

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address):  
Lucas T. Novak, Esq. (SBN 257484)  
Law Offices of Lucas T. Novak  
8335 W Sunset Blvd, Suite 217  
Los Angeles, California 90069  
TELEPHONE NO.: 323-337-9015 FAX NO.:  
ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Plaintiff, APS&EE, LLC

FOR COURT USE ONLY  
**CONFORMED COPY  
ORIGINAL FILED**  
Superior Court of California  
County of Los Angeles  
**JAN 23 2018**  
Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk  
By: M. Soto, Deputy  
Moses Soto

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF Los Angeles  
STREET ADDRESS: 111 North Hill Street  
MAILING ADDRESS: 111 North Hill Street  
CITY AND ZIP CODE: Los Angeles 90012  
BRANCH NAME: Central District

CASE NAME:  
APS&EE, LLC v. UNIFIED SALES AND DISTRIBUTION, INC., et al.

**CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET**  
 **Unlimited**  
(Amount demanded exceeds \$25,000)  
 **Limited**  
(Amount demanded is \$25,000 or less)

**Complex Case Designation**  
 **Counter**  **Joinder**  
Filed with first appearance by defendant  
(Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.402)

CASE NUMBER: **BC 691319**  
JUDGE:  
DEPT:

Items 1-6 below must be completed (see instructions on page 2).

1. Check one box below for the case type that best describes this case:
- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Auto Tort</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Auto (22)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Uninsured motorist (46)<br><b>Other PI/PD/WD (Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death) Tort</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos (04)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Product liability (24)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Medical malpractice (45)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other PI/PD/WD (23)<br><b>Non-PI/PD/WD (Other) Tort</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Business tort/unfair business practice (07)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Civil rights (08)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Defamation (13)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Fraud (16)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual property (19)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Professional negligence (25)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other non-PI/PD/WD tort (35)<br><b>Employment</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Wrongful termination (36)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other employment (15) | <b>Contract</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Breach of contract/warranty (06)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Rule 3.740 collections (09)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other collections (09)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Insurance coverage (18)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other contract (37)<br><b>Real Property</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Eminent domain/Inverse condemnation (14)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Wrongful eviction (33)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other real property (26)<br><b>Unlawful Detainer</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Commercial (31)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Residential (32)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Drugs (38)<br><b>Judicial Review</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Asset forfeiture (05)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Petition re: arbitration award (11)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Writ of mandate (02)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other judicial review (39) | <b>Provisionally Complex Civil Litigation</b><br>(Cal. Rules of Court, rules 3.400-3.403)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Antitrust/Trade regulation (03)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Construction defect (10)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mass tort (40)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Securities litigation (28)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Environmental/Toxic tort (30)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Insurance coverage claims arising from the above listed provisionally complex case types (41)<br><b>Enforcement of Judgment</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Enforcement of judgment (20)<br><b>Miscellaneous Civil Complaint</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> RICO (27)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other complaint (not specified above) (42)<br><b>Miscellaneous Civil Petition</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Partnership and corporate governance (21)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other petition (not specified above) (43) |
|--|--|--|

2. This case  is  is not complex under rule 3.400 of the California Rules of Court. If the case is complex, mark the factors requiring exceptional judicial management:
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| a. <input type="checkbox"/> Large number of separately represented parties   | d. <input type="checkbox"/> Large number of witnesses  |
| b. <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive motion practice raising difficult or novel issues that will be time-consuming to resolve | e. <input type="checkbox"/> Coordination with related actions pending in one or more courts in other counties, states, or countries, or in a federal court |
| c. <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial amount of documentary evidence   | f. <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial postjudgment judicial supervision  |
3. Remedies sought (check all that apply): a.  monetary b.  nonmonetary; declaratory or injunctive relief c.  punitive
4. Number of causes of action (specify): **One - Violation of Proposition 65**
5. This case  is  is not a class action suit.
6. If there are any known related cases, file and serve a notice of related case. (You may use form CM-015.)

Date: January 18, 2018  
Lucas T. Novak, Esq.

  
(SIGNATURE OF PARTY OR ATTORNEY FOR PARTY)

**NOTICE**

- Plaintiff must file this cover sheet with the first paper filed in the action or proceeding (except small claims cases or cases filed under the Probate Code, Family Code, or Welfare and Institutions Code). (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.220.) Failure to file may result in sanctions.
- File this cover sheet in addition to any cover sheet required by local court rule.
- If this case is complex under rule 3.400 et seq. 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 sheet will be used for statistical purposes only.

## INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO COMPLETE THE COVER SHEET

**To Plaintiffs and Others Filing First Papers.** If you are filing a first paper (for example, a complaint) in a civil case, you must complete and file, along with your first paper, the *Civil Case Cover Sheet* contained on page 1. This information will be used to compile 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 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, check the more specific one. If the case has multiple causes of action, check the box that best indicates the primary cause of action. 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 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 counsel, or both to sanctions under rules 2.30 and 3.220 of the California Rules of Court.

**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 in a sum stated to be certain that is not more than \$25,000, exclusive of interest and attorney's fees, arising from a transaction in which property, services, or money was acquired on credit. A collections case does not include an action seeking the following: (1) tort damages, (2) punitive damages, (3) recovery of real property, (4) recovery of personal property, or (5) a prejudgment writ of attachment. 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 requirements and case management rules, unless a defendant files a responsive pleading. A rule 3.740 collections case will be subject to the requirements for service and obtaining a judgment in rule 3.740.

**To Parties in Complex Cases.** In complex cases only, parties must also use the *Civil Case Cover Sheet* to designate whether the case is complex. If a plaintiff believes the case is complex under rule 3.400 of the California Rules of Court, this must be indicated by completing the appropriate boxes in items 1 and 2. If a plaintiff designates a case as complex, the cover sheet must be served with the 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 plaintiff's designation, a counter-designation that the case is not complex, or, if the plaintiff has made no designation, a designation that the case is complex.

## CASE TYPES AND EXAMPLES

## Auto Tort

- Auto (22)—Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death
- Uninsured Motorist (46) (if the case involves an uninsured motorist claim subject to arbitration, check this item instead of Auto)

## Other PI/PD/WD (Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death) Tort

- Asbestos (04)
  - Asbestos Property Damage
  - Asbestos Personal Injury/Wrongful Death
- Product Liability (not asbestos or toxic/environmental) (24)
- Medical Malpractice (45)
  - Medical Malpractice—Physicians & Surgeons
  - Other Professional Health Care Malpractice
- Other PI/PD/WD (23)
  - Premises Liability (e.g., slip and fall)
  - Intentional Bodily Injury/PD/WD (e.g., assault, vandalism)
  - Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress
  - Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress
  - Other PI/PD/WD

## Non-PI/PD/WD (Other) Tort

- Business Tort/Unfair Business Practice (07)
- Civil Rights (e.g., discrimination, false arrest) (not civil harassment) (08)
- Defamation (e.g., slander, libel) (13)
- Fraud (16)
- Intellectual Property (19)
- Professional Negligence (25)
  - Legal Malpractice
  - Other Professional Malpractice (not medical or legal)
- Other Non-PI/PD/WD Tort (35)

## Employment

- Wrongful Termination (36)
- Other Employment (15)

## Contract

- Breach of Contract/Warranty (06)
- Breach of Rental/Lease
  - Contract (not unlawful detainer or wrongful eviction)
- Contract/Warranty Breach—Seller Plaintiff (not fraud or negligence)
- Negligent Breach of Contract/Warranty
- Other Breach of Contract/Warranty
- Collections (e.g., money owed, open book accounts) (09)
- Collection Case—Seller Plaintiff
- Other Promissory Note/Collections Case
- Insurance Coverage (not provisionally complex) (18)
  - Auto Subrogation
  - Other Coverage
- Other Contract (37)
  - Contractual Fraud
  - Other Contract Dispute

## Real Property

- Eminent Domain/Inverse Condemnation (14)
- Wrongful Eviction (33)
- Other Real Property (e.g., quiet title) (26)
  - Writ of Possession of Real Property
  - Mortgage Foreclosure
  - Quiet Title
  - Other Real Property (not eminent domain, landlord/tenant, or foreclosure)

## Unlawful Detainer

- Commercial (31)
- Residential (32)
- Drugs (38) (if the case involves illegal drugs, check this item; otherwise, report as Commercial or Residential)

## Judicial Review

- Asset Forfeiture (05)
- Petition Re: Arbitration Award (11)
- Writ of Mandate (02)
  - Writ—Administrative Mandamus
  - Writ—Mandamus on Limited Court Case Matter
  - Writ—Other Limited Court Case Review
- Other Judicial Review (39)
  - Review of Health Officer Order
  - Notice of Appeal—Labor Commissioner Appeals

## Provisionally Complex Civil Litigation (Cal. Rules of Court Rules 3.400–3.403)

- Antitrust/Trade Regulation (03)
- Construction Defect (10)
- Claims Involving Mass Tort (40)
- Securities Litigation (28)
- Environmental/Toxic Tort (30)
- Insurance Coverage Claims (arising from provisionally complex case type listed above) (41)

## Enforcement of Judgment

- Enforcement of Judgment (20)
  - Abstract of Judgment (Out of County)
  - Confession of Judgment (non-domestic relations)
  - Sister State Judgment
  - Administrative Agency Award (not unpaid taxes)
  - Petition/Certification of Entry of Judgment on Unpaid Taxes
  - Other Enforcement of Judgment Case

## Miscellaneous Civil Complaint

- RICO (27)
- Other Complaint (not specified above) (42)
  - Declaratory Relief Only
  - Injunctive Relief Only (non-harassment)
  - Mechanics Lien
  - Other Commercial Complaint Case (non-tort/non-complex)
  - Other Civil Complaint (non-tort/non-complex)

## Miscellaneous Civil Petition

- Partnership and Corporate Governance (21)
- Other Petition (not specified above) (43)
  - Civil Harassment
  - Workplace Violence
  - Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse
  - Election Contest
  - Petition for Name Change
  - Petition for Relief From Late Claim
  - Other Civil Petition

**CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET ADDENDUM AND  
STATEMENT OF LOCATION  
(CERTIFICATE OF GROUNDS FOR ASSIGNMENT TO COURTHOUSE LOCATION)**

**This form is required pursuant to Local Rule 2.0 in all new civil case filings in the Los Angeles Superior Court.**

**Item I.** Check the types of hearing and fill in the estimated length of hearing expected for this case:

JURY TRIAL?  YES CLASS ACTION?  YES LIMITED CASE?  YES TIME ESTIMATED FOR TRIAL <sup>7</sup>  HOURS/  DAYS

**Item II. Indicate** the correct district and courthouse location (4 steps – If you checked “Limited Case”, skip to Item III, Pg. 4):

**Step 1:** After first completing the Civil Case Cover Sheet form, find the main Civil Case Cover Sheet heading for your case in the left margin below, and, to the right in Column **A**, the Civil Case Cover Sheet case type you selected.

**Step 2:** Check one Superior Court type of action in Column **B** below which best describes the nature of this case.

**Step 3:** In Column **C**, circle the reason for the court location choice that applies to the type of action you have checked. For any exception to the court location, see Local Rule 2.0.

**Applicable Reasons for Choosing Courthouse Location (see Column C below)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Class actions must be filed in the Stanley Mosk Courthouse, central district. | 6. Location of property or permanently garaged vehicle.    |
| 2. May be filed in central (other county, or no bodily injury/property damage).  | 7. Location where petitioner resides.                      |
| 3. Location where cause of action arose.   | 8. Location wherein defendant/respondent functions wholly. |
| 4. Location where bodily injury, death or damage occurred.                       | 9. Location where one or more of the parties reside.       |
| 5. Location where performance required or defendant resides.                     | 10. Location of Labor Commissioner Office                  |

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

|  | <b>A</b><br>Civil Case Cover Sheet<br>Category No.                    | <b>B</b><br>Type of Action<br>(Check only one)  | <b>C</b><br>Applicable Reasons -<br>See Step 3 Above |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Auto<br/>Tort</b>   | Auto (22)   | <input type="checkbox"/> A7100 Motor Vehicle - Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death   | 1., 2., 4.   |
|  | Uninsured Motorist (46)   | <input type="checkbox"/> A7110 Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death – Uninsured Motorist  | 1., 2., 4.   |
| <b>Other Personal Injury/ Property<br/>Damage/ Wrongful Death Tort</b> | Asbestos (04)   | <input type="checkbox"/> A6070 Asbestos Property Damage<br><input type="checkbox"/> A7221 Asbestos - Personal Injury/Wrongful Death   | 2.<br>2.   |
|  | Product Liability (24)  | <input type="checkbox"/> A7260 Product Liability (not asbestos or toxic/environmental)  | 1., 2., 3., 4., 8.                                   |
|  | Medical Malpractice (45)  | <input type="checkbox"/> A7210 Medical Malpractice - Physicians & Surgeons<br><input type="checkbox"/> A7240 Other Professional Health Care Malpractice   | 1., 4.<br>1., 4.                                     |
|  | Other<br>Personal Injury<br>Property Damage<br>Wrongful Death<br>(23) | <input type="checkbox"/> A7250 Premises Liability (e.g., slip and fall)<br><input type="checkbox"/> A7230 Intentional Bodily Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death (e.g., assault, vandalism, etc.)<br><input type="checkbox"/> A7270 Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress<br><input type="checkbox"/> A7220 Other Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death | 1., 4.<br>1., 4.<br>1., 3.<br>1., 4.                 |

Non-Personal Injury/ Property  
Damage/ Wrongful Death Tort

| A<br>Civil Case Cover Sheet<br>Category No              | B<br>Type of Action<br>(Check only one)   | C<br>Applicable Reasons -<br>See Step 3 Above |
|---|---|---|
| Business Tort (07)                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> A6029 Other Commercial/Business Tort (not fraud/breach of contract)                | 1., 3.  |
| Civil Rights (08)                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> A6005 Civil Rights/Discrimination  | 1., 2., 3.                                    |
| Defamation (13)   | <input type="checkbox"/> A6010 Defamation (slander/libel)   | 1., 2., 3.                                    |
| Fraud (16)  | <input type="checkbox"/> A6013 Fraud (no contract)  | 1., 2., 3.                                    |
| Professional Negligence (25)                            | <input type="checkbox"/> A6017 Legal Malpractice  | 1., 2., 3.                                    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> A6050 Other Professional Malpractice (not medical or legal)                        | 1., 2., 3.                                    |
| Other (35)  | <input type="checkbox"/> A6025 Other Non-Personal Injury/Property Damage tort                               | 2.,3.   |
| <b>Employment</b>                                       |   |   |
| Wrongful Termination (36)                               | <input type="checkbox"/> A6037 Wrongful Termination   | 1., 2., 3.                                    |
| Other Employment (15)                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> A6024 Other Employment Complaint Case  | 1., 2., 3.                                    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> A6109 Labor Commissioner Appeals   | 10.   |
| <b>Contract</b>   |   |   |
| Breach of Contract/ Warranty<br>(06)<br>(not insurance) | <input type="checkbox"/> A6004 Breach of Rental/Lease Contract (not unlawful detainer or wrongful eviction) | 2., 5.  |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> A6008 Contract/Warranty Breach -Seller Plaintiff (no fraud/negligence)             | 2., 5.  |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> A6019 Negligent Breach of Contract/Warranty (no fraud)                             | 1., 2., 5.                                    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> A6028 Other Breach of Contract/Warranty (not fraud or negligence)                  | 1., 2., 5.                                    |
| Collections (09)  | <input type="checkbox"/> A6002 Collections Case-Seller Plaintiff  | 2., 5., 6.                                    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> A6012 Other Promissory Note/Collections Case                                       | 2., 5.  |
| Insurance Coverage (18)                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> A6015 Insurance Coverage (not complex)   | 1., 2., 5., 8.                                |
| Other Contract (37)                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> A6009 Contractual Fraud  | 1., 2., 3., 5.                                |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> A6031 Tortious Interference  | 1., 2., 3., 5.                                |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> A6027 Other Contract Dispute(not breach/insurance/fraud/negligence)                | 1., 2., 3., 8.                                |
| <b>Real Property</b>                                    |   |   |
| Eminent Domain/Inverse<br>Condemnation (14)             | <input type="checkbox"/> A7300 Eminent Domain/Condemnation      Number of parcels_____                      | 2.  |
| Wrongful Eviction (33)                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> A6023 Wrongful Eviction Case   | 2., 6.  |
| Other Real Property (26)                                | <input type="checkbox"/> A6018 Mortgage Foreclosure   | 2., 6.  |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> A6032 Quiet Title  | 2., 6.  |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> A6060 Other Real Property (not eminent domain, landlord/tenant, foreclosure)       | 2., 6.  |
| <b>Unlawful Detainer</b>                                |   |   |
| Unlawful Detainer-Commercial<br>(31)                    | <input type="checkbox"/> A6021 Unlawful Detainer-Commercial (not drugs or wrongful eviction)                | 2., 6.  |
| Unlawful Detainer-Residential<br>(32)                   | <input type="checkbox"/> A6020 Unlawful Detainer-Residential (not drugs or wrongful eviction)               | 2., 6.  |
| Unlawful Detainer-<br>Post-Foreclosure (34)             | <input type="checkbox"/> A6020F Unlawful Detainer-Post-Foreclosure  | 2., 6.  |
| Unlawful Detainer-Drugs (38)                            | <input type="checkbox"/> A6022 Unlawful Detainer-Drugs  | 2., 6.  |

|   | <b>A</b><br>Civil Case Cover Sheet<br>Category No | <b>B</b><br>Type of Action<br>(Check only one)  | <b>C</b><br>Applicable Reasons -<br>See Step 3 Above |
|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Judicial Review</b>  | Asset Forfeiture (05)                             | <input type="checkbox"/> A6108 Asset Forfeiture Case  | 2., 6.   |
|   | Petition re Arbitration (11)                      | <input type="checkbox"/> A6115 Petition to Compel/Confirm/Vacate Arbitration  | 2., 5.   |
|   | Writ of Mandate (02)                              | <input type="checkbox"/> A6151 Writ - Administrative Mandamus<br><input type="checkbox"/> A6152 Writ - Mandamus on Limited Court Case Matter<br><input type="checkbox"/> A6153 Writ - Other Limited Court Case Review | 2., 8.<br>2.<br>2.                                   |
|   | Other Judicial Review (39)                        | <input type="checkbox"/> A6150 Other Writ /Judicial Review  | 2., 8.   |
| <b>Provisionally Complex Litigation</b>   | Antitrust/Trade Regulation (03)                   | <input type="checkbox"/> A6003 Antitrust/Trade Regulation   | 1., 2., 8.   |
|   | Construction Defect (10)                          | <input type="checkbox"/> A6007 Construction Defect  | 1., 2., 3.   |
|   | Claims Involving Mass Tort (40)                   | <input type="checkbox"/> A6006 Claims Involving Mass Tort   | 1., 2., 8.   |
|   | Securities Litigation (28)                        | <input type="checkbox"/> A6035 Securities Litigation Case   | 1., 2., 8.   |
|   | Toxic Tort Environmental (30)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> A6036 Toxic Tort/Environmental   | 1., 2., 3., 8.                                       |
|   | Insurance Coverage Claims from Complex Case (41)  | <input type="checkbox"/> A6014 Insurance Coverage/Subrogation (complex case only)   | 1., 2., 5., 8.                                       |
| <b>Enforcement of Judgment</b>  | Enforcement of Judgment (20)                      | <input type="checkbox"/> A6141 Sister State Judgment  | 2., 9.   |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> A6160 Abstract of Judgment   | 2., 6.   |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> A6107 Confession of Judgment (non-domestic relations)  | 2., 9.   |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> A6140 Administrative Agency Award (not unpaid taxes)   | 2., 8.   |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> A6114 Petition/Certificate for Entry of Judgment on Unpaid Tax   | 2., 8.   |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> A6112 Other Enforcement of Judgment Case   | 2., 8., 9.   |
| <b>Miscellaneous Civil Complaints</b>   | RICO (27)   | <input type="checkbox"/> A6033 Racketeering (RICO) Case   | 1., 2., 8.   |
|   | Other Complaints (Not Specified Above) (42)       | <input type="checkbox"/> A6030 Declaratory Relief Only  | 1., 2., 8.   |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> A6040 Injunctive Relief Only (not domestic/harassment)   | 2., 8.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A6011 Other Commercial Complaint Case (non-tort/non-complex)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A6000 Other Civil Complaint (non-tort/non-complex) |   | 1., 2., 8.<br>1. 2. 8.  |  |
| <b>Miscellaneous Civil Petitions</b>  | Partnership Corporation Governance (21)           | <input type="checkbox"/> A6113 Partnership and Corporate Governance Case  | 2., 8.   |
|   | Other Petitions (Not Specified Above) (43)        | <input type="checkbox"/> A6121 Civil Harassment   | 2., 3., 9.   |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> A6123 Workplace Harassment   | 2., 3., 9.   |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> A6124 Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse Case   | 2., 3., 9.   |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> A6190 Election Contest   | 2.   |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> A6110 Petition for Change of Name  | 2., 7.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A6170 Petition for Relief from Late Claim Law<br><input type="checkbox"/> A6100 Other Civil Petition   |   | 2., 3., 4., 8.<br>2., 9.  |  |

SHORT TITLE: APS&EE, LLC v. UNIFIED SALES AND DISTRIBUTION, INC., et

CASE NUMBER

**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.

|   |                     |                           |  |
|---|---------------------|---------------------------|--|
| <b>REASON: Check the appropriate boxes for the numbers shown under Column C for the type of action that you have selected for this case.</b>  |                     |                           | <b>ADDRESS:</b><br>County of Los Angeles and other counties in California. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. <input type="checkbox"/> 3. <input type="checkbox"/> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> 6. <input type="checkbox"/> 7. <input type="checkbox"/> 8. <input type="checkbox"/> 9. <input type="checkbox"/> 10. |                     |                           |  |
| <b>CITY:</b><br>Los Angeles   | <b>STATE:</b><br>CA | <b>ZIP CODE:</b><br>90012 |  |

**Item IV. Declaration of Assignment:** I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct and that the above-entitled matter is properly filed for assignment to the Stanley Mosk courthouse in the Central District of the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles [Code Civ. Proc., § 392 et seq., and Local Rule 2.0, subds. (b), (c) and (d)].

Dated: January 19, 2018

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY/FILING PARTY)

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

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.

**SUMMONS  
(CITACION JUDICIAL)**

FOR COURT USE ONLY  
(SOLO PARA USO DE LA CORTE)

CONFORMED COPY  
ORIGINAL FILED  
Superior Court of California  
County of Los Angeles

JAN 23 2018

Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk

By: M. Soto, Deputy  
Moses Soto

**NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:**

**(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):**

UNIFIED SALES AND DISTRIBUTION, INC., a corporation, HD  
SUPPLY REPAIR AND REMODEL LLC DBA HD SUPPLY HOME  
IMPROVEMENT SOLUTIONS, a limited liability company, and DOES

**YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:** 1 through 100, inclusive

**(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):**

APS&EE, LLC, a limited liability company

**NOTICE!** You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

**¡AVISO!** Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. **AVISO:** Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

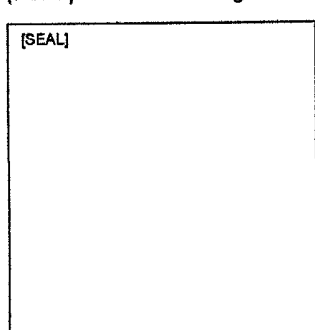
The name and address of the court is:  
(El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Stanley Mosk Courthouse  
111 North Hill Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

CASE NUMBER:  
(Número del Caso): **BC 691319**

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:  
(El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):  
Lucas T. Novak, Esq., 8335 W Sunset Blvd., Suite 217, Los Angeles, California 90069

DATE: (Fecha) JAN 23 2018 **SHERRI R. CARTER** Clerk, by (Secretario) M. Soto, Deputy (Adjunto)

(For proof of service of this summons, use Proof of Service of Summons (form POS-010).)  
(Para prueba de entrega de esta citación use el formulario Proof of Service of Summons, (POS-010)).



**NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED:** You are served

- 1.  as an individual defendant.
- 2.  as the person sued under the fictitious name of (specify):
- 3.  on behalf of (specify):  
under:  CCP 416.10 (corporation)  CCP 416.60 (minor)  
 CCP 416.20 (defunct corporation)  CCP 416.70 (conservatee)  
 CCP 416.40 (association or partnership)  CCP 416.90 (authorized person)  
 other (specify):
- 4.  by personal delivery on (date):

1 Lucas Novak (SBN 257484)  
2 LAW OFFICES OF LUCAS T. NOVAK  
3 8335 W Sunset Blvd., Suite 217  
4 Los Angeles, CA 90069  
5 Telephone: (323) 337-9015  
6 Email: lucas.nvk@gmail.com

7 Attorney for Plaintiff, APS&EE, LLC

CONFORMED COPY  
ORIGINAL FILED  
Superior Court of California  
County of Los Angeles

JAN 23 2018

Sherri R. Carter, Law Clerk/Clerk  
By: M. Solo, Deputy  
Moses Solo

8 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
9 FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

10 APS&EE, LLC, a limited liability company, )  
11 Plaintiff, )  
12 v. )  
13 UNIFIED SALES AND DISTRIBUTION, )  
14 INC., a corporation, HD SUPPLY REPAIR )  
15 AND REMODEL LLC DBA HD SUPPLY )  
16 HOME IMPROVEMENT SOLUTIONS, a )  
17 limited liability company, and DOES 1 )  
18 through 100, inclusive, )  
19 Defendants. )

CASE NO. **BC 691319**

**PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT FOR  
CIVIL PENALTIES AND INJUNCTIVE  
RELIEF**

(Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 et seq.)

Judge:  
Dept.:  
Compl. Filed:

Unlimited Jurisdiction

18 ///  
19 ///  
20 ///  
21 ///  
22 ///  
23 ///  
24 ///  
25 ///  
26 ///  
27 ///  
28 ///



1 **INTRODUCTION**

2 1. This Complaint is brought by Plaintiff, APS&EE, LLC ("Plaintiff") in the public  
3 interest of the citizens of the State of California, a representative action to enforce the People's  
4 right to be informed of the presence of lead ("Lead"), a chemical known to the State of  
5 California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm, found in the "USD"  
6 brand of brass fittings and valves sold by Defendants.

7 2. The purpose of this Complaint is to remedy Defendants' continuing failure to  
8 warn California residents about the risk of exposure to the Lead in the "USD" brand of brass  
9 fittings and valves manufactured, distributed, sold, and/or offered for sale to consumers in  
10 California.

11 3. Defendants have and continue to manufacture, distribute, sell, and/or offer to sell  
12 the "USD" brand of brass fittings and valves containing dangerous levels of the Lead, including,  
13 without limitation: USD 1/4" self-piercing saddle valve, 905372, 6-55354-91566-3. The products  
14 described in this paragraph shall hereinafter be referred to as the "Products".

15 4. Children and adults are exposed to the Lead when they use, touch, handle, play  
16 with, repair, maintain, install, or drink downstream from the Products.

17 5. Hazardous levels of the Lead are found in the accessible surface areas of the  
18 Products manufactured, distributed, sold, and/or offered for sale by Defendants to consumers in  
19 California.

20 6. California Health and Safety Code section 25249.6 et seq. ("Proposition 65")  
21 provides in pertinent part: "[n]o person in the course of doing business shall knowingly and  
22 intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer or  
23 reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable warning to such individual..."

24 7. Studies repeatedly conclude that exposure to the Lead is hazardous to the health  
25 of children and adults. Children are especially vulnerable to the toxic effects of Lead.  
26 Accordingly, California has listed the Lead as a chemical known to the state to cause cancer and  
27 birth defects or other reproductive harm, and therefore subject to Proposition 65 warning  
28 requirements.

1 8. Defendants have and continue to manufacture, distribute, sell, and/or offer to sell  
2 the Products without the required warnings. Defendants' conduct violates the warning  
3 requirements of Proposition 65.

4 **PARTIES**

5 9. Plaintiff is an organization based in California acting in the public interest.  
6 Plaintiff brings this action in the public interest pursuant to California Health and Safety Code  
7 section 25249.7(d).

8 10. Defendant, UNIFIED SALES AND DISTRIBUTION, INC. is a person in the  
9 course of doing business within the meaning of California Health and Safety Code section  
10 25249.11. UNIFIED SALES AND DISTRIBUTION, INC. manufactures, distributes, and/or  
11 sells the Products for sale and use in California.

12 11. Defendant, HD SUPPLY REPAIR AND REMODEL LLC DBA HD SUPPLY  
13 HOME IMPROVEMENT SOLUTIONS is a person in the course of doing business within the  
14 meaning of California Health and Safety Code section 25249.11. HD SUPPLY REPAIR AND  
15 REMODEL LLC DBA HD SUPPLY HOME IMPROVEMENT SOLUTIONS manufactures,  
16 distributes, and/or sells the Products for sale and use in California.

17 12. DOES 1 through 100 are each a person in the course of doing business within the  
18 meaning of California Health and Safety Code section 25249.11. DOES 1 through 100  
19 manufacture, distribute, and/or sell the Products for sale and use in California. The true names of  
20 DOES 1 through 100 are unknown to Plaintiff at this time. When their identities are discovered,  
21 Plaintiff's Complaint shall be amended to reflect their true names.

22 13. The defendants identified in paragraphs 10-12 shall collectively be referred to  
23 herein as "Defendants".

24 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

25 14. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to California Health and  
26 Safety Code section 25249.7, which allows enforcement in any court of competent jurisdiction,  
27 and pursuant to California Constitution Article VI, Section 10, because this lawsuit is based on a  
28 cause not given by statute to other trial courts. Moreover, this action belongs in unlimited

1 jurisdiction since the amount in controversy exceeds \$25,000 and Plaintiff seeks permanent  
2 injunctive relief.

3 15. This Court has jurisdiction over Defendants because each is a person, firm,  
4 corporation, or association with sufficient minimum contacts in the State of California, or  
5 otherwise purposefully avails itself to the California market as to render jurisdiction by the  
6 California courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

7 16. Venue is proper in Los Angeles County Superior Court because one or more  
8 occurrences of the wrongful conduct occurred, and continues to occur, in Los Angeles County,  
9 and/or because Defendants conducted, and continue to conduct, business in this County with  
10 respect to the Products.

### 11 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### 12 **(Violations of Health & Safety Code Section 25249.6 et seq.)**

13 17. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth herein,  
14 Paragraphs 1 through 16, inclusive.

15 18. On October 30, 2017, a sixty-day notice of violation (the "Notice"), along with a  
16 Certificate of Merit, was provided to UNIFIED SALES AND DISTRIBUTION, INC., HD  
17 SUPPLY REPAIR AND REMODEL LLC DBA HD SUPPLY HOME IMPROVEMENT  
18 SOLUTIONS and the various public enforcement agencies with respect to the Proposition 65  
19 violations related to Lead in the Products. In addition, on said date, in compliance with Health &  
20 Safety Code section 25249.7(d), confidential factual information sufficient to establish the basis  
21 for the Certificate of Merit was provided to the California Attorney General.

22 19. None of the public prosecutors with the authority to prosecute Proposition 65  
23 violations has commenced and/or is diligently prosecuting the causes of action against  
24 Defendants based on the claims asserted in Plaintiff's Notice.

25 20. By placing the Products into the stream of commerce, each Defendant is a person  
26 in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health & Safety Code section 25249.11.

27 21. Defendants knew and intended that consumers, including children, will use,  
28 touch, handle, play with, repair, maintain, install, or drink downstream from the Products.

1           22. Defendants knew that the Products contain Lead. Defendants, who are in the  
2 business of marketing consumer goods, also should have known or have constructive knowledge  
3 that the Products contain Lead from widespread media coverage and/or other channels of  
4 information concerning the presence of Lead in the types of consumer goods similar to the  
5 Products.

6           23. LEAD is a chemical listed by the State of California as known to cause cancer  
7 and birth defects or other reproductive harm.

8           24. Defendants' Products contain sufficient quantities of the Lead such that  
9 consumers, including children, who use, touch, handle, play with, repair, maintain, install, or  
10 drink downstream from the Products are exposed to unsafe levels of Lead. Lead is present in the  
11 Products in such a way as to expose individuals to Lead, as exposure is defined by 27 CCR  
12 section 25602(b): "... that results from a person's acquisition, purchase, storage, consumption, or  
13 other reasonably foreseeable use of a consumer good..." Exposure occurs through inhalation,  
14 ingestion and/or dermal contact during the reasonably foreseeable use of the Products.

15           25. Defendants knew or should have known that the reasonably foreseeable use of the  
16 Products exposes individuals to Lead through inhalation, ingestion and/or dermal contact.

17           26. Defendants failed to provide a "clear and reasonable warning" to individuals in  
18 the State of California who were or could become exposed to Lead during the reasonably  
19 foreseeable use of the Products.

20           27. By committing the acts alleged in this Complaint, Defendants have violated  
21 California Health & Safety Code section 25249.6 et seq. by knowingly and intentionally  
22 exposing individuals to Lead without first giving clear and reasonable warnings to such  
23 individuals regarding the toxicity of Lead.

24           28. As a result of Defendants' wrongful conduct, individuals in the State of California  
25 have been exposed to Lead through the inhalation, ingestion and/or dermal contact during the  
26 reasonably foreseeable use of the Products without a "clear and reasonable warning", and have  
27 suffered and continue to suffer harm, each and every day since at least October 30, 2014.

28 ///

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants as follows:

1. That the Court, pursuant to California Health & Safety Code section 25249.7(b), assess civil penalties against Defendants in the amount of \$2,500 per day for each violation alleged herein;

2. That the Court, pursuant to California Health & Safety Code section 25249.7(a), preliminarily and permanently enjoin Defendants from manufacturing, distributing, or offering the Products for sale in California without providing "clear and reasonable warnings" as defined by 27 CCR section 25601;

3. That the Court, pursuant to California Health & Safety Code section 25249.7(a), order Defendants to take action to stop ongoing unwarned exposures to Lead resulting from use of Products sold by Defendants;

4. That the Court, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5, or any other applicable theory, grant Plaintiff's reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit; and

5. Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

Dated: January 22, 2018

LAW OFFICES OF LUCAS T. NOVAK

By: 

LUCAS T. NOVAK  
Attorney for Plaintiff, APS&EE, LLC

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
NOTICE OF CASE ASSIGNMENT - UNLIMITED CIVIL CASE - IC**

Case Number BC 691319

**THIS FORM IS TO BE SERVED WITH THE SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT**

Your case is assigned for all purposes to the judicial officer indicated below.

| ASSIGNED JUDGE            | DEPT | ROOM | ASSIGNED JUDGE               | DEPT | ROOM |
|---------------------------|------|------|------------------------------|------|------|
| Hon. Debre K. Weintraub   | 1    | 534  | Hon. Elizabeth Allen White   | 48   | 506  |
| Hon. Barbara A. Meiers    | 12   | 636  | Hon. Deirdre Hill            | 49   | 509  |
| Hon. Terry A. Green       | 14   | 300  | Hon. Teresa A. Beaudet       | 50   | 508  |
| X Hon. Richard Fruin      | 15   | 307  | Hon. Michael J. Raphael      | 51   | 511  |
| Hon. Rita Miller          | 16   | 306  | Hon. Susan Bryant-Deason     | 52   | 510  |
| Hon. Richard E. Rico      | 17   | 309  | Hon. Howard L. Halm          | 53   | 513  |
| Hon. Stephanie Bowick     | 19   | 311  | Hon. Ernest M. Hiroshige     | 54   | 512  |
| Hon. Dalila Corral Lyons  | 20   | 310  | Hon. Malcolm H. Mackey       | 55   | 515  |
| Hon. Robert L. Hess       | 24   | 314  | Hon. Michael Johnson         | 56   | 514  |
| Hon. Yvette M. Palazuelos | 28   | 318  | Hon. John P. Doyle           | 58   | 516  |
| Hon. Barbara Scheper      | 30   | 400  | Hon. Gregory Keosian         | 61   | 732  |
| Hon. Samantha Jessner     | 31   | 407  | Hon. Michael L. Stern        | 62   | 600  |
| Hon. Daniel S. Murphy     | 32   | 406  | Hon. Mark Mooney             | 68   | 617  |
| Hon. Michael P. Linfield  | 34   | 408  | Hon. William F. Fahey        | 69   | 621  |
| Hon. Gregory Alarcon      | 36   | 410  | Hon. Monica Bachner          | 71   | 729  |
| Hon. Marc Marmaro         | 37   | 413  | Hon. Ruth Ann Kwan           | 72   | 731  |
| Hon. Maureen Duffy-Lewis  | 38   | 412  | Hon. Rafael Ongkeko          | 73   | 733  |
| Hon. Elizabeth Feffer     | 39   | 415  | Hon. Michelle Williams Court | 74   | 735  |
| Hon. David Sotelo         | 40   | 414  | Hon. Gail Ruderman Feuer     | 78   | 730  |
| Hon. Holly E. Kendig      | 42   | 416  |                              |      |      |
| Hon. Mel Red Recana       | 45   | 529  |                              |      |      |
| Hon. Frederick C. Shaller | 46   | 500  |                              |      |      |
| Hon. Randolph Hammock     | 47   | 507  |                              |      |      |

Given to the Plaintiff/Cross-Complainant/Attorney of Record on \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

SHERRI R. CARTER, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court

By \_\_\_\_\_, Deputy Clerk

## VOLUNTARY EFFICIENT LITIGATION STIPULATIONS



Superior Court of California  
County of Los Angeles

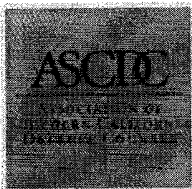


Los Angeles County  
Bar Association  
Litigation Section

Los Angeles County  
Bar Association Labor and  
Employment Law Section



Consumer Attorneys  
Association of Los Angeles



Southern California  
Defense Counsel



Association of  
Business Trial Lawyers



California Employment  
Lawyers Association

The Early Organizational Meeting Stipulation, Discovery Resolution Stipulation, and Motions in Limine Stipulation are voluntary stipulations entered into by the parties. The parties may enter into one, two, or all three of the stipulations; however, they may not alter the stipulations as written, because the Court wants to ensure uniformity of application. These stipulations are meant to encourage cooperation between the parties and to assist in resolving issues in a manner that promotes economic case resolution and judicial efficiency.

*The following organizations endorse the goal of promoting efficiency in litigation and ask that counsel consider using these stipulations as a voluntary way to promote communications and procedures among counsel and with the court to fairly resolve issues in their cases.*

◆ Los Angeles County Bar Association Litigation Section ◆

◆ Los Angeles County Bar Association  
Labor and Employment Law Section ◆

◆ Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles ◆

◆ Southern California Defense Counsel ◆

◆ Association of Business Trial Lawyers ◆

◆ California Employment Lawyers Association ◆

|  |                     |                                 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| NAME AND ADDRESS OF ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY:              | STATE BAR NUMBER    | Reserved for Clerk's File Stamp |
| TELEPHONE NO.:<br>E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional):<br>ATTORNEY FOR (Name): | FAX NO. (Optional): |                                 |
| <b>SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES</b>           |                     |                                 |
| COURTHOUSE ADDRESS:  |                     |                                 |
| PLAINTIFF:   |                     |                                 |
| DEFENDANT:   |                     |                                 |
| <b>STIPULATION – DISCOVERY RESOLUTION</b>                            |                     | CASE NUMBER:                    |

**This stipulation is intended to provide a fast and informal resolution of discovery issues through limited paperwork and an informal conference with the Court to aid in the resolution of the issues.**

**The parties agree that:**

1. Prior to the discovery cut-off in this action, no discovery motion shall be filed or heard unless the moving party first makes a written request for an Informal Discovery Conference pursuant to the terms of this stipulation.
2. At the Informal Discovery Conference the Court will consider the dispute presented by parties and determine whether it can be resolved informally. Nothing set forth herein will preclude a party from making a record at the conclusion of an Informal Discovery Conference, either orally or in writing.
3. Following a reasonable and good faith attempt at an informal resolution of each issue to be presented, a party may request an Informal Discovery Conference pursuant to the following procedures:
  - a. The party requesting the Informal Discovery Conference will:
    - i. File a Request for Informal Discovery Conference with the clerk's office on the approved form (copy attached) and deliver a courtesy, conformed copy to the assigned department;
    - ii. Include a brief summary of the dispute and specify the relief requested; and
    - iii. Serve the opposing party pursuant to any authorized or agreed method of service that ensures that the opposing party receives the Request for Informal Discovery Conference no later than the next court day following the filing.
  - b. Any Answer to a Request for Informal Discovery Conference must:
    - i. Also be filed on the approved form (copy attached);
    - ii. Include a brief summary of why the requested relief should be denied;



|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| SHORT TITLE: | CASE NUMBER: |
|--------------|--------------|

**The following parties stipulate:**

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)



\_\_\_\_\_  
(ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF)

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)



\_\_\_\_\_  
(ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT)

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)



\_\_\_\_\_  
(ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT)

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)



\_\_\_\_\_  
(ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT)

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)



\_\_\_\_\_  
(ATTORNEY FOR \_\_\_\_\_)

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)



\_\_\_\_\_  
(ATTORNEY FOR \_\_\_\_\_)

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)



\_\_\_\_\_  
(ATTORNEY FOR \_\_\_\_\_)

|  |                  |                                 |
|--|------------------|---------------------------------|
| NAME AND ADDRESS OF ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY:  | STATE BAR NUMBER | Reserved for Clerk's File Stamp |
| TELEPHONE NO.: _____ FAX NO. (Optional): _____<br>E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional): _____<br>ATTORNEY FOR (Name): _____ |                  |                                 |
| <b>SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES</b>   |                  |                                 |
| COURTHOUSE ADDRESS:  |                  |                                 |
| PLAINTIFF:   |                  |                                 |
| DEFENDANT:   |                  |                                 |
| <b>STIPULATION – EARLY ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING</b>  |                  | CASE NUMBER:                    |

**This stipulation is intended to encourage cooperation among the parties at an early stage in the litigation and to assist the parties in efficient case resolution.**

**The parties agree that:**

1. The parties commit to conduct an initial conference (in-person or via teleconference or via videoconference) within 15 days from the date this stipulation is signed, *to discuss and consider whether there can be agreement on the following:*
  - a. Are motions to challenge the pleadings necessary? If the issue can be resolved by amendment as of right, or if the Court would allow leave to amend, could an amended complaint resolve most or all of the issues a demurrer might otherwise raise? If so, the parties agree to work through pleading issues so that a demurrer need only raise issues they cannot resolve. Is the issue that the defendant seeks to raise amenable to resolution on demurrer, or would some other type of motion be preferable? Could a voluntary targeted exchange of documents or information by any party cure an uncertainty in the pleadings?
  - b. Initial mutual exchanges of documents at the "core" of the litigation. (For example, in an employment case, the employment records, personnel file and documents relating to the conduct in question could be considered "core." In a personal injury case, an incident or police report, medical records, and repair or maintenance records could be considered "core.");
  - c. Exchange of names and contact information of witnesses;
  - d. Any insurance agreement that may be available to satisfy part or all of a judgment, or to indemnify or reimburse for payments made to satisfy a judgment;
  - e. Exchange of any other information that might be helpful to facilitate understanding, handling, or resolution of the case in a manner that preserves objections or privileges by agreement;
  - f. Controlling issues of law that, if resolved early, will promote efficiency and economy in other phases of the case. Also, when and how such issues can be presented to the Court;
  - g. Whether or when the case should be scheduled with a settlement officer, what discovery or court ruling on legal issues is reasonably required to make settlement discussions meaningful, and whether the parties wish to use a sitting judge or a private mediator or other options as

|  |                  |                                 |
|--|------------------|---------------------------------|
| NAME AND ADDRESS OF ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY:  | STATE BAR NUMBER | Reserved for Clerk's File Stamp |
| TELEPHONE NO.: _____ FAX NO. (Optional): _____<br>E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional): _____<br>ATTORNEY FOR (Name): _____ |                  |                                 |
| <b>SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES</b>   |                  |                                 |
| COURTHOUSE ADDRESS:  |                  |                                 |
| PLAINTIFF:   |                  |                                 |
| DEFENDANT:   |                  | CASE NUMBER:                    |
| <b>INFORMAL DISCOVERY CONFERENCE</b><br>(pursuant to the Discovery Resolution Stipulation of the parties)        |                  |                                 |

1. This document relates to:
  - Request for Informal Discovery Conference
  - Answer to Request for Informal Discovery Conference
2. Deadline for Court to decide on Request: \_\_\_\_\_ (insert date 10 calendar days following filing of the Request).
3. Deadline for Court to hold Informal Discovery Conference: \_\_\_\_\_ (insert date 20 calendar days following filing of the Request).
4. For a Request for Informal Discovery Conference, **briefly** describe the nature of the discovery dispute, including the facts and legal arguments at issue. For an Answer to Request for Informal Discovery Conference, **briefly** describe why the Court should deny the requested discovery, including the facts and legal arguments at issue.

|  |                     |                                 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| NAME AND ADDRESS OF ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY:              | STATE BAR NUMBER    | Reserved for Clerk's File Stamp |
|  |                     |                                 |
| TELEPHONE NO.:<br>E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional):<br>ATTORNEY FOR (Name): | FAX NO. (Optional): |                                 |
| <b>SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES</b>           |                     |                                 |
| COURTHOUSE ADDRESS:  |                     |                                 |
| PLAINTIFF:   |                     |                                 |
| DEFENDANT:   |                     |                                 |
| <b>STIPULATION AND ORDER – MOTIONS IN LIMINE</b>                     |                     | CASE NUMBER:                    |

**This stipulation is intended to provide fast and informal resolution of evidentiary issues through diligent efforts to define and discuss such issues and limit paperwork.**

**The parties agree that:**

1. At least \_\_\_\_ days before the final status conference, each party will provide all other parties with a list containing a one paragraph explanation of each proposed motion in limine. Each one paragraph explanation must identify the substance of a single proposed motion in limine and the grounds for the proposed motion.
2. The parties thereafter will meet and confer, either in person or via teleconference or videoconference, concerning all proposed motions in limine. In that meet and confer, the parties will determine:
  - a. Whether the parties can stipulate to any of the proposed motions. If the parties so stipulate, they may file a stipulation and proposed order with the Court.
  - b. Whether any of the proposed motions can be briefed and submitted by means of a short joint statement of issues. For each motion which can be addressed by a short joint statement of issues, a short joint statement of issues must be filed with the Court 10 days prior to the final status conference. Each side's portion of the short joint statement of issues may not exceed three pages. The parties will meet and confer to agree on a date and manner for exchanging the parties' respective portions of the short joint statement of issues and the process for filing the short joint statement of issues.
3. All proposed motions in limine that are not either the subject of a stipulation or briefed via a short joint statement of issues will be briefed and filed in accordance with the California Rules of Court and the Los Angeles Superior Court Rules.

# Superior Court of California County of Los Angeles



## ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR) INFORMATION PACKET

The person who files a civil lawsuit (plaintiff) must include the ADR information Packet with the complaint when serving the defendant. Cross-complainants must serve the ADR Information Packet on any new parties named to the action together with the cross-complaint.

There are a number of ways to resolve civil disputes without having to sue someone. These alternatives to a lawsuit are known as alternative dispute resolution (ADR).

In ADR, trained, impartial persons decide disputes or help parties decide disputes themselves. These persons are called neutrals. For example, in mediations, the neutral is the mediator. Neutrals normally are chosen by the disputing parties or by the court. Neutrals can help resolve disputes without having to go to court.

### Advantages of ADR

- Often faster than going to trial
- Often less expensive, saving the litigants court costs, attorney's fees and expert fees.
- May permit more participation, allowing parties to have more control over the outcome.
- Allows for flexibility in choice of ADR processes and resolution of the dispute.
- Fosters cooperation by allowing parties to work together with the neutral to resolve the dispute and mutually agree to remedy.
- There are fewer, if any, court appearances. Because ADR can be faster and save money, it can reduce stress.

### Disadvantages of ADR - ADR may not be suitable for every dispute.

- If ADR is binding, the parties normally give up most court protections, including a decision by a judge or jury under formal rules of evidence and procedure, and review for legal error by an appellate court.
- ADR may not be effective if it takes place before the parties have sufficient information to resolve the dispute.
- The neutral may charge a fee for his or her services.
- If the dispute is not resolved through ADR, the parties may then have to face the usual and traditional costs of trial, such as attorney's fees and expert fees.

### The Most Common Types of ADR

- **Mediation**

In mediation, a neutral (the mediator) assists the parties in reaching a mutually acceptable resolution of their dispute. Unlike lawsuits or some other types of ADR, the parties, rather than the mediator, decide how the dispute is to be resolved.

- **Mediation is particularly effective** when the parties have a continuing relationship, like neighbors or business people. Mediation is also very effective where personal feelings are getting in the way of a resolution. This is because mediation normally gives the parties a chance to express their feelings and find out how the other sees things.
- **Mediation may not be effective** when one party is unwilling to cooperate or compromise or when one of the parties has a significant advantage in power over the other. Therefore, it may not be a good choice if the parties have a history of abuse or victimization.

- **Arbitration**

In arbitration, a neutral person called an “arbitrator” hears arguments and evidence from each side and then decides the outcome of the dispute. Arbitration is typically less formal than a trial, and the rules of evidence may be relaxed. Arbitration may be either “binding” or “non-binding.” Binding arbitration means the parties waive their right to a trial and agree to accept the arbitrator’s decision as final. Non-binding arbitration means that the parties are free to request a trial if they reject the arbitrator’s decision.

Arbitration is best for cases where the parties want another person to decide the outcome of their dispute for them but would like to avoid the formality, time, and expense of a trial. It may also be appropriate for complex matters where the parties want a decision-maker who has training or experience in the subject matter of the dispute.

- **Mandatory Settlement Conference (MSC)**

**Settlement Conferences are appropriate in any case where settlement is an option.**

Mandatory Settlement Conferences are ordered by the Court and are often held near the date a case is set for trial. The parties and their attorneys meet with a judge who devotes his or her time exclusively to preside over the MSC. The judge does not make a decision in the case but assists the parties in evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the case and in negotiating a settlement.

The Los Angeles Superior Court Mandatory Settlement Conference (MSC) program is free of charge and staffed by experienced sitting civil judges who devote their time exclusively to presiding over MSCs. The judges participating in the judicial MSC program and their locations are identified in the List of Settlement Officers found on the Los Angeles Superior Court website at <http://www.lacourt.org/>. This program is available in general jurisdiction cases with represented parties from independent calendar (IC) and Central Civil West (CCW) courtrooms. In addition, on an ad hoc basis, personal injury cases may be referred to the program on the eve of trial by the personal injury master calendar courts in the Stanley Mosk Courthouse or the asbestos calendar court in CCW.

In order to access the Los Angeles Superior Court MSC Program the judge in the IC courtroom, the CCW Courtroom or the personal injury master calendar courtroom must refer the parties to the program. Further, all parties must complete the information requested in the Settlement Conference Intake Form and email the completed form to [mscdept18@lacourt.org](mailto:mscdept18@lacourt.org).

## Additional Information

To locate a dispute resolution program or neutral in your community:

- Contact the California Department of Consumer Affairs ([www.dca.ca.gov](http://www.dca.ca.gov)) Consumer Information Center toll free at 800-952-5210, or;
- Contact the local bar association (<http://www.lacba.org/>) or;
- Look in a telephone directory or search online for “mediators; or “arbitrators.”

There may be a charge for services provided by private arbitrators and mediators.

A list of approved State Bar Approved Mandatory Fee Arbitration programs is available at <http://calbar.ca.gov/Attorneys/MemberServices/FeeArbitration/ApprovedPrograms.aspx#19>

To request information about, or assistance with, dispute resolution, call the number listed below. Or you may call a Contract Provider agency directly. A list of current Contract Provider agencies in Los Angeles County is available at the link below.

<http://css.lacounty.gov/programs/dispute-resolution-program-drp/>

County of Los Angeles Dispute Resolution Program  
3175 West 6th Street, Room 406  
Los Angeles, CA 90020-1798  
TEL: (213) 738-2621  
FAX: (213) 386-3995