ALAMEDA COUNTY AUG 02/202 1 MARK M. HATHAWAY CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COUR (CA 151332; DC 437335; NY 2431682) IENNA E. PARKER (CA 303560) HATHAWAY PARKER 3 445 S. Figueroa St. 31st Fl. Los Angeles, California 90071 4 Telephone: (213) 529-9000 Facsimile: (213) 529-0783 5 E-Mail: mark@hathawayparker.com E-Mail: jenna@hathawayparker.com 6 ANDREW T. MILTENBERG (NY-2399582) 7 STUART BERNSTEIN (NY 2371953) 8 **NESENOFF & MILTENBERG LLP** 363 Seventh Avenue, 5th Floor 0 New York, New York 10001 10 Telephone: (212)-736-4500 Facsimile 212-736-2260 11 E-mail: amiltenberg@nmllplaw.com E-mail: sbernstein@nmllplaw.com 12 13 KEVIN J. STOOPS (P64371) SOMMERS SCHWARTZ, P.C. 14 Kevin J. Stoops One Towne Square, Suite 1700 15 Southfield, Michigan 48076 16 Telephone: 248-355-0300 E-Mail: jthompson@sommerspc.com 17 E-Mail: kstoops@sommerspc.com 18 Attorneys for Petitioner 19 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 20 **COUNTY OF ALAMEDA** 21 JOHN DOE, an individual, on behalf of Case No.: RG19029617 22 himself and all others similarly situated, **CLASS ACTION** 23 Petitioner, AMENDED PETITION FOR WRIT OF 24 ADMINISTRATIVE MANDATE 25 REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA; and DOES 1 to 20 inclusive, 26 Respondents. 27

ENDORSED FILED

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1. Petitioner JOHN DOE is a former student at the University of California, Los Angeles.

governs and operates the University of California as a public trust through its 26-member board of Regents. The University of California, Los Angeles is one of the ten campuses of the

Respondent REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (hereinafter

University of California system and is located in the Westwood area of Los Angeles, California.

"University of California" or "UC Regents"), is the official name of the public corporation that

3. Petitioner uses the pseudonym of "John Doe" in his Petition to preserve privacy in a matter of sensitive and highly personal nature, which outweighs the public's interest in knowing the parties' identity. Use of the pseudonyms does not prejudice Respondents because the identity of Petitioner is known to Respondents. See, *Starbucks Corp. v. Superior Court* (2008) 68 Cal.App.4th 1436 ["The judicial use of 'Doe plaintiffs' to protect legitimate privacy rights has gained wide currency, particularly given the rapidity and ubiquity of disclosures over the World Wide Web"]; see also *Doe v. City of Los Angeles* (2007) 42 Cal.4th 531; *Johnson v. Superior Court* (2008) 80 Cal.App.4th 1050; *Roe v. Wade* (1973) 410 U.S. 113; *Doe v. Bolton* (1973) 410 U.S. 179; *Poe v. Ullman* (1961) 367 U.S. 497; *Does I thru XXIII v. Advanced Textile Corp.* (9th Cir. 2000) 214 F.3d 1058.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

4. Petitioner brings this action on his own behalf and on behalf of all persons similarly situated. The class that Petitioner represents is composed of students disciplined under the 2015 Interim Policy on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence (6/17/2015), the University of California PACAOS-Appendix-E: Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Student Adjudication Framework (1/1/2016), the University of California Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Policy (1/1/2016), the Interim Appendix E - Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment (SVSH) Student Adjudication Framework (3/1/2019), and all local University of California campus procedures modeled after the aforementioned systemwide policies (collectively, the "Policies"), with respect to complaints that, if substantiated, could result in a severe sanction for the respondent, and where credibility of any party or witness was central to the finding.

- 5. The members of the class are ascertainable from University of California internal records.
- 6. On information and belief, the persons in the class are so numerous that the joinder of all such persons is impracticable and the disposition of their claims in a class action rather than in individual actions will benefit the parties and the court.
- 7. By way of example, the University of California Los Angeles Campus Police Department 2016 annual crime report states that from 2012 to 2016, there were a total of 126 Rape offenses and 122 other sex offenses, all of which would presumably fall under the Policies. According to UC Berkley's 2016 annual crime report, there were 40 rape offenses and 102 other sex offenses for the same time period. Extrapolating from these reported statistics the size of the proposed class could easily exceed 500 members.
- 8. There is a well-defined community of interest in the questions of law and fact that predominate over interests of individual class members. Common questions of law and fact to be litigated include (a) whether the Policies comply with the law; (b) whether Respondent has failed to implement procedures that provide adequate Due Process to students accused of sexual misconduct at the University of California; and (c) whether findings and discipline imposed under the unlawful Policies must be set aside and vacated. These questions of law and fact predominate over questions that affect only individual class members. The claims of Petitioner are typical of those of the class, and Petitioner will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the class.
- 9. There is no plain, speedy, or adequate remedy other than by maintenance of this class action. The claims arise from the failure of Respondent to implement fair policies that protect the Due Process rights of students disciplined for sexual misconduct. A class action is superior to individual lawsuits for resolving this controversy.
- 10. Petitioner will fairly represent and adequately protect the interests of members of the class as a whole. Petitioner does not have any interests antagonistic to those of other class members. By filing this action, Petitioner has displayed an interest in vindicating his rights, as well as the claims of others who are similarly situated. The relief sought by Petitioner will inure

to the benefit of members of the class generally. Petitioner is represented by qualified, experienced, and competent counsel.

- 11. At all relevant times, Respondent was bound to abide by the procedures set forth in the 2015 Interim Policy on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence (6/17/2015), the University of California PACAOS-Appendix-E: Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Student Adjudication Framework (1/1/2016), the University of California Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Policy (1/1/2016), the Interim Appendix E Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment (SVSH) Student Adjudication Framework (3/1/2019), and all local University of California campus procedures modeled after the aforementioned systemwide policies (collectively, the "Policies").
- 12. Under the Policies, Respondent placed the entire responsibility for the investigation, prosecution, fact-finding, and adjudication of sexual misconduct claims in the hands of a single individual who acted as police, prosecutor, jury, and judge without a live, in-person hearing before impartial adjudicators where the accused could question or cross-examine the complainant and witnesses, an administrative procedure determined to be unlawful by California's Second District Court of Appeal in *Doe v. Allee* (2019) 30 Cal.App.5th 1036. See also, *Doe v. Westmont College* (2019) 34 Cal.App.5th 622; *Doe v. University of Southern California* (2018) 29 Cal.App.5th 1212; *Doe v. Regents of University of California* (2018) 28 Cal.App.5th 44; *Doe v. Claremont McKenna College* (2018) 25 Cal.App.5th 1055; *Doe v. Regents of University of California* (2016) 5 Cal.App.5th 1055; *Doe v. University of Southern California* (2016) 246 Cal.App.4th 221.
- 13. On information and belief, Respondents have been aware of the class of individuals improperly disciplined as alleged herein since at least in or about September 2018, and have taken no action to correct the deprivation of rights imposed on the class by Respondents nor to alleviate the damages suffered by class members as a result of Respondents' improper actions.

ALLEGATIONS SPECIFIC TO PETITIONER JOHN DOE

14. As of January 1, 2017, Petitioner John Doe was a graduate Ph.D. student in good standing at a campus of University of California.

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- 15. On February 28, 2017, the campus Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity ("OEOD") was notified by the Academic Personnel Director that Petitioner had allegedly engaged in sexual harassment and stalked another student on multiple occasions between September 2016 and February 2017.
- 16. On or about March 20, 2017, OEOD notified Petitioner that the University had assigned a Title IX/OEOD investigator to investigate allegations that after Petitioner and the complaining student went on two dates, Petitioner continued to contact the complainant and began to harass the complainant on her WeChat page.
- 17. Petitioner cooperated in the investigation, meeting with the Title IX investigator several times and providing documents to support his defense that the allegations against him were entirely false. The Title IX investigator interviewed eleven witnesses, including seven unidentified witnesses.
- 18. Petitioner requested access to the evidence collected by the Title IX investigator during the investigation but was refused by the Title IX investigator and the University.
 - 19. The investigation disclosed no direct evidence of stalking.
 - 20. The investigation disclosed no direct evidence of sexual harassment.
- 21. On June 14, 2017, despite the lack of any direct evidence, the sole Title IX investigator concluded their report with their opinion that "The preponderance of the evidence supports a finding that Respondent engaged in stalking and sexual harassment . . ."
- 22. On June 29, 2019 the campus Student Conduct Officer confirmed the Title IX investigator's factual findings and ordered Petitioner suspended for two years.
- 23. On July 14, 2017, Petitioner filed a timely campus appeal and cited the following required grounds in his appeal: (1) procedural error in the University's process had materially affected the outcome; (2) the decision was unreasonable, as it was not supported by substantial evidence; and (3) the disciplinary sanctions were disproportionate to the findings.
- 24. On September 7, 2017, Petitioner's appeal proceeded to a hearing before an outside attorney hired by the University to serve as the Appeal Body. The University presented two witnesses, the TitleIX/OEOD investigator and the campus Student Conduct Officer. The

complainant failed to appear at the hearing and presented no evidence. Petitioner was present and responded to questions and presented evidence.

- 25. On September 19, 2017, the University's attorney issued the Appeal Body Hearing Decision and concluded that Petitioner not responsible for stalking but confirmed the Title IX investigator's finding that Petitioner was responsible for sexual harassment and reduced the sanction from a two-year suspension to a one-year suspension.
- 26. On September 25, 2017, Petitioner appealed the Appeal Body decision to the campus Vice Chancellor on the grounds that the finding was made in the absence of evidence supporting the elements of sexual harassment in the Policy and the application of a minimum one-year suspension for "other sexual contact" in the absence of any contact whatsoever was improper.
- 27. On October 20, 2017, the Vice Chancellor denied Petitioner's appeal regarding lack of evidence and procedural errors, but reduced the one-year suspension to three months. Although the suspension period was reduced, the Vice Chancellor required Petitioner to be re-admitted to the University, submit documentation of his ability to be a student "without engaging in any behavior that would violate university policy," and to be placed on Disciplinary Probation for the duration of his academic enrollment at the University.
 - 28. Respondent's administrative decision against Petitioner is now final.
- 29. On information and belief, the following allegations concern additional proposed class member(s):

ALLEGATIONS REGARDING PROPOSED CLASS MEMBER JOHN DOE2

- 30. As of January 1, 2016, John Doe2 was a graduate Ph.D. student at a campus of University of California with a 3.95 cumulative GPA.
- 31. On February 16, 2016, the campus Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity ("OEOD") was notified of allegations that John Doe2 supposedly had a romantic interest in another graduate student and had been stalking the other graduate student for the previous four years, including hacking her computer, compromising her online accounts, and more recently had sabotaged her research work. There were no allegations of an intimate relationship nor of

compromised or hacked.

41. The investigation produced no direct evidence that any research was sabotaged or CLASS ACTION PETITION FOR WRIT OF ADMINISTRATIVE MANDATE

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intentionally damaged, as opposed to inadvertent contamination or through poor research techniques by the other graduate student.

- 42. On June 23, 2016, despite the lack of any direct evidence, the sole Title IX investigator concluded her report with her opinion that "In regards to the allegation of Stalking, the preponderance of the evidence supports a finding that [Doe2] violated the University of California Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment as implemented in the [campus] Guidelines for Reporting and Responding to Reports of Sex Offenses."
- 43. On June 24, 2016, the Director of Student Conduct notified Doe2 of the Title IX investigation findings.
- 44. The Title IX investigator's report listed 113 exhibits that were not provided with her investigation report, nor provided to Doe2.
- 45. The Title IX investigation report listed 40 unidentified witness that had been interviewed or provided information in the investigation. The University and the Title IX investigator refused to identify the witnesses to Doe2.
- 46. The Title IX investigator's opinion in her investigation report, that Doe2 violated University policy, is based on evidence that was never disclosed to Doe2.
- 47. On June 28, 2016, Doe2 requested copies of the 113 exhibits cited in the Title IX investigation report, the witness statements, and the identity of the witnesses identified only as Witnesses 2 through 40 in the report, and other evidence gathered during the investigation. In his request to the Director of Student Conduct, Doe2 wrote:

[Doe2] cannot possibly respond to the Title IX/OEOD investigator(s)' opinions in the summary report without the evidence summarized in the report, and certainly not within the five days you have demanded in your letter. Your failure to provide the student with any of the evidence and requiring the student "to request access to the evidence against him does not comply with the requirements of a fair hearing." See, *Doe v. University of Southern California* (Cal. App. 2d Dist. 2016) 246 Cal. App. 4th 221. Common sense dictates that the use of secret, unidentified witnesses in a state university disciplinary matter does not comport with Due Process.

48. Doe2 continued to make requests for access to the Title IX investigation file and also

through the California Public Records Act. For the next six months, however, the University refused to produce any documents.

- 49. The campus Associate Chancellor responsible for compliance with the California Public Records Act was also the Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity and the campus Title IX/Sexual Harassment Officer and the campus's designated Whistleblower officer in charge of receiving and reviewing complaints of suspected unlawful and improper acts at the University.
- 50. On August 25, 2016, the Director of Student Conduct issued a decision letter, adopting the single Title IX investigator's determination that Doe2 had violated University policies: (1) Policy 102.10. Stalking; (2) Sexual Violence Policy; and (3) Conduct Policy 102.08. Physical Abuse. The Director of Student Conduct ordered John Doe2 suspended for two years from September 8, 2016 to September 8, 2018.
- 51. On September 8, 2016, Doe2 filed a timely campus appeal and cited the following required grounds in his appeal: (1) procedural error in the University's process had materially affected the outcome; (2) the decision was unreasonable, as it was not supported by substantial evidence; (3) new evidence, material to the decision, was not known or available during the time of the decision had come to light; and (4) the disciplinary sanctions were disproportionate to the findings.
- 52. On November 10, 2016, the appeal proceeded to a hearing before a three-member Appeal Body comprised of University staff.
- 53. Doe2 was not permitted to cross-examine any witnesses but was allowed to submit proposed witness questions to the Appeal Body. The Appeal Body, however, asked only a few of the questions that Doe2 submitted.
- 54. Neither Doe2 nor the Appeal Body had access to the Title IX investigation file, the 113 exhibits, nor the identity of witnesses listed in the Title IX report.
- 55. On November 18, 2016, the Appeal Body issued their decision, reversing the Title IX investigator's determination as to two of the three violations, Policy 102.10. Stalking and the University's Sexual Violence Policy but sustaining the Title IX investigator's determination that

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Doe2 was responsible for violation of Conduct Policy 102.08. Physical Abuse. The Appeal Body also reduced the suspension period from two years to a one-year suspension.

- 56. In reversing responsibility for stalking, the Decision states that "The [Appeal] Body was not provided with <u>any evidence</u> of Respondent making a credible threat against Complainant." (emphasis in the original.)
 - 57. Regarding allegations of computer hacking, the Appeal Body noted:

"[I]t is clear from the investigation report that the investigator's conclusion about a violation of the Sexual Violence Policy turns on the question of whether Respondent hacked into various social media and other cyber-accounts of Complainant. According to the report, this had been reported to authorities as far back as 2014. Yet, the [Appeal] Body hasn't been provided with any direct evidence linking Respondent to a hack. Given the length of time that has elapsed since the incidents were reported, the Body doesn't understand why there isn't any direct evidence of this. When this lack of direct evidence is coupled with the uncertainty and potential prejudice created by Respondent not receiving access to the entire investigation file, the Body does not believe sufficient evidence exists to find, by a preponderance of the evidence, that there was a violation of the Sexual Violence Policy. Therefore, the Body overturns that finding by the Student Conduct Office." (Appeal Body Decision, page 7.)

- 58. Regarding section 102.08 Physical Abuse, although the Appeal Body was presented with no evidence of any physical contact whatsoever, let alone abuse, the Appeal Body denied Doe2's appeal based on "the sheer volume of the contacts temporally related to seemingly private electronic communications has made [the other graduate student] fearful and concerned" and that, "[t]hese coincidences didn't stop until the Stay Away Order went into effect. The correlation between the effect of the Stay Away Order and cessation of incidents can't be ignored."
- 59. On November 29, 2016, Doe2 appealed the Appeal Body's decision regarding section 102.08 for "physical abuse" to the Vice Chancellor because there was no physical touching whatsoever and because there was no correlation or "coincidences" related to the March 22, 2016 Stay Away order because the most recent alleged contact related to private communications had occurred more than two years before in February 2014.

- 60. On December 22, 2016, after the Title IX investigation was complete and after the appeal hearing was concluded, the University produced 1,869 pages of documents to John Doe2, however, many pages heavily were redacted and the response was incomplete. The University still did not provide the 113 exhibits and the identity of all the witnesses.
- 61. On January 10, 2017, the Vice Chancellor denied Doe2's appeal, leaving intact the finding and one-year suspension sanction against Doe2 for violation of Conduct Policy 102.08.
- 62. On March 10, 2017, Doe2 filed a writ to set aside the improper administrative finding that Doe2 is responsible for a violation of Conduct Policy 102.08 and the one-year suspension.
- 63. In October 2017, Respondent Regents of the University of California agreed with Doe2 and proposed to confess judgment in the Writ of Mandamus matter in favor of Doe2 and against the University.
- 64. On January 4, 2018, the court entered judgment in favor of John Doe2 and against the University. The judgment provided in part:
 - 2. The Petition for Writ of Administrative Mandate is granted:
 - 3. Judgment is hereby entered in favor of Petitioner and against Respondent The Regents of the University of California, setting aside and vacating the decision and sanctions issued against Petitioner for violation of section 102.08 of the University of California Policies Applying to Campus Activities, Organizations and Students;
 - 4. The matter is remanded to Respondent The Regents of the University of California for any further appropriate proceedings;
- 65. By the time Regents conceded that John Doe2 was entitled to judgment, John Doe2 had been restricted from his graduate research and academic career for almost two-years.
- 66. On or about March 27, 2018, however, the University notified Doe2 that the Title IX/OEOD administrative action concerning the alleged misconduct from February 2016 "will be reinitiated at the investigation stage and pursued until a final decision is reached."
- 67. On or about April 25, 2018, the University notified Doe2 again that the University was going to proceed with the new Title IX investigation and explained that, "Now, we are seeking to ensure that you have an adequate opportunity to fully review and respond to that information and

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1	WHEREFORE, Petitioner and the proposed class pray for the Court to order the following relief		
$\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$	and remed	and remedies:	
4	1.	Certify this action as a class action.	
5	2.	Issue a writ of mandate directing Respondent to set aside and vacate the findings	
6	and sanction	ons issued against Petitioner and all members of the class, or to show cause why a	
7	peremptor	y writ of mandate to the same effect should not be issued;	
8	3.	Award Petitioner the costs of this action and reasonable attorney's fees and	
9	litigation expenses as permitted by statute, in addition to any other relief granted; and		
10	4.	For such other and further relief as the court deems just and proper.	
11		HATHAWAY PARKER	
12		MANAGE M	
13	DATED:	August 2, 2019 By: Mark M. Hathaway	
14		Jenna E. Parker	
15		Attorneys for Petitioner	
16		By: /S/ Andrew T, Miltenberg	
17		Stuart Bernstein Attorneys for Petitioner	
18			
19		By: <u>/S/</u> Kevin J. Stoops	
20		ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER	
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Date: August 2, 2019

VERIFICATION

I am the named Petitioner in this action. I have read the foregoing petition and know the contents thereof. The same is true of my own knowledge, except as to those matters which are therein alleged on information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe it to be true.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Signed on the date below at <u>Davis, California</u>

Redacted

Petitioner