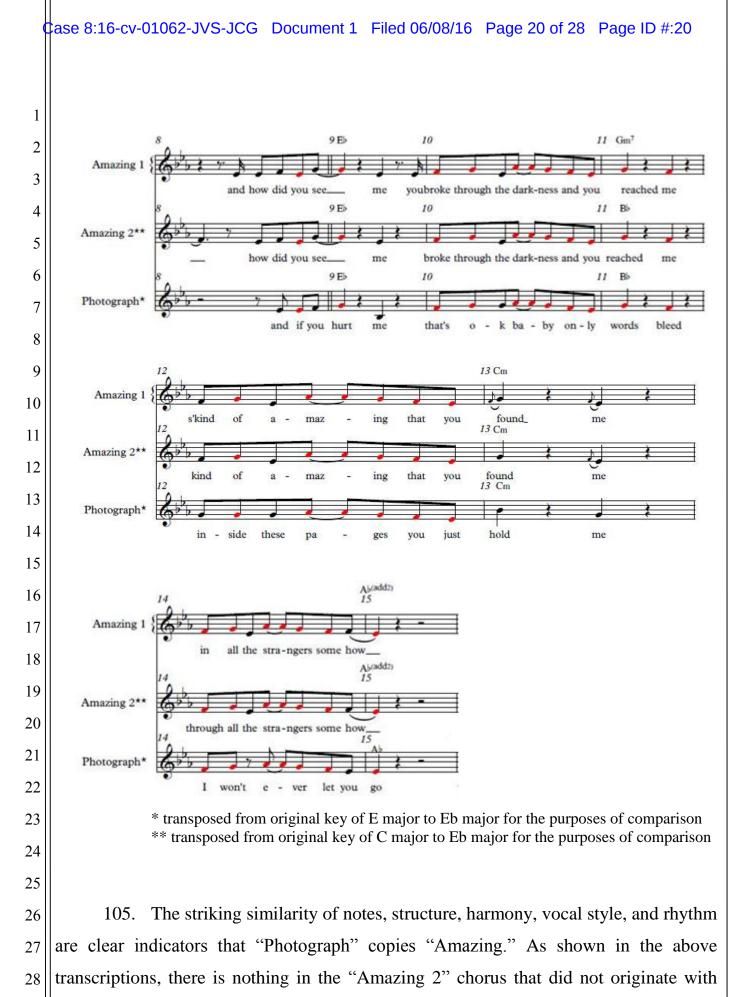
102. The similarity between the chorus sections of "Amazing" and "Photograph"
is strikingly similar and would be obvious to an ordinary observer. It was not the product
of independent creation.

9 103. The red notes in the following transcript dramatically highlight the degree of
10 similarity between the pieces (39 identical and 4 closely related pitches).

11



104. The choruses of "Amazing," "Amazing 2," and "Photograph" include:



"Amazing," and that is not in "Amazing," and "Photograph's" copying of the "Amazing"
 chorus is in many places verbatim.

106. The songs' similarities reach the very essence of the work. The similarities
go beyond substantial, which is itself sufficient to establish copyright infringement, and
are in fact striking. The similarity of words, vocal style, vocal melody, melody, and
rhythm are clear indicators, among other things, that "Photograph" copies "Amazing."

4. Defendants' Copying of the Chorus of "Amazing" through Access to "Amazing 2"

107. The "Amazing" chorus is original to "Amazing."

7

8

9

10 108. "Amazing 2" uses the same parts of "Amazing" copied in "Photograph."
11 "Amazing 2" is a derivative work of "Amazing."

12 109. The chorus of "Amazing 2" is a virtual verbatim copy of the chorus of
13 "Amazing."

14 110. There are no similarities between "Photograph" and "Amazing 2" that do not
15 also exist in, and originate from, "Amazing."

16 111. Any copyright in the derivative "Amazing 2" would extend only to the
17 material contributed by the author of such work, as distinguished from the pre-existing
18 material employed in the work, and would not imply any exclusive right in the pre19 existing portions of "Amazing" copied in "Photograph."

20 112. Under 17 U.S.C. § 103(b), any copyright in "Amazing 2" is independent of,
21 and does not affect or enlarge the scope, duration, ownership, or subsistence of, any
22 copyright protection in the pre-existing work "Amazing."

113. Given that a complete copyright application for "Amazing" has been filed,
but an application for the derivative work has not, a suit for infringement may be
maintained as to any protected element contained in the registered preexisting work
"Amazing," which includes all copying at issue in this action.

27 114. Material copied from the underlying work "Amazing," will constitute an
28 infringement of "Amazing" regardless of whether the defendant copied directly from the

21

1 underlying work, or indirectly via the derivative "Amazing 2."

2 115. Given the striking similarity between the chorus of "Amazing" and
3 "Photograph," Defendants knew when writing, publishing, recording, releasing, and
4 distributing, "Photograph" that they were infringing on a pre-existing musical
5 composition.

6 116. Given Defendants' access to "Amazing 2," Defendants knew when writing,
7 publishing, recording, releasing, and distributing, "Photograph" that they were infringing
8 the musical composition "Amazing."

9

5. Unauthorized Exploitation of Amazing

10 117. On or about December 22, 2015, HaloSongs, Harrington, and Leonard
11 notified counsel for Sheeran and other Defendants that "Photograph" unlawfully copied
12 "Amazing."

13 118. Plaintiffs made continuous efforts to privately resolve this issue without
14 litigation. Plaintiffs wished to resolve this issue amicably, however, despite Plaintiffs'
15 efforts, the infringement continued, there was no resolution of this matter, and Plaintiffs
16 were forced to bring this lawsuit.

17 119. The conduct of Defendants has been willful from the inception of the
18 creation of "Photograph." In addition, subsequent to this notice, Defendants have failed
19 to cease their exploitation of "Photograph," and have continued their willful infringing
20 activity.

21 120. Defendants have, without authorization, created derivative works of
22 "Amazing" and reproduced, distributed, published, displayed, publicly performed, and
23 otherwise exploited the Infringing Works, resulting in substantial revenue for Defendants.

121. Sheeran performed and continues to perform the Infringing Works on the
radio, at 179 live concerts worldwide, at personal appearances, in videos, on television
and/or otherwise.

27 122. As mentioned above, Defendants have acted willfully with respect to the use
28 of "Photograph" in the film and soundtrack *Me Before You*.

1 123. As discussed fully above, all Defendants are responsible in some manner for 2 the events described herein and are liable to Plaintiffs for damages available under the 3 Copyright Act. Defendants named herein are the writers, performers, producers, record 4 labels, distributors, publishers, and others, who were involved with the creation, release, reproduction, distribution, exploitation, licensing, and public performance of the 5 Infringing Works, embodied in all forms of media, including videos, digital downloads, 6 records, motion pictures and advertisements, all of which constitute, among other things, 7 8 the improper preparation of a derivative work and direct, vicarious, and contributory 9 infringement. As co-infringers, Defendants are jointly and severally liable for all amounts owed. 10

11 124. Each Defendant is a "practical partner," as that term is defined and 12 interpreted by courts in this Circuit, in the infringing acts with all other Defendants, and 13 are thus jointly and severally liable for each other's profits. As described throughout this 14 Complaint, each of the Defendants had an important role in the infringing activity, and 15 worked together to accomplish it, were involved in directing various aspects of many of 16 the coordinated infringing activities, and all had a significant financial interest in the 17 infringing activity.

18 125. These acts were willful, knowing, and malicious and perpetrated without
19 regard to Plaintiffs' rights.

126. Despite the notice discussed above, Defendants continue to willfully infringe
on the musical composition "Amazing" by reproducing, displaying, distributing,
exploiting, licensing, and publicly performing the Infringing Works. The Infringing
Works continue to be reproduced, sold, distributed, publicly performed, licensed, and
otherwise exploited on compact discs and albums, and as digital downloads, ringtones
and mastertones, and in music videos, all without payment to Plaintiffs.

127. Indeed, upon information and belief, in the last few weeks, and with full
knowledge of the infringement, Polar Patrol was brazenly sold to another company, in
whole or in part, although it continues to exist as a separate corporation. Upon information

and belief, "Photograph" is the most valuable of all of the assets of Polar Patrol, and
increased the price of the sale. The profits of Defendants that Plaintiffs are entitled to
recover thus includes the portion of Polar Patrol's sale price that may be attributable to
the inclusion of the infringing "Photograph" composition.

CAUSES OF ACTION

COUNT I

Direct, Contributory, and Vicarious Copyright Infringement of "Amazing" By "Photograph"

Plaintiffs repeat and re-allege each of the foregoing paragraphs, as though
fully set forth herein.

129. Plaintiffs are the owners of the United States copyright in all rights, titles,
and interests in the musical composition "Amazing." Application Case Number 13529378721 for registration of the musical composition "Amazing" has been filed with
the United States Copyright Office.

130. Defendants had access to "Amazing" (as discussed above). Furthermore, "Photograph" and "Amazing" are strikingly similar, meaning that access is presumed.

131. Defendants' unauthorized reproduction, distribution, public performance,
display, and creation of a derivative work, "Photograph," infringes Plaintiffs' exclusive
rights in violation of the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq*.

132. Defendants did not seek or receive permission to copy or interpolate any portion of "Amazing" into "Photograph." All of the elements of "Amazing" copied by "Photograph" are original to "Amazing."

133. Defendants' conduct has at all times been knowing, willful, and with
complete disregard to Plaintiffs' rights.

25 134. As a proximate cause of Defendants' wrongful conduct, Plaintiffs have been
26 irreparably harmed.

27 135. "Photograph" copies quantitatively and qualitatively distinct, important, and
28 recognizable portions of "Amazing." This copying satisfies both the intrinsic and extrinsic

1 || tests to establish copyright infringement.

2 136. From the date of the creation of the infringing composition and sound recording "Photograph," all Defendants have infringed Plaintiffs' copyright interest in 3 "Amazing" including: (a) by substantially copying and publicly performing, or 4 5 authorizing the copying and public performances, including publicly performing "Photograph" at radio, live concerts, personal appearances, and on video, television, and 6 7 otherwise; (b) by authorizing the reproduction, distribution, and sale of the records and digital downloads through the execution of licenses, and/or actually selling, 8 manufacturing, and/or distributing "Photograph" through various sources; (c) by 9 substantially copying and the related marketing and promotion of the sale of the records, 10 videos, tickets to concerts and other performances, and other merchandise; and (d) by 11 participating in and furthering the aforementioned infringing acts, and/or sharing in the 12 proceeds therefrom, all through substantial use of "Amazing" in and as part of 13 "Photograph," packaged in a variety of configurations and digital downloads, mixes and 14 15 versions, and performed in a variety of ways including radio, concerts, personal 16 appearances, video, television, and/or otherwise.

17 137. Plaintiffs have received no copyright ownership interests in, and for any of
18 the exploitations of, "Photograph" or any of the works associated with "Photograph."

19 138. The infringement by Defendants has been, and continues to be, willful and20 knowing.

139. Defendants have reproduced and/or distributed and continue to manufacture,
reproduce and distribute large numbers of copies of "Photograph," which violate
Plaintiffs' copyrights and are at issue in this lawsuit. Defendants have not only marketed
and exploited the songs that are at issue in this lawsuit, but have granted or caused to be
granted to various parties, licenses to reproduce, sample and/or distribute the songs that
are in violation of Plaintiffs' copyrights.

27 140. With knowledge of the infringement, Defendants have induced, caused, or
28 materially contributed to the infringing conduct of others, such that they should be found

1 to be contributorily liable.

2 141. Defendants had the right and ability to control other infringers and have
3 derived a direct financial benefit from that infringement such that Defendants should be
4 found to be vicariously liable.

5 142. The infringement is continuing as the album *Multiply*, on which
6 "Photograph" appears, continues to be sold and both the album and single "Photograph"
7 continues to be licensed for sale, downloads, ringtones, mastertones, and other
8 exploitations by Defendants, or their agents.

9 143. As a direct and proximate result of the conduct of Defendants, Plaintiffs have
10 suffered actual damages including lost profits, lost opportunities, loss of goodwill, and
11 lost publicity.

12 144. Pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(b), Plaintiffs are entitled to damages, including
13 the substantial profits of Defendants, as will be proven at trial, which, upon information
14 and belief, are believed to exceed \$20 million (\$20,000,000).

15 145. Plaintiffs are entitled to Defendants' profits relating to foreign sales of copies
16 of the Infringing Works that were manufactured, distributed, or otherwise infringed
17 domestically.

18 146. In the alternative, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(c), Plaintiffs are entitled to
19 the maximum amount of statutory damages for each act of willful copyright infringement.

20 147. Plaintiffs are further entitled to a running royalty on all future exploitations
21 of "Photograph."

148. Plaintiffs are entitled to their costs, including reasonable attorneys' fees,
pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505.

149. Defendants' conduct is causing and, unless enjoined by this Court, will
continue to cause Plaintiffs irreparable injury that cannot be fully compensated or
measured in monetary terms. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law. Pursuant to 17
U.S.C. § 502, Plaintiffs are entitled to a permanent injunction prohibiting the
reproduction, distribution, sale, public performance, or other use or exploitation of

"Photograph," including all Infringing Works, or, in the alternative, a continuing royalty
 following judgment in an amount to be determined.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

3

4 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against Defendants and for the 5 following relief:

A. A declaration that Defendants have willfully infringed Plaintiffs'
7 copyrighted works in violation of the Copyright Act;

8 B. A declaration that Defendants are directly, vicariously and/or contributorily
9 liable for copyright infringement, as applicable;

C. A permanent injunction requiring Defendants and their agents, servants,
employees, officers, attorneys, successors, licensees, partners, and assigns, and all
persons acting in concert or participation with each or any one of them, to cease directly
and indirectly infringing, and causing, enabling, facilitating, encouraging, promoting,
inducing, and/or participating in the infringement of any of Plaintiffs' rights protected by
the Copyright Act;

D. If the Court determines a permanent injunction is not the appropriate remedy
for the continued infringement of Plaintiffs' rights under the Copyright Act, then pursuant
to precedent, be compensated by a running royalty paid on all exploitations of
"Photograph" commencing from the date of judgment and for all amounts not taken into
consideration in the judgment;

E. An award of damages pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(b), including actual damages, and the profits of Defendants as will be proven at trial, which, on information and belief, are believed to exceed \$20 million (\$20,000,000), including a finding that Defendants are "practical partners" of each other and jointly and severally liable for the profits of each other, or, in the alternative, the maximum amount of statutory damages pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(c) for each act of willful infringement;

F. An award of attorneys' fees and full costs pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505 and
under other applicable law;

1	G. For pre-judgment and post-judgment interest according to law, as applicable;
2	and
3	H. For such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.
4	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
5	Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38(b), and otherwise, Plaintiffs
6	respectfully demand a trial by jury.
7	
8	Dated: June 8, 2016By: /s/ Paul H. Duvall
9	Richard S. Busch (<i>pro hac vice</i> pending) Paul H. Duvall (SBN 73699)
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