and of the GIRARDI | KEESE THOMAS V. GIRARDI, Bar No. 36603 1126 Wilshire Boulevard MAY 3 1 2012 Los Angeles, California 90017 Telephone: (213) 977-0211 John A. Clarke, Executive Officer/Clerk Facsimile: (213) 481-1554 RUSSOMANNO & BORRELLO, P.A. Herman Russomanno (Florida Bar No. 240346) Pro Hac Vice Application Forthcoming Robert Borrello (Florida Bar No. 764485) Pro Hac Vice Application Forthcoming 150 West Flagler Street - PH 2800 Miami, FL 33130 Telephone: (305) 373-2101 Facsimile: (305) 373-2103 GOLDBERG, PERSKY & WHITE, P.C. Jason E. Luckasevic (Pennsylvania Bar No. 85557) Pro Hac Vice Application Forthcoming 12 | 1030 Fifth Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15219 13 Telephone: (412) 471-3980 14 Facsimile: (412) 471-8308 15 Attorneys for Plaintiffs 16 17 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 18 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 19 20 BC485779 21 LEDDURE RASHAD BAUMAN and Case No. VERONICA BAUMAN, his wife; JOHN W. 22 BEASLEY and PATRICIA BEASLEY, his wife; ) 23 JEFF BLACKSHEAR; CARLTON BREWSTER; ) JOSEPH CAMPBELL; FRED H. COOK III; COMPLAINT FOR D. 24 COREY V. CROOM; PATRICK CUNNINGHAM) and DEBBIE CUNNINGHAM, his wife; 25 DEMAND FOR JURY TIMOTHY DANIEL; ENNIS R. DAVIS, II; 26 MICHAEL DAVIS and GWENDOLYN DAVIS, his wife; KEVIN DEVINE; ARNOLD FIELDS 27 and OLGA FIELDS, his wife; ROGER L. FINNIE) 28

1	and LAURIE FINNIE, his wife; DARRELL	)
^	FORD; LARRY FOSTER; DONALD FRANK;	Ì
2	DAVID GIBSON and JENNIFER GIBSON, his	ĺ
2	wife; ISAAC HAGINS; OTHELLO	)
3	HENDERSON, III; NATHANIEL HENSLEY and	)
4	AMBER HENSLEY, his wife; KENNETH	)
	HEROCK and ANTOINETTE HEROCK, his	)
5	wife; JESSIE LEE HESTER and GERLIENUS	)
6	HESTER, his wife; DALLAS HICKMAN and	)
V	CELESTE HICKMAN, his wife; GAYLON	)
7	HYDER and MELINDA HYDER, his wife;	)
	EDDIE LEE IVERY and ANTOINETTE IVERY,	)
8	his wife; STEPHEN W. JACKSON; WILLIAM	)
9	JACO and JOAN JACO, his wife; DIRK JOHNSON and JENNIFER JOHNSON, his wife;	)
- 1	JOHN KAISER and RESA KAISER, his wife;	) \
10	JAMES MARSHALL and SUSAN LANDWEHR	<i>)</i>
11	MARSHALL, his wife; COREY MAYFIELD and	ļ
11	TONIA MAYFIELD, his wife; DAVID	<i>!</i>
12	MCMILLAN; ERIK NORGARD; MARVIN D.	, 1
	OWENS and ROMELL OWENS, his wife;	ì
13	RICKY PARKER and JULIE PARKER, his wife;	ì
14	MARION TODD PEAT and JANA PEAT, his	)
_	wife; CHARLES PHARMS III; DAMON PIERI	)
15	and JENNIFER PIERI, his wife; JUAN A.	)
16	ROQUE and JENNIFER ROQUE, his wife;	)
10	WILLIARD SCISSUM and ANDREUILLE	)
17	SCISSUM, his wife; JASON SHELLEY and	)
10	JANINE SHELLEY, his wife; OMAR SMITH and	)
18	RACHEL SMITH, his wife; TRENT SMITH;	)
19	ALPHONSO TAYLOR and HEATHER	)
	TAYLOR, his wife; ANTHONY WALLACE and	)
20	KEISHA WALLACE, his wife; CHARLES	)
21	WESLEY WALLS and CHRISTY WALLS, his wife; DEREK WARE and VIVIAN WARE, his	) }
~ 1	wife; TINA RICKS, Personal Representative of the	) 1
22	Estate of ANDRE M. WATERS, a/k/a ANDRE	<i>!</i>
23	MAURICE WATERS, Deceased, KENNY	, }
23	WATSON; JONATHAN WELLS; KENNETH	)
24	WHEATON and FRANCHELL WHEATON, his	)
35	wife; JAMES DAVID WILKINS, II; DAVID	)
25	WILLIAMS; LESTER JOE WILLIAMS;	)
26		)
	his wife; SCOTT ZIMMERMAN and LINDSEY	)
27	ZIMMERMAN; his wife; ERIC ZOMALT and	)
28	CYNTHIA ZOMALT, his wife,	)
f 1		

1	Plaintiffs,				
2					
3	)   	· .			
4	NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE; NFL ) PROPERTIES LLC; RIDDELL, INC. d/b/a )				
5	RIDDELL SPORTS GROUP, INC., ALL ) AMERICAN SPORTS CORPORATION, d/b/a )				
6	RIDDELL/ALL AMERICAN; RIDDELL )				
7	SPORTS GROUP, INC., EASTON-BELL ) SPORTS, INC.; EASTON-BELL SPORTS, LLC; )				
8					
9	Inclusive,				
10	Defendants.				
11					
12	The Plaintiffs all individuals hereby complain of Defendants listed above and hereby allege as				
13 14					
15					
16					
17	Plainuits:				
18	1. Mr. Leddure Rashad Bauman and his wife, Veronic	a, are residents of and domiciled in the			
19	State of Oregon.	·			
20	2. Mr. John W. Beasley and his wife, Patricia, are re-	idents of and domiciled in the State of			
21	Wisconsin.				
22	3. Mr. Jeff Blackshear is a resident of and domiciled in	the State of Maryland.			
23	4. Mr. Carlton Brewster is a resident of and domiciled	n the state of Michigan.			
24					
25	A Control III Control III in a socilent of and deministed in				
26					
27		n the State of Ohio.			
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1	23.	Mr. Jessie Lee Hester and his wife, Gerlienus, are residents of and domiciled in the State of
2	Florida.	
3	24.	Mr. Dallas Hickman and his wife, Celeste, are residents of and domiciled in the State of
4	Arizona.	
5	25.	Mr. Gaylon Hyder and his wife, Melinda, are residents of and domiciled in the State of
7	Texas.	
8	26.	Mr. Eddie Lee Ivery and his wife, Antoinette, are residents of and domiciled in the State of
9	Georgia.	
10	27.	Mr. Stephen W. Jackson is a resident of and domiciled in the State of Virginia.
11		
12	28.	Mr. William Jaco and his wife, Joan, are residents of and domiciled in the State of Texas.
13	29.	Mr. Dirk Johnson and his wife, Jennifer, are residents of and domiciled in the State of
14	Colorado.	
15	30.	Mr. John Kaiser and his wife, Resa, are residents of and domiciled in the State of Arizona.
16	31.	Mr. James Marshall and his wife, Susan, are residents of and domiciled in the State of
17	Minnesota.	
18	32.	Mr. Corey Mayfield and his wife, Tonia, are residents of and domiciled in the State of
19 20	Texas.	
21	33.	Mr. David McMillan is a resident of and domiciled in the State of Georgia.
22	34.	
23		Mr. Erik Norgard is a resident of and domiciled in the State of Colorado.
24	35.	Mr. Marvin D. Owens and his wife, Romell, are residents of and domiciled in the State of
25	California.	·
26	36.	Mr. Ricky Parker and his wife, Julie, are residents of and domiciled in the State of Arizona.
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- 52. Mr. Kenneth Wheaton and his wife, Franchell, are residents of and domiciled in the State of Texas.
  - 53. Mr. James David Wilkins II is a resident of and domiciled in the State of Ohio.
  - 54. Mr. David Williams is a resident of and domiciled in the State of California.
  - 55. Mr. Lester Joe Williams is a resident of and domiciled in the State of Alabama.
- 56. Mr. Sirmawn Wilson and his wife, Heather, are residents of and domiciled in the State of North Carolina.
- 57. Mr. Scott Zimmerman and his wife, Lindsey, are residents of and domiciled in the State of California.
- 58. Mr. Eric Zomalt and his wife, Cynthia, are residents of and domiciled in the State of California.

#### **Defendants:**

- 59. Defendant National Football League ("the NFL") is an unincorporated association with its headquarters located in the State of New York. The NFL regularly conducts business in California.
- 60. Defendant NFL Properties, LLC as the successor-in-interest to National Football League Properties Inc. ("NFL Properties") is a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with its headquarters in the State of New York. NFL Properties is engaged, among other activities, approving licensing and promoting equipment used by all the NFL teams. NFL Properties regularly conducts business in California.
- 61. Defendant Riddell, Inc. (d/b/a Riddell Sports Group, Inc.) is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Illinois, and is engaged in the business of designing, manufacturing, selling and distributing football equipment, including helmets, to the NFL and since 1989 has been the official helmet of the NFL. Riddell, Inc. regularly conducts business in California.

- organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware and is engaged in the business of designing, manufacturing, selling and distributing football equipment, including helmets, to the NFL and since 1989 has been the official helmet of the NFL. All American Sports regularly conducts business in California.
- 63. Defendant Riddell Sports Group, Inc. is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 6255 N. State Highway, #300, Irving, Texas 76038. Riddell Sports Group, Inc. regularly conducts business in California.
- 64. Defendant Easton-Bell Sports, Inc. is a Delaware Corporation with a principal place of business at 7855 Haskell Avenue, Suite 200, Van Nuys, California 91406 and is a parent corporation of Riddell Sports Group Inc. Easton-Bell Sports, Inc. designs, develops, and markets branded athletic equipment and accessories, including marketing and licensing products under the Riddell brand. Easton-Bell Sports, Inc. regularly conducts business in California.
- 65. Defendant Easton-Bell Sports, LLC is the parent corporation of Easton-Bell Sports, Inc. and is incorporated in Delaware, with a principal place of business at 152 West 57<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, New York 10019. Easton-Bell Sports, LLC regularly conducts business in California.
- 66. Defendant EB Sports Corp. is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 7855 Haskell Avenue, Van Nuys, California 91406. EB Sports Corp. regularly conducts business in California.
- 67. Defendant RBG Holdings Corp. is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 7855 Haskell Avenue, Suite 350, Van Nuys, California 91406. RBG Holdings Corp. regularly conducts business in California.

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68. Defendants Riddell, Inc., Riddell Sports Group Inc., All American Sports Corporation, Easton-Bell Sports, Inc., EB Sports Corp., Easton-Bell Sports, LLC, and RBG Holdings Corp., shall hereinafter be referred to collectively as "Riddell" or the "Riddell Defendants."

### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 69. Jurisdiction is based upon the California Constitution Article 6, Section 10.
- 70. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to Section 395(A) of the California Code of Civil Procedure.

#### INTRODUCTION

- 71. This case seeks a declaration of liability and financial compensation for the long-term chronic injuries, financial losses, expenses, and intangible losses suffered by the Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' Spouses as a result of the NFL's intentional tortious misconduct (by its gratuitous, voluntary undertaking), negligence, and fraud.
- 72. This action arises from the pathological and debilitating effects of mild traumatic brain injuries, caused by concussive and sub-concussive impacts (referenced herein as "MTBI") that have afflicted former professional football players in the National Football League. For many decades, evidence has linked repetitive MTBI to long-term neurological problems in many sports, including football.
- 73. The NFL, as the organizer, marketer, and face of the most popular sport in the United States, in which MTBI is a regular occurrence and/or players have been at risk for MTBI, was aware of the evidence and the risks associated with repetitive traumatic brain injuries for decades, but deliberately ignored and used its monopoly power to actively concealed the information from the Plaintiffs and all others who participated in organized football at all levels.

- 74. The NFL has actively concealed and actively disputed any correlation between on the field MTBI and the chronic mental illnesses and maladies suffered by former players, including the Plaintiffs and all others similarly situated.
- 75. For many years, the NFL learned that many football players had developed chronic severe headaches, malaise, intolerance of loud noises, depression and emotional labiality as a consequence of multiple "dings," sub-concussive events and concussions.
- 76. Moreover, in or around 1994 and possibly earlier, the NFL gratuitously and voluntarily inserted itself into the scientific research and discussion concerning the relationship between the head trauma NFL players are exposed to in practices and game play and short-term and long-term impairment of the brain. The NFL's investigation of this serious medical concern conflicted radically with its continuing promotion of the violence of the sport.
- 77. During the past several decades, the NFL intentionally and fraudulently misled then-active and former players and their families regarding its purported expertise in studying MTBI regarding the short-term and long-term risks posed by concussions and head trauma.
- 78. After acknowledging its long-standing duty to investigate, study, and report about the risks of MTBI in the sport of football, the NFL failed to provide reasonably developed instructions and warnings regarding the risks of chronic permanent brain injury sequelae, and instead produced industry-funded, biased research and advocacy that actively deceived players and misrepresented that concussions and subconcussive head impacts did not present serious, life-altering risks.
- 79. The NFL has actively, continuously and vehemently denied any correlation between participation as a player in the NFL and cognitive neurological symptoms and problems such as headaches, dizziness, loss of memory, dementia and ALS by way of gratuitous press releases, funded and/or sponsored publications in the scientific literature and communications intended to mislead and misinform.

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- 80. The NFL, through its own initiative and voluntary undertaking, created and/or decided to fund the so-called Mild Traumatic Brain Injury Committee (the "MTBI Committee") in 1994 to ostensibly research and study MTBI affecting NFL players. Notwithstanding this purported purpose, and despite clear medical evidence that on-field sub-concussive and concussive events can produce MTBI with tragic results, the NFL failed to inform its current and former players of the true risk and purposefully misrepresented and/or concealed medical evidence on that issue.
- 81. The NFL's active and purposeful concealment and misrepresentation of the severe neurological risks of repetitive MTBI exposed players to dangers they could have avoided had the NFL provided them with truthful and accurate information. Many of these players have MTBI and latent neurodegenerative disorders and diseases as a result of the NFL's acts and/or omissions.
- 82. The NFL has, over the past four decades, actively concealed and disputed any correlation between on the field sub-concussive and concussive events, its return to play policies and the chronic neuro-cognitive damage, illnesses and decline suffered by former players, including the Plaintiffs and all others similarly situated. Further, during the decades of the 1990s and 2000s, the NFL through its authorized agents disputed and actively sought to suppress the findings of others that there is a connection between on-field MTBI and post-career neuro-cognitive damage, illness and decline.

## GENERAL ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS AGAINST THE NFL

- 83. The NFL generates approximately \$9,300,000,000.00 in gross income per year.
- 84. The organization oversees America's most popular spectator sport, acting as a trade association for the benefit of the thirty-two independently operated Teams.
- 85. The NFL governs and promotes the game of football, sets and enforces rules and League policies, and regulates team ownership.

- 86. The NFL generates revenue mostly through marketing sponsorships, licensing merchandise, and by selling national broadcasting rights to the games. The Teams share a percentage of the League's overall revenue.
- 87. The NFL enjoys partial monopoly power through an anti-trust exemption granted via the federal Sports Broadcasting Act that allows the NFL to sell television rights for all 32 teams as a single unit.

#### The NFL's Influence

- 88. In part because of its financial power, monopoly status, and high visibility, the NFL has enormous influence over the game of football at all levels of the game. The NFL has previously been judicially determined to be a monopolist. *United States Football League v. National Football League*, 644 F. Supp 1040, 1042 (S.D.N.Y. 1986), *aff'd*, 842 F.2d 1335 (2nd Cir. 1989).
- 89. Over many decades, the NFL's influence has been expanded through its use of the media. Through NFL films, the NFL Network, and www.NFL.com, the NFL has promoted NFL football via every mass communication medium available.

#### NFL AND THE CBA

- 90. Until March of 2011, NFL players were all members of a union called the National Football League Players Association ("NFLPA"). The NFLPA negotiates the general minimum contract for all players in the league with the National Football League Management Council ("NFLMC"). This contract is called the Collective Bargaining Agreement ("CBA") and it is the central document that governs the negotiation of individual player contracts for all of the league's players. However, historically, the NFL retired players, including all plaintiffs, have never been the subject of or a party to Collective Bargaining.
- 91. The first CBA was created in 1968. The players striked in 1970 and returned with a new CBA after a few weeks. In 1974, the players striked again from July 1, 1974 to August 10, 1974 and a new

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CBA was not reached until 1977 that ran until 1982. In 1982, a 57 day strike lasted until a new CBA was effectuated. However, another strike began in 1987 which lead to the union being decertified without a CBA until lawsuits lead to the approval of the 1993 CBA. This CBA was amended in 1998 and again in 2006. The CBA was originally scheduled to expire at the end of the 2012 season but in 2008 the owners exercised their right to opt-out of the agreement two years earlier. In 2011, the parties in trying to negotiate the new CBA reached an impasse and the NFL owners locked the players out. Subsequently, the NFLPA decertified itself as the players' representative for bargaining.

92. The Plaintiffs herein are all retirees and not covered by the CBA nor are they subject of or parties to bargaining between the NFL and the NFLPA. Thus, the plaintiffs' claims are not preempted by federal labor law since the CBA does not apply to their present claims and, additionally, the expired CBA's do not presently exist.

### The NFL Has Mythologized Violence Through the Media

- 93. Part of the NFL's strategy to promote NFL football is: (a) to mythologize players and Teams; (b) to glorify the accomplishments of individuals and Teams; and (c) to glorify the brutality and ferocity of NFL football, by lauding and mythologizing the most brutal and ferocious players and collisions and simultaneously propagating the fraudulent representation that "getting your bell rung," "being dinged" and putting big hits on others is not seriously hazardous to one's health.
- 94. As a result of the NFL's strategy of glorifying the brutality and ferocity of NFL football, the NFL has propagated the false myth that collisions of all kinds, including brutal and ferocious collisions, many of which lead to short-term and long-term neurological damage to current and former NFL players, are an acceptable, desired, and natural consequence of the game, and a measure of the courage and heroism of those involved in football at every level of the game.

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95. As a result of this strategy, and the overwhelming influence of the NFL at every level of the game, the NFL has generated for itself and others billions of dollars every year by promoting a product of brutality and ferocity and inculcating in players at every level of the game the false and life-threatening ideas that (a) brutal, ferocious, and debilitating collisions are a required and desired outcome in the game of football; and (b) returning to play despite sustaining repetitive head impacts is a laudable and desirable goal.

#### The NFL Markets and Glorifies Football's Violence Through NFL Films.

- 96. NFL Films is an NFL owned company devoted to producing promotional films for the NFL. One television critic described NFL Films as "the greatest in-house P.R. machine in pro sports history... an outfit that could make even a tedious stalemate seem as momentous as the battle for the Alamo."
- 97. NFL Films is known for the style it features in all of its productions, capturing the NFL games, plays, players, and overall NFL environment in an artistic, promotional fashion. NFL Films cinematography is intended to create compelling storylines and highlight certain aspects of the game. NFL Films takes viewers right into the football action with close-ups and slow motion capture of all the hard-hitting action taking place on the football field.
- 98. The NFL focuses on violence as one of the NFL's greatest selling points: the football player as gladiator. To advance the NFL's purpose, NFL Films has created numerous highlight features that focus solely on the hardest-hits that take place on the football field. These featured videos are marketed and sold to advance the NFL's culture of violence as entertainment.
- 99. The list of videos created by NFL Films glorifying violent plays includes, but is not limited to, the following titles: NFL: Moment of Impact (2007); NFL's 100 Greatest Tackles (1995); Big Blocks and King Size Hits (1990); The Best of Thunder and Destruction NFL's Hardest Hits; NFL Films Video:

Strike Force (1989); The NFL's Greatest Hits (1989); Crunch Course; Crunch Course II (1988); Crunch Masters; In the Crunch (1987); NFL Rocks; NFL Rocks: Extreme Football.

- 100. NFL Films created the "Top Ten Most Feared Tacklers" series that was shown on the NFL Network, and it now has its own section on the NFL's website. These features are comprised of videos highlighting the most vicious tacklers the NFL has ever seen.
- be found on the back cover of the 2007 film "Moment of Impact." The back cover of "Moment of Impact" advertises the film as follows: "First you hear the breathing, then you feel the wind coming through your helmet's ear hole. Suddenly you're down, and you're looking through your helmet's ear hole. Pain? That's for tomorrow morning. Right now you've gotta focus focus on the play and try not to focus on the next moment of impact." The NFL's entire message deemphasizes the damagers of these head impacts.
- 102. NFL Films, therefore, advances the NFL's agenda to promote the most violent aspects of NFL football and to urge players at every level of the game to disregard the results of violent head impacts.
- 103. The NFL strategically utilizes NFL Films' cinema tography and sound to exaggerate and emphasize vicious hits. The magnitude of the hit is emphasized by the slow-motion footage and the onfield microphones. Vicious hits captured by NFL Films take on the appearance of the slow-motion crash safety test videos that appear in many car commercials with players taking on the roll of the crash-test dummy.
- 104. The NFL, through NFL Films, promotes a culture in which playing hurt or with an injury is both expected and highly acclaimed in its mythical gladiator world. Through NFL Films, the NFL has produced videos that praise players who embody the ethos of playing hurt (for example, "Top Ten Gutsiest Performances"). This film and others like it celebrate players' ability to play through the pain and injury

and promote an expectation among players and fans that players must and often do play through any injury, including MTBI.

- 105. This is part of the overall culture in which NFL players are encouraged to play despite an injury, in part, because failure to play through an injury creates the risk of losing playing time, a starting position, and possibly a career.
  - 106. Within this culture, the NFL purposefully profits from the violence it promotes.
- 107. Starting in 2010, the NFL, for the first time in its history, began to levy fines for excessive hits to the head. As recently as October 2010, the NFL fined Pittsburgh Steelers' linebacker James Harrison \$75,000.00 dollars for a vicious hit the NFL deemed "illegal" on Cleveland Browns' receiver Mohamed Massaquoi. That same week the NFL fined New England Patriots' defender Brandon Meriweather and Atlanta Falcons' defender Dunta Robinson for hits the NFL also deemed "dangerous and illegal." In total the NFL fined the three players approximately \$175,000.00 for the hits.
- 108. Notwithstanding those fines, in an effort to profit, the NFL sold photos of the illegal hits on its website for between \$54.95 and \$249.95. Only after receiving negative publicity did the NFL removed the photos and acknowledge that it made a mistake to place photos of illegal and dangerous hits for sale on its website.

# Head Injuries, Concussions, and Neurological Damage

- 109. It has been well known for many decades that repetitive and violent jarring of the head or impact to parts of the head can cause MTBI and long term, chronic neuro-cognitive sequelae.
- 110. The defendants have known that the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (the "AANS") has defined a concussion as "a clinical syndrome characterized by an immediate and transient alteration in brain function, including an alteration of mental status and level of consciousness, resulting from mechanical force or trauma." The AANS defines traumatic brain injury ("TBI") as:

a blow or jolt to the head, or a penetrating head injury that disrupts the normal function of the brain. TBI can result when the head suddenly and violently hits an object, or when an object pierces the skull and enters brain tissue. Symptoms of a TBI can be mild, moderate or severe, depending on the extent of damage to the brain. Mild cases may result in a brief change in mental state or consciousness, while severe cases may result in extended periods of unconsciousness, coma or even death.

- The Defendants have known for years that MTBI generally occurs when the head either accelerates rapidly and then is stopped, or is rotated rapidly. The results frequently include, among other things, confusion, blurred vision, memory loss, nausea, and sometimes unconsciousness.
- 112. The defendant has known for years that medical evidence has shown that symptoms of MTBI can appear hours or days after the injury, indicating that the injured party had not healed from the initial blow.
- likely to sustain a second one. Additionally, after suffering even a single sub-concussive or concussive blow, a lesser blow may cause MTBI, and the injured person requires more time to recover. This goes to the heart of the problem: players being unaware of the serious risk posed by returning to play before having allowed their initial head injury or concussion to heal fully.
- 114. The NFL has known for years that clinical and neuro-pathological studies by some of the nation's foremost experts demonstrate that multiple head injuries or concussions sustained during an NFL player's career can cause severe cognitive problems such as depression and early-onset dementia.
- 115. The NFL has known or should have known for decades, published peer reviewed scientific studies have shown that repeated traumatic head impacts (including sub-concussive blows and concussions) cause ongoing and latent brain injury. The brain injuries were documented in various kinds of injuries, including sports-related head impacts in both football and boxing.
- 116. The NFL has known or should have known for decades that neuropathology studies, brain imaging tests, and neuropsychological tests on many former football players, including former NFL

players, have established that football players who sustain repetitive head impacts while playing the game have suffered and continue to suffer brain injuries that result in any one or more of the following conditions: early-onset of Alzheimer's Disease, dementia, depression, deficits in cognitive functioning, reduced processing speed, attention, and reasoning, loss of memory, sleeplessness, mood swings, personality changes, and the debilitating and latent disease known as Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy ("CTE"). The latter condition involves the slow build-up of the Tau protein within the brain tissue that causes diminished brain function, progressive cognitive decline, and many of the symptoms listed above. CTE is also is associated with an increased risk of suicide.

- history of repetitive head trauma. Published papers have shown this condition to be prevalent in retired professional football players who have a history of head injury. The changes in the brain caused by repetitive trauma are thought to begin when the brain is subjected to trauma, but symptoms may not appear until months, years, or even decades after the last traumatic impact or the end of active athletic involvement.
- 118. The NFL has known for a considerable period of time of reported papers and studies documenting autopsies on over twenty-five former NFL players. Reports show that over ninety percent of the players suffered from CTE.
- 119. As a result, published peer reviewed scientific studies have shown that playing professional football is associated with significant risk for permanent brain injury.
- 120. Published peer reviewed scientific studies have shown that 28% of the NFL retirees studied, suffered from depression, whereas the prevalence of depression in the general population is 9.5%.

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- 121. Published peer reviewed scientific studies have shown that 36% of NFL retirees, age 65-75, who were studied suffered from dementia, whereas the prevalence of dementia in the general population for the same age group is merely 2.2-6.5%.
- 122. Published peer reviewed scientific studies have shown that retired players with three or more reported concussions had a fivefold prevalence of mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and a threefold prevalence of significant memory problems, compared to other retirees.
- 123. In a study of NFL retirees, 11.1% of all respondents reported having a diagnosis of clinical depression.
- 124. NFL retirees experience earlier onset of Alzheimer's-like symptoms more frequently than the general American male population in the same age range.
- 125. Repeated head trauma can also result in so-called "Second Impact Syndrome," in which reinjury to a person who has already suffered a concussion triggers swelling that the skull cannot accommodate as discovered in 1973.

# The NFL Was and Is in a Superior Position of Knowledge and Authority and Owed a Duty to Players

- 126. At all times, the NFL was and is in a position of superior knowledge as compared with all former NFL players who are Plaintiffs with respect to the risks associated with repetitive traumatic head impacts that involve sub-concussive and concussive injuries.
- 127. On information and belief, over the past two decades, the NFL and paid consultants voluntarily and gratuitously consulted with independent physicians and neuro-cognitive specialists on the issue of head trauma to NFL players, and the NFL has ignored and suppressed professional advice on such diverse and important topics as: the recognition of the circumstances that can precipitate MTBI, the long-term potential consequences of MTBI on NFL players, and solutions for players who have sustained MTBI.

at large to research, study, test, understand and address the risks of neurological injury—short term and long term—related to playing football in the NFL. As such, the NFL owed a duty of reasonable care to educate players about the risks associated with repetitive head trauma and/or concussions, of which the NFL was aware and had been aware for many years. By gratuitously undertaking to study and publicly report about MBTI in professional football, the NFL assumed a duty not to mislead players and the general public about the risks of permanent neurological damage that can occur from MBTI incurred while playing football.

about the risks of play in light of the fact that at all relevant times, the NFL knew that the vast majority of NFL players played under non-guaranteed contracts and, as such, would willingly (and unknowingly) expose themselves to additional neurological injury and an increased risk of harm solely to maintain those non-guaranteed contracts.

and its long-term cognitive complications, it failed to act appropriately by covering-up, hiding, denying and repressing all pertinent information. Instead of using this information for the safety of the players, the NFL fraudulently covered up its knowledge of the dangers.

### The NFL's Knew the Dangers and Risks Associated with Repetitive Head Impacts and Concussions

131. For decades, the NFL has been aware that multiple blows to the head can lead to long-term brain injury, including but not limited to memory loss, dementia, depression, and CTE and its related symptoms.

132. In 1928, pathologist Harrison Martland described the clinical spectrum of abnormalities found in "almost 50 percent of fighters [boxers] . . . if they ke[pt] at the game long enough" (the "Martland

study"). The article was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. The Martland study was the first to link sub-concussive blows and "mild concussions" to degenerative brain disease.

- In 1937, the American Football Coaches Associates published a report warning that players who suffer a concussion should be removed from sports demanding personal contact.
- In 1948, the New York State Legislature created the Medical Advisory Board of the New 134. York Athletic Commission for the specific purpose of creating mandatory rules for professional boxing designed to prevent or minimize the health risks to boxers. After a three year study, the Medical Advisory Board recommended, among other things, (a) an accident survey committee to study ongoing accidents and deaths in boxing rings; (b) two physicians at ring-side for every bout; (c) post-bout medical follow-up exams; (d) a 30-day period of no activity following a knockout and a medical follow up for the boxer, all of which was designed to avoid the development of "punch drunk syndrome," also known at the time as "traumatic encephalopathy"; (e) a physician's prerogative to recommend that a boxer surrender temporarily his boxing license if the physician notes that boxer suffers significant injury or knockout; and (f) a medical investigation of boxers who suffer knockouts numerous times.
  - The recommendations were codified as rules of the New York State Athletic Commission. 135.
- In or about 1952, the Journal of the American Medical Association published a study of 136. encephalopathic changes in professional boxers.
- That same year, an article published in the New England Journal of Medicine recommended 137. a three-strike rule for concussions in football (i.e., recommending that players cease to play football after receiving their third concussion).
- In the 1960's and 70's, the development of the protective face mask in football allowed the 138. helmeted head to be used as a battering ram. By 1975 the number of head and neck injuries from football that resulted in permanent quadriplegias in Pennsylvania and New Jersey lead to the creation of the

National Football Head and Neck Registry, which was sponsored by the National Athletic Trainers

Association and the Sports Medicine Center at the University of Pennsylvania.

- 139. In 1973, a potentially fatal condition known as "Second Impact Syndrome"—in which reinjury to the already-concussed brain triggers swelling that the skull cannot accommodate—was identified. It did not receive this name until 1984. Upon information and belief, Second Impact Syndrome has resulted in the deaths of at least forty football players.
- Journal of the American Medical Association, Neurology, and the New England Journal of Medicine, and Lancet warning of the dangers of single concussions, multiple concussions, and/or football-related head trauma from multiple concussions. These studies collectively established that:

repetitive head trauma in contact sports, including boxing and football, has potential dangerous long-term effects on brain function;

encephalopathy (dementia pugilistica) is caused in boxers by repeated sub-concussive and concussive blows to the head;

acceleration and rapid deceleration of the head that results in brief loss of consciousness in primates also results in a tearing of the axons (brain cells) within the brainstem;

mild head injury there is a relation between neurologic pathology and length of career in athletes who play contact sports;

immediate retrograde memory issues occur following concussions;

mild head injury requires recovery time without risk of subjection to further injury;

head trauma is linked to dementia; and

a football player who suffers a concussion requires significant rest before being subjected to further contact.

141. In the early 1980's, the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Virginia published studies on patients who sustained mild traumatic brain injury and observed long-term damage in the form of unexpected cognitive impairment. The studies were published in neurological journals and treatises

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within the United States. The results of the studies were reported in the Wall Street Journal and New York Times.

- 142. In 1982, the University of Virginia and other institutions conducted studies on college football teams that showed that football players who suffered mild traumatic brain injuries suffered pathological short-term and long-term damage. With respect to concussions, the same studies showed that a person who sustained one concussion was more likely to sustain a second, particularly if that person was not properly treated and removed from activity so that the concussion symptoms were allowed to resolve.
- 143. The same studies showed that two or more concussions close in time could have serious short-term and long-term consequences in both football players and other victims of brain trauma.
- 144. In 1986, Dr. Robert Cantu of the American College of Sports Medicine published Concussion Grading Guidelines.
- 145. By 1991, three distinct medical professionals/entities, all independent from the NFL—Dr. Robert Cantu of the American College of Sports Medicine, the American Academy of Neurology, and the Colorado Medical Society—developed return-to-play criteria for football players suspected of having sustained head injuries.
- North Carolina conducted a study involving eighteen thousand (18,000) collegiate and high school football players. The research showed that once a player suffered one concussion, he was three times more likely to sustain a second in the same season.
- 147. A 2000 study, which surveyed 1,090 former NFL players, found that more than sixty (60) percent had suffered at least one concussion, and twenty-six (26) percent had suffered three (3) or more, during their careers. Those who had sustained concussions reported more problems with memory,

concentration, speech impediments, headaches, and other neurological problems than those who had not been concussed.

- Meeting and authored by Dr. Barry Jordan, Director of the Brain Injury Program at Burke Rehabilitation Hospital in White Plains, New York, and Dr. Julian Bailes, surveyed 1,094 former NFL players between the ages of 27 and 86 and found that: (a) more than 60% had suffered at least one concussion in their careers with 26% of the players having three or more and 15% having five or more; (b) 51% had been knocked unconscious more than once; (c) 73% of those injured said they were not required to sit on the sidelines after their head trauma; (d) 49% of the former players had numbness or tingling; 28% had neck or cervical spine arthritis; 31% had difficulty with memory; 16% were unable to dress themselves; 11% were unable to feed themselves; and (8) eight suffered from Alzheimer's disease.
- 149. A 2001 report by Dr. Frederick Mueller that was published in the Journal of Athletic Training reported that a football-related fatality has occurred every year from 1945 through 1999, except for 1990. Head-related deaths accounted for 69% of football fatalities, cervical spinal injuries for 16.3%, and other injuries for 14.7%. High school football produced the greatest number of football head-related deaths. From 1984 through 1999, sixty-nine football head-related injuries resulted in permanent disability.
- 150. In 2004, a convention of neurological experts in Prague met with the aim of providing recommendations for the improvement of safety and health of athletes who suffer concussive injuries in ice hockey, rugby, football, and other sports based on the most up-to-date research. These experts recommended that a player never be returned to play while symptomatic, and coined the phrase, "when in doubt, sit them out."

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- 151. This echoed similar medical protocol established at a Vienna conference in 2001. These two conventions were attended by predominately American doctors who were experts and leaders in the neurological field.
- 152. The University of North Carolina's Center for the Study of Retired Athletes published survey-based papers in 2005 through 2007 that found a strong correlation between depression, dementia, and other cognitive impairment in NFL players and the number of concussions those players had received.
- 153. An ESPN report stated in 2006, "[a]ll standard U.S. guidelines, such as those first set by the American Academy of Neurology and the Colorado Medical Society, agree that athletes who lose consciousness should never return to play in the same game."
- 154. Upon information and belief, in literally hundreds upon thousands of games and practices, concussed players—including those knocked entirely unconscious—were returned to play in the same game or practice.
- 155. Indeed, while the NFL knew for decades of the harmful effects of concussions on a player's brain, it actively concealed these facts from coaches, trainers, players, and the public.

# The NFL Voluntarily Undertook the Responsibility of Studying Head Impacts In Football, Yet Fraudulently Concealed Their Long-Term Effects

- 156. As described above, the NFL has known for decades that multiple blows to the head can lead to long-term brain injury, including, but not limited to, memory loss, dementia, depression, and CTE and its related symptoms.
- 157. Rather than take immediate measures to protect its players from these known dangers, between the 1960s and 1994, the NFL failed to react to information readily available to it which warranted action to address this public health issue.
- 158. Then, in 1994, the NFL agreed to fund a voluntarily and gratuitously formulated committee to study the issue of head injury in the NFL. Then NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue voluntarily and

unilaterally formed a committee to study the issue in 1994. This Committee, the Mild Traumatic Brain Injury Committee (the "MTBI Committee"), voluntarily undertook the responsibility of studying the effects of concussions on NFL players.

- 159. At that time, the current NFL Commissioner, Roger Goodell ("Goodell"), was the NFL's Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.
- discussion and research on an issue that goes to the core safety risk for players who participate at every level of the game. Through its voluntary creation of the MTBI Committee, the NFL affirmatively assumed its long-standing duty to use reasonable care in the study of concussions and post-concussion syndrome in NFL players; the study of any kind of brain trauma relevant to the sport of football; the use of information developed; and the publication of data and/or pronouncements from the MTBI Committee.
- long-running course of fraudulent and negligent conduct, which included a campaign of disinformation designed to (a) dispute accepted and valid neuroscience regarding the connection between repetitive traumatic brain injuries and concussions and degenerative brain disease such as CTE; and (b) to create a falsified body of research which the NFL could cite as proof that truthful and accepted neuroscience on the subject was inconclusive and subject to doubt.
- NFL players caused by concussions and repetitive brain trauma received during their years as professional football players has been, until very recently, a concerted effort of deception and denial. The NFL actively tried to and did conceal the extent of the concussion and brain trauma problem, the risk to the Plaintiffs, and the risks to anyone else who played football.

163. The MTBI Committee's stated goal was to present objective findings on the extent to which a concussion problem existed in the League, and to outline solutions. Ironically, the MTBI Committee's studies were supposed to be geared toward "improv[ing] player safety" and for the purpose of instituting "rule changes aimed at reducing head injuries."

neurologists alike were already convinced that all concussions—even seemingly mild ones—were serious injuries that can permanently damage the brain, impair thinking ability and memory, and hasten the onset of mental decay and senility, especially when they are inflicted frequently and without time to properly heal.

- 165. The MTBI Committee was publicized by the NFL as independent from the NFL, consisting of a combination of doctors and researchers.
- 166. The MTBI Committee, however, was not independent. It consisted of at least five (5) members who were already affiliated with the NFL.
- least a physician with extensive training and experience treating head injuries, Commissioner Tagliabue appointed Dr. Elliot Pellman, a rheumatologist who lacked any specialized training or education relating to concussions, and who was a paid physician and trainer for the New York Jets.
- 168. Dr. Pellman had reportedly been fired by Major League Baseball for lying to Congress regarding his resume.
- 169. Dr. Pellman would go on to chair the MTBI Committee from 1994-2007, and his leadership of the Committee came under frequent and harsh outside criticism related to his deficient medical training, background, and experience.

170. The fact that Dr. Pellman was a paid physician for an NFL Team was an obvious conflict of interest. At no time was Dr. Pellman independent of the NFL, because he was paid on an ongoing basis by an NFL Team.

- 171. The NFL failed to appoint any neuropathologist to the MTBI Committee.
- 172. From its inception in 1994, the MTBI Committee allegedly began conducting studies to determine the effect of concussions on the long-term health of NFL players.
- 173. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell confirmed this in June 2007 when he stated publicly that the NFL had been studying the effects of traumatic brain injury for "close to 14 years . . . ."
  - 174. Under Dr. Pellman, the MTBI Committee spearheaded a disinformation campaign.
- 175. Dr. Pellman and two other MTBI Committee members, Dr. Ira Casson, a neurologist, and Dr. David Viano, a biomedical engineer, worked to discredit scientific studies that linked head impacts and concussions received by NFL players to brain injuries.
- 176. The MTBI Committee did not publish its first findings on active players until 2003. In that publication, the MTBI Committee stated, contrary to years of independent findings, that there were no long term negative health consequences associated with concussions.
- and 2009. According to the MTBI Committee, all of their findings supported a conclusion that there were no long term negative health consequences associated with concussions or brain injuries. These findings regularly contradicted the research and experiences of neurologists who treat sports concussions and the players who endured them.
- 178. Completely contrary to public findings and conclusions, the NFL's team of hand-picked socalled experts on the MTBI Committee did not find concussions to be of significant concern and felt it appropriate for players suffering a concussion to continue playing football during the same game or

practice in which one was suffered. This recommendation and practice by the NFL, promoted by the MTBI Committee, was irresponsible and dangerous.

- 179. The MTBI Committee's methodology and the conclusions reached in its research were criticized by independent experts due to the numerous flaws in the study design, methodology, and interpretation of the data, which led to conclusions at odds with over 80 years of science and medicine.
- its research found no risk of repeated concussions in players with previous concussions and that there was no "7- to 10- day window of increased susceptibility to sustaining another concussion."
- 181. In a comment to this publication, one independent doctor wrote that "[t]he article sends a message that it is acceptable to return players while still symptomatic, which contradicts literature published over the past twenty years suggesting that athletes be returned to play only after they are asymptomatic, and in some cases for seven days."
- 182. As a further example, an MTBI Committee conclusion in 2005 stated that "[p]layers who are concussed and return to the same game have fewer initial signs and symptoms than those removed from play. Return to play does not involve a significant risk of a second injury either in the same game or during the season." "These data suggest," the MTBI Committee reported, "that these players were at no increased risk" of subsequent concussions or prolonged symptoms such as memory loss, headaches, and disorientation.
- 183. Yet, a 2003 NCAA study of 2,905 college football players found just the opposite: "Those who have suffered concussions are more susceptible to further head trauma for seven to 10 days after the injury."
- 184. Support for this same conclusion was developed as early as 1982 in studies conducted at the University of Virginia.

- 185. Dr. Pellman and his group stated repeatedly that the NFL study showed "no evidence of worsening injury or chronic cumulative effects of multiple [MTBI] in NFL players."
- 186. The 2003 report by the Center for the Study of Retired Athletes at the University of North Carolina, however, found a link between multiple concussions and depression among former professional players with histories of concussions. A 2005 follow-up study by the Center showed a connection between concussions and both brain impairment and Alzheimer's disease among retired NFL players.
- 187. Other contrary conclusions that the MTBI Committee published at the behest, urging, and sponsorship of NFL over several years include, but are not limited to, the following:

Drs. Pellman and Viano stated that because a "significant percentage of players returned to play in the same game [as they suffered a concussion] and the overwhelming majority of players with concussions were kept out of football-related activities for less than 1 week, it can be concluded that mild [TBIs] in professional football are not serious injuries";

that NFL players did not show a decline in brain function after a concussion;

that there were no ill effects among those who had three (3) or more concussions or who took hits to the head that sidelined them for a week or more;

that "no NFL player experienced the second-impact syndrome or cumulative encephalopathy from repeat concussions"; and

that NFL players' brains responded and healed faster than those of high school or college athletes with the same injuries.

- 188. The MTBI Committee's papers and conclusions were against the weight of the scientific evidence and based on biased data collection techniques. They received significant criticism in the scientific and medical media from independent doctors and researchers and were met with skepticism in peer review segments following each article's publication.
- 189. Renowned experts Dr. Robert Cantu and Dr. Julian Bailes wrote harshly critical reviews of the studies' conclusions.

- 190. Dr. Cantu observed that the extremely small sample size and voluntary participation in the NFL's study suggested there was bias in choosing the sample. According to Dr. Cantu, no conclusions should be drawn from the NFL study.
- appeared to be primarily preparing a defense for when injured players eventually sued, and that it seemed to be promoting a flawed scientific study to justify its conclusion that concussions do not have adverse effects on players.
- 192. Dr. Kevin Guskiewicz has stated that the "data that hasn't shown up makes their work questionable industry-funded research."
- 193. In and around 2009, The MTBI Committee's work was criticized in the popular press by ESPN and the New York Times when repeated inconsistencies and irregularities in the MTBI Committee's data were revealed.
- 194. An October 2006 ESPN article described how the MTBI Committee failed to include hundreds of neuropsychological tests done on NFL players in the results of the Committee's studies on the effects of concussions and was selective in its use of injury reports.
- 195. The results reported by Dr. Pellman and the MTBI Committee selectively excluded at least 850 baseline tests. In a paper published in Neurosurgery in December 2004, Dr. Pellman and the other MTBI Committee members reported on the baseline data for 655 players and the results for 95 players who had undergone both baseline testing and post-concussion testing. They concluded that NFL players did not show a decline in brain function after suffering concussions. Their further analysis purportedly found no ill effects among those who had three or more concussions or who took hits to the head that kept them out for a week or more. The paper did not explain where the players in the study groups came from specifically or why certain player data was included and that data from hundreds of other players was not.

196. The October 2006 ESPN article further revealed that Dr. Pellman had fired a neuropsychologist for the New York Jets, Dr. William Barr, after Dr. Barr presented at a conference some NCAA study findings that contradicted NFL practices.

- 197. As described in the following paragraphs, when faced with studies which implicated a causal link between concussions and cognitive degeneration, the NFL, through the MTBI Committee, continued to produce contrary findings which were false, distorted, and deceptive to NFL players, participants in football nationwide, and the public at large.
- 198. Between 2002 and 2007, Dr. Bennet Omalu examined the brain tissue of deceased NFL players, including Mike Webster, Terry Long, Andre Waters, and Justin Strzelczyk. Dr. Omalu concluded that the players suffered from CTE.
- 199. All of these individuals suffered multiple concussions during their NFL careers. Later in life, each exhibited symptoms of deteriorated cognitive functions, paranoia, panic attacks, and depression.
- 200. Some of Dr. Omalu's findings were published in Neurosurgery. Those findings included that Webster's and Long's respective deaths were partially caused by CTE and were related to multiple concussions suffered during their activity in the NFL.
- 201. In response to Dr. Omalu's articles, the MTBI Committee wrote a letter to the editor, Dr. Michael Apuzzo who was an agent of the NFL, of Neurosurgery asking that Dr. Omalu's article be retracted.
- 202. In an article published in Neurosurgery in 2007, Dr. Cantu reached a similar conclusion regarding Andre Waters as Dr. Omalu had reached as to Webster and Long.
- 203. A 2003 study partially authored by Dr. Kevin Guskiewicz analyzed data from almost 2,500 retired NFL players and found that 263 of the retired players suffered from depression. The study found

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that having three or four concussions meant twice the risk of depression as never-concussed players and five or more concussions meant a nearly threefold risk.

- 204. The NFL's MTBI Committee attacked these studies.
- 205. In November 2003, Dr. Guskiewicz was scheduled to appear on HBO's "Inside the NFL" to discuss his research. Dr. Pellman called Dr. Guskiewicz in advance and questioned whether it was in the best interest of Dr. Guskiewicz to appear on the program. On the program, Dr. Pellman stated unequivocally that he did not believe the results of the study led by Dr. Guskiewicz.
- 206. In 2005, Dr. Guskiewicz performed a clinical follow-up study, and found that retired players who sustained three or more concussions in the NFL had a five-fold prevalence of mild cognitive impairment in comparison to NFL retirees without a history of concussions. In doing this research, Dr. Guskiewicz conducted a survey of over 2,550 former NFL athletes.
- 207. The MBTI Committee attacked and sought to undermine the study, issuing the following excuse and delay tactic: "We want to apply scientific rigor to this issue to make sure that we're really getting at the underlying cause of what's happening. . . . You cannot tell that from a survey."
  - 208. In August 2007, the NFL, in keeping with its scheme of fraud and deceit, issued a concussion pamphlet to players which stated:

Current research with professional athletes has not shown that having more than one or two concussions leads to permanent problems if each injury is managed properly. It is important to understand that there is no magic number for how many concussions is too many. Research is currently underway to determine if there are any long-term effects of concussion[s] in NFL athletes.

209. In a statement made around the time that the concussion pamphlet was released, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said, "We want to make sure all NFL players . . . are fully informed and take advantage of the most up to date information and resources as we continue to study the long-term impact on concussions." The NFL decided that the "most up to date information" did not include the various

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independent studies indicating a causal link between multiple concussions and cognitive decline in later

- 210. Goodell also stated, "[b]ecause of the unique and complex nature of the brain, our goal is to continue to have concussions managed conservatively by outstanding medical personnel in a way that clearly emphasizes player safety over competitive concerns."
- 211. The Plaintiffs relied to their detriment on the NFL's disinformation, all of which was contrary to the findings of the independent scientists who had studied the issue, including Drs. Guskiewicz, Cantu, Omalu, and Bailes, regarding the causal link between multiple head injuries and concussions and cognitive decline.
- 212. Facing increasing media scrutiny over the MTBI Committee's questionable studies, Dr. Pellman eventually resigned as the head of the Committee in February 2007. He was replaced as head by Dr. Ira Casson and Dr. David Viano, but remained a member of the Committee.
- 213. Dr. Guskiewicz, research director of the University of North Carolina's Center for the Study of Retired Athletes, said at the time that Dr. Pellman was "the wrong person to chair the committee from a scientific perspective and the right person from the league's perspective."
- 214. Regarding Dr. Pellman's work, Dr. Guskiewicz stated, "[w]e found this at the high school level, the college level and the professional level, that once you had a concussion or two you are at increased risk for future concussions," but "[Dr. Pellman] continued to say on the record that's not what they find and there's no truth to it."
- 215. Drs. Casson and Viano continued to dismiss outside studies and overwhelming evidence linking dementia and other cognitive decline to brain injuries. In 2007, in a televised interview on HBO's Real Sports, Dr. Casson definitively and unequivocally stated that there was no link between concussions and depression, dementia, Alzheimer's disease, or "anything like [that] whatsoever." 215. In June

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2007, the NFL convened a concussion summit for team doctors and trainers. Independent scientists, including Drs. Cantu, and Guskiewicz, presented their research to the NFL.

- 216. Dr. Julian Bailes, a neurosurgeon from West Virginia University, briefed the MTBI Committee on the findings of Dr. Omalu and other independent studies linking multiple NFL head injuries with cognitive decline. Dr. Bailes recalled that the MTBI's Committee's reaction to his presentation was adversarial: "The Committee got mad . . . we got into it. And I'm thinking, 'This is a . . . disease in America's most popular sport and how are its leaders responding? Alienate the scientist who found it? Refuse to accept the science coming from him?"
- 217. At the summit, Dr. Casson told team doctors and trainers that CTE has never been scientifically documented in football players.
- 218. After reviewing five years of data of on-field concussions, the NFL concluded that there was no evidence for an increase in secondary brain injuries after a concussion.
- 219. In 2008, Boston University's Dr. Ann McKee found CTE in the brains of two more deceased NFL players, John Grimsley and Tom McHale. Dr. McKee stated, "the easiest way to decrease the incidence of CTE [in contact sport athletes] is to decrease the number of concussions." Dr. McKee further noted that "[t]here is overwhelming evidence that [CTE] is the result of repeated sublethal brain trauma."
- 220. A MTBI Committee representative characterized each study as an "isolated incident" from which no conclusion could be drawn, and said he would wait to comment further until Dr. McKee's research was published in a peer-reviewed journal. When Dr. McKee's research was published in 2009, Dr. Casson asserted that "there is not enough valid, reliable or objective scientific evidence at present to determine whether ... repeat head impacts in professional football result in long[-]tem brain damage."

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221. In 2008, under increasing pressure, the NFL commissioned the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research to conduct a study on the health of retired players. Over 1,000 former NFL players took part in the study. The results of the study, released in 2009, reported that "Alzheimer's disease or similar memory-related diseases appear to have been diagnosed in the league's former players vastly more often than in the national population---including a rate of 19 times the normal rate for men ages 30 through 49."

222. The NFL, who commissioned the study, responded to these results by claiming that the study was incomplete, and that further findings would be needed. NFL spokesperson Greg Aiello stated that the study was subject to shortcomings and did not formally diagnose dementia. Dr. Casson implied that the Michigan study was inconclusive and stated that further work was required. Other experts in the field found the NFL's reaction to be "bizarre," noting that "they paid for the study, yet they tried to distance themselves from it."

223. On February 1, 2010, Dr. Omalu spoke before members of the House Judiciary Committee at a forum in Houston, Texas, with regard to "Head and Other Injuries in Youth, High School, College, and Professional Football." In his testimony, Dr. Omalu stated that (a) the medical community has known about concussions and the effects of concussions in football for over a century; (b) that every blow to the head is dangerous; and (c) that repeated concussions and traumatic brain injury have the capacity to cause permanent brain damage.

# The Congressional Inquiry and The NFL's Acknowledgement of the Concussion Crisis

224. Shortly after the results of the Michigan study were released, Representative John Conyers, Jr., Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, called for hearings on the impact of head injuries sustained by NFL players.

225. Drs. Cantu and McKee testified before the House of Representatives, Committee on the Judiciary, to discuss the long term impact of football-related head injuries.

226. At the first hearing in October 2009, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell acknowledged that the NFL owes a duty to the public at large to educate them as to the risks of concussions due to the League's unique position of influence: "In addition to our millions of fans, more than three million youngsters aged 6-14 play tackle football each year; more than one million high school players also do so and nearly seventy five thousand collegiate players as well. We must act in their best interests even if these young men never play professional football."

227. When Representative Sanchez questioned Goodell about the limited nature of the NFL's purported studies on repetitive traumatic brain injuries and concussions, the conflicts of interest of those directing the studies, and the potential for bias, Goodell evaded answering the questions.

228. Also at the October hearing, NFL Players' Association ("NFLPA") Executive Director DeMaurice Smith stated, "[T]here have been studies over the last decade highlighting [connection between on-field injury and post career mental illness]. Unfortunately, the N.F.L. has diminished those studies, urged the suppression of the findings and for years, moved slowly in an area where speed should have been the impetus."

229. After the Congressional hearings, the NFLPA called for the removal of Dr. Casson as MTBI Committee co-chair, and stated, "Our view is that he's a polarizing figure on this issue, and the players certainly don't feel like he can be an impartial party on this subject."

230. Dr. Casson gave testimony at these hearings, and continued to deny the validity of other non-NFL studies, stating that "[t]here is not enough valid, reliable or objective scientific evidence at present to determine whether or not repeat head impacts in professional football result in long term brain damage."

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- 231. Shortly after the 2009 congressional hearings, however, the NFL announced that it would impose its most stringent rules to date on managing concussions, requiring players who exhibit any significant sign of concussion to be removed from a game or practice and be barred from returning the same day.
- 232. On December 17, 2009, Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Chris Henry, 26, who played in the NFL from 2004 to 2009, died after falling from the back of a truck. Drs. Omalu and Bailes performed a postmortem study on Chris Henry's brain and diagnosed him with CTE.
- 233. The NFL's belated change of policy contradicted past recommendations by its MTBl Committee which had recommended as safe the League's practice of returning players to games or practices after suffering a concussion. In fact, the MTBl Committee had published a paper in 2005 that stated "[p]layers who are concussed and return to the same game have fewer initial signs and symptoms than those removed from play. Return to play does not involve a significant risk of a second injury either in the same game or during the season."
- 234. In January 2010, the House Judiciary Committee held further hearings on football player head injuries. Representative Conyers observed that "until recently, the NFL had minimized and disputed evidence linking head injuries to mental impairment in the future."
- 235. Representative Linda Sanchez commented that "[i]t seems to me that the N.F.L. has literally been dragging its feet on this issue until the past few years. Why did it take 15 years?"
- 236. In 2010, the NFL re-named the MTBI Committee the "Head, Neck, and Spine Medical Committee" (the "Medical Committee") and announced that Dr. Pellman would no longer be a member of the panel. Drs. H. Hunt Batjer and Richard G. Ellenbogen were selected to replace Drs. Casson and Viano. The two new co-chairmen selected Dr. Mitchel S. Berger to serve on the new Medical Committee.

- 237. Under its new leadership, the Committee admitted that data collected by the NFL's formerly appointed brain-injury leadership was "infected," and said that their Committee should be assembled anew. The Medical Committee formally requested that Dr. Pellman not speak at one of its initial conferences.
- 238. During a May 2010 Congressional hearing, a Congressman made it plain to Drs. Batjer and Ellenbogen that the NFL: "[had] years of an infected system here, and your job is . . . to mop [it] up."
- 239. Shortly after the May 2010 hearing, Dr. Batjer was quoted as admitting, "[w]e all had issues with some of the methodologies described, the inherent conflict of interest that was there in many areas, that was not acceptable by any modern standards or not acceptable to us. I wouldn't put up with that, our universities wouldn't put up with that, and we don't want our professional reputations damaged by conflicts that were put upon us."

#### The NFL's New Committee

- 240. In October 2011, Dr. Mitchel Berger of the NFL's Head, Neck, and Spine Medical Committee announced that a new study was in the planning process. He admitted that the MTBI Committee's previous long-range study was useless because "[t]here was no science in that." Dr. Berger further stated that data from the previous study would not be used. "We're really moving on from that data. There's really nothing we can do with that data in terms of how it was collected and assessed."
- 241. On October 23, 2011, San Diego Charger Kris Dielman suffered a concussion early in a game and could be seen staggering back to the huddle. Despite the obvious brain injury, Mr. Dielman was neither evaluated by a doctor nor held out for even one play. He suffered grand mal seizures on the team's plane ride home.
- 242. Ten days later, in November 2011, the NFL's injury and safety panel issued a directive telling its game officials to watch closely for concussion symptoms in players.

- 243. Why in 1994 (and far earlier) the NFL (and its MTBI Committee) failed to change policies, share accurate information, impose strict fines and give adequate warnings is difficult to comprehend in light of the fact that the NFL has known for decades that multiple blows to the head can lead to long-term brain injury, including memory loss, dementia, depression, and CTE and its related symptoms. Instead, the NFL misled players, coaches, trainers, and the public, and actively spread disinformation.
- 244. It took decades for the NFL to admit that there was a problem and sixteen years to admit that its information was false and inaccurate. The NFL's conduct in this regard is willful and wanton and exhibits a reckless disregard for the safety of its players and the public at large. At a minimum, the NFL acted with callous indifference to the duty to the Plaintiffs and players at every level of the game.
- 245. As a direct result of the fraudulent concealment and misrepresentations of the NFL, former players have for many decades been led to believe that the symptoms of early-onset dementia, loss of memory, headaches, confusion, and the inability to function were not caused by events occurring while they played in the NFL. And, as a result of this willful and malicious conduct, these former players have been deprived of medical treatment, incurred expenses, lost employment, suffered humiliation and other damages to be specified.

## ALLEGATIONS AGAINST RIDDELL

- 246. Riddell has operated through designing, developing, manufacturing, selling and distributing football equipment, including helmets, in one form or another, since 1922.
- 247. As early as the 1930's, players began using helmets during football games. These early helmets were constructed from pieces of cobbled leather.
- 248. In the early 1940's, John T. Riddell, who later formed John T. Riddell Incorporated, invented the first plastic suspension helmet. In 1949, plastic helmets became legalized.

- 249. Throughout the latter half of the 20th century and continuing to present day, Riddell has designed, developed, manufactured, sold, and distributed equipment used in the NFL, including equipment used by Plaintiffs, including, but not limited to, the following:
  - (a) In the 1950's, Riddell manufactured a face-mask component for its helmets, which was eventually patented.
  - (b) In 1962, Riddell used a "U" shaped nose protector with a shell (known as the TK2) molded out of polycarbonate. Riddell also designed an open/closed cell foam and composite liner system for this model to increase the efficiency of the webbed suspension.
  - (c) In 1963, Riddell developed the TAK-29 helmet, which was the first to use air inflation for fitting the helmet snug to the head. The TAK-29 shell, like the TK2, displayed the protective polycarbonate plastic, in addition to including tough shock and cut-resistant face-mask attachment straps.
  - (d) In 1969, recognizing that head protection was a key factor in helmet design requiring durable head protection, Riddell constructed a micro-fit helmet model with injection molding technology to create a one-piece shell to improve the structural integrity of the entire helmet.
  - (e) In 1973, Riddell developed, designed, manufactured, sold, and/or distributed an air cushion helmet whose interior system consisted of individual vinyl air cushions with layers of fitting and energy absorbing foam. When a blow was struck, the air in the cushion was expelled through a single vent, greatly reducing the initial impact. With the exhausting of the air cushion, the compressed fitting foam was further compressed, reducing impact.

- (f) In 1977, Riddell developed, designed, manufactured, sold, and/or distributed a stainless steel face-mask which offered greater bend resistance that prevented helmet breakage at the drill holes.
- (g) In 1981, Riddell developed, designed, manufactured, sold, and/or distributed an Air Cushion Engineered helmet.
- (h) In 1982, Riddell developed, designed, manufactured, sold, and/or distributed a M155 helmet model with a combination of foam and liquid-filled cells used for padding. On impact, the liquid would be throttled from one cell to the next, resulting in energy attenuation. The M155 helmet model included one-piece injection-molded facemasks which were mar and rust-resistant, in addition to polyurethane face mask straps and universal jaw pads.
- (i) In 2002, Riddell developed, designed, manufactured, sold, and/or distributed the Riddell Revolution helmet designed with the intent of reducing the risk of concussion.
- (j) In 2003, Riddell developed, designed, manufactured, sold, and/or distributed a real-time, Head Impact Telemetry System (HITS) to monitor and record significant incidences of head impact sustained during a football game or practice. The system measured the location, magnitude, duration, and direction of head acceleration and transmitted that information wirelessly to the sideline.
- (k) In 2006, Riddell provided a research grant to the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center for head injury research. The study compared rates of high school athletes who wore the Riddell Revolution helmet with those who wore traditional helmets.

- (I) In 2007, Riddell developed, designed, manufactured, sold, and/or distributed an individual helmet system, Revolution IQ Hits<sup>TM</sup>, allowing players to monitor the number and severity of impacts received during games and practices. On-board electronics record every impact, allowing players to upload and evaluate each occurrence on their home computers.
- (m) In 2001, Riddell developed, designed, manufactured, sold, and/or distributed the 360 helmet which uses energy-managing materials and a face mask attachment system to disperse the energy of frontal impacts. According to Riddell, it developed this helmet using over 1.4 million impacts collected through Riddell's HITS technology.
- 250. Riddell is currently the official helmet of the NFL. As the official helmet for the NFL, Riddell is the only helmet manufacturer allowed to display its logo on helmets wore by players during NFL games. Upon information and belief, Plaintiffs wore Riddell helmets at times while playing and/or practicing during their NFL careers.
- 251. Riddell at all times herein mentioned engaged in the business of selling, manufacturing, designing, testing, engineering, marketing, modifying, assembling, inspecting, distributing, and controlling the helmets and other similar equipment for use by Plaintiffs and within the NFL.
- 252. Plaintiffs did not know the long-term effects of concussions and relied on the NFL and Riddell to protect them.

# RIDDELL'S DUTY TO PROTECT AGAINST THE LONG-TERM RISK OF CONCUSSIONS

253. Despite years of science and medicine linking the risk of long term brain injury from repeat concussions, it was not until the release of the Revolution Helmet wherein a notification reminding players to "sit out" if they suffer a concussion was placed on the Revolution helmet.

- 254. Around the same time, Riddell developed the HITS system to monitor the severity and incident of impacts that a player receives.
- 255. Based on a 2003 University of Pittsburgh Medical Center study funded by a grant from Riddell, the defendants began to market the Revolution helmet as reducing concussions by 31%.
- 256. However, both the HITS system and Revolution helmet both created by Riddell and its employees have been criticized by experts for their inaccurate marketing as being safer in reducing the risk of concussion.
- 257. A study published in the Journal of Neurosurgery showed that the study by UPMC was flawed in that is discounted low impact hits and in turn proved that the Revolution did not reduce the risk of concussions.
- 258. Even to this day Riddell's helmets do not acknowledge a link between repeat concussions and later life cognitive problems.
- 259. In fact, Riddell has never warned any Plaintiff or retired player of the long-term health effects of concussions.

## LEDDURE RASHAD and VERONICA BAUMAN

- 260. Plaintiff Leddure Rashad Bauman was born on May 7, 1979. He is married to Veronica and they currently reside in Portland, Oregon.
- 261. Plaintiff Leddure Rashad Bauman played Cornerback for the Washington Redskins from 2002 to 2004 and the Cincinnati Bengals from 2005 to 2007.
- 262. Plaintiff Leddure Rashad Bauman suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 263. Plaintiff Leddure Rashad Bauman was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-

mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.

264. Plaintiff Leddure Rashad Bauman suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, memory loss, headaches, depression, and sleep problems.

#### JOHN W. and PATRICA BEASLEY

- 265. Plaintiff John W. Beasley was born on April 6. 1945. He is married to Patricia and they currently reside in Pine River, Wisconsin.
- 266. Plaintiff John W. Beasley played Tight End for the Minnesota Vikings from 1967 to 1973 and the New Orleans Saints from 1973 to 1974.
- 267. Plaintiff John W. Beasley suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 268. Plaintiff John W. Beasley was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 269. Plaintiff John W. Beasley suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, memory loss, headaches, and depression.

## JEFF BLACKSHEAR

- 270. Plaintiff Jeff Blackshear was born on March 29, 1969. He currently resides in Owings Mills, Maryland.
- 271. Plaintiff Jeff Blackshear played Offensive Guard for the Seattle Seahawks from 1993 to 1995, the Baltimore Ravens from 1996 to 1999, the Kansas City Chiefs from 2000 to 2001 and the Green Bay Packers from 2002 to 2003.

- 272. Plaintiff Jeff Blackshear suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 273. Plaintiff Jeff Blackshear was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 274. Plaintiff Jeff Blackshear suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, memory loss and headaches.

#### **CARLTON BREWSTER**

- 275. Plaintiff Carlton Brewster was born on February 12, 1983. He currently resides in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- 276. Plaintiff Carlton Brewster played Wide Receiver for the Cleveland Browns in 2005, the Green Bay Packers in 2006, the Denver Broncos and the San Diego Chargers in 2007, and the New Orleans Saints in 2008.
- 277. Plaintiff Carlton Brewster suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 278. Plaintiff Carlton Brewster was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 279. Plaintiff Carlton Brewster suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, memory loss and headaches.

## JOSEPH CAMPBELL

280. Plaintiff Joseph Campbell was born on December 28, 1966. He currently resides in Tempe, Arizona.

Plaintiff Joseph Campbell suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL. Plaintiff Joseph Campbell was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury. Plaintiff Joseph Campbell suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various Plaintiff Fred H. Cook III was born on April 15, 1952. He currently resides in Pascagoula, Plaintiff Fred H. Cook III played Defensive End for the Baltimore Colts from 1974 to 1980, Plaintiff Fred H. Cook III suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and Plaintiff Fred H. Cook III was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury. Plaintiff Fred H. Cook III suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various

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#### **COREY V. CROOM**

- 290. Plaintiff Corey V. Croom was born on May 22, 1971. He currently resides in Sandusky, Ohio.
- 291. Plaintiff Corey V. Croom played Running Back for the New England Patriots from 1993 to 1996.
- 292. Plaintiff Corey V. Croom suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 293. Plaintiff Corey V. Croom was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 294. Plaintiff Corey V. Croom suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, memory loss and headaches.

#### PATRICK "RICK" and DEBBIE CUNNINGHAM

- 295. Plaintiff Patrick "Rick" Cunningham was born on January 4, 1967. He is married to Debbie and they currently reside in Chandler, Arizona.
- 296. Plaintiff Patrick "Rick" Cunningham played Offensive Lineman for the Indianapolis Colts from 1990 to 1991, the Arizona Cardinals from 1992 to 1994, the Minnesota Vikings in 1995, and the Oakland Raiders from 1996 to 1999.
- 297. Plaintiff Patrick "Rick" Cunningham suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 298. Plaintiff Patrick "Rick" Cunningham was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related\_concussions or that the league-

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- 308. Plaintiff Ennis R. Davis II was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 309. Plaintiff Ennis R. Davis II suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, short term memory loss.

#### **MICHAEL and GWENDOLYN DAVIS**

- 310. Plaintiff Michael Davis was born on January 5, 1968. He is married to Gwendolyn and they currently reside in Pottstown, Pennsylvania.
  - 311. Plaintiff Michael Davis played Linebacker for the San Diego Chargers in 1990.
- 312. Plaintiff Michael Davis suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 313. Plaintiff Michael Davis was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 314. Plaintiff Michael Davis suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, memory loss and headaches.

## **KEVIN DEVINE**

- 315. Plaintiff Kevin Devine was born on December 11, 1974. He currently resides in West Covina, California.
  - 316. Plaintiff Kevin Devine played Cornerback for the Jacksonville Jaguars from 1997 to 1999.
- 317. Plaintiff Kevin Devine suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.

- 318. Plaintiff Kevin Devine was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 319. Plaintiff Kevin Devine suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, headaches, memory loss, dizziness and vision problems.

#### **ARNOLD and OLGA FIELDS**

- 320. Plaintiff Arnold Fields was born on February 21, 1964. He is married to Olga and they currently reside in Etiwanda, California.
- 321. Plaintiff Arnold Fields played Running Back and Special Teams for the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1986.
- 322. Plaintiff Arnold Fields suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 323. Plaintiff Arnold Fields was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 324. Plaintiff Arnold Fields suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, memory loss and headaches.

## ROGER L. and LAURIE FINNIE

- 325. Plaintiff Roger L. Finnie was born on November 6, 1945. He is married to Laurie and they currently reside in Miami, Florida.
- 326. Plaintiff Roger L. Finnie played Defensive End for the New York Jets from 1969 to 1972, the St. Louis Rams from 1972 to 1978, and the New Orleans Saints in 1979.

- 327. Plaintiff Roger L. Finnie suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 328. Plaintiff Roger L. Finnie was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 329. Plaintiff Roger L. Finnie suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms.

#### **DARRELL FORD**

- 330. Plaintiff Darrell Ford was born on June 22, 1966. He currently resides in New London, Connecticut.
- 331. Plaintiff Darrell Ford played Linebacker for the Detroit Lions in 1992 and 1993, the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1992, and the Atlanta Falcons in 1994.
- 332. Plaintiff Darrell Ford suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 333. Plaintiff Darrell Ford was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 334. Plaintiff Darrell Ford suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, memory loss and headaches.

## **LARRY FOSTER**

335. Plaintiff Larry Foster was born on November 7, 1976. He currently resides in Denham Springs, Louisiana.

- 336. Plaintiff Larry Foster played Wide Receiver and Special Teams for the Detroit Lions from 2000 to 2003 and the Arizona Cardinals from 2003 to 2004.
- 337. Plaintiff Larry Foster suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 338. Plaintiff Larry Foster was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 339. Plaintiff Larry Foster suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, headaches and memory loss.

#### **DONALD FRANK**

- 340. Plaintiff Donald Frank was born on October 24, 1965. He currently resides in Cary, North Carolina.
- 341. Plaintiff Donald Frank played Defensive Back for the San Diego Chargers from 1990 to 1994, the Los Angeles Raiders in 1994, and the Minnesota Vikings in 1995.
- 342. Plaintiff Donald Frank suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 343. Plaintiff Donald Frank was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 344. Plaintiff Donald Frank suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, short term memory loss, headaches, and sleep problems.

345. Plaintiff David Gibson was born on November 5, 1977. He is married to Jennifer and they currently reside in Tampa, Florida.

346. Plaintiff David Gibson played Safety for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers from 2000 to 2003, the Indianapolis Colts in from October, 2002 to August, 2003, and the Cleveland Browns in 2004.

347. Plaintiff David Gibson suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.

348. Plaintiff David Gibson was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.

349. Plaintiff David Gibson suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, memory loss, headaches, and loss of balance.

#### **ISAAC HAGINS**

350. Plaintiff Isaac Hagins was born on March 2, 1954. He currently resides in Tampa, Florida.

351. Plaintiff Isaac Hagins played Wide Receiver for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers from 1976 to 1980.

352. Plaintiff Isaac Hagins suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.

353. Plaintiff Isaac Hagins was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.

354. Plaintiff Isaac Hagins suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, memory loss, headaches, and dizziness.

355. Plaintiff Othello Henderson, III was born on August 23, 1972. He currently resides in Cedar Park, Texas.

- 356. Plaintiff Othello Henderson, III played Safety fro the New Orleans Saints from 1993 to 1995, the Jacksonville Jaguars from 1995 to 1996, and the Green Bay Packers in 1996.
- Plaintiff Othello Henderson III suffered multiple concussions that were improperly 357. diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 358. Plaintiff Othello Henderson III was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 359. Plaintiff Othello Henderson III suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms.

#### NATHANIEL "NATE" and AMBER HENSLEY

- 360. Plaintiff Nathaniel "Nate" Hensley was born on May 15, 1974. He is married to Amber and they currently reside in Frisco, Texas.
- Plaintiff Nathaniel "Nate" Hensley played Linebacker for the Dallas Cowboys from 1997 to 36L 1999, the Miami Dolphins from 2000 to 2001, and the Carolina Panthers in 2001.
- 362. Plaintiff Nathaniel "Nate" Hensley suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 363. Plaintiff Nathaniel "Nate" Hensley was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., of Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the leaguemandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.

364. Plaintiff Nathaniel "Nate" Hensley suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, short term memory loss, headaches, anxiety, and sleep problems.

#### KENNETH and ANTOINETTE HEROCK

- 365. Plaintiff Kenneth Herock was born on July 16, 1941. He is married to Antoinette and they currently reside in Gainesville, Georgia.
- 366. Plaintiff Kenneth Herock played Tight End for the Oakland Raiders from 1964 to 1967, the Cincinnati Bengals in 1968, and the New England Patriots in 1969.
- 367. Plaintiff Kenneth Herock suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 368. Plaintiff Kenneth Herock was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 369. Plaintiff Kenneth Herock suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms.

## JESSIE LEE and GERLIENUS HESTER

- 370. Plaintiff Jessie Lee Hester was born on January 21, 1963. He is married to Gerlienus and they currently reside in Wellington, Florida.
- 371. Plaintiff Jessie Lee Hester played Wide Receiver Los Angeles Raiders from 1985 to 1988, the Atlanta Falcons in 1989, the Indianapolis Colts from 1990 to 1993, and the Los Angeles/St. Louis rams from 1994 to 1995.
- 372. Plaintiff Jessie Lee Hester suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.

- 373. Plaintiff Jessie Lee Hester was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 374. Plaintiff Jessie Lee Hester suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, dizziness, headaches and memory loss.

#### **DALLAS and CELESTE HICKMAN**

- 375. Plaintiff Dallas Hickman was born on February 16, 1952. He is married to Celeste and they currently reside in Scottsdale, Arizona.
- 376. Plaintiff Dallas Hickman played Defensive End for the Washington Redskins from 1975 to 1981 and the Baltimore Colts in 1980.
- 377. Plaintiff Dallas Hickman suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 378. Plaintiff Dallas Hickman was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 379. Plaintiff Dallas Hickman suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, short term memory loss.

## **GAYLON and MELINDA HYDER**

- 380. Plaintiff Gaylon Hyder was born on October 23, 1973. He is married to Melinda and they currently reside in Houston, Texas.
- 381. Plaintiff Gaylon Hyder played Defensive Tackle for the St. Louis Rams from 1999 to 2001 and the Cleveland Browns from 2001 to 2002.

- Plaintiff Gaylon Hyder suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- Plaintiff Gaylon Hyder was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell 383. Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- Plaintiff Gaylon Hyder suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various 384. symptoms including, but not limited to, memory loss and headaches,

#### EDDIE LEE and ANTOINETTE IVERY

- Plaintiff Eddie Lee Ivery was born on July 30, 1957. He is married to Antoinette and they 385. currently reside in Thomson, Georgia.
- Plaintiff Eddie Lee Ivery played Running Back for the Green Bay Packers from 1979 to 386. 1987.
- Plaintiff Eddie Lee Ivery suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and 387. improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- Plaintiff Eddie Lee Ivery was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell 388. Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- Plaintiff Eddie Lee Ivery suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various 389. symptoms including, but not limited to, short term memory loss, headaches and dizziness.

## STEPHEN W. JACKSON

Plaintiff Stephen W. Jackson was born on April 8, 1969. He currently resides in Leesburg, 390. Virginia.

- 391. Plaintiff Stephen W. Jackson played Running Back for the Houston Oilers from 1991 to 1996 and the Tennessee Titans from 1997 to 1999.
- 392. Plaintiff Stephen W. Jackson suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 393. Plaintiff Stephen W. Jackson was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 394. Plaintiff Stephen W. Jackson suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms.

## WILLIAM and JOAN JACO

- 395. Plaintiff William Jaco was born on February 24, 1957. He is married to Joan and they currently reside in Houston, Texas.
  - 396. Plaintiff William Jaco played Offensive Lineman for the Houston Oilers in 1980.
- 397. Plaintiff William Jaco suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 398. Plaintiff William Jaco was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 399. Plaintiff William Jaco suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms.

## **DIRK AND JENNIFER JOHNSON**

400. Plaintiff Dirk Johnson was born on June 1, 1975. He is married to Jennifer and they currently reside in Converse City, Colorado.

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410. Plaintiff James Marshall was born on December 30, 1937. He is married to Susan and they currently reside in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

- 411. Plaintiff James Marshall played Defensive End for the Minnesota Vikings from 1960 to 1979.
- 412. Plaintiff James Marshall suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 413. Plaintiff James Marshall was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 414. Plaintiff James Marshall suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms.

#### **COREY and TONIA MAYFIELD**

- 415. Plaintiff Corey Mayfield was born on February 25, 1970. He is married to Tonia and they currently reside in Forney, Texas.
- 416. Plaintiff Corey Mayfield played Defensive Tackle for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 1992, the Jacksonville Jaguars in 1995, the New Orleans Saints in 1994, and the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1997.
- 417. Plaintiff Corey Mayfield suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 418. Plaintiff Corey Mayfield was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.

1	419. Plaintiff Corey Mayfield suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various
2	symptoms including, but not limited to, memory loss, headaches, and depression.
3	DAVID McMILLAN
4	420. Plaintiff David McMillan was born on September 20, 1981. He currently resides in Decature
5	Georgia.
7	421. Plaintiff David McMillan played Defensive End for the Cleveland Browns from 2005 t
8	2008.
9	422. Plaintiff David McMillan suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed an
10	improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
11	423. Plaintiff David McMillan was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Ridde
12 13	Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandate
14	equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury
15	424. Plaintiff David McMillan suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various
16	symptoms including, but not limited to, headaches, memory loss, and sleep problems.
17	ERIK NORGARD
18 19	425 Plaintiff Erik Norgard was born on November 4, 1965. He currently resides in Highland
	Ranch, Colorado.
21	426. Plaintiff Erik Norgard played Offensive Lineman for the Houston/Tennessee Oilers fro
22	1989 to 1998 and the New York Jets in 1999.
23	427. Plaintiff Erik Norgard suffered multiple concussions that were improperty diagnosed as
24	improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
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- 428. Plaintiff Erik Norgard was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 429. Plaintiff Erik Norgard suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, headaches, memory loss, ringing in ears, lack of balance, and depression.

## MARVIN D. and ROMELL OWENS

- 430. Plaintiff Marvin D. Owens was born on June 16, 1950. He is married to Romell and they currently reside in Diamond Bar, California.
- 431. Plaintiff Marvin D. Owens played Wide Receiver for the St. Louis Cardinals from 1974 to 1975 and the New York Jets in 1976.
- 432. Plaintiff Marvin D. Owens suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 433. Plaintiff Marvin D. Owens was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 434. Plaintiff Marvin D. Owens suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, memory loss, depression, dizziness, and sleep problems.

## RICKY and JULIE PARKER

- 435. Plaintiff Ricky Parker was born on December 4, 1974. He is married to Julie and they currently reside in Surprise, Arizona.
- 436. Plaintiff Ricky Parker played Defensive Back for the Chicago Bears in 1997 and the Jacksonville Jaguars from August, 1997 to 1998.

- 437. Plaintiff Ricky Parker suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 438. Plaintiff Ricky Parker was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 439. Plaintiff Ricky Parker suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, memory loss, headaches and blurred vision.

#### MARION TODD and JANA PEAT

- 440. Plaintiff Marion Todd Peat was born on May 20, 1964. He is married to Jana and they currently reside in Chandler, Arizona.
- 441. Plaintiff Marion Todd Peat played Offensive Lineman for the Arizona Cardinals from 1987 to 1989 and the Los Angeles Raiders from 1990 to 1994.
- 442. Plaintiff Marion Todd Peat suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 443. Plaintiff Marion Todd Peat was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 444. Plaintiff Marion Todd Peat suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, post concussion syndrome, memory loss and headaches.

## CHARLES PHARMS III

445. Plaintiff Charles Pharms III was born on December 15, 1969. He currently resides in Houston, Texas.

446. Plaintiff Charles Pharms III played Cornerback and Safety for the Houston Oilers in 1992, the Miami Dolphins from December, 1992 to January, 1993, and the Kansas City Chiefs in 1993.

447. Plaintiff Charles Pharms III suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.

448. Plaintiff Charles Pharms III was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.

449. Plaintiff Charles Pharms III suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, memory loss.

#### **DAMON and JENNIFER PIERI**

450. Plaintiff Damon Pieri was born on September 25, 1970. He is married to Jennifer and they currently reside in Phoenix, Arizona.

451. Plaintiff Damon Pieri played Defensive Back for the New York Jets from 1993 to 1994, the San Francisco 49ers in 1995, and the Carolina Panthers from 1995 to 1997.

452. Plaintiff Damon Pieri suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.

453. Plaintiff Damon Pieri was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.

454. Plaintiff Damon Pieri suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, memory loss, headaches, and sleep problems.

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#### JUAN A. and JENNIFER ROQUE

- 455. Plaintiff Juan A. Roque was born on February 6, 1974. He is married to Jennifer and they currently reside in Chandler, Arizona.
  - 456. Plaintiff Juan A. Roque played Offensive Tackle for the Detroit Lions from 1997 to 2000.
- 457. Plaintiff Juan A. Roque suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 458. Plaintiff Juan A. Roque was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 459. Plaintiff Juan A. Roque suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms.

## WILLARD and ANDREUILLE SCISSUM

- 460. Plaintiff Willard Scissum was born on October 28, 1962. He is married to Andreuille and they currently reside in Marietta, Georgia.
- 461. Plaintiff Willard Scissum played Offensive Tackle for the Denver Broncos from 1985 to 1986 and the Washington Redskins in 1987.
- 462. Plaintiff Willard Scissum suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 463. Plaintiff Willard Scissum was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 464. Plaintiff Willard Scissum suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, memory loss and blurred vision.

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465. Plaintiff Jason Shelley was born on August 5, 1974. He is married to Janine and they currently reside in Little Elm, Texas.

466. Plaintiff Jason Shelley played Wide Receiver for the Dallas Cowboys in 1996 and 1997, the Oakland Raiders in 1998, and the Indianapolis Colts in 1999.

467. Plaintiff Jason Shelley suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.

468. Plaintiff Jason Shelley was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.

469. Plaintiff Jason Shelley suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms, including memory loss, headaches, and sleep problems.

## OMAR and RACHEL SMITH

470. Plaintiff Omar Smith was born on September 8, 1977. He is married to Rachel and they currently reside in Seminole, Florida.

471. Plaintiff Omar Smith played Center for the St. Louis Rams and Oakland Raiders in 2001, and the New York Giants in 2002 and 2004.

472. Plaintiff Omar Smith suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.

473. Plaintiff Omar Smith was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.

1	474. Plaintiff Omar Smith suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various
2	symptoms.
3	· TRENT SMITH
4	475. Plaintiff Trent Smith was born on September 15, 1979. He currently resides in Oklahoma
5	City, Oklahoma.
6	476. Plaintiff Trent Smith played Tight End for the Baltimore Ravens from 2003 to August 2005
8	and the San Francisco 49ers from August 2005 to January 2007.
9	477. Plaintiff Trent Smith suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and
10	improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
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15	479. Plaintiff Trent Smith suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various
16	symptoms including, but not finited to, short term memory less; necessition and the property is
17	ALPHONSO and HEATHER TAYLOR
18 19	480 Plaintiff Alphonso Taylor was born on September 7, 1969. He is married to Heather and
20	they currently reside in Laveen, Arizona.
21	481. Plaintiff Alphonso Taylor played Defensive Tackle for the Phoenix Cardinals from 1992 to
22	1993, the Denver Broncos from 1993 to 1994, and the San Diego Chargers from 1994 to 1995.
23	482. Plaintiff Alphonso Taylor suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and
24 25	improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
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	COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

- 483. Plaintiff Alphonso Taylor was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 484. Plaintiff Alphonso Taylor suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms.

#### **ANTHONY and KEISHA WALLACE**

- 485. Plaintiff Anthony Wallace was born on July 8, 1969. He is married to Keisha and they currently reside in Altadena, California.
- 486. Plaintiff Anthony Wallace played Running Back for the New Orleans Saints in 1990, and the Atlanta Falcons from 1993 to 1995.
- 487. Plaintiff Anthony Wallace suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 488. Plaintiff Anthony Wallace was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 489. Plaintiff Anthony Wallace suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, memory loss and headaches.

## CHARLES WESLEY and CHRISTY WALLS

- 490. Plaintiff Charles Wesley Walls was born on March 26, 1966. He is married to Christy and they currently reside in Charlotte, North Carolina.
- 491. Plaintiff Charles Wesley Walls played Tight End for the San Francisco 49ers from 1989 to 1993, the New Orleans Saints from 1994 to 1995, the Carolina Panthers from 1996 to 2002, and the Green Bay Packers in 2003.

- 492. Plaintiff Charles Wesley Walls suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 493. Plaintiff Charles Wesley Walls was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 494. Plaintiff Charles Wesley Walls suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, headaches and insomnia.

## DEREK and VIVIAN WARE

- 495. Plaintiff Derek Ware was born on September 17, 1967. He is married to Vivian and they currently reside in Chandler, Arizona.
- 496. Plaintiff Derek Ware played Running Back for the Arizona Cardinals from 1992 to 1994, the Cincinnati Bengals in 1995, and the Dallas Cowboys in 1996.
- 497. Plaintiff Derek Ware suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 498. Plaintiff Derek Ware was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 499. Plaintiff Derek Ware suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms.

## ANDRE M. WATERS (Tina Ricks, Personal Representative)

- 500. Andre Waters was born on March 10, 1962. He died on November 20, 2006.
- 501. Andre Waters played for the Philadelphia Eagles from 1984 to 1993 and Arizona Cardinals from 1994 to 1996 as a Safety.

- 502. Andre Waters suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 503. Andre Waters was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 504. Andre Waters died from CTE caused from his repeated concussions and Plaintiffs were unaware of the source due to active fraud by the Defendants.

#### **KENNY WATSON**

- 505. Plaintiff Kenny Watson was born on March 13, 1978. He currently resides in Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 506. Plaintiff Kenny Watson played Running Back for the Washington Redskins from 2001 to 2002 and the Cincinnati Bengals from 2003-2009.
- 507. Plaintiff Kenny Watson suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 508. Plaintiff Kenny Watson was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 509. Plaintiff Kenny Watson suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, headaches, memory loss, blurred vision, and sleep problems.

## JONATHAN WELLS

510. Plaintiff Jonathan Wells was born on July 21, 1979. He currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia.

- Plaintiff Jonathan Wells played Running Back for the Houston Texans from 2002 to 2006 511. and the Indianapolis Colts in 2006.
- Plaintiff Jonathan Wells suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and 512. improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- Plaintiff Jonathan Wells was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell 513. Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- Plaintiff Jonathan Wells suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various 514. symptoms including, but not limited to, short term memory loss, headaches and sleep problems.

## KENNETH and FRANCHELL WHEATON

- Plaintiff Kenneth Wheaton was born on March 8, 1975. He is married to Franchell and they 515. currently reside in Allen, Texas.
- Plaintiff Kenneth Wheaton played Defensive Back for the Dallas Cowboys from 1997 to 516. 1999.
- Plaintiff Kenneth Wheaton suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed 517. and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- Plaintiff Kenneth Wheaton was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 519. Plaintiff Kenneth Wheaton suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, headaches, sleep problems, memory loss, and dizziness.

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- 520. Plaintiff David Wilkins II was born on February 24, 1969. He currently resides in Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 521. Plaintiff David Wilkins II played Defensive End for the San Francisco 49ers in 1992 and the Indianapolis Colts in 1996.
- 522. Plaintiff David Wilkins II suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 523. Plaintiff David Wilkins II was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 524. Plaintiff David Wilkins II suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, memory loss and dizziness.

#### **DAVID WILLIAMS**

- 525. Plaintiff David Williams was born on June 10, 1963. He currently resides in Gardena, California.
- 526. Plaintiff David Williams played Receiver and Special Teams for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 1986 and the Los Angeles Raiders in 1987.
- 527. Plaintiff David Williams suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 528. Plaintiff David Williams was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

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538. Plaintiff Sirmawn Wilson was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.

539. Plaintiff Sirmawn Wilson suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, headaches, dizziness and sleep problems.

#### SCOTT and LINDSEY ZIMMERMAN

- 540. Plaintiff Scott Zimmerman was born on April 29, 1977. He is married to Lindsey and they currently reside in Aurora, California.
- 541. Plaintiff Scott Zimmerman played Linebacker and Fullback for the Miami Dolphins in 2000, the St. Louis Rams from 2000 to 2001, the Dallas Cowboys from 2001 to 2002, and the Carolina Panthers in 2003.
- 542. Plaintiff Scott Zimmerman suffered multiple concussions that were improperly diagnosed and improperly treated throughout his career as a professional football player in the NFL.
- 543. Plaintiff Scott Zimmerman was not warned by the NFL, NFL Properties, Inc., or Riddell Defendants of the risk of long-term injury due to football-related concussions or that the league-mandated equipment did not protect him from such injury. This was a substantial factor in causing his current injury.
- 544. Plaintiff Scott Zimmerman suffers from multiple past traumatic brain injuries with various symptoms including, but not limited to, memory less, sleep problems, confusion, dizziness, headaches, and ringing in ears.

#### **ERIC and CYNTHIA ZOMALT**

545. Plaintiff Eric Zomalt was born on August 9, 1972. He is married to Cynthia and they currently reside in Riverside, California.

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

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- From 1994 through June of 2010, the NFL voluntarily and repeatedly made material 554. misrepresentations to its players, former players, the United States Congress, and the public at large that there was no link between repetitive traumatic head impacts and later-in-life cognitive/brain injury, including CTE and its related symptoms.
- The NFL's MTBI Committee published articles and the concussion pamphlet issued to players, therein affirmatively concealing and downplaying known risks of repetitive brain impacts to NFL players.
- The NFL's concussion pamphlet created an atmosphere of trust that the NFL had carefully 556. undertaken its voluntary responsibility to research, test, study, and report accurate findings to the players and former players. The NFL stated that "[w]e want to make sure all NFL players ... are fully informed and take advantage of the most up to date information and resources as we continue to study the long-term impact of concussions."
- The concealment was ongoing. Dr. Casson provided oral and written testimony at the 2010 557. congressional hearings in which he continued to deny the validity of other studies. Dr. Casson also denied the link between repetitive brain impacts and short and long term brain damage in public interviews.
- The NFL, therefore, concealed facts and information which caused Plaintiffs to become 558. exposed to the harm referenced above. For those Plaintiffs who had retired prior to the above-mentioned misrepresentations, the NFL's concerted concealment of the risks to which they had been exposed on the playing field delayed their ability to plan for the future of themselves and their families and to seek appropriate treatment of their latent neurodegenerative conditions.
- The NFL knew and expected that Plaintiffs would rely on the inaccurate information provided by the NFL, and Plaintiffs in fact did rely on this inaccurate information during and after their NFL careers.

- 560. As a direct and proximate result of the NFL's fraudulent conduct, Plaintiffs have suffered physical injury, including, but not limited to, existing and latent cognitive conditions that create memory loss, diminished cognitive function, non-economic losses, and economic losses.
- and will continue to suffer substantial injuries, emotional distress, pain and suffering, and economic and non-economic damages that are ongoing and continuing in nature.
- 562. As a result of the Defendants' misconduct as alleged herein, Defendants are liable to Plaintiffs for the full measure of damages allowed under applicable law.

#### **COUNT II**

#### **FRAUD**

#### (Against the NFL)

- 563. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all of the foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 564. For decades, the NFL knew that repetitive head impacts in football games and practices circumstances created a risk of harm to NFL players that was similar or identical to the risk of harm to boxers who receive repetitive impacts to the head during boxing practices and matches.
- 565. For decades, the NFL was aware of and understood the significance of the published medical literature demonstrating the serious risk of both short-term and long-term adverse consequences from the kind of repetitive traumatic impacts to the head to which NFL players were exposed
- 566. The NFL, however, withheld this information from NFL players and ignored the risks to NFL players.
- 567. From 1994 through June of 2010, the NFL made material misrepresentations to its players, former players, the United States Congress, and the public at large that there was no scientifically proven

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

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- 576. The NFL, however, withheld this information from NFL players and ignored the risks to NFL players.
- 577. From 1994 through June of 2010, the NFL made material misrepresentations to its players, former players, the United States Congress, and the public at large that there was no scientifically proven link between repetitive traumatic head impacts and later-in-life cognitive/brain injury, including CTE and its related symptoms.
- 578. Defendant NFL, therefore, misrepresented the dangers the Plaintiffs faced in returning to action after sustaining a head injury and the long-term effects of continuing to play football after a head injury.
- 579. The NFL's MTBI Committee made public statements, published articles, and issued the concussion pamphlet to its players, which the NFL knew or should have known were misleading, downplaying and obfuscating to NFL players the true and serious risks of repetitive traumatic head impacts.
- 580. The MTBI Committee made material misrepresentations on multiple occasions, including but not limited to testimony at congressional hearings and other information issued to current and former NFL Players.
- 581. The Defendant's misrepresentations included the false statement that present NFL players were not at an increased risk of short- and long-term adverse consequences if they returned too soon to an NFL games or practices after suffering head trauma and, therefore, that former players had not been exposed to such increased risk during their time in the NFL.
- 582. The NFL's misrepresentations included ongoing and baseless criticism of legitimate scientific studies that set forth the dangers and risks of head impacts which NFL players regularly sustained.

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- 583. The NFL made these misrepresentations and actively concealed true information at a time when it knew, or should have known, because of its superior position of knowledge, that the Plaintiffs faced health problems if they returned to a game too soon after sustaining a concussion.
- 584. The NFL knew or should have known the misleading nature of their statements when they were made.
- 585. The NFL made the misrepresentations and actively concealed information with the intention that the Plaintiffs would rely on the misrepresentations or omissions in selecting a course of action.
  - 586. As a result of the NFL's misrepresentations, Defendants are liable to Plaintiffs.
- 587. As a direct and proximate result of the NFL's negligent misrepresentations, Plaintiffs have suffered and continue to suffer serious personal injury, including neuro-cognitive brain disease and associated damages including mental disability, loss of income, pain and suffering, emotional distress, and loss of consortium. Plaintiffs seek the full measure of damages allowed under applicable law.

#### **COUNT IV**

#### **NEGLIGENCE**

#### (Against the NFL)

- 588. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all of the foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 589. The NFL, by and through its monopoly power, has historically had a duty to protect the health and safety of its players, including Plaintiffs, and the public, including but not limited to, a duty to use reasonable care in researching, study and/or examining the dangers and risks of head injuries and/or concussions to NFL players, to inform and warn their players of such risks and to effectuate reasonable league policies and/or take other reasonable action to minimize the risks of head injuries.

- In the early 1990's, the NFL voluntarily undertook to study the issue of neurocognitive 590. injuries in former NFL players.
- In 1994, in connection with that voluntary undertaking, the NFL created the aforementioned 591. MTBI Committee.
- The NFL recognized that its voluntary undertaking to study and report information about the 592. effect of head impacts on NFL players would not just be for the benefit of then-present and former NFL players alone. Since the NFL is the most prominent and influential entity in the sport of football, the NFL knew or should have known that its MBTI Committee's statements would have a broad public impact.
- By voluntarily undertaking to study and report on the issue of the neurocognitive effects of head impacts in professional football, the NFL assumed its long-standing duty to exercise reasonable care in the MTBI Committee's work and the NFL and its agents' public statements about the substance of the Committee's work.
- Further, the NFL was well aware of 80 years of documented science and medicine linking 594. CTE to repeated concussion and cumulative problems from collusion sports including boxing and football.
- However, the MBTI Committee negligently performed the NFL's voluntarily undertaken 595. research mission.
- In addition, from 1994 through June of 2010, the NFL and its MBTI Committee made material misrepresentations to players, former players, the United States Congress, and the public at large that there was no scientifically valid link between repetitive traumatic head impacts and later-in-life cognitive/brain injury, including CTE and its related symptoms.
- The NFL's failure to exercise reasonable care and its breach of duty increased the risk that 597. the Plaintiffs would suffer long-term neurocognitive injuries.

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

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- 606. As a direct and proximate result of the intentional misconduct, carelessness, negligence, and recklessness, the Plaintiffs have sustained the aforesaid injuries, and the Plaintiffs' Spouses have been damaged as follows:
  - a. They have been and will continue to be deprived of the services, society and companionship of their respective husbands;
  - b. They have, will be and will continue to be required to spend money for medical care and household care for the treatment of their respective husbands; and,
  - c. They have been and will continue to be deprived of the earnings of their respective husbands.
- 607. As a result of the injuries, the Plaintiffs' Spouses are entitled to damages, as alleged herein or allowed by law.

# NECESIERA PLANTA

- 608. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all of the foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 609. The NFL had a long-standing duty of studying the relationship between repetitive head impacts in football and brain injury.
- 21 610. In doing so, the NFL had a duty to the Plaintiffs and the general public to retain and employ persons within the MTBI Committee who were professionally competent to study and render opinions on that bio-medical issue and to ensure that those whom it hired had the professional and personal qualifications to conduct those studies and render opinions that were scientifically rigorous, valid, defensible, and honest.
  - 611. The NFL breached its duty to the Plaintiffs and the general public by hiring persons who:

- a. were unqualified,
- b. were not competent to engage in rigorous and defensible scientific research,
- c. were not competent to render valid and defensible opinions,
- d. created fraudulent industry-funded research; and/or
- e. attacked as not credible the valid and defensible research and opinions generated by neuro-scientists who were unconnected to and not paid by the NFL.
- 612. The NFL's negligence in failing to retain competent and honest members of the MTBI Committee resulted in a body of falsified industry-funded research that purposefully and/or negligently suppressed valid and truthful bio-medical science. The NFL's negligence allowed the MTBI Committee to use falsified industry-funded research to mislead the Plaintiffs, other former NFL players, and the general public regarding the risks associated with repetitive head impacts in the game of football.
- 613. As a result of the NFL's failure, the Plaintiffs have sustained brain injuries that are progressive and latent and did not take protective measures or seek the diagnosis and treatment they would have sought had they been told the truth.

#### COUNT VII NEGLIGENT RETENTION (Against the NFL)

- 614. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the paragraphs I through 555 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 615. The NFL knew or should have known that the incompetent persons it hired for the MTBI Committee demonstrated on an ongoing basis their lack of competence and inadequate judgment to study and render expert opinions on the issue of the relationship between repetitive head impacts in football and brain injury.
- 616. The NFL had a long-standing duty to the Plaintiffs and the general public not to allow those incompetent persons it had hired within the MTBI Committee to continue to conduct incompetent and

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

#### WRONGFUL DEATH AND SURVIVAL ACTIONS

#### (Against All Defendants)

- 621. Plaintiff and his respective Personal Representative incorporate by reference all of the foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 622. The Plaintiff's Personal Representative brings this action in her capacity as Personal Representative of the deceased Plaintiff and on behalf of the respective survivors of that Plaintiff.
- 623. As a direct and proximate cause of the conduct alleged herein, the Defendants caused the Plaintiffs to develop the debilitating brain diseases and conditions set forth above, which diseases and conditions caused extreme pain, suffering, and anguish and, ultimately, the death of a Plaintiff.
- 624. The Personal Representative of the deceased Plaintiff claims damages recoverable under applicable law for all pecuniary and non-pecuniary losses suffered by the deceased Plaintiff by reason of his death.
- 625. As a direct and proximate result of the untimely death of the Plaintiff, his respective survivors have been deprived of the earnings, maintenance, guidance, support and comfort that they would have received from for the rest of the respective Plaintiff's natural life, and have suffered commensurate pecuniary and non-pecuniary losses because of the Plaintiff's wrongful death.
- 626. The Plaintiff's Personal Representative claims the full measure of damages allowed under applicable law.

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#### COUNT IX

#### NEGLIGENCE

#### (against NFL Properties)

- Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all of the foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint as if 627. fully set forth herein.
- NFL Properties breached its duty to ensure that the equipment it licensed and approved were 628. of the highest possible quality and sufficient to protect the NFL players, including Plaintiffs, from the risk of concussive brain injuries.
- NFL Properties breached its duty by licensing the Riddell Defendants' helmets, and 629. approving and/or requiring the use of the helmets for the NFL players, knowing or having reason to know that the helmets were negligently and defectively designed and/or manufactured and lacked an adequate warning concerning the risks of concussion injury.
- As a result of these breaches by NFL Properties, Plaintiffs suffer personal injuries as a result 630. of the long-term health effects of concussive brain injuries.

#### COUNT X

#### STRICT LIABILITY FOR DESIGN DEFECT

#### (Against Riddell)

- Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all of the foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint as if 631. fully set forth herein.
- At the time the helmets were designed, manufactured, sold, and distributed by Riddell, the 632. helmets were defective in design, unreasonably dangerous, and unsafe for their intended purpose because they did not provide adequate protection against the foreseeable risk of concussive brain injury. The design defect includes, but is not limited to the following:

Negligently failing to design the subject helmet with a safe means of attenuating and (a) absorbing the foreseeable forces of impact in order to minimize and/or reduce the

- Negligently designing the subject helmet with a shock attenuating system which was
- Negligently failing to properly and adequately test the helmet model;
- Other acts of negligence that may be discovered during the course of this matter; and
- Failing to warn Plaintiffs that their helmets would not protect against the long-term
- The defective design and unreasonably dangerous condition were a proximate and producing cause of the personal injuries suffered by the Plaintiffs and other damages, including but not limited to,
  - At all times, the helmets were being used for the purpose for which they were intended.
- Riddell is strictly liable for designing a defective and unreasonably dangerous product and for failing to warn which were proximate and producing causes of the personal injuries and other damages including, but not limited to, economic damage as alleged herein. A safer alternative design was economically and technologically feasible at the time the product left the control of Riddell.

#### STRICT LIABILITY FOR MANUFACTURING DEFECT

Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all of the foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint as if

- 637. At the time the helmets were designed, manufactured, sold and distributed by Riddell, the helmets were defective in their manufacturing and unreasonably dangerous and unsafe for their intended purpose because they did not provide adequate protection against the foreseeable risk of concussive brain injury. Riddell's failure to design the helmets to design and manufacturing specifications resulted in, among other things, the following:
  - (a) Negligently failing to manufacture the subject helmet with a safe means of attenuating and absorbing the foreseeable forces of impact in order to minimize and/or reduce the forces and energy directed to the player's head;
  - (b) Negligently manufacturing the subject helmet with a shock attenuating system which was not safely configured;
  - (c) Negligently failing to properly and adequately inspect and/or test the helmet model;
  - (d) Other acts of negligence that may be discovered during the course of this matter; and
  - (e) Failure to warn Plaintiffs that its helmets wouldn't protect against concussive brain injury.
- 638. The manufacturing defect was a proximate and producing cause of the personal injuries suffered by Plaintiffs and other damages, including but not limited to, economic damages and non-economic damages.
- 639. Riddell is strictly liable for manufacturing and placing in the stream of commerce a defective and unreasonably dangerous product which was a proximate and producing cause of the personal injuries and other damages, including but not limited to, economic damages and non-economic damages.

  A safe alternative design was economically and technologically feasible at the time the product left the control of Riddell.

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#### **COUNT XII**

#### FAILURE TO WARN

#### (Against Riddell)

- 640. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all of the foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 641. Riddell knew or should have known of the substantial dangers involved in the reasonably foreseeable use of the helmets.
- 642. Riddell failed to provide necessary and adequate safety and instructional materials and warnings of the risk and means available to reduce and/or minimize the risk of concussive brain injuries while playing football.
- 643. Riddell failed to provide necessary and adequate information, warnings, and/or instructional materials regarding the fact that other model helmets provided greater shock attenuation from blows to the head area.
- 644. Riddell failed to warn players of risk of long term brain injury from repeated concussions so that they could make an informed decision on returning to play post concussion.
- 645. Riddell knew that these substantial dangers were not readily recognizable to an ordinary consumer or user and that such person would use these products without inspection for defects.
- 646. Plaintiffs neither knew, nor had reason to know of the existence of the aforementioned defects, or increased risks of harm.
  - 647. Plaintiffs were using the helmets in a reasonably foreseeable manner at all times.
- 648. Plaintiffs' damages were the legal and proximate result of the actions of Riddell who owed a duty to warn Plaintiffs of the risks of substantial harm associated with the foreseeable use of their products.
  - 649. Riddell's failure to warn caused the Plaintiffs' personal injuries.

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23×184×98

#### COUNT XIII

#### **NEGLIGENCE**

#### (Against Riddell)

- 650. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all of the foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 651. Riddell was negligent in its design, testing, assembly, manufacture, marketing, and engineering of the helmets as described herein.
- 652. Riddell owed a duty of care to the Plaintiffs in their design, testing, manufacture, assembly, marketing and sale of the helmets and all components and sub-assemblies of the helmets.
- 653. Riddell should have been well aware that since 1928 repeated blows to the head can lead to CTE, commonly known as "punch-drunk syndrome".
- 654. Riddell breached its duty of reasonable care by failing to provide necessary and adequate safety and instructional materials and warnings of the risk and means available to reduce and/or minimize the risk of concussive brain injuries while playing football using their helmets.
  - 655. As a result of Riddell's breach of duty, Plaintiffs have sustained permanent injury.

#### **COUNT XIV**

### CIVIL CONSPIRACY/FRAUDULENT CONCEALMENT

#### (Against NFL)

- 656. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all of the foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 657. The named defendants, along with others who were employed by the NFL to participate as its MTBI Committee, acted in concert to perpetrate the fraudulent concealment of the connection between repetitive MTBI and long-term neuro-cognitive damage, illness, and decline.

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGE\$

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#### **JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiffs hereby demand a trial by jury on all claims so triable.

By:

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GIRARDI | KEESE

Dated: May 3/, 2012

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22 Attorneys for Plaintiffs

-94-

	·		CM-010
ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, Siele Bar nul			FOR COURT USE ONLY
Thomas V. Girardi, SBN: 3660			•
Graham B. LippSmith, SBN: 22	1984		
GIRARDI   KEESE			
1126 Wilshire Boulevard			FILED
Los Angeles, CA 90017	013 401 1554	. ا	TERRITOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
	FAX NO.: 213-481-1554	[ 2	SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Plaintiffs	7	+	
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS STREET ADDRESS 111 N. Hill Stree	Angeres		MAY 3 1 2012
MAILING ADDRESS:	<u> </u>		
CITY AND ZIP CODE: Los Angeles, 9001;	2		John A. Chicke, Executive Officer/Clerk
BRANCH NAME: Central District			BY (July) Deputy
CASE NAME: LEDDURE RASHAD BAU	MAN et al. v. National		Shaunya Wesley
Football Leaque, et al.		+-	OLOG AVANDED
CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET	Complex Case Designation		BC 485779
X Unlimited Limited	Counter Joinder	<b> -</b>	1
(Amount (Amount demanded is	Filed with first appearance by defendan	t   J	UDGE:
exceeds \$25,000) \$25,000 or less)	(Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.402)		DEPT:
Items 1-6 belo	ow must be completed (see instructions of	on pa	ge 2).
1. Check one box below for the case type that t	est describes this case:		
Auto Tort	Contract		isionally Complex Civil Litigation
Auto (22)	Breach of contract/warranty (06)	(Cal.	Rules of Court, rules 3.400-3.403)
Uninsured motorist (46)	Rule 3.740 collections (09)		Antitrust/Trade regulation (03)
Other PI/PD/WD (Personal Injury/Property	Other collections (09)		Construction defect (10)
Damage/Wrongful Death) Tort	Insurance coverage (18)		Mass tort (40)
Asbestos (04)	Other contract (37)		Securities litigation (28)
Product liability (24)	Real Property	$\Box$	Environmental/Toxic tort (30)
Medical malpractice (45)	Eminent domain/Inverse	而	Insurance coverage claims arising from the
X Other PI/PD/WD (23)	condemnation (14)		above listed provisionally complex case
Non-PI/PD/WD (Other) Tort	Wrongful eviction (33)		types (41)
· · ·	Other real property (26)	Enfo	rcement of Judgment
Business tort/unfair business practice (07)			Enforcement of judgment (20)
Civil rights (08)	Unlawful Detainer	Minc	ellaneous Civil Complaint
Defamation (13)	Commercial (31)		
Fraud (16)	Residential (32)	$\vdash$	RICO (27)
Intellectual property (19)	Orugs (38)		Other complaint (not specified above) (42)
Professional negligence (25)	Judicial Review	Misc	ellaneous Civil Petition
Other non-PI/PD/WD tort (35)	Asset forfeiture (05)		Partnership and corporate governance (21)
Employment	Petition re: arbitration award (11)	<u></u>	Other petition (not specified above) (43)
Wrongful termination (36)	Writ of mandate (02)		· ·
Other employment (15)	Other judicial review (39)		
2. This case X is is not comple	ex under rule 3.400 of the California Rule	s of (	Court. If the case is complex, mark the
factors requiring exceptional judicial manage	ement:		
<ul> <li>a. Large number of separately repres</li> </ul>			
<ul> <li>b. X Extensive motion practice raising d</li> </ul>			ated actions pending in one or more courts
issues that will be time-consuming			ates, or countries, or in a federal court
<ul> <li>c. X Substantial amount of documentary</li> </ul>			ment judicial supervision
3. Remedies sought (check all that apply): a.	X monetary b nonmonetary; de	eclara	atory or injunctive relief c punitive
4. Number of causes of action (specify): Fou	irteen (14)		
	s action suit.		·
	/	]/	on form CM 045 1
6. If there are any known related cases, file an	a serve a notice of related case. (Yourm	ay us	e ioitti CM-013.)
Date: May 31, 2012			
Graham B. Lippsmith (TYPE OR PRINT NAME)	(SIG)	VATUR	E OF PARTY OR ATTORNEY FOR PARTY)
<b>\$</b> (	NOTICE	+	
Plaintiff must file this cover sheet with the fit		(exc	ept small claims cases or cases filed
under the Probate Code, Family Code, or W	elfare and Institutions Code). (Cal. Rules	of C	ourt, rule 3.220.) Failure to file may result
in sanctions.			
<ul> <li>I • File this cover sheet in addition to any cover</li> </ul>	r sheet required by local court rule.		
If this case is complex under rule 3,400 et s     the parties to the action or presenting.	eq. of the California Rules of Court, you	must	serve a copy of this cover sheet on all
other parties to the action or proceeding.  • Unless this is a collections case under rule	3 740 or a complex case, this cover she	et will	be used for statistical purposes only
- Onicoo and is a conconsite case under fulc	on to or a complian adder all a detect all a		Page 1 of 2

CW-010

counsel, or both to sanctions under rules 2,30 and 3.220 of the California Rules of Court. sheet must be filed only with your initial paper. Failure to file a cover sheet with the first paper filed in a civil case may subject a party, its To assist you in completing the sheet, examples of the cases that belong under each case type in item 1 are provided below. A cover check the more specific one. If the case has multiple causes of action, check the box that best indicates the primary cause of action. one box for the case type that best describes the case. If the case fits both a general and a more specific type of case listed in item 1, statistics about the types and numbers of cases filed. You must complete items 1 through 6 on the sheet. In item 1, you must check To Plaintiffs and Others Filling First Papers. If you are filling a first paper (for example, a complete and file, along with your first paper, the Civil Case Cover Sheet contained on page 1. This information will be used to compile

INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO COMPLETE THE COVER SHEET

to the requirements for service and obtaining a judgment in rule 3.740. requirements and case management rules, unless a defendant files a responsive pleading. A rule 3.740 collections case will be subject The identification of a case as a rule 3.740 collections case on this form means that it will be exempt from the general time-for-service damages, (2) punitive damages, (3) recovery of real property, (4) recovery of personal property, or (5) a prejudgment writ of attachment. property, services, or money was acquired on credit. A collections case does not include an action seeking the following: (1) tort in a sum stated to be certain that is not mole than \$25,000, exclusive of interest and attorney's fees, arising from a transaction in which To Parties in Rule 3.740 Collections Cases. A "collections case" under rule 3.740 is defined as an action for recovery of money owed

the case is complex. plaintiff's designation, a counter-designation that the case is not complex, or, if the plaintiff has made no designation, a designation that complaint on all parties to the action. A defendant may file and serve no later than the time of its first appearance a joinder in the completing the appropriate boxes in items † and 2. If a plaintiff designates a case as complex, the cover sheet must be served with the case is complex. If a plaintiff believes the dase is complex under rule 3.400 of the California Rules of Court, this must be indicated by To Parties in Complex Cases. In complex cases only, parties must also use the Civil Case Cover Sheet to designate whether the

CASE TYPES AND EXAMPLES .

Construction Defect (10) AntitrustTrade Regulation (03) Rules of Court Rules 3,400-3,403) Provisionally Complex Civil Litigation (Cal.

Securities Litigation (28) Claims Involving Mass Tort (40)

xeigmos ylienoisivorg morì gaizhe) Insurance Coverage Claims Environmental/Toxic Tort (30)

Inempbut to Inemediately cese type listed above) (41)

Enforcement of Judgment (20)

County) Abstract of Judgment (Out of

Sister State Judgment domestic relations) Confession of Judgment (non-

(sexe) piedun lou) Administrative Agency Award

sexeT bisqnU no tnemgbuL Petition/Certification of Entry of

Other Enforcement of Judgment

RICO (27) Miscellaneous Civil Complaint

(SA) (eVOda Other Complaint (not specified

(เมษเมรรเมษน

Case (non-tort/non-complex)

(non-tordination)

Covernance (21) Partnership and Corporate

Other Petition (not specified

above) (43) (7) Civil Harassment

\*: . Elder/Dependent Adult . . .

Ofher Civil Petition

Abuse faction Contest

.., Workplace, Violence

Petition for Relief from Late

Petition for Name Change

Miscellaneous Civil Petition --

Other Civil Complaint

Other Commercial Complaint

Mechanics Lien

Injunctive Relief Only (non-

Declaratory Relief Only

Writ of Possession of Real Property Other Real Property (e.g., quiet title) (26)

Other Real Property (not eminent

CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET

Commissioner Appeals

Review of Health Officer Order

Writ-Other Limited Court Case

sumsbasM evitetrainimbA-fitW

Petition Re: Arbitration Award (11)

Writ-Mandamus on Limited Court

report as Commercial or Residential)

drugs, check this item; otherwise,

Drugs (38) (if the case involves illegal

Notice of Appeal-Labor

Other Judicial Review (39)

Case Matter

(SO) established to sitW

(20) enutieho 7 seeA

Valicial Review

Residential (32)

Commercial (31)

(enusolpeno)

Oulet Title

**Unlawful Detainer** 

WeiveR

Mortgage Foreclosure

domain, landlord/lenant, or

Wrongful Eviction (33)

(At) noitenmetron (14)

Eminent Domain/Inverse

Real Property

Ofher Contract Dispute Contractual Fraud

Other Contract (37)

Other Coverage

Auto Subrogation

complex) (18)

Insurance Coverage (not provisionally eseg

Other Promissory Note/Collections Collection Case—Seller Plaintiff

pook seconuta) (08) Collections (e.g., money owed, open

Other Breach of Contract/Warranty Warranty

Negligent Breach of Contract

Plaintiff (not fraud or negligence)

or wrongful eviction)

Contract/Warranty Breach—Seller

Contract (not unlawful detainer

Contract

Uninsured Motorist (46) (if the

hoT otuA

Breach of Rental/Lease Damage/Wrongful Death Breach of ConfractWarranty (06) Auto (22)—Personal Injury/Property

(NO) soleadeA HOT

(oluA to bestani

motorist claim subject to

arbitration, check this item

Business Tort/Unfair Business HOT (1841O) GW/GG/IG-noN Office PIPDWD

Practice (07)

Emotional Distress

Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress Intentional infliction of

(e.g., assault, vandalism) Intentional Bodily Injury/PD/VD (lie) bns Premises Liability (e.g., slip

Ofher PI/PD/WD (23) Malpractice Other Professional Health Care Physicians & Surgeons Medical Malpractice-Medical Malpractice (45)

(AS) (le1nemnonivne\zixo1 Product Liability (not asbestos or Mrongful Death

Asbestos Personal Injuryl Asbestos Property Damage

cese involves an uninsured

Property Damage/Wrongful Death) Other PIPD/WD (Personal Injury)

(9t) buen7

Other Professional Malpractice Legal Malpractice

Intellectual Property (19)

(80) (Inemssened

Defamation (e.g., slander, libel)

false arrest) (not civil

Civil Rights (e.g., discrimination,

Other Non-PINDMD Tort (35) (not medical or legal)

(3£) noitenimeT luìgnovW Employment

Other Employment (15)

CM-010 [Rev. July 1, 2007]

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SHORT TITLE: Bauman,	0 t	<b>a</b> 1	7.7	Mational	Football	Tanania	CASE NUME	aeb	R	_	ZI –	ਧਾ	$\overline{}$	79	
Dauman,	C C	ar.	٧.	Nacional	rootball	Leaque,	OF ICE IVE	J-11	v	U	7	Oι	, ,	17	
let al.										_	-		•	, ,	
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# CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET ADDENDUM AND STATEMENT OF LOCATION (CERTIFICATE OF GROUNDS FOR ASSIGNMENT TO COURTHOUSE LOCATION)

Step 4: Fill in the information requested on page 4 in Item III; complete Item IV Sign the declaration.

Tort	A CMICOCOCACINESS CATOCOCALIA CATOCOCALIA	(Chick anly ond)	E Applic Marzenie Sco Sip 9/Adoxe
Auto T	Auto (22)	A7100 Motor Vehicle - Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death	1., 2., 4.
Au	Uninsured Motorist (46)	A7110 Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death – Uninsured Motorist	1., 2., 4.
4 A	Asbestos (04)	A6070 Asbestos Property Damage A7221 Asbestos - Personal Injury/Wrongful Death	2. 2.
roper th Tor	Product Liability (24)	A7260 Product Liability (not asbestos or toxic/environmental)	1., 2., 3., 4., 8.
sonal Injury/ Property Wrongful Death Tort	Medical Malpractice (45)	A7210 Medical Malpractice - Physicians & Surgeons A7240 Other Professional Health Care Malpractice	1., 4. 1., 4.
21716798 Other Personal Injury/ Property Damage/ Wrongful Death Tort	Other Personal Injury Property Damage Wrongful Death (23)	A7250 Premises Liability (e.g., slip and fall)  A7230 Intentional Bodily Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death (e.g., assault, vandalism, etc.)  A7270 Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress  X A7220 Other Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death	1., 4. 1., 4. 1., 3. 1., 4.

SHORT TITLE: Bauman, et al. v. National Football
League, et al.

-	Guessa Constraices Guil Gere Constraices (A)	(Gineticulyona))	© Applicable Recessions - See Step & Above	
Property eath Tort	Business Tort (07)	A6029 Other Commercial/Business Tort (not fraud/breach of contract)	1., 3.	
	Civil Rights (08)	A6005 Civil Rights/Discrimination	1., 2., 3.	
)jury/ gful D	Defamation (13)	A6010 Defamation (slander/libel)	1., 2., 3.	
onal Ir Wrong	Fraud (16)	A6013 Fraud (no contract)	1., 2., 3.	
Non-Personal Injury/ Property Damage/ Wrongful Death Tort	Professional Negligence (25)	A6017 Legal Malpractice  A6050 Other Professional Malpractice (not medical or legal)	1., 2., 3. 1., 2., 3.	
20	Other (35)	A6025 Other Non-Personal Injury/Property Damage tort	2.,3.	
ment	Wrongful Termination (36)	A6037 Wrongful Termination	1., 2., 3.	
Employment	Other Employment (15)	A6024 Other Employment Complaint Case  A6109 Labor Commissioner Appeals	1., 2., 3. 10.	
Contract	Breach of Contract/ Warranty (06) (not insurance)	A6004 Breach of Rental/Lease Contract (not unlawful detainer or wrongful eviction)  A6008 Contract/Warranty Breach -Seller Plaintiff (no fraud/negligence)  A6019 Negligent Breach of Contract/Warranty (no fraud)  A6028 Other Breach of Contract/Warranty (not fraud or negligence)	2., 5. 2., 5. 1., 2., 5. 1., 2., 5.	
	Callections (09)	A6002 Collections Case-Seller Plaintiff A6012 Other Promissory Note/Collections Case	2., 5., 6. 2., 5.	
	Insurance Coverage (18)	A6015 Insurance Coverage (not complex)	1., 2., 5., 8.	
	Other Contract (37)	A6009 Contractual Fraud  A6031 Tortious Interference  A6027 Other Contract Dispute(not breach/insurance/fraud/negligence)	1., 2., 3., 5. 1., 2., 3., 5. 1., 2., 3., 8.	
>	Eminent Domain/Inverse Condemnation (14)	A7300 Eminent Domain/Condemnation Number of parcels	2.	
opert	Wrongful Eviction (33)	A6023 Wrongful Eviction Case	2., 6.	
Real Propert	Other Real Property (26)	A6018 Mortgage Foreclosure  A6032 Quiet Title  A6060 Other Real Property (not eminent domain, landlord/tenant, foreclosure)	2., 6. 2., 6. 2., 6.	
Ā	Unlawful Detainer-Commercial (31)	A6021 Unlawful Detainer-Commercial (not drugs or wrongful eviction)	2., 6.	
Detain	Unlawful Detainer-Residential (32)	A6020 Unlawful Detainer-Residential (not drugs or wrongful eviction)	2., 6.	
Unlawful Detainer	Unlawful Detainer- Post-Foreclosure (34)	A6020F Unlawful Detainer-Post-Foreclosure	2., 6.	
Unlawful	Unlawful Detainer-Drugs (38)	A6022 Unlawful Detainer-Drugs	2., 6.	

SHORT TITLE: Bauman, et al. v. National Football CASE NUMBER

League, et al.

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	ONTEGER ONTEGE	(Guespouhaus) E E	G Applicationang- Saastopaabaya
	Asset Forfeiture (05)	A6108 Asset Forfeiture Case	2., 6.
eview	Petition re Arbitration (11)	A6115 Petition to Compel/Confirm/Vacate Arbitration	2., 5.
Judicial Review	Writ of Mandate (02)	A6151 Writ - Administrative Mandamus A6152 Writ - Mandamus on Limited Court Case Matter A6153 Writ - Other Limited Court Case Review	2., 8. 2. 2.
	Other Judicial Review (39)	A6150 Other Writ /Judicial Review	2., 8.
gation	Antitrust/Trade Regulation (03)	A6003 Antitrust/Trade Regulation	1., 2., 8.
x Liti	Canstruction Defect (10)	A6007 Construction Defect	1., 2., 3.
omple	Claims Involving Mass Tort (40)	A6006 Claims Involving Mass Tort	1., 2., 8.
aliy C	Securities Litigation (28)	A6035 Securities Litigation Case	1., 2., 8.
Provisionally Complex Litigation	Toxic Tort Environmental (30)	A6036 Toxic Tort/Environmental	1., 2., 3., 8.
Pro	Insurance Coverage Claims from Complex Case (41)	A6014 Insurance Coverage/Subrogation (complex case only)	1., 2., 5., 8.
Enforcement of Judgment	Enforcement of Judgment (20)	A6141 Sister State Judgment A6160 Abstract of Judgment A6107 Confession of Judgment (non-domestic relations) A6140 Administrative Agency Award (not unpaid taxes) A6114 Petition/Certificate for Entry of Judgment on Unpaid Tax A6112 Other Enforcement of Judgment Case	2., 9. 2., 6. 2., 9. 2., 8. 2., 8. 2., 8., 9.
<b>(</b> 0	RICO (27)	A6033 Racketeering (RICO) Case	1., 2., 8.
Miscellaneous Civil Complaints	Other Complaints (Not Specified Above) (42)	A6030 Declaratory Relief Only A6040 Injunctive Relief Only (not domestic/harassment) A6011 Other Commercial Complaint Case (non-tort/non-complex) A6000 Other Civil Complaint (non-tort/non-complex)	1., 2., 8. 2., 8. 1., 2., 8. 1., 2., 8.
•	Partnership Corporation Governance (21)	A6113 Partnership and Corporate Governance Case	2., 8.
ET/TB/99 Miscellaneous Civil Petitions	Other Petitions (Not Specified Above) (43)	A6121 Civil Harassment  A6123 Workplace Harassment  A6124 Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse Case  A6190 Election Contest  A6110 Petition for Change of Name  A6170 Petition for Relief from Late Claim Law  A6100 Other Civil Petition	2., 3., 9. 2., 3., 9. 2., 3., 9. 2. 2., 7. 2., 3., 4., 8. 2., 9.

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SHORT TITLE: Bauman,	et	al.	v.	National	Football	Leaque,	CASE NUM	MBER
et al.								
							<del>^</del>	

Item III. Statement of Location: Enter the address of the accident, party's residence or place of business, performance, or other , circumstance indicated in Item II., Step 3 on Page 1, as the proper reason for filing in the court location you selected.

REASON: Check the appropria under Column C for the type of this case.	faction that you hav	e selected for	ADDRESS:	818	₩. 7t	h Street
CITY:	STATE.	ZIP CODE:		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Los Angeles,	CA	90017				
and correct and that the above	e-entitled matter is at of the Superior C	property filed fo	r assignm	ent to th	ne <u>Los</u>	State of California that the foregoing is true  Angeles courthouse in the  [Code aiv. Proc., § 392 et seq., and Local
Dated: May 31, 2012			,	7	SIGNATUR	OF ATTORNEY/FILING PARTY)

# PLEASE HAVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS COMPLETED AND READY TO BE FILED IN ORDER TO PROPERLY COMMENCE YOUR NEW COURT CASE:

Graham B. Lippsmith

- 1. Original Complaint or Petition.
- 2. If filing a Complaint, a completed Summons form for issuance by the Clerk.
- 3. Civil Case Cover Sheet, Judicial Council form CM-010.
- 4. Civil Case Cover Sheet Addendum and Statement of Location form, LACIV 109, LASC Approved 03-04 (Rev. 03/11).
- 5. Payment in full of the filing fee, unless fees have been waived.
- 6. A signed order appointing the Guardian ad Litem, Judicial Council form CIV-010, if the plaintiff or petitioner is a minor under 18 years of age will be required by Court in order to issue a summons.
- 7. Additional copies of documents to be conformed by the Clerk. Copies of the cover sheet and this addendum must be served along with the summons and complaint, or other initiating pleading in the case.