1 2	Rachel Doughty (CBN 255904) J. Rae Lovko (CBN 208855) GREENFIRE LAW, PC	Electronically FILED by Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
3	2748 Adeline Street, Suite A Berkeley, CA 94703	1/31/2024 3:38 PM David W. Slayton,
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10	CUREDIOD COURT OF THE	
11	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES	
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13	ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT JUDICIAL INTERPRETERS OF	Case No. 24STCV02594
14	CALIFORNIA,	
15	Plaintiff,	COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS OF BUS. & PROF. CODE §§17200 et seq.
16	V.	00 1
17	ONE CALL CORPORATION dba ONE CALL,	
18	ONE CALL CARE MANAGEMENT, and/or ONE CALL CARE TRANSPORT &	
19	TRANSLATE; and DOES 1 through 25, inclusive,	
20	,	
21	Defendants.	
22	PETITIONER ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT JUDICIAL INTERPRETERS OF CALIFORNIA (hereafter "AIJIC" or "the Association"), on behalf of themselves and their members, hereby allege:	
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26	<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	
27	This lawsuit is brought pursuant to California's Unfair Competition Law (hereafter "UCL"), Business & Professions Code sections17200 <i>et seq.</i> , to enjoin defendants from unlawful,	
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fraudulent, and unfair business practices and false advertising. ONE CALL CORPORATION dba ONE CALL, ONE CALL CARE MANAGEMENT, and/or ONE CALL CARE TRANSPORT & TRANSLATE (hereafter "ONE CALL") employs individuals and businesses that are impersonating certified court interpreters in California worker's compensation cases, resulting in harm to workers alleging industrial injuries who cannot proficiently speak or understand English, employers entitled to information on worker claims, insurance companies that must assess worker claims, courts that must hear worker claims, attorneys who are entitled to information on worker claims, and certified court interpreters.

#### **PARTIES**

- 1. Plaintiff AIJIC is a nonprofit organization registered with the California Secretary of State, with its principal office located in Studio City, Los Angeles County, California. The Association educates the legal community and agencies regarding current laws governing court interpreters, particularly Government Code sections 68560.5 and 68561, which require certified interpreters to be used for civil, criminal, or juvenile proceedings. In addition, the Association represents the interests of independent court interpreters before the Judicial Council of California and other state entities to ensure that independent interpreters have a voice in matters that directly affect their profession, among other things.
- 2. As a direct result of ONE CALL's violation of California law, Plaintiff has been required to expend resources to investigate and address defendants' unlawful, fraudulent, and unfair business practices. Defendants' actions frustrate AIJIC's mission and divert limited resources and time from other important organizational activities. AIJIC's losses include diverted directors' and officers' time and costs associated with AIJIC's representation in communicating with ONE CALL about the results of its investigation.
- 3. Defendant ONE CALL is a corporation registered with the Florida Secretary of State, with its principal office located in Jacksonville, California. ONE CALL provides care coordination services to the workers' compensation industry, which services include providing interpreters. Interpretation services are provided nationwide.
- 4. Plaintiff does not know the true names and capacities of the defendants named in this action as DOES 1-25, and therefore, sues them under fictitious names. Plaintiff will request

permission to amend this complaint or substitute the DOE defendants to state their true names and capacities when their identities are ascertained.

5. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that at all times herein mentioned, each of the DOE defendants was the agent, servant, employee, and/or co-conspirator of ONE CALL, and, in doing the acts hereinafter alleged, was acting within the course and scope of their authority as such agent, servant, employee, and/or co-conspirator with the permission, knowledge, and consent of ONE CALL and their co-defendants and, further, that the defendants, and each of them, have authorized, ratified, and approved the acts of each of the other defendants with full knowledge of those acts.

## **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 6. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the action pursuant to the California Constitution, Article VI, Section 10.
- 7. This Court has personal jurisdiction over the parties in this case. Plaintiff AIJIC maintains a presence in Los Angeles County, and by filing this Complaint, consents to this Court having personal jurisdiction over it. Defendants are authorized to, and in fact do, conduct business in California, including in Los Angeles County. Each has sufficient minimum contacts with California and have purposely availed themselves of the laws of California to market and engage in interpretation services in the State and Los Angeles County. Each has purposefully directed its conduct at California and availed itself of the benefits and protections of California law.
- 8. This case arises under California Business & Professions Code section 17203, which provides that any person who engages, has engaged, or proposes to engage in unfair competition may be enjoined in any court of competent jurisdiction. As more fully alleged in this Complaint, defendants' misrepresentations and omissions of material fact in employing individuals that impersonate certified interpreters constitute unfair competition in that such conduct involves false advertising, fraudulent business practices, unfair business practices, and unlawful business practices.
- 9. Venue is proper in this Court because Plaintiff resides in Los Angeles County, and a substantial part of the events or omissions which give rise to this lawsuit are connected to Los Angeles County.

# STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

# California's Unfair Competition Law

- 10. California's Unfair Competition Law (hereafter "UCL"), Business & Professions Code sections 17200 et seq., section 17200 prohibits businesses from engaging in unlawful, fraudulent, or unfair business practices. Section 17500 prohibits unfair, deceptive, untrue, or misleading advertising.
- 11. California Business & Professions Code section 17203 allows any person to pursue representative claims or relief on behalf of others if the claimant meets the standing requirements of California Business & Professions Code section 17204 and California Civil Procedure Code section 382.
- 12. Plaintiff has standing under California Business & Professions Code section 17204, which provides that actions for relief pursuant to the UCL shall be prosecuted exclusively in a court of competent jurisdiction by, *inter alia*, any person who has suffered injury in fact and has lost money or property as a result of the unfair competition.
- 13. Plaintiffs have standing under California Civil Procedure Code section 382, which provides that "when the question is one of a common or general interest, of many persons, of when the parties are numerous, and it is impracticable to bring them all before the court, one or more may sue or defend for the benefit of all."
- 14. For claims based on false advertising, Section 17535 of the UCL provides that any person, association, or organization which violates Section 17500 may be enjoined by any court of competent jurisdiction. Actions for such injunctive relief may be prosecuted by any person, association, or organization who has suffered injury in fact and has lost money or property as a result.
- 15. Section 17200 of the UCL prohibits "unlawful" business practices. An unlawful business practice is an act or practice, committed pursuant to business activity, that is at the same time forbidden by law. Virtually any law—federal, state, local or court-made—can serve as a predicate for an action under Section 17200. Defendants have engaged in unlawful business practices predicated on California Penal Code 529, Performance of Certain Acts in False

Character; negligence; negligent hiring, management, review, and oversight; and fraud upon the court.

- 16. Section 17200 of the UCL prohibits "unfair" business practices, which include unfair practices perpetrated by competitors which are harmful to other competitors and unfair practices perpetrated by a seller of services which are harmful to the consumer. Conduct is "unfair" within the meaning of Section 17200 if it is offensive to public policy, unscrupulous, oppressive, or substantially injurious to competitors or consumers.
- 17. Section 17200 of the UCL prohibits "fraudulent" business practices. This does not refer to the common law tort of fraud. Plaintiff need not prove that anyone was actually deceived, actually relied upon the fraudulent conduct, or actually sustained damage. Rather, Plaintiff need only show that members of the public are likely to be deceived. *See Wang v. Massey Chevrolet*, 97 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 856, 871 (2002).

### **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

- 18. ONE CALL advertises itself as having the nation's largest network of interpreters for worker's compensation depositions, medical appointments, and more.
- 19. ONE CALL has publicly disseminated untrue or misleading statements and advertising as regards the company's ability to provide certified interpreters for worker's compensation cases.
- 20. ONE CALL employs individuals and businesses that provide interpreter services for California worker's compensation cases.
- 21. On numerous occasions, individuals employed by defendants appeared in California worker's compensation cases, and these individuals have falsely impersonated certified California interpreters. Some of these individuals have falsely impersonated certified California interpreters in more than one instance.
- 22. The individuals employed by ONE CALL who falsely impersonated others were the agents, servants, employees, and/or co-conspirators of ONE CALL, and, in doing the acts herein alleged, were acting within the course and scope of their authority as such agents, servants, employees, and/or co-conspirators with the permission, knowledge, and consent of ONE CALL

and their co-defendants and, further, that the defendants, and each of them, have authorized, ratified, and approved the acts of each of the other defendants with full knowledge of those acts.

- 23. This appropriation of others' identities has benefited defendants commercially.
- 24. Some of the interpreters who were impersonated are members of AIJIC.
- 25. The individuals employed through ONE CALL and/or DOE defendants not only impersonated others, but these individuals also were not certified to interpret in California for worker's compensation proceedings.
- 26. In falsely impersonating certified California interpreters, members of the public, including injured workers, employers, attorneys, and others, were not only likely to be deceived but were actually deceived.
- 27. At all times, defendants were aware that those employed through ONE CALL and/or DOE defendants were impersonating others in their official capacity as certified interpreters.
- 28. On or about December 1, 2022, Plaintiff sent a letter to ONE CALL to inform it that California certified interpreters were being impersonated by unknown individuals employed through ONE CALL at Zoom depositions based in California. This letter, which was supported by sworn declarations from court reporters and impersonated interpreters, identified nine specific instances where impersonations had occurred in 2021 and 2022.
- 29. ONE CALL responded by stating it would no longer do business with the individuals or contractors who had provided interpreters for the Zoom depositions addressed in the December 1, 2022 letter. ONE CALL, however, refused to identify any of the individuals or contractors by name.
- 30. ONE CALL again employed one of the individuals previously involved in impersonating certified California interpreters. On this occasion, the individual appeared for a predeposition meeting with a worker and his attorney. On or about July 14, 2023, Plaintiff notified ONE CALL of this impersonation and asked that the impersonator's true name be provided. ONE CALL did not respond to Plaintiff's request.
- 31. Since July 14, 2023, individuals employed through ONE CALL and/or DOE defendants have continued to appear in California worker's compensation cases, and these

individuals have falsely impersonated others in their official capacity as certified California interpreters. In some instances, these individuals also have provided fake Judicial Council of California badges bearing the names of the certified court interpreters they were impersonating.

- 32. At all times, defendants failed to prevent the impersonation of California certified interpreters.
- 33. Defendants' actions have resulted in harm to injured workers who cannot proficiently speak or understand English. Without certified interpreters, the claims, benefits, and compensation that they may be entitled to has been jeopardized. The workers' fundamental right to due process and a fair hearing has been violated.
- 34. Defendants' actions have resulted in harm to those who rely upon certified interpreters in worker's compensation matters to evaluate worker claims, benefits, and compensations, including but not limited to medical evaluators, claims adjusters, attorneys, and the courts.
- 35. Defendants' actions have resulted in harm to certified interpreters in California who have been or may be impersonated by those employed by ONE CALL and/or DOE D=defendants. Defendants received a financial benefit at the expense of those who were impersonated.
- 36. Defendants' actions have resulted in harm to businesses that comply with California statutes and regulations mandating the use of certified court interpreters for worker's compensation proceedings.

### FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violations of Bus. & Prof. Code, § 17200 et seq. – Unfair Competition Law)

- 37. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges the preceding paragraphs.
- 38. Defendants have engaged in and continue to engage in business practices that constitute unfair competition as defined in California Business & Professions Code section 17200 *et seq.*
- 39. Defendants have violated and continue to violate the UCL through unlawful business acts and practices.

- 40. Defendants have violated and continue to violate the UCL through their unlawful business acts and practices in that these acts and practices violate California Penal Code section 529. California Penal Code section 529 is violated by "[e]very person who falsely personates another in either his or her private or official capacity, and in that assumed character does any of the following . . . Verifies, publishes, acknowledges, or proves, in the name of another person, any written instrument, with intent that the same may be recorded, delivered, or used as true. . . Does any other act whereby, if done by the person falsely personated, he might, in any event, become liable to any suit or prosecution, or to pay any sum of money, or to incur any charge, forfeiture, or penalty, or whereby any benefit might accrue to the party personating, or to any other person."
- 41. Defendants have violated and continue to violate the UCL through their unlawful business acts and practices in that these acts and practices violate California statutes and regulations governing certification in worker's compensation matters.
- 42. Defendants have violated and continue to violate the UCL through their unlawful business acts and practices in that these acts and practices are negligent. Specifically, defendants have negligently and carelessly failed to use reasonable care in providing interpreter services.
- 43. Defendants' business acts and practices further constitute negligent hiring, management, review, and oversight. Specifically, defendants have neglected to develop and/or enforce procedures to ensure the identity and certification of individuals employed through ONE CALL and/or DOE defendants.
- 44. Defendants have violated and continue to violate the UCL through their unlawful business acts and practices in that these acts and practices are a fraud upon the court. Specifically, individuals employed by ONE CALL and/or DOE defendants made material misrepresentations and have perjured themselves by impersonating certified California interpreters, and in some instances, providing fake Judicial Council of California badges bearing those certified court interpreters' names.
- 45. Defendants have violated and continue to violate the UCL through engaging in fraudulent business practices that are likely to deceive members of the public.
- 46. Defendants have violated and continue to violate the UCL through unfair business acts and practices. The impersonation of certified interpreters is harmful to ONE CALL's and

1 DOE defendants' competitors and to consumers of interpreter services. These impersonations are 2 offensive to public policy, unscrupulous, oppressive, or substantially injurious to competitors or consumers. 3 47. Defendants have violated the UCL's provisions at Section 17500 et seq. regarding 4 false advertising in that defendants have publicly disseminated untrue or misleading statements 5 and advertising regarding the identity and qualifications of individuals employed through ONE 6 CALL. Defendants knew, or in the exercise of reasonable care should have known, that these 7 statements and advertising were untrue or misleading. 8 48. As a direct and proximate result of defendants' violation of the UCL, Plaintiff 9 suffered injury in fact because they were forced to divert limited organizational resources away 10 from their core mission and have incurred significant costs associated with investigating and 11 communicating with ONE CALL. 12 49. As a direct and proximate result of defendants' violation of the UCL, important 13 public interest rights have been harmed. 14 15 // 16 17 // 18 19 // 20 21 // 22 23 // 24 // 25 26 // 27 28 9

REQUEST FOR RELIEF WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court enter judgment in their favor and against defendants, as follows: A. Declaring that ONE CALL, and all DOES hereafter identified and named, violated the UCL; B. Ordering an accounting of all defendants for any and all profits derived by defendants from their business acts and practices in violation of the UCL; C. Ordering an award of injunctive relief as permitted by law or equity, including enjoining ONE CALL, and all DOES hereafter identified and named, from continuing the acts or practices that are in violation of the UCL; D. Ordering ONE CALL, and all DOES hereafter identified and named, to pay fees and litigation costs to Plaintiff pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5 and the common-law private-attorney-general doctrine; E. Ordering such other and further relief as is just and proper. Dated: January 31, 2024 Respectfully submitted, **GREENFIRE LAW, PC** Randel S. Dong Long Rachel Doughty