CENTER FOR DISABILITY ACCESS, LLP MARK D. POTTER, ESQ., SBN 166317 RUSSELL C. HANDY, ESQ., SBN 195058 JAMES R. BOYD, ESQ., SBN175597 STEVE WEDEL, ESQ. SBN 214908 P.O. Box 34606 San Diego, CA 92163-4606 (619) 291-7593 Fax: (619) 725-0720

P 3 20 2002 AUS 16 HUHBERG ERIOR COURT AN ENERGY COUNTY, CA

Attorney for Plaintiff, CHRIS LANGER,

0568 01 07 GIC794500 08/19/02 09:3 02 001 New Civil

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

CHRIS LANGER,

10, inclusive

Case No.:

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Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF FOR VIOLATIONS OF: UNRUH CIVIL RIGHTS ACT;

HATTIE M. DAVISSON as TRUSTEE of) HATTIE Μ. DAVISSON TRUST) AGREEMENT DATED July 25, PIERRE AOUN, and DOES 1 through)

NEGLIGENCE; CALIFORNIA'S UNFAIR BUSINESS PRACTICE ACT.

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Defendants.

2000;) DEMAND FOR JURY

Plaintiff CHRIS LANGER. (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff") complains of HATTIE M. DAVISSON as TRUSTEE of the HATTIE M. DAVISSON TRUST AGREEMENT DATED July 25, 2000; PIERRE AOUN, and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, (hereinafter referred to as "Defendants") and alleges as follows:

INTRODUCTION:

1. This is a Civil Rights action for discrimination against persons with physical disabilities, of which Plaintiff is a member

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said class, for failure to remove architectural barriers structural in nature at Defendants' place of business, located at Woodside Ave., Santee, California, a place of public accommodation; and for failure to modify practices and or policies in order to accommodate, thereby discriminatorily denying Plaintiff and the class of other similarly situated persons with physical disabilities access to, the full and equal enjoyment of, opportunity in, and benefit from, to participate the goods, facilities, services, and accommodations thereof.

2. Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief and damages for violations of civil rights and for damages flowing from such violations.

PARTIES:

- 3. Plaintiff is a California resident with physical disabilities who uses a wheelchair to travel about in public.
- 4. Defendants, HATTIE M. DAVISSON as TRUSTEE of the HATTIE M. DAVISSON TRUST AGREEMENT DATED July 25, 2000; PIERRE AOUN, and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive (hereinafter alternatively referred to collectively as "Defendants"), are the owners and operators, lessors and/or lessees, or agents of the owners, lessors and/or lessees, and/or alter egos, franchisers and/or franchisees, of the building and/or buildings which constitute a public facility in and of itself, occupied by the above described defendants, and subject to the requirements of federal and state law requiring full and equal access to public accommodations and facilities.
- 5. Plaintiff does not know the true names of Defendants, their business capacities, their ownership connection to the property and business, or their relative responsibilities in causing the access

violations herein complained of, and alleges a joint venture and common enterprise by all such Defendants. Plaintiff is informed and believes that each of the Defendants herein, including DOES $_{1}$ through 10, inclusive, is responsible in some capacity for the events herein alleged, or is a necessary party for obtaining appropriate relief. Plaintiff will seek leave to amend when the true names, capacities, connections, and responsibilities Defendants and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, are ascertained.

PRELIMINARY FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS:

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6. Defendants are or were at the time of the incident the owners and operators, lessors and lessees of the public facility, located at 11510 Woodside Ave., Santee, California. The public accommodation, its path of travel, parking, restrooms and its other facilities are each a "public accommodation or facility" subject to the requirements of state and federal law. On information and belief, each such facility has, since July 1, 1970, undergone "alterations, structural repairs and additions," each of which has subjected the public accommodations, and each of their facilities to handicapped access requirements per the Americans with Disabilities Act Access Guidelines (ADAAG) and Title 24 of California's Code of Regulations.

of

- 7. On at least once occasion within the statutory period preceding the filing of this complaint, Plaintiff was an invitee and customer at the subject public accommodation.
- 8. During Plaintiff's visit, the subject public accommodation exhibited various violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines ("ADAAG") and Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations including but not limited to: a lack of properly

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configured disabled parking; and a lack of van accessible designated

- 9. On information and belief, other portions of the facility improperly inaccessible for use by persons with physical disabilities.
- On information and belief, the facilities continue to the 10. date of filing this complaint to deny equal access to Plaintiff and other persons with physical disabilities.
- As a result of the inaccessible facilities, Plaintiff was humiliated. embarrassed and frustrated, suffering emotional injuries. Moreover, as a result of the inaccessible facilities, Plaintiff, suffered bodily and physical injury.
- Defendants knew their facilities were inaccessible and continued to maintain these facilities in an inaccessible condition and in doing so, knowingly continued to violate and interfere with the rights of disabled persons including Plaintiff. Such conduct by defendants is despicable, and was carried on by defendant with a willful and conscious disregard for the rights of disabled persons, including Plaintiff.
- Plaintiff would like to return and use the Defendants' 13. public accommodations but because Defendants' of violations, Plaintiff and other persons with physical disabilities are unable to use public facilities such as those owned and operated by Defendants on a "full and equal" basis unless such facility is in compliance with the provisions the Americans with Disabilities Act of Accessibility Guidelines and state accessibility law as pled herein. Plaintiff has, therefore, been deterred from returning and using the Defendants' public accommodations.

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- Plaintiff is informed and believes and therefore alleges that Defendants and each of them (1) caused the subject improved real properties which constitute the subject public accommodation to be constructed, altered and maintained in such a manner that persons with physical disabilities were denied full and equal access to, within and throughout said improved real property(s); (2) that the Defendants have had actual and constructive notice the facilities were not legally accessible to persons with disabilities; (3) that despite being informed of such effect on Plaintiff and other persons with physical disabilities due to lack of the accessible facilities, Defendants, and each of them, knowingly and willfully refused to take any steps to rectify the situation and to provide full and equal access for Plaintiff and other persons with physical disabilities to the subject public accommodation. defendants, and each of them, have continued such practices, in conscious disregard for the rights and safety of Plaintiff and other persons with physical disabilities. Said conduct, with knowledge of the effect it was and is having on Plaintiff and other persons with physical disabilities, constitutes despicable conduct in conscious disregard of the rights and safety of Plaintiff and of other similarly situated persons, justifying the imposition of punitive and exemplary damages per Civil Code section 3294.
- I. FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION: VIOLATION OF THE UNRUH CIVIL RIGHTS ACT (On behalf of Plaintiff and Against All Defendants) (Cal Civ § 51 et seq.)
- 15. Plaintiff repleads and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth again herein, the allegations contained in all prior paragraphs of this complaint.
 - 16. California Civil Code § 52 provides that a party that

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discriminates against a plaintiff in violation of Civ. Code § 51 shall be liable for actual damages, up to three times actual damages but not less than \$4000 for each such offense, and any attorney's fees incurred by the plaintiff.

Count One:

17. The Defendants have not ensured that their facilities comply with Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, the California Building Code as it applies to physical access for persons with disabilities and failed to ensure that disabled persons have "full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, or services" to the facilities identified above.

Count Two:

- 18. The Defendants have not complied with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
- II. SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION: NEGLIGENCE
 (On behalf of the Plaintiff and Against All Defendants)
- 19. Plaintiff repleads and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth again herein, the allegations contained in all prior paragraphs of this complaint.
- 20. Defendants had a duty to exercise ordinary care, i.e., comply with the various accessibility laws and ensure that their property was safely configured.
- 21. Defendants failed to exercise ordinary care in that they failed to ensure that their facilities complied with the accessibility guidelines or that their facilities were configured to promote safe and effective use by persons with wheelchairs.
 - 22. As the actual and proximate result of Defendants' failure

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to exercise ordinary care, Plaintiff suffered damages in an amount to be determined by proof.

- Wherefore, Plaintiff prays for relief and damages and 23. relief as hereinafter stated.
- III. THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION: VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA'S UNFAIR BUSINESS PRACTICES ACT (On behalf of the Public and Against All Defendants) (Cal. Bus. & Prof. § 17200 et seq.)
- Plaintiff repleads and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth again herein, the allegations contained in all prior paragraphs of this complaint.
- In addition to the access violations described above, Defendants' facilities are in violation of California and Federal law in that they do not provide required access for disabled persons.
- Defendants' acts and omissions alleged herein 26. violation of both statutory requirements and public policy and, therefore, constitute a violation of Business and Professions Code sections 17200 et seq.
- 27. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself/herself and the general public, seeks injunctive relief requiring Defendants to remedy the disability access violations present at their facilities.
- 28. Wherefore, Plaintiff prays for relief and damages and relief as hereinafter stated.

PRAYER:

Wherefore, Plaintiff prays that this court award damages and provide relief as follows:

1. For injunctive relief, compelling Defendants to comply with the Unruh Civil Rights Act.

1	2. General and Special damages in an amount to be determined by
2	proof;
3	3. Reasonable attorneys' fees, litigation expenses and costs of
4	suit, pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code §§ 52, and Cal. Civ. Proc. §
5	1021.5;
6	4. For Punitive Damages pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code Section
7	3294(c)(1);
8	5. For such other and further relief as the court may deem
9	proper.
10	Dated: August 14, 2002 CENTER FOR DISABILITY ACCESS LLD
11	Dated: August 14, 2002 CENTER FOR DISABILITY ACCESS, LLP
12	By:
13	MARK D. POTTER RUSSELL C. HANDY
14	JAMES R. BOYD Attorneys for Plaintiff
15	Accorneys for Plaintiff
16	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
17	Plaintiff hereby demands a jury for all claims for which a jury
18	is permitted.
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20	Dated: August 14, 2002 CENTER FOR DISABILITY ACCESS, LLP
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22	By: MARK D. POTTER
23	RUSSELL C. HANDY JAMES R. BOYD
24	Attorneys for Plaintiff
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	Complaint

ANSWER TO UNVERIFIED COMPLAINT

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

FILE ED

OCT 0 1 2002

By: S. L. FRANKLIN, Deputy

CASE NAME:

LANGER v. DAVISSON, et al

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

CASE NO:

GIC 794500

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, am employed in the county of San Diego, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action; my address is 11510 Woodside Avenue, Suite L, Santee, California 92071.

DOCUMENT (S) AND PERSON (S) SERVED:

On September 30, 2002, I served the following document described as ANSWER TO UNVERIFIED COMPLAINT, by placing a true copy in an envelope addressed as follows:

Mark D. Potter/Russell C. Handy Center for Disability Access, LLP P. O. Box 34606 San Diego, CA 92163-4606

- [X] BY MAIL I am "readily familiar" with the firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing. Under that practice it would be deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on that same day with postage thereon fully prepaid at Santee, California in the ordinary course of business. The envelope was sealed and placed for collection and mailing on this date following our ordinary practices. I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more that one-day after date of deposit for mailing in affidavit.
- [] BY PERSONAL SERVICE I caused the foregoing document to be personally delivered to the foregoing person:
- [] BY FAX I personally sent to the addressee's telecopy number a true copy of the above-described documents. Thereafter I sent a true copy in a sealed envelope addressed and mailed as indicated above.

I declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on September 30, 2002, at Santee, California.

June Marie Pace

SUPERIOR COURT SE CALIFORNIA, COUNTY O SAN DIEGO PAGE 1 OF 2 CALENDAR NO. NUMBER COMPLAINT DATE HEARING DATE HEARING TIME DEPT COURT USE ONLY GIC794500 08/16/02 12/20/02 08:30AM 60 JUDGE/COMMISSIONER - 1 CLERK D WILLIAM C. PATE HON. Clerk of the Superior Court DIANE HOWARD REPORTER NOT REPORTED P.O.BOX 120128, SAN DIEGO, CA 92112-0128 CSR # DEC 2.0 2002 PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT By D. HOWARD, Deputy CHRIS LANGER HATTIE M DAVISSON The above matter came on for hearing with the below appearances for: EARLY CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE ATTORNEY OF RECORD PHONE APPEARANCE BY MARK D POTTER (P) 619-291-7593 ROBERT F. WIGGINS 619-562-0702 (add'l signatures - use attached sheet) PURSUANT TO THE STIPULATION SET FORTH BELOW, no procedure or deadline set forth herein may be modified, extended or avoided by stipulation or agreement of the parties unless approved by the court in advance of the date sought to be altered. Counsel acknowledge and memorialize the stipulation set forth below by affixing their signatures hereto. IS STIPULATED BY THE PARTIES AND ORDERED AS FOLLOWS: -CASE DEEMED AT ISSUE AND PLACED ON THE CIVIL ACTIVE LIST. Pursuant to stipulation of the parties, no new parties may be added without leave of court, and all unserved, non-appearing and fictitiously named parties are dismissed. JUDICIAL ARBITRATION: NON-BINDING NO LIMIT ARBITRATION. ALL PENDING LAW AND MOTION MATTERS, NOT INVOLVING DISCOVERY, ARE VACATED. You MUST seek the permission of the judge who ordered the case into judicial arbitration to file any motion while the case is in arbitration. PURSUANT TO THE STIPULATION OF THE PARTIES: APPOINTMENT of Estimated length day(s). BINDING ARBITRATION. The parties stipulate to binding arbitration. A stipulation with client's signature is to be filed with the Arbitration Department and the arbitrator prior to the arbitration hearing. EXCHANGE OF EXPERTS. The parties stipulate to dispense with the demand requirements of CCP 2034, and agree to exchange experts in accordance with Local Rules, Div. II, Rule 9.3. (All other provisions of CCP 2034 apply). Complaint was filed before 02/28/2000 and is eligible to participate in the court's mediation pilot program per Amount in controversy is less than \$50,000, mediator is on the court list and will be paid by the COURT. Amount in controversy is less than \$50,000, mediator not on the court list and will be paid by the PARTIES. Parties stipulate amount in controversy is MORE than \$50,000 and PARTIES will pay mediator. Complaint was filed after 02/27/2000 and is eligible to participate in the court's new Pilot Mediation Program Mediator is on the court list and will be paid by the COURT. Mediator is not on the court list and will be paid by the PARKIE THE PARTIES STIPULATE TO Case is ordered to mediation for Other orders:

NUMBER:GIC794500 DATE OF HEARING: 12/20/02 PAGE 2 OF 2 TRIAL SETTING: TRIAL DATE ___ TRIAL READINESS CONFERENCE : 05/23/03 at 09:30AM in Dept. WCP SPECIAL SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE: _____ at ____ in Dept._____ PURSUANT TO THE STIPULATION OF THE PARTIES: YEXCHANGE OF EXPERTS: The parties stipulate to dispense with the demand requirements of CCP 2034, and agree to exchange experts as follows: 2nd exchange: 04/16/03 (All other provisions of CCP 2034 apply). ALL MOTIONS AND DISCOVERY, including but not limited to experts, judgment on the pleadings, leave to amend and bifurcate must be completed and jury fees posted by: 05/16/03TRANSFER TO AMOTHER COURT OR DISTRICT Transfer to ______Court. Appeal period waived. Plaintiff/Defendant is ordered to pay the fees and costs of transfer by ______ Case is reclassified as limited / general jurisdiction. OSC why case should be deemed limited / general jurisdiction set on______ IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE STIPULATION, IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: CONSOLIDATION/SEVERANCE/BIFURCATION The case is consolidated with Case Nos. ______. Lead case: ______ This case is ordered severed/bifurcated as to The Court sets an Order to Show Cause for failing to appear as noticed by the Court for today's proceeding. The Order to Show Cause is set for _____at ____in Dept. ____ OSC WHY CASE SHOULD NOT BE DISMISSED The Order to Show Cause is set for ______ at _____in Dept. _____ ______at _______in Dept. ______

IT IS SO ORDERED:

Dated: 12/20/02

William C. Pat

JUDGE/COMMISSIONER OF THE SUPERIOR COURT