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3:03-CV-00691 JONES V. BURGER KING

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Attorney for Plaintiff: DAN JONES

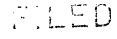
Plaintiff,

JOSEPHSON MANAGEMENT COMPANY,

Defendants.

BURGER KING RESTAURANT,

AND DOES 1-10, Inclusive,



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DAN JONES

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

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Case No.:

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

# 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. Jurisdiction is also invoked pursuant to 42 USC 1981 [Civil Rights Act of 1991], et seq, which is applicable to causes of action where persons with disabilities have been denied their civil rights and Title II, section 201, et. seq. of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. 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 Judicial District of the United States District Court of the Southern District of California.

(b) <u>Supplemental Jurisdiction</u>. The Judicial District of the United States District Court of the Southern District of 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.

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## **PARTIES**

- 2. Defendant(s), BURGER KING RESTAURANT is and at all times herein mentioned were 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, operator or lessee of the premises located at 1220 SOUTH 28<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA.
- 3. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that defendants BURGER KING RESTAURANT and JOSEPHSON MANAGEMENT COMPANY, were at all times herein was and are the owners, lessors, tenants and controlling parties of the property, which is the subject of this action and in some manner responsible for the violations of law as alleged herein.
- 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)(B) 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.

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## GENERAL ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CLAIMS

- 6. Plaintiff 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 effect 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 12102(2)(A)(B)(C).
- 7. On or about FEBRUARY 18, 2003 plaintiff attempted to enter the subject premises of the defendants herein to utilize goods and/or services offered by defendants. When Plaintiff attempted to enter said facility, plaintiff had difficulty entering and using the facility because it failed to comply with Federal ADA Access Guidelines For Building and Facilities [hereinafter "ADAAG"] and/or the State of California's Title 24 Building Code Requirements.
- 8. The specific difficulty Plaintiff had in entering and utilizing Defendants' facility and which amount to a violation of ADAAG and Title 24 of the California Building Code are:
  - 1. No Site Entrance Signage (Does Not Exist), (CA Title 24 1129B.5);
  - 2. No Site Entrance Signage (Not Filled Out Reclaim at:), (CA Title 24 1129B.5);
  - 3. No Site Entrance Signage (Not Filled Out Telephone number:), (CA Title 24 1129B.5);
  - 4. No Site Entrance Signage (Size not less than 17" x 22"), (CA Title 24 1129B.5);
  - No Site Entrance Signage (Lettering not less than 1" in Height), (CA Title 24
     1129B.5);
  - 6. No Site Entrance Signage (Warning Information), (CA Title 24 1129B.5);
  - 7. No Seating Dining, Banquet & Bar Facilities (Min Requirement 5%), (ADAAG 5.1 & CA Title 24 1104B.5.4);

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17. 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 cardiovascular. Further, his physical impairments substantially limits one or more of the following major life activities: walking. In addition, Plaintiff cannot perform one or more of 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 as required by 42 U.S.C. section 12102(2)(A).

## Claim 2: Failure To Remove Architectural Barriers

18. 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). 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 12182(b)(2)(iv), Title III requires places of public accommodation to remove architectural barriers that are structural in nature within existing facilities. Failure to remove such barriers and disparate treatment against a person who has a known association with a person with a disability are forms of prohibited discrimination. Accordingly, Plaintiff was subjected to discrimination in violation of 42 USC 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv) and 42 USC 12182 (b)(2)(A)(iv); 42 USC 1981 and 42 USC 12188.

Claim 3: Failure To Modify Practices, Policies And Procedures 19. 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

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32. 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 a 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.

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### FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of The Unruh Civil Rights Act)

- 33. Plaintiff re-alleges the allegations of the Third Cause of Action as though set forth fully herein.
- 34. 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."

- 35. 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).
- 36. 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 in the amount of \$4,000 per violation of said statute.
- 37. Defendants and each of them, at all times prior to and including FEBRUARY 18, 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.

38. Defendants and each of them have failed and refused to take action to grant full and equal access to persons 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.

- 39. Plaintiff has suffered emotional and physical damage and continues to suffer such damages all in an amount to be determined at time of trial.
- 40. 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.

### VIII

### FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Unfair And Unlawful Business Practice)

- 41. Plaintiff re-alleges the allegations of the Fourth Cause of Action as though set forth fully herein.
- 42. California Business and Professions Code Section 17200 states in pertinent part:
  - "As used in this chapter, unfair competition shall mean and include any unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business act..."

43. 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 places of public
accommodation to Plaintiff and others similarly situated to Plaintiff. Defendants have failed and
refused and continue to refuse to comply with equal access laws all in violation of 42 USC 12181-
12183; 42 USC 1981;and 42 USC 12188. 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
and California Government Code section 12948 all of which require Defendants to provide equal
access to their facility to disabled persons such as plaintiff. Defendants are also in violation of the
indicated statutes because of their failure to remove architectural barriers, which prevent equal
access to their facility by disabled persons and because of their failure to modify their practices,
policies and procedures to have a scheme, plan, or design to assist Plaintiff and others similarly
situated to enter and utilize Defendants' services as required by the Unruh Act.
44. Defendants' acts are unlawful and unfair and are therefore in violation of California Business
and Professions Code section 17200.
45. Pursuant to the provisions of California Business and Professions Code section 17201 Plaintiff
is a person as identified within said section and therefore allowed to bring this action on behalf of

45. Pursuant to the provisions of California Business and 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.

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

## SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress)

47. Plaintiff re-alleges the allegations of the Fourth Cause of Action as though set forth fully herein.

48. 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.

49. 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.

50. 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.

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### SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress)

51. Plaintiff re-alleges the allegations of the Fourth Cause of Action as though set forth fully herein.

ニンン サイ (ハント・コップメ) CIVIL COVER SHEET The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the illing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.) I. (a) PLAINTIFFS DEFENDANTS BURGER KING RESTAURANT, JOSEPHSON DAN JONES COMPANY, AND DOES 1-10, San Diego San Diego (b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff County of Residence of First Listed (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) CLERA HISTRICT OF CALIFORN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED. DEPUTY. BY: Attorneys (If K (c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) 0691K' Roy L. Landers (619)296-7898 7840 Mission Center CT, Suite 101 San Diego, CA 92108 II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only) III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff (For Diversity Cases Only) and One Box for Defendant) DEF DEF □ 1 U.S. Government ¥-3 Federal Question -Citizen of This State Incorporated or Principal Place 4 **4** Plaintiff (U.S. Government Not a Party) of Business In This State D 2 U.S. Government □ 4 Diversity Citizen of Another State 

2 □ 2 Incorporated and Principal Place [ 5 Defendant (Indicate Citizenship of Parties of Business In Another State in Item III) Citiz<del>en or Subject of a 🔲 3 👊 3 Foreign Nation</del> □ 6 77.6 Foreign Country IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only) CONTRACT TORTS FORFEITURE/PENALTY BANKRUPTCY OTHER STATUTES 110 Insurance PERSONAL INJURY PERSONAL INJURY 610 Agriculture 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 400 State Reapportionment 120 Marine 310 Airplane 362 Personal Injury-620 Other Food & Drug ☐ 410 Antitrust ō 130 Miller Act 315 Airplane Product Med. Malpractice 625 Drug Related Seizure П ☐ 423 Withdrawal ☐ 430 Banks and Banking 140 Negotiable Instrument Liability 365 Personal Injury of Property 21 USC 28 USC 157 ☐ 450 Commerce/ICC Rates/etc. 150 Recovery of Overpayment □ 320 Assault, Libel & Product Liability 630 Liquor Laws ☐ 460 Deportation & Enforcement of Slander PROPERTY RIGHTS 368 Asbestos Personal 640 R.R. & Truck 470 Racketeer Influenced and Indemedicare Act ☐ 330 Federal Employers' Injury Product  $\Box$ 650 Airline Regs. Corrupt Organizations 820 Copyrights 152 Recovery of Defaulted Liability Liability 660 Occupational □ 810 Selective Service 830 Patent Student Loans 340 Marine PERSONAL PROPERTY Safety/Health ☐ 850 Securities/Commodities/ (Excl. Veterans) 840 Trademark 345 Marine Product D 370 Other Fraud 690 Other Exchange 153 Recovery of Overpayment 371 Truth in Lending Liability D 875 Customer Challenge of Veteran's Benefits 350 Motor Vehicle LABOR 380 Other Personal SOCIAL SECURITY 12 USC 3410 160 Stockholders' Suits 355 Motor Vehicle Property Damage ☐ 891 Agricultural Acts 710 Fair Labor Standards 190 Other Contract 861 HIA (1395ff) Product Liability ☐ 385 Property Damage ☐ 892 Economic Stabilization Act 195 Contract Product Liability Act 862 Black Lung (923) 360 Other Personal Injury Product Liability ☐ 893 Environmental Matters 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations п 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) REAL PROPERTY 894 Energy Allocation Act CIVIL RIGHTS PRISONER PETITIONS 864 SSID Title XVI 895 Freedom of 130 Labor/Mgmt.Reporting П ☐ 865 RSI (405(g)) 210 Land Condemnation 441 Voting 510 Motions to Vacate Information Act & Disclosure Act 220 Foreclosure 442 Employment 140 Railway Labor Act FEDERAL TAX SUITS 900 Appeal of Fee Sentence 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment Determination Under Equal 443 Housing/ Habeas Corpus: 240 Torts to Land 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff Accommodations 530 General Access to Justice 190 Other Labor Litigation 245 Tort Product Liability 444 Welfare or Defendant) 535 Death Penalty □ 950 Constitutionality of 440 Other Civil Rights 290 All Other Real Property 540 Mandamus & Other State Statutes 0 191 Empl. Ret. Inc. ☐ 871 IRS—Third Party □ 890 Other Statutory Actions 550 Civil Rights Ó Security Act 26 USC 7609 555 Prison Condition (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY) V. ORIGIN Appeal to District Transferred from Judge from another district Original 2 Removed from C) 3 Remanded from Magistrate Reinstated or 🗆 5 □ 6 Multidistrict (specify) Proceeding State Court Appellate Court Judgment Reopened Litigation VI. CAUSE OF ACTION (Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and write brief statement of cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.) 42 USC 12101-12102, 12181-12183 and 12201, et seq. Discrimination on basis of disability (Public Accommodations) VII. REQUESTED IN ☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION DEMAND S CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:-UNDER F.R.C.P. 23 COMPLAINT: XX JURY DEMAND: XYes \_\_\_\_O-No--(See VIII. RELATED CASE(S) instructions): JUDG IF ANY DOCKET NUMBER TORNEY OF RECORD 7-03 APPLYING IFP

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JUDGE \_

MAG. JUDGE