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3:03-CV-01603 AMBAOSIO V. BUDGET TRADE AND GAS

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CMP.

LAW OFFICES OF ROY L. LANDERS ROY L. LANDERS (BAR #64920) 7840 MISSION CENTER COURT, SUITE 101 SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92108 TELEPHONE (619) 296-7898 FACSIMILE (619) 296-5611

Attorney for Plaintiff, Faustino Ambaosis

AUG - 8 2003

CLERK, U.S. DYSTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
BY DENUTY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

FAUSTINO AMBAOSIO

Plaintiff,

vs.

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BUDGET TRADE AND GAS, HSU CHUNG KWAN, HUI MEI CHENG AND DOES 1-10 Inclusive,

Defendants.

Case NO.: CV 1603 JM AJB

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES RE:
VIOLATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS ON
BASIS OF DISCRIMINATION IN
PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS; UNFAIR,
UNLAWFUL AND FRAUDULENT BUSINESS
PRACTICES; NEGLIGENT INFLICTION
OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS;
INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF
EMOTIONAL DISTRESS; DEMAND FOR
JURY TRIAL

Ι

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. (a) Jurisdiction of this action is invoked on the basis of 28 USC 1331 and 1343,42 USC 12101-12102, 12181-12183 and 12201, et. seq., which is applicable to causes of action where persons with disabilities have been denied their civil rights. Venue in the Southern Judicial District of California in the United States District Court is in accord with 28. U.S.C. section 1391(b) because a substantial part of plaintiff's claims arose within the

ORIGINAL

Judicial District of the United States District Court of the Southern District of California.

(b) Supplemental Jurisdiction. The Judicial District of the United States District Court of the Southern District California has supplemental jurisdiction over the state claims alleged in this Complaint pursuant to 28 U.S.C. section 1367(a). Supplemental jurisdiction is appropriate in this action on the basis that all the causes of action or claims derived from federal law and those arising under state law, as herein alleged, arose from a common nucleus of operative facts. The common nucleus of operative facts, include, but are not limited to, the incidents whereby plaintiff was denied full and equal access to Defendant's facilities, goods, and/or services in violation of both federal and state laws when plaintiff attempted to enter, use, and/or exit Defendant's facilities as described within this Complaint. Further, due to this denial of full and equal access Plaintiff and other person's with disabilities were injured. Based upon such allegations the state actions, as stated herein, are so related to the federal actions that they form part of the same case or controversy, and the actions would ordinarily be expected to be tried in one judicial proceeding.

II

PARTIES

2. Defendants Budget Trade and Gas was and at all times herein mentioned was a duly organized business, association, or corporation duly authorized to exist and operate within the State of California and County of San Diego and the owner, lessee, or

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tenant of the premises located at 510 West 5th Avenue Escondido, California.

- 3. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that defendants Hsu Chung Kwan and Hui Mei Cheng are the owners and/or landlords of the subject property upon which defendant business is sited.
- 4. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that
 each of the named defendants herein operates a business and
 or/facility of public accommodation as defined and described
 within 42 USC 12181(7)(F) of the American with Disabilities Act
 [ADA] and as such must comply with the ADA under provisions of
 Title III therein.
 - 5. Plaintiff is ignorant of the defendants sued as Does 1-10 herein, and therefore sues them in their fictitious names as Doe defendants. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Does 1-10 are the owners, operators, lessees or tenants of the subject property and each of the Doe defendants at all times herein was acting as the agent and or representative of each other and thereby are responsible in some manner for the injuries and damages complained of herein. Plaintiff will seek leave of court to amend this complaint to name Doe defendants when the same is ascertained.

III

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CLAIMS

6. Plaintiff is a male who is disabled and confined to a wheelchair. He has no control over his lower extremities and must use a wheelchair to transport himself and to affect the basic necessities of his everyday existence. Plaintiff's disability

substantially limits one or more of life's major activities and therefore he is disabled as defined under 42 USC 3 12102(2)(A)(B)(C). 7. On or about July 10, 2003 plaintiff patronized the premises of defendants to utilize goods and/or services offered by defendants. When Plaintiff attempted to gain access to the goods and/or 7 services offered by defendants he encountered access barriers because the premises failed to comply with federal ADA Access 9 Guidelines For Building and Facilities [hereinafter "ADAAG"]; 10 Department of Justice [DOJ] regulations at 28 CFR. 36.201; 36.304 11 and/or the State of California's Title 24 Building Code 12 Requirements. 13 8. The specific difficulty Plaintiff had in entering and utilizing 14 Defendants' facility and which amount to a violation of ADAAG, DOJ 15 regulations and Title 24 of the California Building Code are: 16 Site entrance signage does not exist as required by Title 17 24 1129B.5. 18 Lack of NO PARKING signage as required by Title 24 19 1129B.4.1&2 20 Lack of van accessible parking as required by ADAAG (c) 21 4.1.2(5)(b) and Title 24 1129B.4.2. 22 (d) Lack of regular access aisle as required by Title 24 23 1129B.4.1. 24 (e) Lack of access route as required by ADAAG 4.1.3(2); 25 4.3.2(2) and Title 24 1114B.1.2. 26 No disabled parking emblem as required by ADAAG 4.6.4 and 27 Title 24 1127B.3.

(u) Entrance door lacks kick plate in violation of Title 24 1133B.2.6.

9. Based upon the above facts, Plaintiff as been discriminated against and will continue to be discriminated against unless and until Defendants are enjoined and forced to cease and desist from continuing to discriminate against Plaintiff and others similarly situated.

10. Pursuant to federal [ADA], Title 28 CFR 36.201; 36.203; 36.304; 36.305 and state law [California Title 24], Defendants are required to remove barriers to their existing facilities. Defendants have been put on notice pursuant to the ADA and California Civil Codes [51,52] prior to the statutory effect of the ADA on January 26, 1992 that Defendants and each of them had a duty to remove barriers to persons with disabilities such as plaintiff. Defendants also knew or should have known that individuals such as plaintiff with a disability are not required to give notice to a governmental agency prior to filing suit alleging Defendants' failure to remove architectural barriers. 11. Plaintiff believes and thereon allege that Defendants' facilities, as described herein, have other access violations not directly experienced by Plaintiff, which preclude or limit access by others with disabilities, including, but not limited to, Space Allowances, Reach Ranges, Accessible Routes, Protruding Objects, Ground and Floor Surfaces, Parking and Passenger Loading Zones, Curb Ramps, Ramps, Stairs, Elevators, Platform Lifts (Wheelchair Lifts), Windows, Doors, Entrances, Drinking Fountains, and Water Coolers, Water Closets, Toilet Stalls, Urinals, Lavatories and

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Mirrors, Sinks, Storage, Handrails, Grab Bars, Telephones,

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Controls and Operating Mechanisms, Alarms, Detectable Warnings and Signage. Accordingly, Plaintiff alleges Defendants are required to remove all architectural barriers, known or unknown. Also, Plaintiff alleges Defendants are required to utilize the ADA checklist for Readily Achievable Barrier Removal approved by the United States Department of Justice and created by Adaptive Environments.

12. Plaintiff desires to return to Defendants' places of business and utilize their facilities without being discriminated against in the immediate future.

IV

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of Civil Rights-American With Disabilities Act)

13. Plaintiff realleges the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 12 as though set forth fully herein.

Claim 1: Denial of Full and Equal Access

14. Based on the facts asserted above Plaintiff has been denied full and equal access to Defendants' goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations. Defendant business is a public accommodation owned, leased and/or operated by Defendants and each of them. Defendants' existing facilities and/or services failed to provide full and equal access to Defendants' facility as required by 42 U.S.C. section 12182(a). Thus, Plaintiff was subjected to discrimination in violation of 42 U.S.C. 12182(b)(2)(A)(ii)(iv) and 42 U.S.C. section 12188 because Plaintiff was denied equal access to Defendants' existing facilities.

1 15. Plaintiff has a physical impairment as alleged herein because his condition affects one or more of the following body systems: neurological, musculoskeletal, special sense organs, and/or 3 4 cardiovascular. Further, his physical impairments substantially 5 limits one or more of the following major life activities: 6 [walking]. In addition, Plaintiff cannot perform one or more of 7 the said major life activities in the manner speed, and duration when compared to the average person. Moreover, Plaintiff has a history of or has been classified as having a physical impairment 10 as required by 42 U.S.C. section 12102(2)(A).

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Claim 2: Failure To Remove Architectural Barriers Based upon the facts alleged herein, Plaintiff was denied full and equal access to Defendants' goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations within a public accommodation owned leased, and/or operated by the named Defendants. Defendants individually and collectively failed to remove barriers as required by 42 U.S.C. 12182(a) and 28 CFR 36.304. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thus alleges that architectural barriers which are structural in nature exist at the following physical elements of Defendants' facilities: Space Allowance and Reach Ranges, Accessible Route, Protruding Objects, Ground and Floor Surfaces, Parking and Passenger Loading Zones, Curb Ramps, Ramps, Stairs, Elevators, Platform Lifts (Wheelchair Lifts), Windows, Doors, Entrances, Drinking Fountains and Water Coolers, Water Closets, Toilet Stalls, Urinals, Lavatories and Mirrors, Sinks, Storage, Handrails, Grab Bars, and Controls and Operating Mechanisms, Alarms, Detectable Warnings,

Signage, and Telephones. Pursuant to 42 USC section

1 12182(b)(2)(iv) and 28 CFR 36.304 Title III requires places of
2 public accommodation to remove architectural barriers that are
3 structural in nature within existing facilities. Failure to remove
4 such barriers and disparate treatment against a person who has a
5 known association with a person with a disability are forms of
6 prohibited discrimination. Accordingly, Plaintiff was subjected to
7 discrimination in violation of 42 USC 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv) and 42
8 USC 12182 (b)(2)(A)(iv) and 42 USC 12188.

Claim 3: Failure To Modify Practices, Policies And Procedures
17. Based on the facts alleged in this Complaint Defendants failed
and refused to provide a reasonable alternative by modifying its
practices, policies and procedures in that they failed to have a
scheme, plan, or design to assist Plaintiff and/or others
similarly situated in entering and utilizing Defendants' services,
as required by 42 U.S.C. section 12188(a). Thus, Plaintiff was
subjected to discrimination in violation of 42 U.S.C. section
12182(b)(2)(A)(iv); 28 CFR 36.302 and 42 U.S.C. section 12188
because Plaintiff was denied equal access to Defendants' existing
facilities.

18. As a result of the wrongful and discriminatory practices of defendants, plaintiff has suffered actual damages consisting of special damages and general damages in an amount to be determined at time of trial herein.

19. Pursuant to the provisions of 42 USC 12188 plaintiff seeks injunctive relief and an order directing defendants to cease and desist from discriminating against plaintiff and others similarly situated and for an order that defendants comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act forthwith.

20. Under the provisions of 42 USC 12205 plaintiff is entitled to an award of reasonably attorneys fees and requests that the court grant such fees as are appropriate.

VI

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation Of Civil Rights Under California Accessibility Laws)

21. Plaintiff realleges the allegations of the First Cause of Action as though set forth fully herein.

(a) Denial Of Full And Equal Access

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against.

22. Plaintiff has been denied full and equal access to Defendants' goods services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations within a public accommodation owned, leased, and/or operated by Defendants in violation of California Civil Code Sections 54 and 54.1; California Health and Safety Code Section 19955 and California Government Code Section 12948. The actions of Defendants also violate the provisions of Title 24 of the State of California Building Codes with regard to accessibility for persons with disabilities by failing to provide access to Defendants facilities due to violations pertaining to accessible routes, ground and floor surfaces, parking and passenger loading zones, curb ramps, ramps, stairs, elevators, platform lifts (wheelchair lifts), windows, doors, toilet stalls, urinals, lavatories and mirrors, sinks, storage, handrails, grab bars, controls and operating mechanisms alarms, detectable warnings, signage and telephones. 23. On the above basis Plaintiff has been wrongfully discriminated

(b) Failure To Modify Practices, Policies And Procedures

24. Defendants have failed and refused and continue to fail and refuse to provide a reasonable alternative to allow plaintiff equal access to their facility by modifying their practices, policies, and procedures in that that they failed to have s scheme, plan, or design to assist Plaintiff and others similarly situated in entering and utilizing Defendants' goods or services as required by California Civil Code section 54 and 54.1. Accordingly Defendants have wrongfully discriminated against Plaintiff.

VII

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of The Unruh Civil Rights Act)

- 25. Plaintiff realleges the allegations of the Second Cause of Action as though set forth fully herein.
- 26. Section 51(b) of the Cal. Civ. Code [The Unruh Civil Rights Act], provides in pertinent part:

"All persons within the jurisdiction of this state are free and equal, and no matter what their sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, or medical condition is entitled to the full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, or services in all business establishments of every kind whatsoever."

27. Defendants have violated the provisions of Civ. Code 51 (b) by failing and refusing to provide free and equal access to Plaintiff to their facility on the same basis as other persons not disabled. By their failure to provide equal access to Plaintiff as herein alleged, Defendants have also violated 42 U.S.C. section 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv) as provided in Cal. Civ. Codes section 51(f).

28. By reason of their acts and denial of Plaintiff's civil rights
Defendants also violated the provisions of Cal. Civ. Code section
52, which makes a person or entity in violation of Cal.Civ. Code
51 liable for the actual damages to a Plaintiff including treble
damages where appropriate.

29. Defendants and each of them, at all times prior to and including July 2003, respectively and continuing to the present time, knew that persons with physical disabilities were denied their rights of equal access to all portions of this public facility. Despite such knowledge, Defendants, and each of them, failed and refused to take steps to comply with the applicable access statutes and despite knowledge of the resulting problems and denial of civil rights suffered by Plaintiff and other similarly situated persons with disabilities.

30. Defendants and each of them have failed and refused to take action to grant full and equal access to person with physical disabilities. Defendants have carried out a course of conduct of refusing to respond to, or correct complaints about unequal access and have refused to comply with their legal obligations to make the subject facility accessible pursuant the ADAAG and the California Building Code [Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations]. Such actions and continuing course of conduct by Defendants, and each of them, evidence despicable conduct in conscious disregard of the rights and/or safety of Plaintiff and

those similarly situated and thus justify an award of treble
damages pursuant to section 52(a) and 54.3(a) of the Cal.Civ. Code
or alternatively an award of punitive damages in an appropriate
amount.

31. Plaintiff has suffered emotional and physical damage and
continues to suffer such damages all in an amount to be determined

continues to suffer at time of trial.

32. Under the provisions of Cal. Civ. Code section 55 Plaintiff seeks an award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs as a result of having to bring this action. Plaintiff requests the court to award such fees in an appropriate amount.

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VIII

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FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

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(Unfair And Unlawful Business Practice)

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33. Plaintiff realleges the allegations of the Third Cause of Action as though set forth fully herein.

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34. California Business and Professions Code Section 17200 states in pertinent part:

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"As used in this chapter, unfair competition shall mean and include any unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business act..."

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35. Defendants, as alleged herein, are in violation of the Americans With Disabilities Act and Title 24 of the California

Building Code, in that they have denied equal access to their

situated to Plaintiff. Defendants have failed and refused and

places of public accommodation to Plaintiff and others similarly

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continue to refuse to comply with equal access laws all in violation of 42 USC 12181-12183; 28 CFR 36.304 and 42 USC 12188. 3 In addition the complained of acts are in violation of California Civil Code Sections 51,52, 54, and 54.1; California Health and Safety Code section 19955 all of which require Defendants to 6 7 provide equal access to their facility to disabled persons such as 8 plaintiff. Defendants are also in violation of the indicated statutes because of their failure to remove architectural 10 barriers, which prevent equal access to their facility by disabled persons and because of their failure to modify their practices, 12 policies and procedures to have a scheme, plan, or design to assist Plaintiff and others similarly situated to enter and 15 utilize Defendants' services as required by the Unruh Act. 16 36. Defendants' acts are unlawful and unfair and are therefore in 17 violation of California Business and Professions Code section 17200. 37. Pursuant to the provisions of California Business and 21

Professions Code section 17201 Plaintiff is a person as identified within said section and therefore allowed to bring this action on behalf of himself and the general public to effectuate California Business and Professions Code 17200 as provided for within Business and Professions Code section 17204.

38. Thus, Plaintiff, under Bus & Prof. Code section 17200 seeks injunctive relief, on behalf of himself and the general public,

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requiring Defendants to remedy the disabled access violations present within Defendants' facility and that Defendants be ordered to cease and desist from continuing in noncompliance with disabled access statutes and regulations.

IX

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress)

- 39. Plaintiff relleges the allegations of the Fourth Cause of Action as though set forth fully herein.
- 40. Defendants and each of them owed a duty to Plaintiff to make their facility accessible and to keep Plaintiff reasonably safe from known dangers and risks of harm. This duty arises by virtue of the legal duties proscribed by various federal and state statutes including, but not limited to, ADA, ADAAG, California Civil Code sections 51, 52, 54, 54.1 and Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations. Defendants had a duty of due care not to do or cause anything to happen that would subject Plaintiff to undue stress, embarrassment, chagrin, and discouragement.
- 41. Defendants breached their duty of care to Plaintiff by the actions and inaction complained of herein and as a result thereof Plaintiff was shocked, discouraged, embarrassed and outraged at the callousness and disregard of Defendants. Defendants knew or had reason to know that by denying Plaintiff equal access to their facility and failing and refusing to remove architectural

barriers, Plaintiff would suffer emotional and/or mental distress
because of such discrimination and disparate treatment. Defendants
breached their duty of care to plaintiff by the perpetration of
the acts outlined herein.

42. As a proximate result of the actions of Defendants Plaintiff
did suffer emotional and mental stress and pain and suffering all

in an amount to be determined at time of trial.

X

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress)

- 43. Plaintiff realleges the allegations of the Fifth Cause of Action as though set forth fully herein.
- 44. The actions of Defendants and each of them are despicable, intentional and done with conscious disregard of the rights and safety of Plaintiff and as such should be regarded at outrageous.
- 45. As a proximate result of Defendants' actions Plaintiff has suffered severe emotional and mental distress all to his damage in an amount to be determined at time of trial.
- 46. Plaintiff seeks an award of punitive damages for this claim as the actions of Defendants are tantamount to outrageous conduct and subject them to exemplary damages.

DEMAND FOR JURY

47. Plaintiff respectfully requests that the claims made herein be heard and determined by a jury.

WHEREFORE PLAINTIFF PRAYS:

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- 1. For general damages according to proof;
- 2. For special damages according to proof;

| 1 | 3. For damages pursuant to Cal. Civil Code section 52, in the |
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| 2 | amount of \$4,000 for each and every offense of California Civil |
| 3 | Code section 51, Title 24 of the California Building Code and the |
| 4 | Americans With Disabilities Act. |
| 5 | 4. For Injunctive relief pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 12188(a) and |
| 6 | California Business and Professions Code section 17200 |
| 7 | 5. For an award of attorney's fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1988, 42 |
| 8 | U.S.C. 12205 and Cal. Civ. Code section 55; |
| 9 | 6. For treble damages pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code 52 (a); |
| 10 | 7. For punitive damages according to proof; |
| 11 | 8. For a Jury Trial; |
| 12 | 9. For costs of suit incurred herein and; |
| 13 | 10. For such other and further relief as the court deems proper. |
| 14 | Respectfully submitted, |
| 15 | Dated: 7/29/03 Roy L. Landers |
| 16 | Attorney for Plaintiff, Faustino Ambaosio |
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