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3:04-CV-01077 AMBAOSIO V. HERMANOS LOPEZ INC

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FILED LAW OFFICES OF ROY L. LANDERS ROY L. LANDERS (BAR #64920) LaTOYA S. REDD (BAR # 218342) 04 MAY 28 AM 8: 44 7840 MISSION CENTER COURT, SUITE 101 3 SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92108 TELEPHONE (619) 296-7898 FACSIMILE (619) 296-5611 DEPUTY Attorney for Plaintiff, FAUSTION AMBAOSIO ³Y: 5 6 7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 8 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 9 (BLM) 10 FAUSTINO AMBAOSIO, 11 **COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES RE:** Plaintiff. VIOLATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS ON BASIS VS. 12 OF DISCRIMINATION IN PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS; NEGLIGENT 13 HERMANOS LOPEZ, INC., dba, LA INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS; INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF BODEGA; and DOES 1-10 Inclusive, 14 **EMOTIONAL DISTRESS: DECLARATORY** RELIEF: DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL Defendants. 15 16 17 I 18 JURISDICTION AND VENUE 19 1. (a) Jurisdiction of this action is invoked on the basis of 28 USC 1331 and 1343,42 USC 12101-20 12102, 12181-12183 and 12201, et. seq., which is applicable to causes of action where persons with 21 disabilities have been denied their civil rights. Venue in the Southern Judicial District of California 22 in the United States District Court is in accord with 28. U.S.C. Section 1391(b) because a 23 substantial part of Plaintiff's claims arose within the Judicial District of the United States District 24 Court of the Southern District of California. 25 (b) Supplemental Jurisdiction. The Judicial District of the United States District Court of the 26 Southern District of California has supplemental jurisdiction over the state claims alleged in this 27 Complaint pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 1367(a). Supplemental jurisdiction is appropriate in this 28 action on the basis that all the causes of action or claims derived from federal law and those arising

under state law, as herein alleged, arose from a common nucleus of operative facts. The common nucleus of operative facts, include, but are not limited to, the incidents whereby Plaintiff was denied full and equal access to Defendant's facilities, goods, and/or services in violation of both federal and state laws when Plaintiff attempted to enter, use, and/or exit Defendant's facilities as described within this Complaint. Further, due to this denial of full and equal access, Plaintiff and other person's with disabilities were injured. Based upon such allegations, the state actions, as stated herein, are so related to the federal actions that they form part of the same case or controversy, and the actions would ordinarily be expected to be tried in one judicial proceeding.

II

PARTIES

- 2. Defendant, Hermanos Lopez, dba, La Bodega was and at all times herein mentioned, was a duly organized business, association, or corporation duly authorized to exist and operate within the State of California and County of San Diego and the owner, lessee, or tenant of the premises located at 388 Calle Primera, San Ysidro, California, 92173.
- 3. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that defendant Hermanos Lopez, Inc. is the owner and/or landlord of the subject property upon which Defendants' business is sited.
- 4. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that each of the named defendants herein operate a business and or/facility of public accommodation as defined and described within 42 USC 12181(7)(e) of the American with Disabilities Act [ADA] and, as such, must comply with the ADA under provisions of Title III therein.
- 5. Plaintiff is ignorant of the Defendants sued as Does 1-10 herein, and therefore sues them in their fictitious names as Doe Defendants. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Does 1-10 are the owners, operators, lessees or tenants of the subject property and each of the Doe Defendants at all times herein were acting as the agent and or representative of each other and, thereby, are responsible in some manner for the injuries and damages complained of herein. Plaintiff will seek leave of the court to amend this complaint to name Doe Defendants when the same is ascertained.

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GENERAL ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CLAIMS

- 6. Plaintiff is a male who is disabled and confined to a wheelchair. He has no control over his lower extremities and must use a wheelchair to transport himself and to affect the basic necessities of his everyday existence. Plaintiff's disability substantially limits one or more of life's major activities and therefore he is disabled as defined under section 42 USC 12102(2)(A)(B)(C).
- 7. On or about April 15, 2004, Plaintiff patronized the premises of Defendants to utilize goods and/or services offered by Defendant. When Plaintiff attempted to gain access to the goods and/or services offered by Defendants he encountered access barriers because the premises failed to comply with federal ADA Access Guidelines For Building and Facilities [hereinafter "ADAAG"]; Department of Justice [DOJ] regulations at 28 CFR. 36.201; 36.304 and/or the State of California's Title 24 Building Code Requirements.
- 8. The specific difficulty Plaintiff had in entering and utilizing Defendants' facility and which amount to a violation of ADAAG, DOJ regulations and Title 24 of the California Building Code are:
 - 1 Site Entrance Signage (Does Not Exist)

(CA Title 24 1129B.5)

1 Site Entrance Signage (Not Filled Out - Reclaim at:)

(CA Title 24 1129B.5)

1 Site Entrance Signage (Not Filled Out – Telephone number:)

(CA Title 24 1129B.5)

1 Site Entrance Signage (Size not less than 17" x 22")

(CA Title 24 1129B.5)

1 Site Entrance Signage (Lettering not less than 1" in Height)

(CA Title 24 1129B.5)

1 Site Entrance Signage (Warning Information)

(CA Title 24 1129B.5)

1	l I	Designated Disabled "VAN ACCESSIBLE" Parking - Space
2		(ADAAG 4.1.2(5)(b) & CA Title 24 1129.B.4.2)
3	1	Designated Disabled "VAN ACCESSIBLE" Parking Space - Width
4		(ADAAG 4.1.2(5)(b) & CA Title 24 1129.B.4.2)
5	1	Designated Disabled "VAN ACCESSIBLE" Parking Space - Length
6		(ADAAG 4.1.2(5)(b) & CA Title 24 1129.B.4.2)
7	2	Warning - Access Aisle - (NO PARKING)
8		(CA Title 24 1129B.4.1 & 2)
9	2	Warning – Access Aisle - (12" High Minimum)
10		(CA Title 24 1129B.4.1 & 2)
11	1	Regular Access Aisle – Exist/Improper
12		(CA Title 24 1129B.4.1)
13	1	Regular Access Aisle - Width
14		(CA Title 24 1129B.4.1)
15	1	Regular Access Aisle - Length
16		(CA Title 24 1129B.4.1)
17	1	Van Accessible Aisle – Exist/Improper
18		(ADAAG 4.6.3 & CA Title 24 1129B.4.2)
19	1	Van Accessible Aisle - Width
20		(ADAAG 4.6.3 & CA Title 24 1129B.4.2)
21	1	Van Accessible Aisle - Length
22		(ADAAG 4.6.3 & CA Title 24 1129B.4.2)
23	1	Van Accessible Aisle - (Passenger Side)
24		(ADAAG 4.6.3 & CA Title 24 1129B.4.2)
25	1	Parking Space Emblem – Proper Size
26		(ADAAG 4.6.4 & CA Title 24 1129B.5.1 &.2)
27	1	Entrance - Signage at Every Entrance/Exit, Accessibility
28		(ADAAG 4.1.3(16)(b) & CA Title 24 1127B.3)

1	1	Bathroom - International Symbol of Accessibility - Pictogram Min 6" High
2		(ADAAG 4.30.4 & CA Title 24 1117B.5.5.2)
3	1	Bathroom - International Symbol of Accessibility - Verbal Description Below
4		(ADAAG 4.30.4 & CA Title 24 1117B.5.5.2)
5	1	Raised Braille Characters - (Restroom Wall Signage)
6		(ADAAG 4.30.4 & CA Title 24 1117B.5.6.1 & .2)
7	1	Wall Mount Signage (Latch Side of Door)
8		(ADAAG 4.1.2(7)(d) and CA Title 24 1117B.5.1.1 & .5.6.3)
9	1	Wall Mount Signage (60 inches from the floor)
10	i.	(ADAAG 4.30.6 & CA Title 24 1117B.5.9)
11	2	Faucet Fixtures - (One Hand Operable)
12		(ADAAG 4.27.4 & CA Title 24 1508.1 & .2)
13	2	Faucets Fixtures - (Max 5 lb Force to Activate)
14		(ADAAG 4.27.4 & CA Title 24 1508.1 & .2)
15	2	Faucets Fixtures - (Lever-Type)
16		(ADAAG 4.27.4 & CA Title 24 1508.1 & .2)
17	2	Grab Bar – Parallel Mounting Height
18		(ADAAG 4.17.6 & CA Title 24 1115B.8.1)
19	2	Grab Bar - Side Proper Extension Beyond Water Closet (24 inches)
20		(ADAAG 4.17.6 & CA Title 24 1115B.8.1)
21	2	Grab Bar - (Side Min 42 inch Long)
22		(ADAAG 4.14.6 & CA Title 24 1115B.8.1)
23	2	Grab Bar - (Side Attached Max 12 inches from Rear Wall)
24		(ADAAG 4.17.6)
25	2	Grab Bar – (Side Forward Ends Located/Extends a Min 54 inches from Back Wall)
26	i	(ADAAG 4.17.6)
27	2	Grab Bar – (Rear Grab Bar Length 36" Min)
28		(ADAAG 4.17.6 & CA Title 24 1115B.8.1)

required to utilize the ADA checklist for Readily Achievable Barrier Removal approved by the United States Department of Justice and created by Adaptive Environments.

12. Plaintiff desires to return to Defendants' places of business and utilize their facilities without being discriminated against in the immediate future.

IV

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of Civil Rights-American With Disabilities Act)

13. Plaintiff realleges the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 12 as though set forth fully herein.

Claim 1: Denial of Full and Equal Access

- 14. Based on the facts asserted above Plaintiff has been denied full and equal access to Defendants' goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations. Defendant business is a public accommodation owned, leased and/or operated by Defendants and each of them. Defendants' existing facilities and/or services failed to provide full and equal access to Defendants' facility as required by 42 U.S.C. Section 12182(a). Thus, Plaintiff was subjected to discrimination in violation of 42 U.S.C. 12182(b)(2)(A)(ii)(iv) and 42 U.S.C. section 12188 because Plaintiff was denied equal access to Defendants' existing facilities.
- 15. Plaintiff has a physical impairment as alleged herein because his condition affects one or more of the following body systems: neurological, musculoskeletal, special sense organs, and/or cardiovascular. Further, his physical impairments substantially limits one or more of the following major life activities: [walking]. In addition, Plaintiff cannot perform one or more of the said major life activities in the manner speed, and duration when compared to the average person. Moreover, Plaintiff has a history of or has been classified as having a physical impairment as required by 42 U.S.C. section 12102(2)(A).

Claim 2: Failure To Remove Architectural Barriers

16. Based upon the facts alleged herein, Plaintiff was denied full and equal access to Defendants' goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations within a public accommodation owned leased, and/or operated by the named Defendants. Defendants individually and collectively failed to remove barriers as required by 42 U.S.C. 12182(a) and 28 CFR 36.304.

Claim 3: Failure To Modify Practices, Policies And Procedures

17. Based on the facts alleged in this Complaint Defendants failed and refused to provide a reasonable alternative by modifying its practices, policies and procedures in that they failed to have a scheme, plan, or design to assist Plaintiff and/or others similarly situated in entering and utilizing Defendants' services, as required by 42 U.S.C. Section 12188(a). Thus, Plaintiff was subjected to discrimination in violation of 42 U.S.C. section 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv); 28 CFR 36.302 and 42 U.S.C. section 12188 because Plaintiff was denied equal access to Defendants' existing facilities.

18. As a result of the wrongful and discriminatory practices of defendants, plaintiff has suffered actual damages consisting of special damages and general damages in an amount to be determined

19. Pursuant to the provisions of 42 USC 12188 plaintiff seeks injunctive relief and an order directing defendants to cease and desist from discriminating against plaintiff and others similarly situated and for an order that defendants comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act forthwith.

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at time of trial herein.

wrongfully discriminated against Plaintiff.

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VII

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of The Unruh Civil Rights Act)

- 25. Plaintiff realleges the allegations of the Second Cause of Action as though set forth fully herein.
- 26. Section 51(b) of the Cal. Civ. Code [The Unruh Civil Rights Act], provides in pertinent part:

"All persons within the jurisdiction of this state are free and equal, and no matter what their sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, or medical condition is entitled to the full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, or services in all business establishments of every kind whatsoever."

27. Defendants have violated the provisions of Civ. Code 51 (b) by

failing and refusing to provide free and equal access to Plaintiff to their facility on the same basis as other persons not disabled. By their failure to provide equal access to Plaintiff as herein alleged,

Defendants have also violated 42 U.S.C. section 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv) as provided in Cal. Civ. Codes section 51(f).

- 28. By reason of their acts and denial of Plaintiff's civil rights Defendants also violated the provisions of Cal. Civ. Code section 52, which makes a person or entity in violation of Cal.Civ. Code 51 liable for the actual damages to a Plaintiff including treble damages where appropriate.
- 29. Defendants and each of them, at all times prior to and including April 2004, respectively and continuing to the present time, knew that persons with physical disabilities were denied their rights of equal access to all portions of this public facility. Despite such knowledge, Defendants, and each of them, failed and refused to take steps to comply with the applicable access statutes and despite knowledge of the resulting problems and denial of civil rights suffered by Plaintiff and other similarly situated persons with disabilities.
- 30. Defendants and each of them have failed and refused to take action to grant full and equal access to person with physical disabilities. Defendants have carried out a course of conduct of

refusing to respond to, or correct complaints about unequal access and have refused to comply with their legal obligations to make the subject facility accessible pursuant the ADAAG and the California Building Code [Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations]. Such actions and continuing course of conduct by Defendants, and each of them, evidence despicable conduct in conscious disregard of the rights and/or safety of Plaintiff and those similarly situated and thus justify an award of treble damages pursuant to section 52(a) and 54.3(a) of the Cal.Civ. Code or alternatively an award of punitive damages in an appropriate amount.

- 31. Plaintiff has suffered emotional and physical damage and continues to suffer such damages all in an amount to be determined at time of trial.
- 32. Under the provisions of Cal. Civ. Code section 55 Plaintiff seeks an award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs as a result of having to bring this action. Plaintiff requests the court to award such fees in an appropriate amount.

VIII

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress)

- 33. Plaintiff realleges the allegations of the Third Cause of Action as though set forth fully herein.
- 34. Defendants and each of them owed a duty to Plaintiff to make their facility accessible and to keep Plaintiff reasonably safe from known dangers and risks of harm. This duty arises by virtue of the legal duties proscribed by various federal and state statutes including, but not limited to, ADA, ADAAG, California Civil Code sections 51, 52, 54, 54.1 and Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations. Defendants had a duty of due care not to do or cause anything to happen that would subject Plaintiff to undue stress, embarrassment, chagrin, and discouragement.

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e JS-44 civil cover sheet and law, except as provided by e of the Clerk of Court for t	I the information control herein neither re local rules of court. The rm, approved by he purpose of initiating the civil docket she	place nor s the Judici et. (SEE I	supplement the filing a al Conference of the U NSTRUCTIONS ON	ice of pleadings or United States in September THE REVERSE OF THE	other papers as required 1974, is required for the FORM.)
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(c) Attorney's (Firm Name	, Address, and Telephone Number)		Attomeys (If Know	m)	•
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VII. REQUESTED COMPLAINT:		CTION	DEMAND \$	JURY DEMAI	nly if demanded in complaint: ND: 'X' Yes D No
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