

BLOOD HURST & O'REARDON, LLP

1 BLOOD HURST & O'REARDON, LLP  
2 TIMOTHY G. BLOOD (149343)  
3 PAULA M. ROACH (254142)  
4 701 B Street, Suite 1700  
5 San Diego, CA 92101  
6 Tel: 619/338-1100  
7 619/338-1101 (fax)  
8 tblood@bholaw.com  
9 proach@bholaw.com

6 BARNOW AND ASSOCIATES, P.C.  
7 BEN BARNOW  
8 ERICH P. SCHORK  
9 1 North LaSalle Street, Suite 4600  
10 Chicago, IL 60602  
11 Tel: 312/621-2000  
12 312/641-5504 (fax)  
13 b.barnow@barnowlaw.com  
14 e.schork@barnowlaw.com

THE COFFMAN LAW FIRM  
RICHARD L. COFFMAN  
First City Building  
505 Orleans St., Suite 505  
Beaumont, TX 77701  
Tel: 409/833-7700  
866/835-8250 (fax)  
rcoffman@coffmanlawfirm.com

11 Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the Putative Class

12 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

13 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

14 MAUDIE PATTON, JACQUELINE  
15 GOODRIDGE, and VIRGINIA  
16 KALDMO, Individually, on behalf of  
the general public, and on behalf of  
all others similarly situated,

17 Plaintiffs,

18 v.

19 EXPERIAN DATA CORP., a  
20 Delaware corporation; COURT  
21 VENTURES, INC., a California  
22 corporation; and U.S.  
23 INFOSEARCH.COM, LLC, an Ohio  
24 limited liability company,

25 Defendants.

**Case No. 8:15-cv-01142-JVS-PLA**

**CLASS ACTION**

**FIRST AMENDED CLASS ACTION  
COMPLAINT**

USDJ: James V. Selna  
Courtroom: 10C, Santa Ana

Date Filed: July 17, 2015  
Trial Date: TBD

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

BLOOD HURST & O'REARDON, LLP

1 Plaintiffs Maudie Patton, Jacqueline Goodridge, and Virginia Kaldmo  
2 (collectively, "Plaintiffs"), individually and on behalf of the general public and  
3 all others similarly situated (the "Class Members"), by and through their  
4 attorneys, upon personal knowledge as to facts pertaining to them and on  
5 information and belief as to all other matters, complain of the actions of  
6 Defendants Experian Data Corp. ("Experian"), Court Ventures, Inc. ("CVI"), and  
7 U.S. Infosearch.com, LLC ("USI") (collectively, "Defendants"), and respectfully  
8 state the following:

9 **NATURE OF THE CASE**

10 1. CVI and USI, and later, Experian and USI, without authorization,  
11 sold or granted access to the highly sensitive, confidential, and regulated  
12 consumer, financial, and personal records and information, including consumer  
13 credit information and Social Security numbers (collectively, "PII"), of 200  
14 million<sup>1</sup> U.S. citizens (*i.e.*, Plaintiffs and Class Members) in the  
15 USI/CVI/Experian databases to Hieu Minh Ngo ("Ngo"), a known and now  
16 convicted identity thief, black market PII trafficker, and computer hacker, who,  
17 in turn, re-sold and granted access to the compromised PII to over 1300 identity  
18 theft criminals worldwide for the purpose of engaging in identity theft and  
19 identity fraud (the "Security Lapse").

20 2. Ngo's customers used CVI and Experian to make 3.1 million  
21 queries of the USI database over an 18-month period. Access to the  
22 compromised PII ended in February 2013, when the CVI/Experian portal used by  
23 Ngo and his customers to access the USI/CVI/Experian databases was closed,

24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 <sup>1</sup> According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. population during 2012,  
26 the bulk of the time the Security Lapse took place, was approximately 313  
27 million. Also per the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 23.3% of the U.S.  
28 population was under the age of 18 during 2013. See <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/00000.html> (last visited Sept. 6, 2015).  
Accordingly, during 2012, there were approximately 240 million adults in the  
U.S. with the type of PII contained in the CVI/USI/Experian databases. Thus,  
while Ngo's PII portal and black market websites were up and running, Ngo and  
his fraudster clientele had access to the PII of 83% of the U.S. adult population.

1 and the Security Lapse was first revealed. The Security Lapse is one of the most  
2 significant and potentially largest data security lapses involving wrongfully  
3 disclosed and compromised PII in the history of the United States.

4 3. This action seeks to require Defendants to notify all victims of the  
5 Security Lapse pursuant to various state data breach notification statutes and  
6 general principles of equity. Plaintiffs sue Defendants for violating at least 26  
7 state data breach notification statutes. Plaintiffs also seek (i) declaratory relief  
8 under the Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2201, *et seq.*, and (ii) an  
9 injunction requiring notification of the Security Lapse and other relief under the  
10 general principles of equity.

11 4. Providing notice of the Security Lapse to its actual victims will  
12 fulfill the December 18, 2013 representation and promise made to Congress by  
13 Tony Hadley, Experian's Senior Vice President of Government Affairs and  
14 Public Policy, wherein he stated that "we know who they [the Security Lapse  
15 victims] are, and we're going to make sure they're protected." To date – over 18  
16 months later – none of the Defendants have notified the Security Lapse victims  
17 or otherwise protected them.<sup>2</sup>

18 5. Notice of the Security Lapse also will put the victims on notice to be  
19 vigilant about their identities and finances, and take to the appropriate remedial  
20 and protective measures. Providing notice is not only the right thing to do, but  
21 legally mandated. Without individualized notice, Security Lapse victims do not  
22 know whether or how their PII was compromised, the categories of PII  
23 compromised, and the types of identity theft and identity fraud to which they

24  
25 <sup>2</sup> Later, in a March 30, 2014 press release, Gerry Tschopp, Experian's  
26 Senior Vice President of Public Affairs and Public Relations, reversed field,  
27 claiming that "[i]n terms of notifying consumers, Experian does not know which  
28 consumers' information was disclosed as the data did not come from an Experian  
database and no other information now available to Experian would identify  
which consumers should be notified." See <http://www.experian.com/blogs/news/2014/03/30/court-ventures/> (last visited September 6, 2015). Although  
Tschopp extended Experian's commitment to get to the bottom of the situation  
(*see id.*), to date, Experian has failed to live up to its commitment.

1 have been exposed or actually suffered. Notice of the Security also will alleviate  
 2 concerns and bring peace of mind to individuals whose PII was not sold or made  
 3 available to Ngo and his fraudster customers by Defendants.

4 6. As professed experts in data breach management, Defendants know  
 5 well that the law requires that victims of a data breach, such as the Security  
 6 Lapse, be notified about the unauthorized disclosure of their PII. As a major  
 7 purveyor of highly profitable credit monitoring and data breach remediation  
 8 products, Experian also knows the undisputable benefits that credit monitoring,  
 9 expense reimbursement funds, data breach insurance, and other data breach  
 10 protection and remediation products provide.

11 7. Plaintiffs and Class Members are entitled to notification of whether  
 12 they are (or are not) victims of the Security Lapse. Plaintiffs and Class Members  
 13 are no less entitled to protection and remediation than the federal employees  
 14 victimized by the massive data breach at the U.S. Office of Personnel  
 15 Management (“OPM”) in June 2015.<sup>3</sup>

### 16 JURISDICTION AND VENUE

17 8. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over Plaintiffs’ claims  
 18 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a) (diversity) because the matter in controversy  
 19 exceeds \$75,000 in value, exclusive of interest and costs, and is between citizens  
 20 of different States. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because  
 21 at all relevant times, their headquarters or principal places of business were (and  
 22 continue to be) in the Central District of California, or Defendants conducted  
 23

---

24 <sup>3</sup> See Bob McGovern, Judges Under Fire, Boston Herald, July 11, 2015 at  
 25 [http://www.bostonherald.com/news\\_opinion/local\\_coverage/2015/07/judges\\_und\\_er\\_fire](http://www.bostonherald.com/news_opinion/local_coverage/2015/07/judges_und_er_fire)  
 26 (last visited July 14, 2015) (reporting that although federal judges  
 27 victimized by the recent OPM data breach will “automatically receive \$1 million  
 28 of identity theft insurance and access to full-service identity restoration services,”  
 they are dissatisfied with the fact that the offered “credit monitoring services are  
 available for only 18 months and none of the services cover family members.”  
 According to Administrative Office Director James Duff, “[b]oth the scope and  
 duration of the services concern us, as well as many of our judges and  
 employees. We are voicing our concerns about these issues.”).

1 (and continue to conduct) business in the Central District of California.

2 9. Venue is proper in the Southern Division of the Central District of  
3 California, under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and (c), because at all relevant times, (i) a  
4 substantial part, if not all, of the events giving rise to this action occurred in this  
5 Division, (ii) Defendants Experian Data Corp.'s and CVI's headquarters and  
6 principal places of business were (and continue to be) in this Division, or  
7 (iii) Defendants conducted (and continue to conduct) business in this Division.

8 **PARTIES**

9 10. Plaintiff Maudie Patton is a citizen and resident of Roswell, New  
10 Mexico. On information and belief, Patton's PII was of the type purchased and  
11 accessed by Ngo and his fraudster customers from the USI/CVI/Experian  
12 databases via the portal established by Ngo through CVI/Experian utilizing  
13 Ngo's black market websites, Superget.info and findget.me. Defendants,  
14 individually or in conjunction with their sharing practices, maintain PII on  
15 approximately 83% of the adult US population and it is thus more likely to  
16 include Patton's PII. Patton is concerned about her PII, finances, credit, and  
17 identity and, as such, regularly monitors her credit and financial accounts, and  
18 carefully stores and disposes of PII and other documents containing PII.

19 11. Plaintiff Jacqueline Goodridge is a citizen and resident of Coos Bay,  
20 Oregon. On information and belief, Goodridge's PII was of the type purchased  
21 and accessed by Ngo and his fraudster customers from the USI/CVI/Experian  
22 databases via the portal established by Ngo through CVI/Experian utilizing  
23 Ngo's black market websites, Superget.info and findget.me. Defendants,  
24 individually or in conjunction with their sharing practices, maintain PII on  
25 approximately 83% of the adult US population and it is thus more likely to  
26 include Patton's PII. Goodridge is concerned about her PII, finances, credit, and  
27 identity and, as such, regularly monitors her credit and financial accounts, and  
28 carefully stores and disposes of PII and other documents containing PII.

BLOOD HURST & O'REARDON, LLP

1           12. Plaintiff Virginia Kaldmo is a citizen and resident of Amelia, Ohio.  
2 On information and belief, Kaldmo's PII was of the type purchased and accessed  
3 by Ngo and his fraudster customers from the USI/CVI/Experian databases via the  
4 portal established by Ngo through CVI/Experian utilizing Ngo's black market  
5 websites, Superget.info and findget.me. Defendants, individually or in  
6 conjunction with their sharing practices, maintain PII on approximately 83% of  
7 the adult US population and it is thus more likely to include Patton's PII. Kaldmo  
8 is concerned about her PII, finances, credit, and identity and, as such, regularly  
9 monitors her credit and financial accounts, and carefully stores and disposes of  
10 PII and other documents containing PII.

11           13. Sales of Patton, Goodridge, and Kaldo's PII were without their  
12 knowledge or authorization.

13           14. Defendant Experian Data Corp. is a Delaware corporation with its  
14 principal place of business in Costa Mesa, California. Experian is a wholly-  
15 owned subsidiary of Experian plc, a Republic of Ireland company. In March  
16 2012, Experian acquired certain assets and liabilities owned by CVI, including  
17 the CVI Database. As a result, Experian became the successor in interest to  
18 CVI's assets, business, and related liabilities.

19           15. Experian is part of a global information services group of  
20 companies, providing data and analytical tools to its clients around the world.  
21 According to its parent company's website, <https://www.experianplc.com> (last  
22 visited on July 17, 2015), the Experian companies "help businesses to manage  
23 credit risk, prevent fraud, target marketing offers and automate decision making"  
24 and "help people to check their credit report and credit score, and protect against  
25 identity theft."

26           16. Experian collects information on people, businesses, motor vehicles,  
27 insurance, and lifestyle data, including data pertaining to United States citizens  
28 and residents. Experian's principal lines of business are credit services,

1 marketing services, decision analytics, and consumer services – with, among  
 2 other things, a claimed expertise in fraud detection.<sup>4</sup> Experian may be served  
 3 with Summons and a copy of this First Amended Class Action Complaint by  
 4 serving its registered agent for service of process, C.T. Corporation System, 818  
 5 West Seventh Street, Second Floor, Los Angeles, California 90017.

6 17. Defendant Court Ventures, Inc. (“CVI”) is a California corporation  
 7 with its principal place of business in Orange County, California. At all relevant  
 8 times, CVI was in the business of compiling and distributing public records data,  
 9 such as criminal records, civil suits and judgments, state tax lien, marriage  
 10 licenses, death certificates, professional business licenses, and bankruptcy  
 11 petitions, discharges, and dismissals from over 1,400 state and county record  
 12 depositories (*i.e.*, the “CVI database”), each of which may contain other PII. In  
 13 March 2012, Experian plc, through Experian, acquired the CVI database and  
 14 other assets from CVI. As a result, Experian plc and EDC became the successor  
 15 in interest to CVI’s assets, business, and related liabilities. CVI may be served  
 16 with Summons and a copy of this First Amended Class Action Complaint by  
 17 serving its President and sole shareholder, Robert L. Gundling, 1211 N. Las  
 18 Brisas, Anaheim, California 92806.

19  
 20 <sup>4</sup> See <http://www.experian.com/corporate/areas-of-expertise.html> (last  
 21 visited April 14, 2015) and <http://www.experian.com/corporate/fraud-detection.html> (last visited April 14, 2015) (recognizing, among other things, that  
 22 “[f]raud is a huge issue that is on the rise,” “[t]here is a constant, ongoing battle  
 23 between fraudsters and legitimate businesses, particularly in the area of digital  
 24 security,” “[t]here is a high social and financial cost to fraud that impacts both  
 25 organizations and individuals,” and “[h]undreds of fraudulent techniques exist,  
 which include anything from theft of a credit or debit card, tax evasion, claims  
 fraud, advertising goods and services that don’t exist, falsifying information, or  
 stealing another’s identity for gain.”).

26 Experian also boasts that “[f]raud detection and identity management  
 27 products or services permeate throughout Experian, enabling companies to  
 28 detect, monitor and assess the risk of fraud at every stage of their customer  
 relationship” and touts its ability to detect cases of fraud, automate fraud risk  
 assessment, predict the likelihood of fraud, reduce many types of fraud, and  
 establish shared fraud detection schemes across multiple organizations in a  
 particular industry. *Id.*



1           22. Because CVI and USI (and later, Experian) openly granted access to  
2 each other's subscribers, Ngo and his fraudsters accessed the PII of more than  
3 200 million Americans (*i.e.*, approximately 83% of the U.S. adult population)  
4 including, *inter alia*, criminal and civil judgment histories, bankruptcy histories,  
5 tax lien histories, professional business licenses, marital status, Social Security  
6 numbers, addresses, dates of births, personal vital statistics, and bank  
7 information.

8           23. Ngo, posing as SG Investigators, was one of CVI's biggest clients.  
9 Ngo regularly wired CVI \$15,000 per month from his bank account in Singapore  
10 for access to CVI's and USI's (and later, Experian's) consumer PII databases  
11 through his CVI (and later, Experian) account.

12           24. During July 2010, Ngo started reselling U.S. consumer PII from,  
13 and granting access to, the CVI and USI (and later, Experian) consumer PII  
14 databases through the known fraudster websites, Superget.info and findget.me,  
15 which Ngo created and operated. The Superget.info and findget.me websites  
16 were hosted by servers located overseas. Registration was free and anonymous.  
17 The websites accepted payment in the form of virtual currency, including Liberty  
18 Reserve, which the federal government alleges is responsible for laundering over  
19 \$6 billion of proceeds from criminal activity.

20           25. The Superget.info and findget.me websites were user friendly,  
21 "interfacing" directly with CVI's (and later, Experian's) databases and serving as  
22 consumer PII superhighways. The websites were direct portals to CVI's (and  
23 later, Experian's) PII databases and USI's PII databases used by Ngo's fraudster  
24 clientele.

25           26. Superget.info, for example, operated in such a way that a visitor  
26 could enter a name and a state of residence of a prospective victim, and obtain  
27 other PII relating to the victim from CVI's (and later, Experian's) databases and  
28 USI's databases, including the victim's complete name, age, date of birth,

1 address, and Social Security number. A successful hit on a Social Security  
 2 number or date of birth cost a fraudster approximately \$3.00, which Ngo  
 3 collected. At one time, Superget.info boasted that “[a]bout 99% nearly 100% US  
 4 people could be found, more than any sites on the internet now.”

5 27. The Superget.info and findget.me websites had 1,300 customers  
 6 who paid Ngo nearly \$2 million over the relevant period to access CVI’s (and  
 7 later, Experian’s) databases and USI’s databases containing the PII of 200  
 8 million U.S. citizens – a substantial portion of which Ngo remitted to  
 9 Experian/CVI for the privilege. Over an 18-month period ending in February  
 10 2013, Ngo’s fraudster customers conducted approximately 3.1 million queries,  
 11 1.0 million of which were conducted *after* Experian acquired CVI. Since each  
 12 query could generate an unlimited number of hits, the actual number of  
 13 individual consumer PII records obtained and utilized by fraudsters to commit  
 14 further identity theft and identity fraud could be in the tens of millions –  
 15 potentially as many as 30 million records. *See* [http://krebsonsecurity.com/](http://krebsonsecurity.com/2014/03/experian-lapse-allowed-id-theft-service-to-access-200-million-consumer-records/)  
 16 [2014/03/experian-lapse-allowed-id-theft-service-to-access-200-million-consumer](http://krebsonsecurity.com/2014/03/experian-lapse-allowed-id-theft-service-to-access-200-million-consumer-records/)  
 17 [-records/](http://krebsonsecurity.com/2014/03/experian-lapse-allowed-id-theft-service-to-access-200-million-consumer-records/) (last visited September 6, 2015).

18 28. In February 2013, the U.S. Secret Service arrested Ngo. On July 14,  
 19 2015, Ngo was sentenced to 13 years in prison for his criminal activity.<sup>5</sup>

## 20 **II. Experian’s and CVI’s Involvement in the Security Lapse.**

21 29. In March 2012, Experian bought CVI, including the rights and  
 22 obligations under CVI’s data reciprocity agreement with USI, for \$18.3 million.

23 30. When conducting due diligence prior to the acquisition of CVI,  
 24 Experian learned several facts that should have alerted it that CVI engaged in,  
 25 and was connected to, unauthorized and unlawful activity, including Ngo’s

26 <sup>5</sup> *See* Press Release, U.S. Department of Justice, Vietnamese National  
 27 Sentenced to 13 Years in Prison for Operating a Massive International Hacking  
 28 and Identity Theft Scheme (July 14, 2015) at [http://www.justice.gov/opa/](http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/vietnamese-national-sentenced-13-years-prison-operating-massive-international-hacking-and)  
[pr/vietnamese-national-sentenced-13-years-prison-operating-massive-international-hacking-and](http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/vietnamese-national-sentenced-13-years-prison-operating-massive-international-hacking-and) (last visited July 15, 2015).

1 identity fraud operation. For example, CVI represented to Experian that virtually  
2 all of the data it sold was publicly available criminal history information, and  
3 thus unregulated. But, Experian later learned prior to the purchase that CVI, in  
4 fact, accessed certain personal information and, therefore, was subject to  
5 regulation. Prior to acquiring CVI, Experian learned that CVI misrepresented its  
6 regulatory compliance regarding such information.

7 31. When conducting due diligence prior to the acquisition of CVI,  
8 Experian also discovered that the largest buyer of consumer PII was SG  
9 Investigators, a Singapore-based private investigator who made substantial  
10 monthly wire transfers from its bank in Singapore in payment for accessing  
11 CVI's consumer PII databases.

12 32. Based on this information, Experian should have further  
13 investigated CVI's regulatory compliance, Ngo, and SG Investigators'  
14 operations. Had Experian properly performed even the most basic additional  
15 investigation of Ngo and SG Investigators, Experian would have discovered  
16 Ngo's illegal identity fraud enterprise utilizing CVI's consumer PII databases,  
17 and shut it down. Experian, however, intentionally or with reckless disregard  
18 failed to do so, stood willingly by, facilitated the illicit operation, and reaped the  
19 financial benefits of the acquisition of CVI for another ten months.

20 33. Shortly after acquiring CVI, Experian learned that CVI was  
21 unlawfully obtaining public record information through a practice known as  
22 "web scraping." Web scraping is prohibited by many of CVI's public record  
23 information sources, but CVI web scraped these sites anyway, in violation of the  
24 sites' terms of use. In doing so, CVI created workarounds that sidestepped such  
25 websites' technological barriers that were designed to prevent web scraping.  
26 Thus, both before and immediately after Experian acquired CVI, it was acutely  
27 aware of serious issues with CVI's operations that should have caused Experian  
28 to launch a thorough and comprehensive internal investigation of CVI to correct

1 the breaches and violations that had occurred.

2 34. For almost ten months after Experian acquired CVI, Ngo relatedly  
3 paid Experian substantial amounts of money for continued access to a now-  
4 expanded treasure trove of consumer PII in the Experian/CVI/USI databases.  
5 Experian accepted Ngo's payments "with no questions asked." Approximately  
6 1.0 million database queries were made by Ngo and his fraudster customers  
7 during this time, for which, according to Marc Martin, the USI CEO, Experian  
8 collected at least \$500,000.

9 35. It was only when the U.S. Secret Service notified Experian in  
10 November 2012, about its ongoing investigation of Ngo that Experian began to  
11 take action – even though before this date, Experian was in possession of several  
12 facts sufficient to put it on notice of the Security Lapse. For example, by that  
13 time, Experian had the logs of Ngo's activity and could have learned that Ngo  
14 (for his customers) was inputting millions of names and states of residence in  
15 order to obtain Social Security numbers, dates of birth, financial accounts  
16 information, and other PII. Experian failed to investigate Ngo further until  
17 federal authorities contacted Experian and notified it about their investigation.  
18 Even without notice, however, Experian should have monitored its transactions  
19 in the normal course of its consumer credit reporting and data brokering  
20 business. Its failure to do so resulted in the continuation and expansion of the  
21 Security Lapse.

22 36. Ever since federal authorities forced Experian's hand, Experian has  
23 been trying to pass the buck. In a contract dispute pending in California state  
24 court, Experian concedes that CVI sold consumer data to Ngo "without having  
25 vetted to see if he qualified to obtain such information and Ngo in turn sold this  
26 information to many hundreds of identity thieves situated all over the world."  
27 Experian admits that as successor in interest to CVI's business, assets, and  
28 liabilities, CVI's actions exposed Experian to liability to potential liability,

1 governmental scrutiny, fines, penalties, loss of revenues, and damages.<sup>6</sup> An  
 2 Experian executive also testified before Congress, admitting that during  
 3 Experian's "due diligence" of CVI, Experian did not obtain "all of the  
 4 information necessary to vet" CVI's business activities, including its relationship  
 5 with Ngo.

### 6 **III. Security Lapses Lead to Identity Theft and Identity Fraud.**

7 37. Identity theft occurs when a person's PII, such as his or her name, e-  
 8 mail address, address, Social Security number, billing and shipping addresses,  
 9 telephone number, and payment card information is used without authorization to  
 10 commit fraud or other crimes.

11 38. According to the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC"), "the range of  
 12 privacy-related harms is more expansive than economic or physical harm or  
 13 unwarranted intrusions" and "any privacy framework should recognize additional  
 14 harms that might arise from unanticipated uses of data."<sup>7</sup> There "is significant  
 15 evidence demonstrating that technological advances and the ability to combine  
 16 disparate pieces of data can lead to identification of a consumer, computer or  
 17 device even if the individual pieces of data do not constitute [PII]."<sup>8</sup>

18 39. In fact, while reflecting on the recent OPM data breach, David  
 19 Sellers, a spokesman for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, opined  
 20 that "[i]t is certainly a matter of grave concern, as is the case with any security  
 21  
 22  
 23  
 24

25 <sup>6</sup> Cross-Complaint ¶16, *Court Ventures, Inc. v. Experian Data Corp.*, No. 30-  
 26 2013-00682410-CU-BC-CJC (Cal. Super. Ct. Feb. 28, 2014).

27 <sup>7</sup> FTC Report, *Protecting Consumer Privacy in an Era of Rapid Change*, 8  
 28 (March 2012), available at <http://www.ftc.gov/os/2012/03/120326privacyreport.pdf> (last visited May 8, 2014).

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*: *Comment of Center for Democracy & Technology*, cmt. #00469, at 3;  
*Comment of Statz, Inc.*, cmt. #00377, at 11–12.

BLOOD HURST & O'REARDON, LLP

1 issue . . . . [I]t is not that different than some kind of a disaster. It is of that  
2 proportion. The potential for disaster is humongous.”<sup>9</sup>

3 40. Providing meaningful identity theft monitoring and identity theft  
4 insurance are widely recognized as necessary for every person whose PII is  
5 taken. For example, the federal government is providing identity theft  
6 monitoring, identity theft insurance and restoration services to all 21.5 million  
7 victims affected by the OPM data breach.<sup>10</sup> The federal government believes  
8 these measures (as well as others) are necessary regardless of who was affected  
9 by the data breach.

10 41. Because Plaintiffs’ and Class Members’ Social Security numbers  
11 were disclosed without authorization, they face an imminent, immediate and  
12 continuing increased risk of identity theft and identity fraud – similar to that of  
13 the federal judiciary as a result of the recent OPM data breach.

14 42. Javelin Strategy & Research (“Javelin”), a leading provider of  
15 quantitative and qualitative research, releases Identity Fraud Reports quantifying  
16 the impact of data security breaches. According to Javelin’s 2012 report,  
17 individuals whose PII is subject to a reported security breach – such as the  
18 Security Lapse at issue here – are approximately 9.5 times more likely than the  
19 general public to suffer identity fraud and/or identity theft. Javelin’s most recent  
20 report shows that the total amount stolen in 2013 reached \$18 billion. In 2013,  
21 one in three people who received data breach notification letters became a victim  
22 of fraud, 46% of consumers with breached debit cards became a victim, and 16%  
23 of consumers with a breached Social Security number experience fraud.

24 43. According to the FTC, victims of identity theft and identity fraud  
25 are at serious risk of substantial losses. “Once identity thieves have your personal

26 <sup>9</sup> See Bob McGovern, *Judges Under Fire*, BOSTON HERALD, July 11, 2015  
27 at [http://www.bostonherald.com/news\\_opinion/local\\_coverage/2015/07/judges\\_](http://www.bostonherald.com/news_opinion/local_coverage/2015/07/judges_under_fire)  
28 [under\\_fire](http://www.bostonherald.com/news_opinion/local_coverage/2015/07/judges_under_fire) (last visited July 14, 2015).

<sup>10</sup> See Information about OPM Cybersecurity Incidents, <https://www.opm.gov/cybersecurity>, last visited July 16, 2015.

1 information, they can drain your bank account, run up charges on your credit  
2 cards, open new utility accounts, or get medical treatment on your health  
3 insurance. An identity thief can file a tax refund in your name and get your  
4 refund. In some extreme cases, a thief might even give your name to the police  
5 during an arrest.”<sup>11</sup>

6 44. Identity thieves use Social Security numbers to commit other types  
7 of fraud. The Government Accounting Office (GAO) found that identity thieves  
8 use PII to open financial accounts and payment card accounts and incur charges  
9 in a victim’s name.<sup>12</sup> This type of identity theft can be the most damaging  
10 because it may take some time for the victim to become aware of the theft, while  
11 in the meantime causing significant harm to the victim’s credit rating and  
12 finances. Moreover, unlike other PII, Social Security numbers are incredibly  
13 difficult to change, and their misuse can continue for years into the future.

14 45. Identity thieves also use Social Security numbers to obtain false  
15 identification cards, obtain government benefits in the victim’s name, commit  
16 crimes, and, as occurred here, file fraudulent tax returns to pilfer the victims’ tax  
17 refunds. Identity thieves also obtain jobs using stolen Social Security numbers,  
18 rent houses and apartments, and obtain medical services in the victim’s name.  
19 Identity thieves also have been known to give a victim’s personal information to  
20 police during an arrest, resulting in the issuance of an arrest warrant in the  
21 victim’s name and an unwarranted criminal record. The GAO states that victims  
22 of identity theft face “substantial costs and inconvenience repairing damage to  
23 their credit records,” as well the damage to their “good name.”<sup>13</sup>

24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 <sup>11</sup> See FTC, *Signs of Identity Theft*, available at <http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0271-signs-identity-theft> (last visited July 17, 2015).

26 <sup>12</sup> See Government Accountability Office. *Personal Information*. 9 (June  
27 2007), available at <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d07737.pdf> (last visited July  
28 17, 2015).

<sup>13</sup> See Government Accountability Office. *Identity Theft*. 2 (PDF pagination)  
(June 17, 2009) <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09759t.pdf> (last visited July 17,  
2015).

1           46. The unauthorized disclosure of a person's Social Security number  
2 can be particularly damaging, because Social Security numbers cannot be easily  
3 replaced like a credit card or debit card. In order to obtain a new Social Security  
4 number, a person must show evidence that someone is using the number  
5 fraudulently, as well as show that he has done all he can to fix the problems  
6 resulting from the misuse.<sup>14</sup> Thus, individuals whose PII has been stolen cannot  
7 obtain a new Social Security number until the damage has already been done and  
8 they have shown they have done all they can to fix the problems.

9           47. Obtaining a new Social Security number does not absolutely prevent  
10 continued identity fraud. Government agencies, private businesses, and credit  
11 reporting companies likely still have the person's records under the old number,  
12 so the impact of the identity theft may persist long after the incident. For some  
13 identity theft victims, a new number may actually create more problems. Because  
14 prior positive credit information is not associated with the new Social Security  
15 number, it is more difficult to obtain credit due to the absence of a credit history.

16           48. PII is a valuable commodity to identity thieves. Once PII has been  
17 compromised, criminals often trade the information on the "cyber black market"  
18 for a number of years.<sup>15</sup> Identity thieves and other cyber criminals openly post  
19 stolen credit card numbers, Social Security numbers, and other personal financial  
20 information on various Internet websites, thereby making the information  
21 publicly available. In one study, researchers found hundreds of websites  
22 displaying stolen PII. Strikingly, none of these websites was blocked by  
23 Google's safeguard filtering mechanism – the "Safe Browsing list." One study  
24 concluded:

25 <sup>14</sup> See Identity Theft and Your Social Security Number, SSA Publication No.  
26 05-10064, October 2007, ICN 46327, available at <http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/10064.html> (last visited July 17, 2015).

27 <sup>15</sup> Companies, in fact, also recognize PII as an extremely valuable  
28 commodity akin to a form of personal property. See T. Soma, *et al*, *Corporate  
Privacy Trend: The "Value" of Personally Identifiable Information ("PII")  
Equals the "Value" of Financial Assets*, 15 Rich. J.L. & Tech. 11, 3–4 (2009).

1 It is clear from the current state of the credit card black-market that  
 2 cyber criminals can operate much too easily on the Internet. They  
 3 are not afraid to put out their email addresses, in some cases phone  
 4 numbers and other credentials in their advertisements. It seems that  
 the black market for cyber criminals is not underground at all. In  
 fact, it's very "in your face."<sup>16</sup>

#### 5 **IV. Defendants Refuse to Notify or Protect the Security Lapse Victims.**

6 49. According to its website, Experian "considers itself a steward of the  
 7 information it collects, maintains and utilizes. [Its] responsibility is to ensure the  
 8 security of the information in [its] care and to maintain the privacy of consumers  
 9 through appropriate, responsible use."<sup>17</sup>

10 50. Experian further promises on its website that "[w]e use a variety of  
 11 security systems to safeguard the information we maintain and provide;" and  
 12 "[w]e maintain physical security for our facilities and limit access to critical  
 13 areas; and we conduct approval processes before information Experian maintains  
 14 can be accessed or changed."<sup>18</sup>

15 51. The Security Lapse has revealed these assurances to be untrue. And,  
 16 even though Experian considers itself a steward of consumer reports, Experian  
 17 has not notified the consumers affected by the Security Lapse, or provided them  
 18 with protection – such as credit monitoring – despite the ethical, moral, and legal  
 19 requirement to do so. Neither have CVI and USI.

20 52. After being alerted to the Ngo identity fraud operation, Experian  
 21 continued its tangled web of contradictions. In a March 30, 2014 Experian press  
 22 release, Gerry Tschopp, Experian's Senior Vice President of Public Affairs and  
 23 Public Relations, stated that "[i]n terms of notifying consumers, Experian does  
 24

25 <sup>16</sup> StopTheHacker, *The "Underground" Credit Card Blackmarket*, available  
 26 at <http://www.stopthehacker.com/2010/03/03/the-underground-credit-card-black-market/> (last visited July 17, 2015).

27 <sup>17</sup> "Our Approach to Privacy", <https://www.experian.com/privacy/> (last  
 visited July 16, 2015).

28 <sup>18</sup> "Upholding Our Information Values", [http://www.experian.com/privacy/information\\_values.html](http://www.experian.com/privacy/information_values.html) (last visited July 16, 2015).

1 not know which consumers' information was disclosed as the data did not come  
 2 from an Experian database and no other information now available to Experian  
 3 would identify which consumers should be notified." Experian's resources,  
 4 technological capabilities, line of business (including data breach management  
 5 and business consulting), and statements by another senior executive suggests  
 6 that Tschopp's statement is not true. In any event, although Tschopp extended  
 7 Experian's commitment to get to the bottom of the situation (*see id.*), to date,  
 8 Experian has failed to live up to its commitment. So have CVI and USI.

9 53. For example, at a December 18, 2013 hearing of the Senate  
 10 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation addressing possible  
 11 legislation concerning the use of consumer information for marketing purposes,  
 12 Tony Hadley, Experian's Senior Vice President of Government Affairs and  
 13 Public Policy, testified, under oath, about the Ngo identity fraud victims, stating  
 14 "we know who they are, and we're going to make sure they're protected."<sup>19</sup>  
 15 Senator McCaskill expressed concern that the Security Lapse demonstrated that  
 16 Experian is not a capable steward of the consumer information it collected and  
 17 shared for marketing purposes. More importantly, and setting aside the fact that  
 18 Hadley's statement directly contradicts Tschopp's statement, Experian has not  
 19 made good on Hadley's promise.

20 54. Consistent with Hadley's statement, Experian's allegations in its  
 21 cross-complaint against Court Ventures in the California state court litigation  
 22 indicate that the PII sold by Experian and CVI to Ngo and his fraudster  
 23 customers is readily ascertainable by Experian. Experian specifically alleges:

24 It was only as a result of [the U.S. Secret Service contacting  
 25 Experian] that Experian had any reason to look at the actual logs for

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
 27 <sup>19</sup> Congressional Hearing Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
 28 Committee, available at [http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Hearings&ContentRecord\\_id=a5c3a62c-68a6-4735-9d18-916bdbbadf01&ContentType\\_id=14f995b9-dfa5-407a-9d35-56cc7152a7ed&Group\\_id=b06c39af-e033-4cba-9221-de668ca1978a](http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Hearings&ContentRecord_id=a5c3a62c-68a6-4735-9d18-916bdbbadf01&ContentType_id=14f995b9-dfa5-407a-9d35-56cc7152a7ed&Group_id=b06c39af-e033-4cba-9221-de668ca1978a) at 2:22:30.

1 SG Investigators' queries, at which point Experian discovered that  
 2 SG Investigators was inputting names and states in order to obtain  
 consumers' social security numbers.<sup>20</sup>

3 The fact that Experian is able to ascertain the identity of the victims of the Ngo  
 4 identity fraud operation from its logs through reasonable efforts confirms that  
 5 any pretext for Experian's failure and refusal to provide notice to, and credit  
 6 monitoring for, the Security Lapse victims is false.

7 55. Experian's failure and refusal to do so is particularly egregious in  
 8 light of its self-touted expertise in data breach management. Indeed, Experian's  
 9 Data Breach Response Guide emphasizes the importance of implementing an  
 10 effective notification program.<sup>21</sup> Experian's failure to take its own advice to  
 11 rectify a serious situation that it created, is willful. Its conduct shouts the maxim,  
 12 "Physician, heal thyself."<sup>22</sup>

13 56. Defendants' failure and refusal to safeguard and protect Plaintiffs'  
 14 and Class Members' PII, notify them about the Security Breach, and provide  
 15 them with protection after Experian promised Congress it would do so has  
 16 caused (and will continue to cause) Plaintiffs and Class Members to suffer injury  
 17 and harm and has deprived Plaintiffs and the Class Members of what Congress  
 18 would have mandated or otherwise provided by for that misdirection.

### 19 CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

20 57. Pursuant to FED. R. CIV. P. 23(a) and (b)(2), Plaintiffs brings this  
 21 action as a class action, asserting Count I individually, and on behalf of the  
 22 following Nationwide Class of similarly situated individuals:

23 All persons whose personally identifiable information (PII) was  
 24 contained in the Experian/CVI/USI databases and subject to being  
 25 accessed, whether directly or indirectly, through Hieu Minh Ngo's

26 <sup>20</sup> Cross-Complaint ¶18, *Court Ventures, Inc. v. Experian Data Corp.*, No.  
 30-2013-00682410-CU-BC-CJC (Cal. Super. Ct. Feb. 28, 2014).

27 <sup>21</sup> See Data Breach Response Guide 13 (2014), available at  
 28 <http://www.experian.com/assets/data-breach/brochures/2014-2015-data-breach-response-guide.pdf> (last visited July 16, 2015).

<sup>22</sup> LUKE 4:23 (KJV).

BLOOD HURST & O'REARDON, LLP

1 websites, Superget.info and findget.me, from July 1, 2010 to and  
2 including February 28, 2013.

3 58. Pursuant to FED. R. CIV. P. 23(a) and (b)(2), Plaintiff Jacqueline  
4 Goodridge also brings this action as a class action, asserting Count II  
5 individually, and on behalf of the following State Data Breach Notification  
6 Statute Sub-Class consisting of similarly situated citizens of the States of Alaska,  
7 California, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas,  
8 Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Montana, New Hampshire, New  
9 Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee,  
10 Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming, and the District of Columbia:

11 All persons whose personally identifiable information (PII) was  
12 contained in the Experian/CVI/USI databases and subject to being  
13 accessed, whether directly or indirectly, through Hieu Minh Ngo's  
14 websites, Superget.info and findget.me, from July 1, 2010 to  
February 2013.

15 59. Excluded from the Nationwide Class and the State Data Breach  
16 Notification Statute Sub-Class are (i) Defendants and their owners, officers,  
17 directors, employees, agents, representatives, parent companies, subsidiaries,  
18 affiliates, successors, and assigns; and (ii) the Court, Court personnel, and  
19 members of their immediate families.

20 60. The Nationwide Class Members and State Data Breach Notification  
21 Statute Sub-Class Members number in the millions and, as such, are so numerous  
22 that their joinder would be impracticable. The precise numbers of Nationwide  
23 Class Members and State Data Breach Notification Statute Sub-Class Members  
24 are presently unknown to Plaintiffs, but may be ascertained from Defendants'  
25 records. Disposition of this matter as a class action will provide substantial  
26 benefits and efficiencies to the Parties and the Court.

27  
28

BLOOD HURST & O'REARDON, LLP

1 61. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all Nationwide Class  
2 Members and State Data Breach Notification Statute Sub-Class Members, and  
3 predominate over any individual questions including, *inter alia*:

- 4 (i) whether Defendants failed to safeguard and protect Plaintiffs' and  
5 the Nationwide Class Members' and State Data Breach Notification  
6 Statute Sub-Class Members' PII;
- 7 (ii) whether Defendants failed to notify Plaintiffs and the Nationwide  
8 Class Members and State Data Breach Notification Statute Sub-  
9 Class Members whose PII was accessed and/or obtained without  
10 authorization in the Security Lapse;
- 11 (iii) whether Defendants violated applicable state data breach  
12 notification statutes by failing to notify Plaintiffs and the  
13 Nationwide Class Members and State Data Breach Notification  
14 Statute Sub-Class Members whose PII was accessed and/or obtained  
15 without authorization in the Security Lapse;
- 16 (iv) whether Defendants' failure to notify caused or aggravated  
17 Plaintiffs' and the Nationwide Class Members' and State Data  
18 Breach Notification Statute Sub-Class Members' injuries and harm;  
19 and
- 20 (v) whether and to what extent Plaintiffs and the Nationwide Class  
21 Members and State Data Breach Notification Statute Sub-Class  
22 Members are entitled to declaratory and injunctive relief.

23 Defendants engaged in uniform wrongful actions, inaction and omissions giving  
24 rise to the legal rights sought to be enforced by Plaintiffs, individually and on  
25 behalf of the Nationwide Class Members and State Data Breach Notification  
26 Statute Sub-Class Members.

27 62. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the Nationwide Class Members' and  
28 State Data Breach Notification Statute Sub-Class Members' claims in that  
Plaintiffs' claims and the Nationwide Class Members' and State Data Breach  
Notification Statute Sub-Class Members' claims all arise from Defendants'  
uniform wrongful actions, inaction and omissions, and willful misconduct; to  
wit, Defendants' failure and refusal to (i) safeguard and protect Plaintiffs' and  
the Nationwide Class Members' and State Data Breach Notification Statute Sub-

BLOOD HURST & O'REARDON, LLP

1 Class Class Members' PII, and (ii) properly notify Plaintiffs and the Nationwide  
2 Class Members and State Data Breach Notification Statute Sub-Class Members  
3 about the Security Lapse.

4 63. Plaintiffs and their counsel will fairly and adequately represent the  
5 Nationwide Class Members' and State Data Breach Notification Statute Sub-  
6 Class Members' interests. Plaintiffs have no interests antagonistic to, or in  
7 conflict with, the Nationwide Class Members' and State Data Breach  
8 Notification Statute Sub-Class Members' interests. Plaintiffs' attorneys are  
9 highly experienced in prosecuting consumer class actions and data security  
10 breach class actions, and will vigorously prosecute this action on behalf of  
11 Plaintiffs and the Nationwide Class Members and State Data Breach Notification  
12 Statute Sub-Class Members.

13 64. Certification, therefore, is appropriate under FED. R. CIV. P. 23(b)(2)  
14 because Defendants have acted, or refused to act, on grounds generally applicable  
15 to the Nationwide Class and State Data Breach Notification Statute Sub-Class,  
16 thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief and declaratory relief with  
17 respect to the Nationwide Class and State Data Breach Notification Statute Sub-  
18 Class as a whole.

19 **CLAIMS FOR RELIEF AND CAUSES OF ACTION**

20 **COUNT I**

21 **INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

22 **(Against all Defendants by the Nationwide Class)**

23 65. The preceding factual statements and allegations are incorporated by  
24 reference.

25 66. Defendants' above-described wrongful actions, inaction, omissions,  
26 want of ordinary care, the resulting Security Lapse, and subsequent  
27 nondisclosures have caused (and will continues to cause) Plaintiffs and the  
28 Nationwide Class Members and State Data Breach Notification Statute Sub-

1 Class Members to suffer actual and imminent irreparable injury and harm in the  
2 form of Defendants' failure and refusal to notify them about the Security Lapse,  
3 so they can take the appropriate measures to protect themselves from the  
4 immediate and continuing increased risk of identity theft, identity fraud, and  
5 other injury and harm. Such irreparable harm will not cease unless and until  
6 enjoined by this Court.

7 67. Plaintiffs and the Nationwide Class Members and State Data Breach  
8 Notification Statute Sub-Class Members, however, have no adequate remedy at  
9 law other than injunctive relief – to which they are entitled under general  
10 principles of equity. There is a substantial likelihood Plaintiffs will succeed on  
11 the merits as it undisputed (and indisputable) that the Security Lapse occurred  
12 and none of the Defendants have notified any person anywhere that their PII was  
13 wrongfully disclosed and compromised or provided the victims with future  
14 identity theft or identity fraud protection. The only action Defendants have taken  
15 pertaining to the Security Lapse is to point fingers and blame each other for the  
16 Security Lapse, all the while keeping the financial benefits reaped from the  
17 wrongful sales of Plaintiffs' and the Nationwide Class Members' and State Data  
18 Breach Notification Statute Sub-Class Members' PII. Meanwhile, Plaintiffs and  
19 the Nationwide Class Members and State Data Breach Notification Statute Sub-  
20 Class Members, and their interests, have fallen through the cracks; Defendants  
21 hope they quietly go away.

22 68. Under general principles of equity, therefore, Plaintiffs and the  
23 Nationwide Class Members and State Data Breach Notification Statute Sub-  
24 Class Members are entitled to injunctive relief and other appropriate affirmative  
25 relief including, *inter alia*, an order compelling Defendants to, *inter alia*,  
26 (i) notify each person whether their PII was actually obtained (or not obtained)  
27 by Ngo and/or his fraudster customers, (ii) provide three years of credit  
28 monitoring and other identity theft and identity fraud protection services to each

1 such person whose PII was actually obtained by Ngo and/or his fraudster  
2 customers, (iii) establish a fund (in an amount to be determined) to which such  
3 persons may apply for reimbursement of the time and out-of-pocket expenses  
4 they incurred to remediate identity theft and/or identity fraud (*i.e.*, data breach  
5 insurance), from July 1, 2010 forward to the date the above-referenced credit  
6 monitoring terminates, and (iv) refund (or disgorge) their gross revenue from  
7 transactions with Ngo and his fraudster customers involving Plaintiffs' and the  
8 Nationwide Class Members' and State Data Breach Notification Statute Sub-  
9 Class Members' PII and the earnings on such gross revenue.

10 69. The hardship to Plaintiffs and the Nationwide Class Members and  
11 State Data Breach Notification Statute Sub-Class Members if an injunction does  
12 not issue substantially exceeds the hardship to Defendants if an injunction is  
13 issued. Without proper notification of whether their PII was disclosed and  
14 compromised in the Security Lapse, Plaintiffs and millions of Nationwide Class  
15 Members and State Data Breach Notification Statute Sub-Class Members will  
16 not know whether to take the appropriate measures to protect themselves from  
17 identity theft, identity fraud, and other injury and harm. On the other hand, and  
18 setting aside the fact that Defendants have the pre-existing legal obligation to  
19 employ adequate customer data security measures, Defendants' cost to comply  
20 with the above-described injunction, which they are already required to do by  
21 state data breach statutes, is relatively minimal. The injury and harm Plaintiffs  
22 and the Nationwide Class Members and State Data Breach Notification Statute  
23 Sub-Class Members have suffered (and will continue to face) far outweighs any  
24 financial injury Defendants would sustain as a result of the injunctive relief –  
25 which Defendants are required by law to do anyway.

26 70. Issuance of the requested injunction would not adversely affect  
27 public policy or the public interest. To the contrary, such an injunction would  
28 benefit the public. The PII of up to 83% of the U.S. adult population could have

BLOOD HURST & O'REARDON, LLP

1 been wrongfully disclosed and compromised by the Security Lapse. Requiring  
2 Defendants notify to those persons impacted by the Security Lapse will allow the  
3 victims to take the appropriate measures to protect themselves from identity  
4 theft, identity fraud, and other injury and harm which, in turn, will benefit the  
5 economy and society as a whole. The requested injunctive relief also will hold  
6 Defendants accountable for their wrongful actions, inaction, omissions, want of  
7 ordinary care, the resulting Security Lapse, and subsequent nondisclosures under  
8 the rule of law.

9 **COUNT II**

10 **BREACH OF STATE DATA BREACH NOTIFICATION STATUTES**

11 **(Against all Defendants by the State Data Breach**

12 **Notification Statute Sub-Class)**

13 71. The preceding factual statements and allegations are incorporated by  
14 reference.

15 72. Legislatures in the states listed below have enacted data breach  
16 notification statutes, which generally require all persons and businesses  
17 conducting business within such states that own or license computerized data  
18 containing PII to disclose to all residents of the state any data breach of such  
19 computerized data by which their PII was acquired by an unauthorized person.  
20 These statutes require the disclosure of data breaches to be made expediently and  
21 without unreasonable delay.

22 73. The Security Lapse constituted a breach of Defendants' computer  
23 systems within the meaning of the below-listed state data breach notification  
24 statutes, which covered and protected Plaintiff Jacqueline Goodridge's and the  
25 State Data Breach Notification Statute Sub-Class Members' wrongfully  
26 disclosed and compromised PII.

27 ///

28 ///

1           74. Even though Defendants have long since admitted the Security  
 2 Lapse occurred, and despite Experian's (later quietly retracted) representation to  
 3 Congress that "we know who they [the Security Lapse victims] are, and we're  
 4 going to make sure they're protected," to date, Defendants have failed and  
 5 refused to notify Plaintiff Jacqueline Goodridge and the State Data Breach  
 6 Notification Statute Sub-Class Members about the Security Lapse, and the  
 7 wrongful and unauthorized disclosure of their PII, in violation of the following  
 8 state data breach notification statutes (as enforced through state consumer  
 9 protection statutes, where applicable and as noted):

- 10           (i) ALASKA STAT. ANN. § 45.48.010(a), *et seq.*, as enforced through  
 11 ALASKA STAT. ANN. §§ 45.50.471-45.50.561;
- 12           (ii) CAL. CIV. CODE § 1798.83(a), *et seq.*;
- 13           (iii) COLO. REV. STAT. ANN. § 6-1-716(2), *et seq.*;
- 14           (iv) DEL. CODE ANN. TIT. 6 § 12B-102(a), *et seq.*;
- 15           (v) D.C. CODE § 28-3852(a), *et seq.*;
- 16           (vi) GA. CODE ANN. § 10-1-912(a), *et seq.*;
- 17           (vii) HAW. REV. STAT. § 487N-2(a), *et seq.*;
- 18           (viii) ILL. COMP. STAT. ANN. 530/10(a), *et seq.*, as enforced through the  
 19 Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act, 815  
 20 ILL. COMP. STAT. ANN. § 505/2, *et seq.*;
- 21           (ix) IOWA CODE ANN. § 715C.2(1), *et seq.*;
- 22           (x) KAN. STAT. ANN. § 50-7a02(a), *et seq.*;
- 23           (xi) KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 365.732(2), *et seq.*;
- 24           (xii) LA. REV. STAT. ANN. § 51:3074(A), *et seq.*;
- 25           (xiii) MD. CODE ANN., COMMERCIAL LAW § 14-3504(b), *et seq.*, as  
 26 enforced through Title 13 of the Maryland Consumer Protection  
 27 Act;
- 28

- 1 (xiv) MICH. COMP. LAWS ANN. § 445.72(1), *et seq.*;
- 2 (xv) MONT. CODE ANN. § 30-14-1704(1), *et seq.*, as enforced through  
3 MONT. CODE ANN. § 30-14-103;
- 4 (xvi) N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 359-C:20(1)(a), *et seq.*;
- 5 (xvii) N.J. STAT. ANN. § 56:8-163(a), *et seq.*, as enforced through N.J.  
6 STAT. ANN. § 56:8-1, *et seq.*;
- 7 (xviii) N.C. GEN. STAT. ANN. § 75-65(a), *et seq.*, as enforced through N.C.  
8 GEN. STAT. ANN. § 75-1.1;
- 9 (xix) N.D. CENT. CODE ANN. § 51-30-02, *et seq.*, as enforced through  
10 N.D. CENT. CODE ANN. CH. 51-15;
- 11 (xx) OR. REV. STAT. ANN. § 646A.604(1), *et seq.*;
- 12 (xxi) S.C. CODE ANN. § 39-1-90(A), *et seq.*;
- 13 (xxii) TENN. CODE ANN. § 47-18-2107(b), *et seq.*;
- 14 (xxiii) VA. CODE ANN. § 18.2-186.6(B), *et seq.*;
- 15 (xxiv) WASH. REV. CODE ANN. § 19.255.010(1), *et seq.*;
- 16 (xxv) WIS. STAT. ANN. § 134.98(2), *et seq.*; and
- 17 (xxvi) WYO. STAT. ANN. § 40-12-502(a), *et seq.*

18

19 75. Plaintiff Jacqueline Goodridge and the State Data Breach  
20 Notification Statute Sub-Class Members suffered injury and harm as a direct or  
21 proximate result of Defendants' failure and refusal to provide them with timely  
22 and accurate notice of the Security Lapse as required by the above-listed state  
23 data breach notification statutes. Had Defendants provided such timely and  
24 accurate notice, Plaintiff Jacqueline Goodridge and the State Data Breach  
25 Notification Statute Sub-Class Members could have taken the appropriate  
26 measures to protect themselves from identity theft, identity fraud, and other  
27 injury and harm that may, in fact, already have occurred.

28

BLOOD HURST & O'REARDON, LLP

1           76. On information and belief, no law enforcement agency has informed  
2 Defendants that notifying Plaintiff Jacqueline Goodridge and the State Data  
3 Breach Notification Statute Sub-Class Members about the Security Lapse would  
4 impede any investigation, nor did any law enforcement agency direct Defendants  
5 not to make such notification.

6           77. Plaintiff Jacqueline Goodridge and the State Data Breach  
7 Notification Statute Sub-Class Members seek an order requiring that notice of  
8 the breach be provided in accordance with these statutes.

9                           **TOLLING OF THE STATUTES OF LIMITATION**

10           78. The preceding factual statements and allegations are incorporated by  
11 reference.

12           79. **FRAUDULENT CONCEALMENT.** Defendants took active steps to  
13 conceal their above-described wrongful actions, inaction, omissions, want of  
14 ordinary care, the resulting Security Lapse, and subsequent nondisclosures. The  
15 details of Defendants' efforts to conceal their above-described unlawful conduct  
16 are in their possession, custody, and control, to the exclusion of Plaintiffs, and  
17 await further discovery. When this material information was revealed to  
18 Plaintiffs, they exercised due diligence by investigating the situation, retaining  
19 counsel, and pursuing their claims. Defendants fraudulently concealed their  
20 above-described wrongful conduct. Should such be necessary, therefore, all  
21 applicable statutes of limitation (if any) are tolled under the fraudulent  
22 concealment doctrine.

23           80. **EQUITABLE ESTOPPEL.** Defendants took active steps to conceal  
24 their above-described wrongful actions, inaction, omissions, want of ordinary  
25 care, the resulting Security Lapse, and subsequent nondisclosures. The details of  
26 Defendants' efforts to conceal their above-described unlawful conduct are in  
27 their possession, custody, and control, to the exclusion of Plaintiffs, and await  
28 further discovery. When this material information was revealed to Plaintiffs, they

1 exercised due diligence by investigating the situation, retaining counsel, and  
 2 pursuing their claims. Defendants intentionally concealed their above-described  
 3 wrongful conduct. Should such be necessary, therefore, all applicable statutes of  
 4 limitation (if any) are tolled under the doctrine of equitable estoppel.

5 81. **EQUITABLE TOLLING.** Defendants took active steps to conceal their  
 6 above-described wrongful actions, inaction, omissions, want of ordinary care, the  
 7 resulting Security Lapse, and subsequent nondisclosures. The details of  
 8 Defendants' efforts to conceal their above-described unlawful conduct are in  
 9 their possession, custody, and control, to the exclusion of Plaintiffs, and await  
 10 further discovery. When this material information was revealed to Plaintiffs, they  
 11 exercised due diligence by investigating the situation, retaining counsel, and  
 12 pursuing their claims. Defendants intentionally concealed their above-described  
 13 wrongful conduct. Should such be necessary, therefore, all applicable statutes of  
 14 limitation (if any) are tolled under the doctrine of equitable tolling.

### 15 PRAYER

16 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiffs, for themselves and the Nationwide Class  
 17 Members and State Data Breach Notification Statute Sub-Class Members,  
 18 respectfully request that (i) Defendants be cited to appear and answer this lawsuit,  
 19 (ii) this action be certified as a class action, (iii) Plaintiffs be designated the Class  
 20 and Sub-Class Representatives, and (iv) Plaintiffs' counsel be appointed Class and  
 21 Sub-Class Counsel. Plaintiffs, for themselves and the Nationwide Class Members  
 22 and State Data Breach Notification Statute Sub-Class Members, further request  
 23 that upon final trial or hearing, judgment be awarded against Defendants, in  
 24 Plaintiffs' favor for:

- 25 (i) injunctive relief (as set forth above);
- 26 (ii) attorneys' fees, litigation expenses, and costs of suit incurred through  
 27 the trial and any appeals of this case; and
- 28 (iii) such other and further relief the Court deems just and proper.

BLOOD HURST & O'REARDON, LLP

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

**JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf of the Nationwide Class and State Data Breach Notification Statute Sub-Class, respectfully demand a trial by jury on all of their claims and causes of action so triable.

Dated: September 11, 2015

BLOOD HURST & O'REARDON, LLP  
TIMOTHY G. BLOOD (149343)  
PAULA M. ROACH (254142)

By: *s/ Timothy G. Blood*

TIMOTHY G. BLOOD

701 B Street, Suite 1700  
San Diego, CA 92101  
Tel: 619/338-1100  
619/338-1101 (fax)  
tblood@bholaw.com  
proach@bholaw.com

BARNOW AND ASSOCIATES, P.C.  
BEN BARNOW (*pro hac vice*)  
ERICH P. SCHORK (*pro hac vice*)  
1 North LaSalle Street, Suite 4600  
Chicago, IL 60602  
Tel: 312/621-2000  
312/641-5504 (fax)  
b.barnow@barnowlaw.com  
e.schork@barnowlaw.com

THE COFFMAN LAW FIRM  
RICHARD L. COFFMAN  
First City Building  
505 Orleans St., Suite 505  
Beaumont, TX 77701  
Tel: 409/833-7700  
866/835-8250 (fax)  
rcoffman@coffmanlawfirm.com

MONTELEONE & McCORY, LLP  
JEFFREY S. HURST (138664)  
725 South Figueroa Street, Suite 3200  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
Tel: 213/784-3108  
213/612-9930 (fax)  
Hurst@mmlawyers.com

*Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the Putative Class*

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on September 11, 2015, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to the e-mail addresses denoted on the Electronic Mail Notice List, and I hereby certify that I have mailed the foregoing document or paper via the United States Postal Service to the non-CM/ECF participants indicated on the Electronic Mail Notice List.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on September 11, 2015.

*s/ Timothy G. Blood*

\_\_\_\_\_  
TIMOTHY G. BLOOD

BLOOD HURST & O'REARDON, LLP  
701 B Street, Suite 1700  
San Diego, CA 92101  
Telephone: 619/338-1100  
619/338-1101 (fax)  
tblood@bholaw.com

BLOOD HURST & O'REARDON, LLP