1 2 3 4 5 6 7		OURT OF CALIFORNIA GELES – CENTRAL DISTRICT
	COUNTY OF LOS AND	SELES - CENTRAL DISTRICT
8	BETH BOGAERTS, an individual,	Case No.:
10	Plaintiff,	COMPLAINT
11	VS.	1. FRAUD 2. NEGLIGENCE
12 13	THOMAS SCHOENBERGER, an individual, TREVOR FITZGIBBON, an	3. PROMISSORY ESTOPPEL 4. BREACH OF CONTRACT
14	individual, MANUEL CHAVEZ, an individual, MICHAEL LEVINE, an	 NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION BREACH OF IMPLIED COVENANT OF GOOD FAITH AND FAIR DEALING
15	individual, and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive,	 EXTORTION IN VIOLATION OF PENAL CODE § 518, ET SEQ.
16 17	Defendants.	8. CIVIL HARASSMENT IN VIOLATION OF CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE § 527.6 9. DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF
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COMPLAINT

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COME NOW, PLAINTIFF, AND AVERS AND ALLEGES AGAINST DEFENDANTS AND EACH OF THEM AS FOLLOWS:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure §§ 395 and 395.5, jurisdiction is proper in California because the harms and obligations alleged herein occurred in this judicial district, and the amount of Plaintiff's damages exceed the jurisdictional minimum of this Court.
- 2. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 410.10. Defendants have manifested the malicious intent to target Plaintiff and her family in this jurisdiction. Therefore, Plaintiff was directly impacted and injured by Defendants' wrongful actions in Los Angeles County.
- 3. Venue is proper before this Court because, inter alia, Defendants reside and/or do business in Los Angeles County, and/or each of the acts, events, occurrences, or transactions referred to herein occurred in Los Angeles County, and/or had the proximate effect of causing damages to Plaintiff therein.

PARTIES

- 4. Plaintiff Beth Bogaerts ("Plaintiff") is, and at all times mentioned herein, was an individual residing or doing business in the State of Texas.
- Defendant Thomas Schoenberger ("Schoenberger") is, and at all times mentioned herein, was an individual residing or doing business in Los Angeles, California.
- Defendant Trevor Fitzgibbon ("Fitzgibbon") is, and at all times mentioned herein, was an
 individual residing or doing business in Los Angeles, California.
- Defendant Manuel Chavez ("Chavez") is, and at all times mentioned herein, was an individual residing or doing business in Los Angeles, California.
- Defendant Michael Levine ("Levine") is, and at all times mentioned herein, was an individual residing or doing business in Los Angeles, California.

- 9. The true names of Does 1 through 20, inclusive, are unknown to Plaintiff at this time. Plaintiff sue those Doe Defendants (collectively "Defendants") by such fictitious names pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 474. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based on that information and belief alleges that each of the defendants designated as a Doe is legally responsible for the events and happenings referred to in this Complaint, and unlawfully caused the injuries and damages to Plaintiff.
- 10. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based on that information and belief alleges that at all times mentioned in this Complaint, Defendants were the principals, agents, co-conspirators, and/or employees of their co-defendants, and in doing the things alleged in this complaint, were acting within the course and scope of such agency and employment.

COMMON FACTS AND GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

- 11. On or about December 15, 2016, and May 25, 2017, Plaintiff met Defendants online when she was contacted by them and offered to enter into a mutually-beneficial business transaction.
- 12. On or about October 3, 2017, after discussing the business model and related logistics, Plaintiff and Defendants agreed to enter into the mutually-beneficial business transaction.
- 13. On or about October 3, 2017, Plaintiff and Defendants formed a legal entity called ShadowBox Strategies, Inc. ("ShadowBox") which was registered as a corporation in the State of Delaware.
- 14. Plaintiff and Defendants designated the above-listed corporation's principal place of business at 4415 Westchester Drive, Woodland Hills, California 91364.
- 15. On or about July 1, 2017, and continuing for several months thereafter, Plaintiff extended a series of personal loans (collectively "Personal Loans") towards Defendants Shoenberger, Fitzgibbon, and Chavez.
- 16. Plaintiff made the Personal Loans towards Defendants with the condition to repay them upon Plaintiff's request or within a reasonable time.

- 17. Plaintiff extended a personal loan for the amount of Fifteen Thousand Seven-Hundred Thirty-Nine Dollars and Forty-One Cents (\$15,739.41) towards Defendant Schoenberger.
- 18. Plaintiff extended a personal loan for the amount of Ten Thousand Eight-Hundred Ninety-Nine Dollars and Ninety-Nine Cents (\$10,899.99) towards Defendant Fitzgibbon.
- Plaintiff extended a personal loan for the amount of Four Hundred Ninety-Nine Dollars and Nineteen Cents (\$499.19) towards Defendant Chavez.
- 20. Thus far, Defendants Schoenberger, Fitzgibbon, and Chavez have failed or refused to repay their Personal Loans.
- 21. Defendants Schoenberger, Fitzgibbon, and Chavez had promised to repay the Personal Loans towards Plaintiff. However, as stated hereinabove, they have not repaid any funds whatsoever.
- 22. In fact, on or about April 4, 2018, Defendant Fitzgibbon wrote an email to Plaintiff and promised to repay her.
- 23. Defendant Schoenberger obtained additional funds Plaintiff with her consent which was induced by a wrongful use of force or fear.
- 24. In fact, on or about June 6, 2018, Defendant Schoenberger falsely accused Plaintiff of having sexual relations with him and threatened to inform Plaintiff's husband unless she paid him.
 Moreover, Defendant Schoenberger threatened to post a video online about the so-called "love affair" with Plaintiff unless she paid him.
- 25. Defendant Schoenberger sent approximately one hundred (100) emails towards Plaintiff in order to force her to remit the funds or else he would not leave her alone.
- 26. Plaintiff repeatedly requested from Defendant Schoenberger to leave her alone and stop making false accusations about having a love affair with her.
- 27. In response, on or about June 6, 2018, Defendant Schoenberger promised to leave Plaintiff alone if she paid him money.

- 28. Defendant Schoenberger stated that: "I am trying to clean this up and plan on repaying you."

 He also stated: "If I threaten you once ever again, you can say goodbye forever."
- 29. Defendant Schoenberger stated that: "It's a loan Beth." I am not asking for a hand out. I offered you 50% of a multi-million-dollar deal..."
- 30. As a result, Plaintiff remitted additional funds towards Defendant Schoenberger in order to prevent him from spreading lies about her having an extramarital affair with him.
- 31. On or about March 26, 2019, Defendant Fitzgibbon settled a separate lawsuit that he had filed against a third party and received approximately \$101,541 in consideration of settlement.
 However, even though Defendant Fitzgibbon had promised to repay Plaintiff as soon as he received the settlement funds, he did not offer to repay the Personal Loans at any time.
- 32. On or about February 6, 2020, Defendant Chavez (a/k/a "Defango") posted several online videos in order to annoy, harass, or intimate Plaintiff for no legitimate purpose.
- 33. Defendant Chavez has stated that he would "stop at nothing in the entire world to ruin [Plaintiff's] life, [Plaintiff's] family's life, [Plaintiff's] husband's life, and anyone that has ever been known to [Plaintiff] ever..."
- 34. Defendant Chavez has posted the following videos: (1) https://youtu.be/vXpITUpzW9Q; (2) https://youtu.be/ppIMmWKTM8I; and (3) https://youtu.be/kt_BSmm3ruo. Therein, Defendant Chavez has intimidated, harassed, and threatened Plaintiff and her family members.
- 35. On or about May 9, 2018, Plaintiff and Defendant Levine registered a federal trademark for CICADA 3301 ("Trademark") with Serial Number 87913185 with respect to their business operations.
- 36. On or about February 19, 2019, Plaintiff and Defendant Levine registered a federal service mark for CICADA 3301 ("Service Mark-1") with Registration Number 5,678,319 with respect to their business operations.

- 75. Defendants negligently misrepresented the facts, purposely lied about the aforesaid business transaction and Personal Loans, and failed to provide proper disclosures.
- 76. Defendants have made false statements, engaged in misrepresentations, and absent the lies and misrepresentations, Plaintiff would have taken other steps to avoid this legal action.
- 77. Defendants have made representations as to past and existing material facts, including, but not limited to, repaying the Personal Loans to Plaintiff. However, their representations were untrue because Plaintiff never received any repayments from them.
- 78. Defendants made the representations without reasonable ground for believing them to be true.

 These representations were made with the intent to induce Plaintiff to rely upon them wherein Plaintiff was unaware of their falsity. Plaintiff acted in reliance upon the truth of the representations and was justified in relying upon them.
- 79. As a result of the reliance on the truth of the representations, Plaintiff has sustained and will continue to sustain damages.
- 80. These misrepresentations were made knowingly or with reason to know that Plaintiff would rely on them.
- 81. Defendants' actions were unlawful, willful, wanton, intentional, and with a callous and reckless disregard of the statutory rights of Plaintiff, justifying an award of not only actual compensatory damages, but also punitive damages to serve as a deterrent not only as to future conduct of Defendants herein, but also to other persons or entities with similar inclinations.
- 82. Plaintiff was damaged by Defendants through their misrepresentations, fraud, misconducts, and has suffered from substantial loss.
- 83. Plaintiff seeks recovery of attorney's fees, costs, and expenses incurred in the filing and prosecution of this legal action.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION 1 BREACH OF IMPLIED COVENANT OF GOOD FAITH AND FAIR DEALING (Against All Defendants) 2 84. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the above-listed paragraphs as though fully 3 4 set forth herein. 5 85. Plaintiff and Defendants entered into written and/or oral agreements based upon the specific 6 terms and conditions. 86. Defendants failed or refused to adhere to their contractual obligations as stated herein. 8 87. Defendants failed or refused to adhere to the terms and conditions of their promises, 9 representations, and statements as stated herein. 10 11 88. Plaintiff, on the other hand, did all of those things that was required under the terms and 12 conditions of her contractual obligations. 13 89. Defendants unreasonably denied Plaintiff the benefits that were promised under the terms and 14 conditions of their contractual obligations by failing to comply with them. 15 90. Defendants' breaches were committed with willful and wanton disregard for whether or not 16 17 Plaintiff would actually receive in the transactions. 18 91. Defendants possessed full knowledge and information concerning the above-listed facts and 19 their promises, representations, and statements but disregarded Plaintiff's rights. 20 92. Defendants' placing of their profits over the rights of others is particularly vile, contemptible, 21 and wretched. 22 93. Defendants thereby acted with malice and complete indifference to and conscious disregard for 23 24 Plaintiff's rights. 25 94. Defendants' conduct was malicious, oppressive, and fraudulent. 26 95. As a result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff has suffered financial harm. 27 96. Plaintiff has incurred additional expenses and costs as a result of Defendants' conduct.

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97. Plaintiff is entitled to declaratory relief, all damages proximately caused by Defendants' breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing as alleged herein, punitive damages, pre-judgment interest, costs of suit, and other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION EXTORTION IN VIOLATION OF PENAL CODE § 518, ET SEQ. (Against All Defendants)

- 98. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the above-listed paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 99. Defendants obtained Plaintiff's property or other consideration with Plaintiff's consent or by inducing wrongful use of force or fear, or under color of official right.
- 100. Defendants induced fear upon Plaintiff by making the following threats: (1) to do an unlawful injury to Plaintiff or her property; (2) to accuse Plaintiff, her relatives or family members of a crime; (3) to expose or to impute to her a deformity, disgrace, or crime; and/or (4) to expose a secret affecting Plaintiff.
- 101. Defendants should be punished for their actions pursuant to the applicable code, including, but not limited to, Penal Code § 520, et seq.

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION CIVIL HARASSMENT IN VIOLATION OF CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE § 527.6 (Against All Defendants)

- 102. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the above-listed paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
 - o3. Defendants' wrongful conduct alleged hereinabove, although not directly threatening violence, nevertheless was "a knowing and willful course of conduct directed at a specific person that seriously alarms, annoys, or harasses the person and that serves no legitimate purpose," thus constituting civil harassment under C.C.P. § 527.6(b) as well as misdemeanor crime under Penal Code §§ 653m and 653.2. The "course of conduct [was] such as would

cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress, and [did] actually cause substantial emotional distress to the [Plaintiff]" as required by C.C.P. § 527.6(b).

- 104. As alleged hereinbelow, Plaintiff did, in fact, suffer substantial emotional distress as a direct consequence of Defendants' course of conduct.
- 105. As a direct and proximate consequence of Defendants' harassment alleged herein, Plaintiff has been generally, specially, and consequentially damaged in the amount to be established according to evidence.
- 106. Under C.C.P. § 527.6(r), Plaintiff is entitled to an award of the attorney's fees that Plaintiff incurs to prosecute this legal action and to seek an injunction pursuant to C.C.P. § 527.6.
 - O7. The civil harassment was committed willfully and intentionally, and by means of oppression, fraud, and malice, and in conscious disregard of Plaintiff's rights.
- in an amount to be established at trial to meaningfully punish Defendants and to thereby deter similar conduct by them in the future. Also, punitive damages are especially appropriate in this case because of Defendants' past pattern of oppressive and harassing conduct.
- 109. Defendants' harassment alleged herein, unless enjoined by a preliminary injunction order and a permanent injunction judgment of this Honorable Court, or in the alternative, statutory temporary restraining order and three-year injunction under C.C.P. § 527.6, will continue to cause great and irreparable injury to Plaintiff.
- 110. As such, Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law for injuries that Plaintiff is currently suffering, and are threatened to be suffered from Defendants' illegal conduct.

NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF (Against All Defendants)

111. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the above-listed paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

- 112. The ongoing nature and damage resulting from Defendants' illegal actions are of such a nature that Plaintiff is without an adequate legal remedy at law. Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer irreparable harm as a result of Defendants' acts. Unless enjoined by this Honorable Court, Defendants will continue to cause irreparable harm towards Plaintiff.
- 113. An actual controversy has arisen and now exists between Plaintiff and Defendants concerning their respective rights and duties. Therefore, a judicial declaration is necessary and appropriate so the parties may ascertain their rights and duties under the applicable laws.
- 114. Defendants' wrongful acts are continuing and have caused and are causing irreparable damages towards Plaintiff. Unless Plaintiff obtains declaratory relief from this Honorable Court, and/or unless such conduct by Defendants is preliminarily and permanently enjoined, Plaintiff will continue to suffer irreparable damages which will necessitate the filing of multiple and/or successive lawsuits.
- 115. Plaintiff is entitled to injunctive relief pursuant to the applicable laws. Plaintiff is entitled to a permanent injunction against Defendants to force them to comply with the applicable laws and to enjoin Defendants from causing additional harm.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants, and each of them, jointly and severally, as follows:

- 1. For monetary damages, in excess of the jurisdictional amount, or according to proof;
- For compensatory, general, and monetary damages, past, present, and future in an amount to fully compensate Plaintiff within the jurisdictional limits of this Court, according to proof;
- For punitive and exemplary damages, as appropriate, according to proof;
- 4. For attorney's fees and costs, as appropriate, according to proof;
- For incidental and/or consequential damages, as appropriate, past, present, and future, according to proof;

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1	6. For pre-judgment and/or post-judgment interest;			
2	7. For applicable statutory damages, past, present, and future, according to proof;			
3	8. For applicable special damages, past, present, and future, according to proof;			
4	9. For applicable economic damages, past, present, and future, according to proof;			
5	10. For declaratory relief, and/or preliminary and permanent injunction prohibiting the conduct			
6	and activities alleged herein; and			
7	11. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable, and conforming to			
8	proof at the time of trial.			
10	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL: Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury of her peers to the			
11	fullest extent allowed by law.			
12	Dated: March, 2020 LAW OFFICES OF SALAR ATRIZADEH			
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14	By:			
15	SALAR ATRIZADEH, ESQ. Attorney for Plaintiff			
16	BETH BOGAERTS			
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VERIFICATION I, BETH BOGAERTS, the undersigned, certify and declare that I am the Plaintiff in this matter. I have read the foregoing Complaint and know and understand its contents thereof. The matters stated herein are true of my own knowledge and belief, except as to those matters alleged and/or stated on my information and belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true. I declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on March _____, 2020, in Los Angeles, California. BETH BOGAERTS